

# Talon Talk

## Foothill High School Newsletter

John Dwyer, principal

October 1, 2011  
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*New "In This Issue" items (above) are marked with asterisks.*

### Fabulous Fall Meat Sale

The Foothill Athletic Boosters' wildly popular fall meat sale starts today -- [Saturday, Oct. 1](#) -- and wraps up [Sunday, Oct. 2](#). You can choose from premium quality USDA choice meats and FDA seafood -- all at warehouse prices.

The meat sale will be held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days in the Foothill parking lot. Selections include filet mignon, rib eye, New York steaks, top sirloin, ground beef, sausages, bacon, chicken, scallops and shrimp.

Clear your freezers and fridges in anticipation of this sale. You won't want to miss out on the best meat and seafood at the best prices in the Bay Area.

### 10 Percent Back to Teams & Bonus

If there's a particular team or teams you support, be sure to tell the cashier when you make your purchase. Your team(s) of choice will get 10 percent of the profits from your purchase.

As an added bonus, the team with the highest sales per athlete (total team sales divided by number of athletes in sport) will get \$1,000 for the team's end-of-season banquet

## Quick Calendar

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**Oct. 1 & 2** -- Athletic boosters' fall meat sale, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Foothill parking lot

**Oct. 3-7** -- Sign up for PSAT, counseling office

**Oct. 5** -- School boosters (AABC) meeting, 7 p.m., library

**Oct. 8** -- Practice SAT/ACT, 9 a.m., MPR

**Oct. 10** -- Athletic boosters meeting, 7 p.m., C-6

**Oct. 12** -- Homecoming skits, 7 p.m., large gym

**Oct. 14** -- Homecoming game vs. Granada, 7 p.m., football field

**Oct. 15** -- PSAT, 8 a.m., campus

**Oct. 15** -- Homecoming dance, 7 p.m., large gym

**Oct. 21** -- Friday Forum for parents, 9 a.m., C-6

**Oct. 22** -- Foothill Band Review

or to use as the team chooses.

## Homecoming 2011

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Homecoming events encompass a full week as students plan silly skits, prepare for the big game and get all decked out for the dance.

The wild and wacky homecoming skits will be showcased on **Monday, Oct. 10** and **Wednesday, Oct. 12** at 7 p.m. in the large gym. Everyone is invited to attend. Admission is \$3 for kids, \$5 for adults and free for students with a Foothill ID card. Tickets will be sold on campus starting Oct. 10 and at the door.

This year's homecoming game on **Friday, Oct. 14** pits the Falcons against Livermore's Granada High School. The varsity game starts at 7 p.m.

The week's festivities wrap up **Saturday, Oct. 15** with the homecoming dance. Students in all grades are encouraged to attend. You do not need a date to attend. Many students go on their own or with groups of friends.

This year's homecoming theme is movie series with the sub-themes Pirates of the Caribbean (freshmen), Star Wars (sophomores), Twilight (juniors) and Harry Potter (seniors). Students are encouraged to choose outfits that go with the themes. The dress code is semi-formal. Click [here for the dress code for dances](#).

The dance is from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. in the large gym. Tickets will be sold the week of **Oct. 10**. Tickets are \$10 with an ASB sticker and \$20 without **Monday, Oct. 10** through **Thursday, Oct. 13**. Ticket prices increase on **Friday, Oct. 14** to \$15 with ASB sticker and \$25 without ASB sticker. Tickets are sold before school, at lunch and after school at the front office. Absolutely no tickets will be sold at the dance.

## Quick Links

[Foothill High website:](#)

[Bulletin Board](#)  
[Events Calendar](#)

[Bell Schedules](#)

[Foothill Athletics](#)

[Foothill Band](#)

[District Calendar](#)

[District Newsletter](#)

[Career Center](#)

[Community Events](#)

[Sports Packet](#)

[Volunteer Clearance  
Form](#)

[MyNutriKids Lunch  
Program](#)

[Scholarships](#)

[Senior Activities](#)

[SAT Test Dates](#)

[ACT Test Dates](#)

Click [here for the dance agreement form](#) that must be signed and turned in when tickets are purchased. Click [here for the dance behavior form](#) students must read before signing the agreement form.

***Students must have a completed and signed agreement form and valid ID in order to buy tickets.*** Replacement students IDs are \$10, but they will not be issued the day of the dance.

## Red Light, Green Light

The much-anticipated traffic lights at the West Las Positas Boulevard and Muirwood Drive intersection are finally being installed.

Work is underway to improve the busy intersection. The new traffic signals should help ease traffic congestion before and after school. Everyone who drives that route knows that traffic backs up in all directions due to the ineffective four-way stop.

Please expect additional traffic delays while the lights are being installed. Be patient. Ultimately, traffic will flow more smoothly through that intersection. The work should be done in November.

The lights are funded through the Measure B half-cent sales tax funds.

## Noggin News

We are all about keeping students safe here at Foothill, both in the classroom and in school-sponsored sports. That's why the school district has issued new guidelines regarding safety for our Falcon athletes.

The sports packet students must turn in every year before they can take part in a sport now include two new forms. There's a [concussion information form](#) that parents and students must read to learn about concussions, such as symptoms and when to seek treatment.

The other new form, [Sports Safety Awareness](#), includes brief information about concussions and heart screenings. Parents and athletes must read and sign this form. The signed form

must be turned in with the sports packet.

Students who have already submitted their sports packet for this school year do not need to go back and add these forms. This is a new requirement for all sports packets turned in from here on out.

Thank you for working with Foothill to educate our athletes about how to keep themselves safe during sports.

