



Great Students + Great Teachers = Great School



SUCCESS IS NOT DOING ONE THING RIGHT, IT IS A THOUSAND THINGS DONE RIGHT.

Recognition and praise are splendid ways to show our appreciation for those whose achievements stand out among their peers. We are blessed to have such excellent students and staff

at Ferndale Elementary School. In this edition of Mustang Tales, special attention will be given to outstanding student achievements and the recent recognition of two teachers.



I was listening to the radio station the other day when one of those “Oil Stop” commercials came on. One of the brothers was recalling what their Grandpa used to say to them: “Success is not doing one thing right, it is a thousand things done right..” The quote made me think of the success we have had at Ferndale Elementary School. It isn’t just one thing done right that makes

our school great, it is a thousand different things done right that have made us successful. It is the accumulation of all the little things that makes the difference.

For the past seven years that I have produced the Mustang Tales, many of these little things have made up the content of the newsletter. I keep a hard copy of all the past Mustang Tales in the school office, and they are all on our website, as well. From time to time it is nice to look back and see all the wonderful things that we have done well. It makes me proud to have had the opportunity to lead such a quality school.

IMPORTANT DATES

- May 25-28—8th Grade Trip
- May 31—Memorial Day, No School
- June 2—Volunteer Luncheon
- June 2—All Library books must be checked in
- June 8-11—Pizza with the Principal
- June 9—School Board Meeting
- June 17—Last day of school, 1:00pm dismissal, FES Graduation 7:30pm at Belotti Hall
- June 18—FHS Graduation, 7:30pm at Belotti Hall

2010 FES All Star Students: Ani Gurney and Anna Gomes

Each year the Junior High Teachers select two outstanding students to be recognized at the annual All-Star Breakfast hosted by the Humboldt Charter of the Association of California School Administrators.

Anna Gomes — Anna exhibits all of the qualities of an all star because she is a well-rounded student and outstanding citizen. She is a hard-working, conscientious, diligent student who holds herself to a very high standard academically. Anna consistently earns honor roll status, often achieving straight A’s. She displays an avid desire to learn and is always engaged in classroom discussions and activities.

Currently, she holds the office of student body president where she is a positive role model for her peers and younger students. Recently, she took a leadership role in organizing a fundraiser for victims of the Haiti quake. In addition to student government, she was also a valuable member of the volleyball team and participates yearly in the Cinco de Mayo dance performances at the school and community level. Outside of school she plays soccer. Anna is a very considerate, thoughtful young woman who strives to do her personal best, as well as, help out others.

Ani Gurnee — Ani demonstrates the qualities of an all-

star student both inside and outside of the classroom environment. She is an outstanding citizen, being both helpful and respectful to her peers and adults. Ani consistently puts forth her best effort and is more than willing to go ‘above and beyond’ to achieve academic excellence. During classroom instruction, Ani is engaged in lessons and activities, therefore acting as a positive role model for her peers. Her diligence and desire to succeed have earned her honor roll status repeatedly, often achieving straight A’s. In addition, Ani participated in the Humboldt County Science Fair last year and won third place.

Outside the classroom, Ani has participated in volleyball where her positive leadership qualities made her a valuable member of the team. Ani has proven to be focused and self-driven to achieve success in all of her endeavors.



Ani Gurney and Anna Gomes

Art in the Office—Pat Cabill



While teaching the middle grades at Ferndale Elementary School, I loved it one hundred percent. Now I have a new challenge – painting.

After retiring from Ferndale Elementary School in 1998, one of my goals was to take some art courses at College of the Redwoods. I found the world of watercolors, painting various subjects that intrigue me – be it color, subject matter or design.

Painting for my own pleasure gives me a fresh perspective of looking at people, places, and objects. Being a painter of representational art, I hope to pique an interest or spark a memory in the mind of the viewer.

The continual challenges of painting keep me inspired.

