

Mustang Tales

Together, We Succeed!

Amazingly, we are six weeks into the new school year! Where does the time go? Before long, we'll be setting back our clocks, setting out pumpkins, and getting our umbrellas out.

This school year has begun extremely smoothly. With the cut-backs in staffing, I wasn't so sure this would be the case, but the staff really pulled together to get done what needed to happen to ensure our students have another successful year

We are pleased to see our enrollment is up again this year. We began the year with 330 students, six more than last year. Surprisingly, we have continued to increase our enrollment since the Coast Guard housing shut down over a year ago. Many of our new students

are coming to us with inter-district transfers from neighboring districts. Some families have actually relocated to Ferndale, renting local houses, so their kids can attend Ferndale schools. We take pride in the fact that parents are willing to make the commitment to driving their students up to 30 miles each day to attend Ferndale Elementary School. To us, it reinforces our belief that we have an excellent school program and we are meeting the needs of our students.

Our Academic Performance Index, based on annual STAR testing, also increased 21 points from our base of 794 to 815. This is another indication that our academic program is strong. Our students are achieving well above most schools in Humboldt County.

The bottom line for most parents is "How is my child doing at school?" If you have concerns about your child's performance, please contact your child's teacher. In grades 5 through 8, progress reports were sent home last week. First quarter Report Cards will be ready in early November, and will be distributed to parents during Parent/Teacher Conference Week, November 9-13. It is important that all parents attend these important conferences. We rely on our partnership with you to ensure your child has the best possible opportunity to learn and excel. Your involvement is essential to ensure your child's success at school and in life.

Together, we will succeed.

Fire Safety Week

The Ferndale Fire Department made classroom presentations to the primary students about fire safety on Wednesday, October 7. The picture to the right shows Adam Pillar (left) and Rick Nicholson (right) attaching a neck brace to Braulio Duran in Mrs. Robertson's 1st grade class to simulate a neck or back injury. Assisting in the presentation were Assistant Chief Dennis DelBiaggio, Manual Enos, Daniel DelBiaggio, and Justin Moranda. Each year the Ferndale Fire Department make fire safety presentation to the students at Ferndale Elementary School.



Important Dates:

- Oct. 14@7:00p.m.—School Board Meeting*
- Oct. 15@10:15a.m.—Earthquake Drill*
- Oct. 20@7:00p.m.—Parent Club Meeting at Pizza Co.*
- Oct. 21@3:45p.m.—School Site Council Meeting*
- Oct. 30@10:15a.m.—K-3 Costume Parade; 5:30-Jr. High Carnival*

Art in the Office—Sept. Willa Briggs; Oct. Jimmie Fay Beal



Willa Briggs



Jimmie Fay Beal

Art in the Office is an opportunity for local artist to share their work with the students and staff at Ferndale Elementary School. The program is organized by Emily Silver. To share your art work contact Emily at 786-4209.

Ferndale Kiwanis *Reading Express* Program



Principal Meyers is seen to the left giving a book to Derek Griffith in Mrs. Bergenske's kindergarten classroom. Wearing a conductor's hat and pulling a wagon-load of new books, Mr. Meyers enters each room by blowing the familiar train whistle, much to the delight of the students. Reading Express was a program started many years ago to encourage young children to read. Each month, students in grades kindergarten to third grade get to

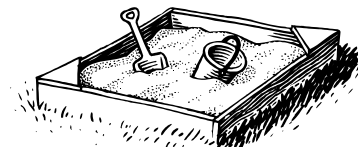
pick out a brand new book to take home and keep in their room. Thanks to the generous \$2,000 annual donation from the Ferndale Kiwanis Club, this program has been kept alive. Parent volunteer Jeannie Fulton has been responsible for purchasing and stocking the books each month. She does an excellent job of providing a good mix of popular fiction and interesting non-fiction books.

Annual 3rd Grade Grandparents' Tea



Great-grandfather Evo Lourenzo and granddad Mark Lourenzo with grandson Jamal Lourenzo

Ferndale Elementary School held its annual Third Grade Grandparents' Tea at the Ferndale Town Hall on Friday, September 25. This tradition of celebrating grandparents was started over twenty five years ago by retired teacher Joanne Walters. It has continued under the



*Grandfathers are just antique little boys ~
Author Unknown*

direction of teachers Teresa Bugenig and Will Hirsch, with the help of parent volunteers. Grandparents and surrogate grandparents joined their grandchildren to shared stories of what life was like when they were 8 years old.

