

Gobble, gobble!



# Mustang Tales

Ferndale Elementary School

Volume 5, Issue 2



## Important Dates

Nov. 12 – Veteran’s Day – No School

Nov. 13 – Parent Club Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

Nov. 14 – School Board Meeting – 7:00 p.m.

Nov. 19-23 Thanksgiving Week – No School

Nov 30 – Decorate Town Christmas Trees

Dec. 12 – School Board Meeting – 7:00 p.m.

Dec. 18 – Parent Club Meeting – 7:00 p.m.

Dec. 19 – School Site Council – 3:45 p.m.

Dec. 20 – Winter Concert – 6:00 p.m.

Dec. 21 – Early Dismissal – 1:00 p.m.

Dec. 24-Jan 4 – Winter Break – No School

## Principal’s Message

Amazingly, we are one-fourth of the way through the school year. The holiday season is upon us and before we know it, 2008 will be here. It has been a busy, yet productive, first few months.

From an administrative point of view, this school year has gone very well so far. Attendance has been good, and our enrollment is at 317, about seven less than last year at this time. Student behavior has been excellent, and in looking at the long list of names of the students that received Honor Roll this quarter, I’d say student achievement is up as well.

Many exciting things are happening at Ferndale Elementary School. The K-6 students enjoyed the Chamber Readers, and our author day, while Jr. High students received a visit by Sherlock Holmes and Watson. Our 4th graders went to Wolf Creek Environmental Camp, our student council members cleaned up trash at Cen-

terville Beach, and various other field trips.

We held a successful parent education program – PIQE – Parent Institute for Quality Education, and we had 22 parents graduate from the program. This was an exciting program to have here at our school. We feel it has helped our parents feel empowered and have a better understanding of the school system.

Parent conferences have been well attended, and so has our Book Fair, our school library fundraiser. We held a very successful Junior High Carnival in October. The collective efforts of the students, parents, and teachers raised a good portion of the funds needed for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade study trip in the spring. Volleyball season went well, and girls’ basketball is in full swing.

The FES Parent Club is sponsoring our t-shirt and sweatshirt sales

with a new logo (see above); the orders are in and should be here at school after our Thanksgiving holiday. The Parent Club has partnered with Nilsen’s this year for Christmas Tree sales, so we will not be selling trees this year. Instead, the Parent Club is sponsoring a Candle Sale fundraiser this week. Order forms will be going home with your students, and orders are due by November 16. These are great candles and make excellent gifts. The expected delivery date is December 14.

Of course, this is just the beginning of school, and we have many more exciting events planned for the year. Please note our Important Dates for November and December and try to be involved as much as you can. Parent involvement is a key ingredient to a successful school program

Thanks for reading this monthly newsletter, and for your continued support of our school. Have a wonderful Thanksgiving Holiday!

## Ms. Dudal to Receive Wells Fargo Stagecoach Legacy Award

Ms. Gaylene Dudal was recently selected as one of the recipients of the 2007 Wells Fargo Stagecoach Legacy Award for Humboldt County. This prestigious award honors the ten top teachers in Humboldt County. Each year parents, students, and colleagues nominate

teachers that they feel have made a difference in the lives of children. After reviewing the numerous nominations, a selection committee of community leaders picked the top candidates and will honor them at a reception. This year’s reception will be held at Baywood County Club in Arcata on November 27, 2007. Ms. Dudal will be honored for her contributions to our junior high students and her leadership in the junior high where she serves as the grade-level chair.

Ms. Dudal began her teaching career in 1978 as a part-time 4/5 and GATE teacher. The following year, she took over as a full-time 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher where she remained for three years before becoming an 8<sup>th</sup> grade teacher. Ms. Dudal has remained teaching in junior high ever since, with the exception of the two years that she spent working as the academic counselor at Ferndale High School. Congratulations, Ms. Dudal!



## Mustang Tales

### Art in the Office for October—Shawn Griggs



Shawn Griggs, a native Californian, has been creating art for 20 plus years. Since receiving a degree in studio/graphic arts from Humboldt State University in 1994, Shawn has become proficient in illustration, graphic design, watercolors, and most recently oil painting. Besides painting, Shawn is also an avid Humboldt County surfer with a hunger for travel. Both the north coast and experiences abroad supply Shawn with the bulk of his imagery and each painting has a story behind it. This love for the coast combined with his appli-

cation of color and design result in bold, colorful paintings that are pleasing to the eye.