Composing each painting reflects my unique interpretation and understanding of the physical world. My inspirations come from many sources. I treasure being able to record my travels, paint animals, and capture the everyday beauty that surrounds us. Nature offers us such glorious, ever-changing masterpieces for us to enjoy. A painting captures these in time.

I am a member of several art organizations. My work has been shown in several local locations, but most is at the Ferndale Arts Gallery.

Art Docents Educating Students About Art

“WHAT WE SEE
DEPENDS MAINLY
ON WHAT WE LOOK
FOR.”

—JOHN LUBBOCK

Lucy Quinby, an Art Docent with the Morris Graves Museum of Art, discusses the art with kindergarten students at Ferndale Elementary School. Lucy is a retired teacher from Eureka High School and volunteers her time with the Humboldt Arts Council as an art docent and coordinator of the annual author festival. The

featured original art was the work of former Fortuna resident Laura Adam Armer, author and illustrator, from her book published in 1938, *The Forest Pool*.



May Flowers



Each year at the beginning of May, students in both kindergarten classes prepare hand-made flower baskets for all of the staff at Ferndale Elementary School to celebrate the arrival of spring. Pictured are Gail Giamo, parent volunteer, and Yuliana Jimenez, a kindergarten student in Mrs. Cook's class. Mrs. Giamo continues to help supply the kindergarten classes with flowers for their May Day baskets. She

started helping out when her daughter Alicia was in kindergarten in 2007. She still brings flowers picked from her garden for this event every year. The kindergarten students have delivered baskets of flowers to staff members since 1987.

“Many thanks, Gail. We could not do it without you.”

Elementary Teachers Honored

On the California Day of the Teacher, May 12th, two teachers from Ferndale Elementary School received the 2010 Excellence in Teaching Awards from the Humboldt County Office of Education. Both Jenny Fisk-Becker, a 4th/5th grade teacher, and David Haller, junior high science teacher, were among the eleven teachers from all over the county honored at the Adorni Center in Eureka.

Each teacher was asked to submit a statement about their goals as a teacher. Jenny wrote that her goal as a teacher “is to set students up for success and to make a difference at our school.” She explained, “I strongly believe in the public

school system where each student has an equal right to the education they need.” David wrote, “I explain to the students the importance of having confidence in their ideas, especially after experiments confirm their hypothesis.” He continued, “I then relate this lesson to the real world with the idea that often times, there is no magical answer book, and scientists must rely on the consistent results from their experiments.”

Both teachers received the nominations for their awards from fellow teachers at Ferndale Elementary School. Having their colleagues nominate them was flattering and affirming to them. The role of the

teacher is of utmost importance the making of a quality school and in providing a solid education. It’s important for us to honor our outstanding teacher-leaders, the ones who inspire those around them

to be better, to achieve more, and to make a difference in the world. Thank you Jenny and David for all you do to make Ferndale Elementary School a great place for kids.



Jenny Fisk-Becker and David Haller

Ferndale Students Give Towels and Soap for Shower Project

In order to help make Betty Chinn’s Shower Project in Eureka a success, students at both Ferndale Elementary and Ferndale High Schools held a two week towel and soap drive. The result was overwhelming! Over 100 towels and 200 bars of soap were collected, along with bath gels, toothbrushes, and lotions. Betty Chin was thrilled

to receive such a wonderful gift.

First grade teacher, Barb McDonald, who coordinated this event for both schools was very pleased with the response from the community. On behalf of the students, she wishes to thank the generous families that gave so willingly to help others.



Box Tops for Education

For the past ten years, Ferndale Elementary School has participated in the Box Tops for Education program, a national school support program begun by the General Mills Company. By clipping and turning in Box Tops coupons from the packages of a huge number of products, you can earn money for the school. In classes where family

participation in the program is high, teachers receive as much as \$200 annually. It’s a very simple process. Families cut the Box-tops coupons from the packaging and send them to school with your student. As teachers receive them, they are sent to Mr. Hirsch, Box Tops Coordinator, who then sends them in to General Mills. Within a few

weeks, the teachers will receive a check that they can spend on school supplies.