H1N1—(aka Swine Flu)

In preparation for flu season, we consulted with the nurses and health educators at HCOE. All certificated staff received training from our county school nurse about H1N1 and preventing the spread of the flu. The county provided parent information that was sent home with students, as well as, discussed with parents at Back to School night. Teachers have discussed the spread of the flu, encouraged frequent hand washing and other healthy habits with students in their classrooms, and have posted signs to reinforce cleanliness and to reduce the spread of germs. Latex gloves and surface sanitation wipes have been provided to teachers and staff. Custodians have been instructed to sanitize high traffic areas in classrooms and hallways, such as banisters, door knobs, etc.

Some of the key guidance for parents:

Children should stay home when sick:

Those students with flu-like illness should stay home for at least 24 hours after they no longer have a fever, or signs of a fever, without the use of fever-reducing medicines.

Practice good hygiene: The new recommendations emphasize the importance of the basic foundations of influenza prevention: wash hands frequently with soap and water when possible, and cover noses and mouths with a tissue when coughing or sneezing (or a shirt sleeve or elbow if no tissue is available).

Get vaccinated: The CDC and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) have announced that a large scale pandemic H1N1 flu vaccination campaign is likely to be conducted.

The five key populations include:

- Persons between the ages of 6 months through 24 years of age,
- Health care and emergency services personnel,
- Pregnant women,
- People who live with or care for children younger than 6 months of age, and
- People from ages 25 through 64 years who are at higher risk for pandemic H1N1 flu infection because of chronic health disorders or compromised immune systems.



Running Club Returns!

The Ferndale Elementary School Running Club has returned for another year of fitness and fun. Coach Trevor Christiansen and assistant Jackie Cory began the group last year to encourage physical activity in youth. The Running Club meets Wednesday after school and is open to students of all ages. Over 30 students participate regu-



Austin Talboy shows off the feet he has earned

larly. Students run laps around the school playground and earn a plastic “foot” for each mile completed. The plastic feet are placed on a beaded chain and are worn proudly by students at school. After earning ten miles,



Parent Volunteer Emily Langholtz marks Ava Leonardo's lap card while Kaylynn Dolcini and KK Farley wait their turn.

the students earn a special charm spacer for their necklace. At 20 miles, Larry Horn at Cream City Café will treat the student to a free ice cream cone. Come join the fun!



Real athletes run; others just play games.

Circus Remedy Presents: The Fable of Proffitt the Fox

Circus Remedy (www.circusremedy.org) will begin visiting Ferndale Elementary School on November 18th. They will be sharing a shadow puppet presentation of The Fable of Proffitt the Fox, along with introducing ‘The Little Hands Project’ which encourages school children to reach out to those less fortunate. The Fable of Proffitt the Fox shadow puppet presentation emphasizes the importance of giving and The Little Hands Project is an extension of that message. Circus

Remedy will share a short video of the circus visits to children around the world and will talk to the kids about the mission of reaching out to ailing children with the magic, wonder and laughter of the circus. Not only does the project plant the seeds of giving but each school will be asked to choose a cause of their own that the kids can participate in. They have made a handful of visits with The Little Hands Project thus far and each of them has been utterly unique and inspiring.

Parent Tip

Please label your child's coats and lunch boxes with their names. Items with names are returned to students.

School Gymnasium Gets Makeover



Custodian Brian Cooney (L) assists Rich Quigley (R) of DCI Builders install the new sign on the school gym.

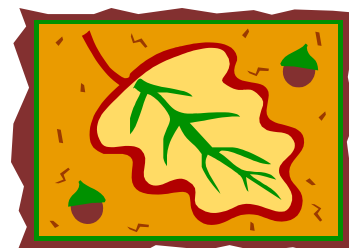
Our school gym has undergone a transformation. The entire outside was painted and new rain gutters installed. Inside, Athletic Director Rex Rigney volunteered nearly two weeks of his summer to bleach and clean the walls, paint the doors and trim, and improve the ventilation. On October 9th, the floors were waxed, completing the overhaul. The gym is now looking great! With the fundraising efforts for our athletic program, we have purchased a sign for the front of the gym. I would like to thank Dennis DelBiaggio and Rich Quigley of DCI Builders for volunteering to install the sign for us. Stop in and take a look – you'll be impressed!