Shawn Griggs is the son of Robbie and Linda Griggs, and was raised in Ferndale where he attended Ferndale Elementary School and Ferndale High School. He and his wife Maggie previously owned and ran the restaurant “Casa Blanca” in Eureka, before he made the leap to being an artist full time. Their daughter, Gracie, currently attends Ferndale Elementary School.

Griggs’ work can be seen, at his studio on Main Street, Red

Eye Laboratories. He also worked with Ferndale Junior High school students over the last few weeks to create “Day of the Dead” themed banners for the traditional Junior High Carnival on October 26. Griggs is also working with a group of students and teachers at FES to develop a mural on the storage container in the playground there.



### Art in the Office for November—Emily Silver



“The Wolf Blows My Own Stone Home”  
(Oil on Canvas)

When I first started painting I was working as a scientific illustrator. I drew and painted images for chil-

dren’s textbooks and magazine articles, from whale skeletons to insects to flowers! One of the things I liked best was drawing stones and fossils—an interest I inherited from my geologist parents. I enjoyed finding stones on the beach that had lines on them and I created meaningful arrangements of the stones where the lines aligned to make a shape, such as this tilted house. This painting refers to the story “The Three Little Pigs”, where a wolf blows down a straw house then, with a little more effort, blows down a stick house, but can’t seem to blow over a sturdy brick house. I thought surely a stone house like the one I grew up in would be the safest of all. But as the wolf blows,

it tilts precariously. There is some suspense—is it going to stay standing?

The wolf, which you cannot see, is a metaphor for danger. This painting is about feelings of vulnerability and safety. Some people have asked me if it had to do with baseball. Can you guess why?

I grew up in Colorado and lived in Washington and Nevada before moving to Ferndale in 1997. I studied art at Stanford, and, more recently, at San Francisco Art Institute where I received my MFA this year. A show of my large abstract paintings is currently running at Piante Gallery at 620 Second Street in Eureka.



The important thing is not so much that every child should be taught, as that every child should be given the wish to learn.

**John Lubbock (1834-1913)**

### Good Information from Our Speech Therapist, Mrs. Patty Houx

As we head into winter, children begin catching colds and sore throats. In Humboldt County, where the weather is exceptionally wet, these colds and sore throats often expand into ear inflammations and infections. This is called otitis media and is one of the most common illnesses in young children.

You may think of this as just a medical condition that will go away, but these ear infections can affect your child’s hearing and schoolwork. This can become a

concern to the school Speech Therapist because chronic ear infections can affect a child’s speech and language development and could delay their acquisition of reading skills.

Otitis media means there is fluid in the ear behind the eardrum. This fluid makes it hard to hear. In the classroom, a child may miss important information and directions because speech sounds muffled. They may not respond to a teacher calling their name because normal speech may seem like a

whisper. They may talk too loudly for the situation and may slur their speech. It is important to watch your child for signs of ear infections such as complaints about ear pain, pulling or scratching on ears, not responding, misunderstanding directions or turning up the volume on the TV or other electronic devices. They may seem irritable and tired. If you suspect an ear infection, contact your pediatrician. If otitis media is diagnosed, be sure to let the classroom teacher know.

## Kindergarten News

On Friday, September 28th the students in grades K-2nd were visited by Cricket of Cal- Fire and her friend Smokey Bear. The students were shown a fire safety video and got to meet Smokey. Alissa Marsh, a kindergarten student gets a big bear hug from her new friend Smokey.