To encourage greater participation, the FES Student Council is doing a Box Tops drive for the remainder of the year to see which class can bring in the most. Help your student’s teacher win by sending in those Box Tops. They add up in a hurry!



Masonic Lodge Honors Students

On Monday evening, April 25, the Ferndale Masonic Lodge hosted its annual Constitution Observation and Essay Contest. The students writing the five best essays on one of the amendments of the Constitution were treated to dinner, along with their families and teachers. The evening included a game quiz between the students from Ferndale Elementary School and the students from Freshwater Charter School. In addition, one student from each school was selected as the overall essay contest winner. The winner from Ferndale was Anna Gomes. Essay winners received a savings bond, and the Masons also donated \$50 to each school's library.



Pictured above (L2R): Gaylene Dudal, 8th grade social studies teacher, Anna Gomes, the top essay winner, Caroline Evans, Andrea Guggenbickler, Ani Gurney, Russ Jackson, and 8th grade English teacher, Carrie Brazil.

Student Council Promotes "Pennies for Peace"

"KINDNESS BEGETS
KINDNESS"

—SOPHOCLES

Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Journey to Change the World.....One Child at a Time is a book by Greg Mortenson, read by three 4th grade students at Ferndale Elementary School with Señora McCulloch. Mayra Villalvazo, Victoria Juarez, & Miryan Roman-Maceda think that many people would enjoy reading this true story that tells about Greg Mortenson's promise to build schools in Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Señora McCulloch and her students have signed up Ferndale Elementary School with PENNIES FOR PEACE (P4P), along with over 4500 other schools worldwide. P4P is a program started in 1994 to support the work of the Central Asia Institute, a nonprofit group cofounded by Greg Mortenson to build schools and to offer children hope for a better future in Pakistan and Afghanistan. One of the reasons only pennies are accepted

is so that everyone can participate. Pennies are often tossed aside, but we're hoping that people will drop them in our Pennies for Peace containers. Our goal for this school year, which ends June 17, is to collect 10,000 pennies, which equals \$100. It may not sound like a lot, but you will be surprised to know what a penny can buy in Pakistan & Afghanistan.

A penny in the United States has little worth, but in Pakistan and Afghanistan a penny buys a pencil and opens the door to literacy:

- 1 penny = one pencil
- 2 pennies = one eraser
- 15 pennies = one notebook
- \$2 or \$3 = one teacher's salary for one day
- \$20 = one student's school supplies for one year
- \$600 = one teacher's annual salary
- \$5,000 = support for exist-



THREE CUPS OF TEA BY GREG MORTENSON

- ing school for one year
- \$50,000 = one school building and support for up to five years

We plan to continue collecting pennies during the coming 2010-11 school year. We have penny collection tubs located in the office and in most classrooms grades 3-8. Student Council is helping collect pennies and will announce our total for this school year at an end-of-the-year Spirit Assembly.

Be sure to make time to read this book.

FES Spring Concert

Each year Mr. Cotton coordinates and conducts a spring concert to showcase his students musical accomplishments. This year's concert was exceptional. Adding 6th grade to the advanced band has helped fill the music with more instruments. It was enjoyable watching and listening to Amelia Boak play the wood xylophone. Not only was it beautiful to hear, but it really rounded out the band.

The show began with the 4th graders playing Iron Man, Ode to Joy, and Star Wars on their recorders.



They were followed by the Mustang Singers performing Super-califragilisticexpialidocious.

The Advanced Band performed Farandole and In the Hall of the Mountain King. The Junior High Band played Best of Beethoven, The 5th Symphony, Für Elise, and Ode to Joy.



Amelia Boak on the xylophone and Annelise Vollmer on the cymbal.