Wolf Creek Environmental Camp



On the left, Ferndale Elementary School 4th grade students stand on the stump of an old redwood tree at the Wolf Creek Educational Center. Mrs. Currier's and Mrs. Fisk-Becker's 4th grade classes spent three day having a great time together learning about our local environment. The weather was sunny and warm during the day, and clear and cool at night.



"For man, autumn is a time of harvest, of gathering together. For nature, it is a time of sowing, of scattering abroad." –Edwin Way Teale

eScrip Pays!

To help raise funds for the FES Parent Club with very little effort, please sign up your Safeway Card with eScrip. It's safe and makes about \$85 a month for FES!

To sign up: Go to www.escrip.com
Enter our group ID# 6652709
Click and Sign Up (eScrip is a VeriSign Secure Site)
It's Free, It's Easy, It's Powerful.

Recycling Program

The FES Parent Club initiated a new money maker in 2008 — the Recycling Program at Eel River Disposal. Simply take your aluminum cans, plastic, glass or other recyclables to the Eel River Disposal and ask that the proceeds are donated to the FES Parent Club, group #112.



Target



Target and the Taking Charge of Education Program provides Ferndale Elementary School with a donation of \$43.54 in September, 2009. Here's how it works: When parents, teachers, and other school supporters use their REDcards, Target donates up to 1% of their purchase to their designated school. To participate, all you need is a REDcard and to enroll in the program go to Target.com/tcoo or call 1-800-316-6142.

FES Elects New Student Council Leaders

Fall Semester Leaders

Grade	Teacher	Rep
3	<i>Bugenig</i>	Maddie Costa
		Shaun Leonardo
3	<i>Hirsch</i>	Kaya Aubrey
		Bryleigh Busick
4	<i>Currier</i>	Maddie Cox
		Addie Williamson
4/5	<i>Fisk-Becker</i>	Gracye Griggs
		Jessi Shinn
5/6	<i>Busick</i>	Sarah Richardson
		Nathan Hansen
6	<i>Adams</i>	Brad Martin
		Lane Sotomayor

7/8 *Dudal* Alondra Estrada
Adam Forsell

7/8 *Haller* Sasha Lekas
Mitchell Grandy

Officers

President Mitchell Grandy

Vice-President Alondra Estrada

Secretary Grayce Griggs

Treasurer Lane Sotomayor



Student Council members pose next to the memorial on the hill at Centerville Beach during our 20th annual Beach Clean Up on Sept. 18. The clean up this year was the 40th trip made by Señora McCulloch and the FES Student Council since the program began in 1990.

Celebrating Student Birthdays



TJ Coleman

The FES Parent Club started a new program this year—celebrating every student’s birthday. The first celebration was a huge success. Students with birthdays in August or September were called up to the front of lunch room to receive a birthday card signed by the entire FES staff and a slice of cake. As students stand holding their card and cake, the lunch room full of students sings “Happy Birthday” to them. The students enjoyed the recognition, even the 8th graders!



Luke Evans

FES Parent Club News

The FES Parent Club is back in swing, and began the year with its annual FES sweatshirt and t-shirt sales and a new Birthday Program (see above). Parent Club is made up of FES parents who want to help make the school even better! Each year the Parent Club selects a new project to work on, holds several fund raisers throughout the year, and sponsors programs such as Escarp and Eel River Recycling (left), to meet our goals.

This year the Parent Club goal is to help raise funds for the new school garden (see next page). In addition to supporting the garden, the Parent Club will subsidize the K-3 trip to the Van Duzer Theatre to see the world-acclaimed Chinese Acrobats. Annual programs supported by the Parent Club include the Running Club, Teacher Appreciation Lunch, Annual School Clean-Up and BBQ, and now, the student Birthday Celebration.

Parent Club meetings are at 7:00 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month. On October 20th, we will meet at Pizza Co. We encourage you to become an involved, active member of the FES Parent Club! Membership is \$5 per family. Learn more at our website: <http://pages.suddenlink.net/sites/ParentClubHome.htm>.