### Mrs. Bergenske's Class

Nicolas Alejandre  
Brianna Brazil  
Darien Bassett  
Ryan Broberg  
Vincent Ceffalo  
Jenner Christiansen  
Colby Cox  
Kayla Craig  
Randy Currier  
Landon Gomes  
Maryn Gossien  
Andrew Hansen  
Brentan Luster  
Shelby Meyers  
Lexi Miranda  
Merrit Walters

### Mrs. Cook's Class

Imoni Douglas  
Natalie Duncan  
Simon Field  
Dylan Gurney  
Bruce LaTorre  
Bronson Lewis  
Alissa Marsh  
Halee Nickols  
Juan Carlos Herrera Ramirez  
Merek Sears  
Jorge Tovar  
Paola Valverde  
Josue Villalvazo-Rodriguez

### Healthy Kids

Children need medical insurance! They do better in school when they're healthy, accidents happen, and doctor visits are expensive. Just by calling 442-6066 parents in Humboldt County have the opportunity to apply for low- or no-cost health and dental insurance coverage for their children. Convenient appointment times and places can be arranged – home, office, school. Experts from Healthy Kids Humboldt are here to help families with the application process for Medi-Cal, Healthy Families, and the new low-cost CalKids coverage. For an appointment and more information call Healthy Kids Humboldt at 442-6066.

## Pumpkin Patch Trip

This month in Kindergarten we've been busy and having fun. We have been exploring colors with paint and play dough, and watching the colors of our world change as Autumn takes over. One of the highlights of October was our trip to the Coop Pumpkin Patch in Arcata. We started out with a demonstration of how pumpkins grow, then split up into groups to find the perfect pumpkin. We finished off with a healthy snack. That afternoon we ate lunch and played at Redwood Park.

We spent the next week at school investigating our pumpkins for science. First we gave our pumpkins a bath. Then we used our "scientist eyes" and drew pictures of them. Later we



weighed them, measured their heights with Unifix cubes and measured the circumference with yarn. We compiled all of our information into a book. For each activity we started with a prediction and then tested our hypothesis and compared the numbers. It is sure great to be a Kindergartner! We are learning, growing and having fun every day.



## Visit from the Ferndale Children's Center

On Monday October 23rd the pre-kindergarten students at the Ferndale Children's Center joined the kindergarten classes for their first visit of the year. They brought with them an art science activity. The kindergartners each worked with a preschooler as their big buddy, sharing their tools and helping as needed. It was heartwarming to watch them be so helpful and nurturing with the younger children. Afterwards, they enjoyed snack time together.



This tradition started in the 1990 as a way to help the preschoolers feel comfortable and at home at Ferndale Elementary School. They visit once a quarter, with an end of the year picnic held at Fireman's Park. By the time fall rolls around they are familiar with the teachers, the classrooms and the school. We're looking forward to their next visit.



On Thanksgiving Day we acknowledge our dependence. ~William Jennings

# Mustang Tales

## Library News

Thank you for your support of the Library Book Fair!



...heard at this year's book fair by a 4th grade student: "The book fair is so awesome, too bad it's only once a year!"

Donations to our Library this year:

**Birthday Club:**

<u>From:</u>	<u>In Honor Of:</u>	<u>Title:</u>
Linda Russ	Judy Dixon	<i>Three Snow Bear</i>
Linda Russ	Judy Dixon	<i>Beauty &amp; the Beaks</i>
Judy Dixon	Cade Dixon	<i>Bone: Eyes of the Storm</i>
Judy Dixon	Cade Dixon	<i>Dragonslayer</i>
Jamie Hindley	Dylan Gurney	<i>A Treasury of Curious George</i>

**Miscellaneous Donations:**

**Audrey Miller:** *One Well: The story of Water on Earth*

**Masonic Lodge:**

*Animals at Home*  
*Bug Out: The World's Creepiest, Crawliest Critters*  
*Best Friends: The True Story of Owen and Mzee*  
*Beck Beyond the Sea*  
*Emperor Penguins*  
*Beware The Dark Side Star Wars*

**Memorials:**

Heather and Mike Boynton have donated the fol-

lowing books in memory of former FES students who passed away this past year. Each of these young people were an important part of our school and community.

<i>Dogku</i>	In memory of Nate Titus
<i>One Magical Day</i>	In memory of Jessica Toste
<i>Fancy Nancy and the Posh Puppy</i>	In memory of Stephanie Hubbard
<i>Monday with a Mad Genius</i>	In memory of Jose Alberto Gil-Quirarte
<i>The Invention of Hugo Cabret</i>	In memory of Russell Heinichen

**Library Student Helpers:** In addition to having great parent volunteers in the library, we also have several student assistants this year. Thanks to sixth grade students Anna Gomes, Peyton Durrett, Andrea Guggenbickler and Miriam Thompson for their help checking books in and out !