Mustang Singers L2R: Glen Jones, Amelia Boak, Kenzy Allardice, Addie Williams, and Mallery Adams

California Mille

Each year, members of the California Mille drive their cars to the north coast from San Francisco and stop in Ferndale for lunch. As they do, they stop at Ferndale Elementary School to let the students hear and see their cars. This year, due to rain, the number of cars was significantly reduced. However, the drivers that participated were very excited to show their classic cars off to the students. The California Mille is named after Italy's famed Mille Miglia, an historic road race. Members of the Amici americani della Mille Miglia have a sincere interest



in historic auto sports. This is their 20th anniversary of the California Mille.

The driver of the #9 Alfa Romeo (above) let students take turns sitting in his car. Smiling in the passenger seat is Ismael Lopez,

2nd grader at Ferndale Elementary School. In the picture to the right, Mr. Hirsch watches over his third grade students as they wave Italian flags at the cars and greet the drivers as they pulled into the Ferndale Elementary School. Judging from the number of stickers on the car, the #28 1959 Alfa Romeo has participated in several California Mille events.



Pizza with the Principal

The reading incentive program, “Pizza with the Principal” is growing in student participation! Pizza with the Principal allows students that meet the reading target set at each grade level to participate in the end-of-the-year all-you-can-eat pizza lunch with Principal Paul Meyers. A few years ago, the number of students qualifying to participate in the program was about 30 and was handled on a single day at Pizza Co. As our Accelerated Reader (AR) program was expanded, our student participation has increased. This year over 100 students spanning over four days will be treated to a pizza lunch. This program has been funded by the School Site Council to encourage students to read more, and judging from the increased participation, the program is a huge success.

Listed to the right are the students that have made the AR 100 Club, the AR 250 Club, and the AR 500 Club. Our most voracious reader, Cassidy Clancy, may soon reach a new category—the AR 750 Club! Cassidy is score of 749.6 is the highest ever achieved by a student at Ferndale Elementary School in a single year.

Congratulations to all of the hard working students that achieved their goal and have earned the privilege of participating in “Pizza with the Principal.”

Gym Cut-Outs Created by Kay Rigney

The 8-foot cutouts of athletes in the school gym were created by Kay Rigney, the mother of our Athletic Director, Coach, and Math Teacher Rex Rigney.



AR Points as of May 18, 2010

<u>500 Club</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Points</u>
Cassidy Clancy	6 th	749.6
Andrew East	7 th	570.3
<u>250 Club</u>		
Lily Wagner	6 th	448.9
Olivia Gerving	3 rd	303.9
Kade Chambers	6 th	289.5
Brooke-Ann Busick	7 th	284.9
Lacey Nichols	6 th	279.1
Jacey Ragan	6 th	274.4
Nicole Vollmer	8 th	261.1
Madison Walpole	8 th	252.3
Alex Jones	7 th	250.3
<u>100 Club</u>		
Corabelle Esmailian	7 th	236.5
Glen Jones	7 th	231.3
Darby McWaters	4 th	206.3
Oliver Stoops	7 th	205.3
Evan Uutela	6 th	198.7
Evan Broberg	6 th	192.9
Avery Gritsch	5 th	188.7
Andrea Guggenbickler	8 th	182.3
Kalynn Farley	6 th	175.1
Abigail Petersen	7 th	164.6
Abigail Ambrosini	4 th	159.4
Lee O'Reilly	6 th	158.0
Will Evans	5 th	152.4
Jackson Wagner	4 th	151.5
Sidney Melendy	4 th	149.6
Emma Gomes	6 th	145.7
Adam Forsell	7 th	140.5
Liam Hessler	5 th	139.4
Julie Urbach	7 th	137.6
Phoebe Ruggles	7 th	130.8
Kenton Goldsby	7 th	128.8
Victoria Meyer	6 th	127.1
Lane Sotomayor	6 th	122.6
Taryn DeMille	8 th	117.4
Dane Gritsch	6 th	116.7
Sasha Lekas	7 th	116.5
Spencer Fulton	6 th	114.4
Blaine Becksted	6 th	113.4
Coleman Sturdevant	6 th	113.0
Marek Clancy	2 nd	111.7
Jesse Barrer	5 th	111.4
Nicole Lannom	8 th	110.5
Clayton Wiseman	6 th	110.4
Kendra Losa	8 th	106.4
Mason Short	5 th	103.5
Lacey Herrera	8 th	102.7
Mckenzie Renner	3 rd	102.6
Anna Gomes	8 th	101.5
Kyle Chambers	8 th	101.5
Ani Gurney	8 th	100.8
Chase Walpole	6 th	100.3