Eating the School Garden



Seventh grader Lacey Herrera serves Bryleigh Busick some blackberry and oak leaf

Ferndale Elementary School has a small garden that is maintained by Mrs. Cory's Day-Maker Club, upper grade students that donate their lunch period to do good things for others. On Friday, October 2, these students prepared several "appetizers" from the school garden for third graders to sample: blackberry and oak leaf lettuce salad, spinach dip with carrots, steamed artichokes, and fresh tomatoes on a cracker were served.

The club members prepared educational and informative information about the garden produce. Sixth grader Clayton Wiseman made a classroom presentation to Mr. Hirsch's 3rd grade students before they were treated to several appetizers. Each club member researched fun facts about the fruits and vegetables that they

were serving at their table. The 3rd grade students sampled the various foods and gave the club members feedback about what they liked.

Both Mr. Hirsch and Mrs. Cory are leading a community effort to expand the school garden at Ferndale Elementary School. Plans are being drawn up for a green house, raised beds, and a storage shed to be constructed by high school students enrolled in the Humboldt County Regional Occupation Program Building Trades class. The California Farm Bureau recently awarded \$1,000 to help with the costs of materials. The FES Parent Club and Nilsen Company have also offered their help and support.



Kenton Chambers bites into a cracker topped with cream cheese and fresh tomato.



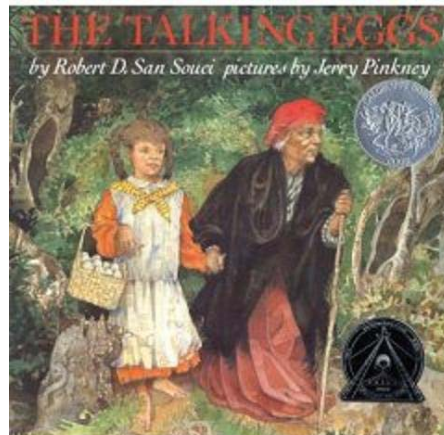
Kylee Killion enjoys a plate full of appetizers.

The proposed instructional school garden will be maintained by students, parents, and community volunteers. The goal is to produce school-grown produce for students to enjoy as part of their school lunch. Additional produce will be donated to the local food bank. "We believe that students are more likely to eat healthy produce if they have invested time in growing it," stated teacher Jackie Cory. "The biggest thing for me is to promote healthy eating."

Robert D. San Soucci to Visit FES on Oct. 22

Each year an author of children's books will visit Ferndale Elementary School to promote reading. This year we are lucky to host Robert San Soucci, the author of several well-known children's books, such as *The Talking Eggs*, *The Faithful Friend*, *Two Bear Cubs*, and many more.

Robert San Soucci visits with students and will include introductory remarks about how the author became a writer, especially working with his brother Daniel, who is a book illustrator (they have collaborated on nine books). He will show slides illustrating how he has created a variety of picture books exploring



the folklore of America and many other

countries and cultures, as well as, a variety of historical periods. The presentation is followed by a brief question-and-answer session with the audience. Parents are welcome to attend along with their children.



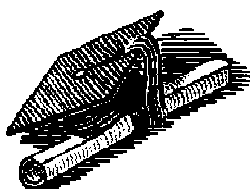
Robert D. San Soucci

Ferndale Schools Academic Performance Index Comparison

District	School	API
No. Humboldt	Arcata High	816
No. Humboldt	McKinleyville	782
Ferndale	Ferndale High	781
Eureka	Eureka High	747
Fortuna Union	Fortuna High	727
So. Humboldt	South Fork	716
Klamath-Trinity	Hoopa High	n/a

Eel River Valley and Vicinity Elementary Schools

District/School	Type	API
Hydesville/Hydesville Elementary	K-8	841
Mattole/Mattole Elementary	K-8	828
Scotia/Murphy Elementary	K-8	819
Ferndale/Ferndale Elementary	K-8	815
Rio Dell/Monument Middle	6-8	815
Rohnerville/Ambrosini Elementary	K-3	811
Cuddeback/Cuddeback Elementary	K-8	808
Rohnerville/Toddy Thomas Elem.	4-8	785
Rio Dell/Eagle Prairie Elementary	K-5	782
Bridgeville/Bridgeville Elementary	K-8	775
Fortuna/Fortuna Middle	5-8	771
South Bay/Pine Hill Elementary	K-6	755
Fortuna/South Fortuna Elementary	K-4	721
Loleta/Loleta Elementary	K-8	n/a