## Author's Visit - Helen Ketteman

3rd grader Tony Valverde with author Helen Ketteman during Author Day, Oct. 19th. Tony was one of the winners of the design a bookmark contest for the author's visit.



Many thanks to Carol Rocha (mother of 3rd grader, Anne Marie Rocha) for baking and decorating a patriotic cake to go with Ketteman's story *The Great Cake Bake*.

## School Site Council and Parent Club Rosters

School Site Council Members

**Parent Members**

Beth Foster – President  
 Sherrene Werner – Vice President  
 Nicole Melendy – Secretary  
 Kristi Christiansen  
 James Rose

**FES Staff Members**

Nancy Bergenske, Kindergarten Teacher  
 Gaylene Dudal, Jr. High Teacher  
 Julia Schrick, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher  
 Leanne McCulloch, Librarian/Computer Tech  
 Paul Meyers, Principal

Parent Club Executive Board Members

**Lisa McWaters – President**  
**Rey Urbach – Vice President**  
**Stephanie Boers– Secretary**  
**Karen Wilson – Treasurer**



## Library News Continued

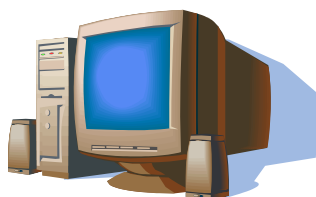
### Author's Visit

Author Helen Ketteman visited our school Friday Oct. 19th, presenting to students in Kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grade. It was a great experience for our students. As we prepared for the Author's visits students were invited to enter a design a bookmark contest. Winning bookmarks were autographed by the authors, and returned to the winners, while copies will be made for our other students. Winners of the contest were:

Tony Valverde—3<sup>rd</sup> grade  
Lily Wagner—4<sup>th</sup> grade  
Sasha Lekas—5<sup>th</sup> grade  
Nicole Vollmer, Peyton Durrett  
and Heather Cutler—6<sup>th</sup> grade

### Accelerated Reader

Over a 100 new AR quizzes have been purchased this month. These titles, book levels and points have been uploaded to our website. The majority of the new quizzes are for older students to accommodate the Junior High students. Mrs. Brazil is going to start using AR for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students during the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter.



### Web Site

During the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter Denim Ohmit and Layne Stephens have been working with Mrs. McCulloch to update our website. Denim has added a marquee on our home page to post Upcoming Events. He also updated the Jr. High page and is currently working on changing the sport's page that will include a link to the basketball schedule. Meanwhile, Layne has updated our Student Council page as well as changing many of the pictures throughout our site. Check it out at [www.ferndalek12.org/fes](http://www.ferndalek12.org/fes)



As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them. ~John Fitzgerald Kennedy

## 2007 Girls' Basketball Rosters

### **8<sup>th</sup> Grade**

# 2 Kelly Chamber  
# 3 Kayleigh Meyers  
# 4 Eme Gurnee  
# 5 Pearl Baker  
#10 Emily Shinn  
#12 Monica Sopjes  
#20 Stephanie Lentz

**Head Coach:** Rex Rigney

### **7<sup>th</sup> Grade**

# 3 Anna Evans  
# 4 Catherine Boers  
# 10 Jordan Farley  
# 11 Madison Parker  
# 12 Danielle Hansen  
# 14 Clarissa Ceffalo  
# 15 Kaycee Mela  
# 21 Kayla Leonardo  
# 24 Kaylee Armstrong

**Head Coach:** Felicia Miranda

### **6<sup>th</sup> Grade**

# 1 Anna Gomes  
# 2 Johali Lopez  
# 4 Maci Branstetter  
# 10 Caroline Evans  
# 11 Heather Cutler  
# 21 Kendra Losa  
# 23 Taryn Demille  
# 33 Alondra Estrada

**Head Coach:** Stacey Jewell



## 7th and 8th Grade Volleyball

Both the 7th and 8th grade volleyball teams had great seasons. The 7th grade team won the majority of their league games. Mr. Haller, coach for the 8th grade team, stated, "This was the best season that I have ever coached at FES. The team focused on playing real volleyball (bump, set, spike) and it really paid off in the second

half of the season. The 8th grade team won the consolation bracket at the Rio Dell Tournament, and Kayleigh Meyers received all-tournament honors. At the HSU tournament, the girls played well but missed going to the championship bracket by 2 points! Kelly Chambers received all-tournament honors at HSU.