Cinco de Mayo School Fiesta 2010

For the last 21 years, Lynn McCulloch, aka Señora, has organized the Cinco de Mayo Fiesta at Ferndale Elementary School. Over the years, this event has evolved into what is arguably one of the finest exhibitions of Mexican Folkloric dance in northern California. Over 90 students participate in this annual event. Months of practice and countless hours are dedicated to make this event possible. Parents of the Hispanic students participating in this event provide enough food for all of the students to enjoy a traditional Mexican lunch. Entertainment is provided by the Tornado Show, a local band that donate their fee back to the school to purchase books for our students. It is an event that many students and staff look forward to each year.

This year, Señora announced that this was her final year coordinating the event—although she still plans to teach the dances. It is hoped that a new coordinator will emerge to lead this amazing event for next year. All of the staff and students would like to say “thank you” to Señora for all of her efforts over the years. We appreciate you!



Señora McCulloch and Sadie Scales in the dance Florde Piña



FES TRACK TEAM

BLAINE BECKSTED

WILL EVANS

EMMA GOMES

LIAM HESSLER

ALEX JONES

LANE SOTOMAYOR

ANNELISE VOLLMER

COACH:

NORM SOTOMAYOR



Marie Gallardo and Enrique Herrera

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 WWW.FERNDALEK12.ORG**

KIDS ARE OUR BUSINESS



Ferndale Elementary School, a 2010 CA Distinguished School

Pride – that is the feeling that we have for what the staff and students have accomplished here at Ferndale Elementary School. Earning a 2010 Distinguished School Award speaks volumes about the staff's dedication in ensuring that all students learn and achieve at their highest potential. Earning the Distinguished School Award is a huge accomplishment and not one easily obtained. Yet, Ferndale Elementary School has been selected as a California Distinguished School in 2006, 2000, 1993, 1987, and 1986, and as a National Blue Ribbon School in 1987.

In order to qualify for the distinction, schools must meet the eligibility criteria for Annual Yearly Progress (AYP), must achieve the Academic Performance Index (API) score above 795, and must improve in all categories and all student subgroups must also show improvement. In addition, the school must show a “closing of the achievement gap.” This term means that the disadvan-

tagged subgroup of students must improve their performance on the STAR test at a rate higher than the majority subgroup, or white students. In comparing our API scores from 2008 to 2009, the white student API increased from 818 to 836, a total of 18 points, and the disadvantaged student API increased from 709 to 766, an increase of 57 points. The achievement gap between our white students and disadvantaged students was narrowed to 70 points (see chart below). In our application for the award, the staff needed to submit two signature practices that helped to close the achievement gap. The two successful signature programs are GROW – Great Readers of our

World, our Title I reading support program, and HOAP – Hispanic Outreach and Advocacy Program, our English Learners program.

While our students STAR scores qualified us to receive this prestigious award, what really makes us distinguished is the way that we treat each other, support each other, and help each other. We are very lucky to have such a safe and supportive school for our students. Our great teachers, great students, and great parents make our school very special. Thanks for your role in making Ferndale Elementary School a “distinguished” school!