“It is not the mountain we conquer but ourselves.” Edmund Hillary

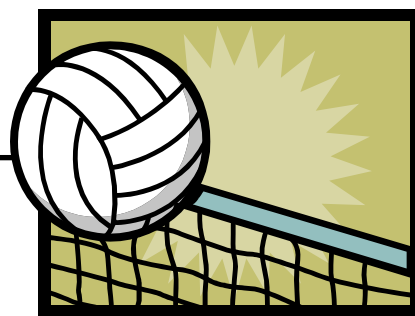
2009 Volleyball Season by Anna Gomes

The FES Volleyball teams had a successful season. We had fun with our two coaches, Ms. Dudal and Mr. Haller. They both taught us all useful skills that we will be able to use in the future.

The 8th grade team had a great season. We only lost three games, and improved an amazing amount! By the end of our season, we bonded and worked together well as a team.

The 8th grade team members were: Anna Gomes, Maci Branstetter, Ani Gurnee, Nicole Lannon, Nicole Vollmer, Sadie Rayl, Andrea Guggenbickler, Caroline Evans, Taryn DeMile, and Linsey Owens.

The 7th grade team worked hard and showed a great deal of improvement throughout the season! Next year, they will improve even more.



The 7th grade team members are Sasha Lekas, Corabelle Esmailian, Luna Crain, Berenice Roman-Maceda, Haylee Sandford, and Sadie Scales.

Jr. High Carnival and Spaghetti Feed October 30 at 5:30 p.m.

Each year the 7th and 8th grade students in junior high (and their parents!) host the annual Halloween Carnival at the Humboldt County Fairgrounds in Belotti Hall. This year, instead of the annual chili feed, we will be having spaghetti feed.

Dinner will be served 5:30-8:30 p.m., and the Carnival will be 6:00-9:00 p.m. The cost for dinner is \$5 for parents and students 7th grade and above and \$4 for students in grade 6 or under. Tickets are

available from any junior high student, and will also be available at the door.

In addition to great food and many fun games and activities for children, the event will have a silent auction with many of the donations coming from our generous merchants in Ferndale.

The Carnival and Spaghetti Feed is the major fundraiser for the annual 8th grade trip taken to San Francisco and Sacra-

mento in May. Please mark your calendar now so you don't miss this wonderful community event.

Children and adults are encouraged to dress in



“Double, double toil and trouble; fire burn and cauldron boil.” Shakespeare, *Macbeth*



FERNDALE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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Kids are our business!

We're on the web!
www.ferndalek12.org/fes

Spread the GOOD NEWS!

The FES Mustang Tales and the FHS Cat Tales are available to the public at four locations in Ferndale: Cream City Cafe, Poppa Joe's, Like Nobody Else, and the Ferndale Public Library.

Thank you to our local businesses for their support of Ferndale schools!

Welcome Class of 2022!

Mrs. Bergenske's Kindergarten

- Matias Alejandre
- Grace Bradley
- Spencer Chapman
- Trenton Coleman
- Ethan Craig
- Safiyya Douglas
- Luke Evans
- Ethan Gomes
- Derek Griffith
- Emma Guggenbickler
- Rhiyon Howard
- Marina Kay
- Paden Prior
- Marisa Sears
- Perry Short
- Sydney Smith
- Hunter Smith

Baileigh Sturdevant

- Jack Westfall
- Braxten Zaugg

Mrs. Cook's Kindergarten

- Ruby Arana
- Gavin Aubrey
- Cailin Berti
- Noah Jordan
- Dulce Cervantes
- Marlow McWaters
- Mikaela Ferguson
- Mason Melendy
- Malela Fulton
- Luis Ramirez
- Yuliana Jimenez
- Conner Slade
- McKenna Johnson-Frye

Jack Sparks

- Madison Kasso
- Itchel Lopez Valverde
- Hannah Uutela
- Sophia Villalvazo Estrada
- Natalia Weaver



Giant Oaks begin with but an acorn.