### 8th Grade Team

# 7 Rebecca Forcier  
# 8 Miranda Sears  
# 9 Cassidy Allardice  
# 10 Stephanie Lentz  
# 11 Kelly Chambers  
# 12 Shannon Scales  
# 13 Emily Shinn  
# 15 Callie Brodt  
# 17 Kayleigh Meyers  
Coach David Haller

### 7th Grade Team

# 1 Madison Parker  
# 3 Anna Evans  
# 4 Kelsey Meyers  
# 5 Quinn Hildebrand  
# 6 Jordan Farley  
# 14 Dillon Polasek  
# 16 Kaycee Mela  
# 18 Kaylee Armstrong  
Coach Gaylene Dudal



## Kids are our business

The city of Fortuna will be offering a Thanksgiving Break and a Winter Break Program for all children ages 6-13. They will provide many activities such as arts & crafts, cooking, games, hikes, and even roller skating. The Thanksgiving Program dates are Monday, November 19th through Wednesday, November 21st. The hour will be 7:30 to 5:30 p.m. The cost runs \$20 for a full day and \$13 for a half day. Drop-ins will be welcomed. You may sign up your child at the Rohner Park Office. If you have any questions you may call the park office at 725-7620.

### Ferndale Elementary School

Paul Meyers, Principal  
164 Shaw Avenue  
Ferndale, CA 95536

Phone: 707-786-5300  
Fax: 707-786-4284  
Email: [mustangtales@suddenlink.net](mailto:mustangtales@suddenlink.net)



# FERNDALE MUSTANGS

We're on the web!  
[www.ferndalek12.org/fes](http://www.ferndalek12.org/fes)



"A thankful heart is the parent of all virtues" — Cicero

## 1st Quarter Honor Roll

### 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

Madilyn Adams  
Irene Alvarado  
Makhi Bessingpas-Hamor  
Trevor Brockoff  
Kyle Burns  
Brooke-Ann Busick  
Corabelle Esmailian  
Kenton Goldsby  
Janelle Guggenbickler  
Alex Jones  
Sasha Lekas  
Chase Richardson  
Phoebe Ruggles  
Oliver Stoops  
Julie Urbach

### 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

Vanessa Brower  
Macy Branstetter

Kyle Chambers

Heather Cutler  
Taryn DeMille  
Jake Dixon  
Peyton Durrett  
Caroline Evans  
Anna Gomes  
Andrea Guggenbickler  
Lacey Herrera  
Russ Jackson  
Kendra Losa  
Zach Rocha  
Tristan Sano  
Miriam Thompson

### 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

Kaylee Armstrong  
Terris Becker  
Catherine Boers  
Clarissa Ceffalo

Anna Evans

Jordan Farley  
Stephanie Floren  
Riley Foster  
Joey Fuller  
Danielle Hansen  
Quinn Hildebrand  
Kayla Leonardo  
Kaycee Mela  
Kelsey Meyers  
Kelly O'Day  
Madison Parker  
Cambria Peronne  
David Sams  
Layne Stephens  
Grady Titus  
Tenaya Urbach  
Kaden Zanone

### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

Kassidy Allardice  
Callie Brodt  
Kelly Chambers  
Trey Dixon  
Bryce Fields  
Eme Gurnee  
Alise Hubner  
Christiana Lekas  
Stephanie Lentz  
Kyle Lutz  
Kayleigh Meyers  
Denim Ohmit  
Kassie Rosell  
Travis Rye  
Emily Scilacci  
Miranda Sears  
Emily Shinn  
Monica Sopjes  
Louis Sterback