## **Preliminary SAT -- The Real One**

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The school booster club is offering a practice SAT (see below), but the College Board -- the group that administers the SAT -- is the only group that offers the real preliminary SAT, also called the PSAT/NMSQT.

The [PSAT/NMSQT](#) is the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test and National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. This year's PSAT will be given at Foothill on [Saturday, Oct. 15](#). *Students may sign up in the counseling office Oct. 3-7*. The fee is \$25 with checks payable to Foothill High School.

Students will get an info packet when they register with all of the important details they'll need to know for test day.

The test is open to sophomores and juniors, but the score counts toward National Merit status only when taken during a student's junior year. Sophomores may take the PSAT as a practice exam.

## **Practice SAT/ACT**

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Hone your college-prep test skills by taking a practice exam that combines the SAT and ACT, plus a follow-up session to help evaluate test scores.

The practice [SAT](#) (Scholastic Aptitude Test) and [ACT](#) (American College Testing) will be given at Foothill on [Saturday, Oct. 8](#) from 9 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. in the multipurpose room.

The test fee is \$20. All money collected will be donated to Foothill. Space is limited, so stop by the counseling office soon to reserve your spot.

The deadline to register is [Thursday, Oct. 6](#). Make checks to

AABC and deliver to the counseling office.

Students and their parents must return to school [Tuesday, Oct. 18](#) at 7 p.m. to get test results, analyze scores and learn how the SAT fits into the college admissions process.

The practice SAT/ACT is offered by Foothill's [AABC school booster group](#) and the [Princeton Review](#) test prep firm.

Questions? Contact AABC vice president Gillian Holmes at [giliholmes@sbcglobal.net](mailto:giliholmes@sbcglobal.net) or 462-2256.

**NOTE:** *The registration fee is for the test only. Previously published info that snacks and water are included was wrong. Sorry about that.*

## **Oh, Say Can You Sing?**

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If you have the pipes to belt out the National Anthem, one of the trickiest tunes for any singer, then step up to the microphone and give it your best shot at Foothill's 13th annual Homecoming National Anthem Competition.

Soloists, duets and groups are welcome to try out for the prestigious honor of singing that National Anthem at the Oct. 14 homecoming rally and game against Livermore's Granada High School.

Tryouts will be held after school in the choir room (D-1) on [Wednesday, Oct. 5](#). Students must sign up in advance starting Monday, Oct. 3. A sign-up list will be posted outside the choir room. Results will be announced Friday, Oct. 7.

Students must be available to perform at the rally or the game on Oct. 14. Two winning singers or groups will be chosen -- one for the rally and one for the game.

Questions? Drop by JoAnn Koobatian's choir room at lunch or after school or e-mail her at [jkoobatian@pleasanton.k12.ca.us](mailto:jkoobatian@pleasanton.k12.ca.us).

## **Let's Get Ready to Wrestle**

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Wrestling season is just around the corner, so that means it's time for Foothill's wrestlers to get in shape.

Wrestlers of all abilities are invited to attend open gym dates

starting [Wednesday, Oct. 5](#). Open gym will be held at 4 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays in the wrestling room, located on the east side of the large gym (near the baseball fields). Athletes can join open gym at any time. You don't have to start from day one.

The schedule gets stepped up a notch the week of Oct. 31 through Nov. 4. Open gym will be held daily that week starting at 2:50 p.m. Season practice starts Monday, Nov. 7 at 2:50 p.m.

Students must have a completed sports packet, including a physical exam, on file with the school before they can take part in wrestling open gym. Click [here for the sports packet](#).

Wrestling has no cuts. Everyone who's enthusiastic about taking it to the mat makes the team. Wrestling is also a fantastic cross-training sport for football and lacrosse. Sports legend and Pleasanton's most famous resident, John Madden, has been quoted as saying, "I would have all of my offensive linemen wrestle, if I could."

Last year, Foothill sent 12 wrestlers to the North Coast Sectionals. Four placed and two advanced to the state tournament.

Questions? Contact coach Bennie LaFever at [bdlent@att.net](mailto:bdlent@att.net) or 580-1353.

## **Apply for Student Grants**

Free money! No strings attached!

Now that we have your attention ... students are encouraged to apply for grants to fund extracurricular or co-curricular student projects. Grants can be used to fund special programs on campus, like *Every 15 Minutes*, or to support specific goals of clubs, like competition fees or travel expenses. The only limit is your imagination.

Grants must be written by students without adult aid. Grants are awarded for up to \$500 per project per year.

The deadline to apply is [Tuesday, Oct. 11](#). Click [here for more info and the application form](#).

## **School Booster News**

## **Booster Club Meeting**

The next booster meeting is [Wednesday, October 5](#) at 7 p.m. in the library. Topics to be discussed include:

- Grants for teacher wish list requests
- Fundraising efforts
- Assembly bill 165 -- a proposed law limiting how school districts can fundraise and request donations

## **Double Your Dollars**

It's never too late to donate to the booster group's Dollar-A-Day campaign to benefit all students and teachers at Foothill. Click [here for more info about Dollar-A-Day](#), including the link to make an online donation.

Don't forget to ask if your company offers matching funds for non-profit donations. It's an easy way to double your donation dollars. We've already gotten matching funds from Oracle, Adobe, Abbott, Schneider Electric, Robert Half and more. Click [here for a partial list of companies that offer matching funds](#).

**Attention Apple Employees:** Apple has just started a matching program, effective Sept. 15. If you made your donation before Sept. 15, please contact treasurer Cheryl Palange at [fhsaabctr@comcast.net](mailto:fhsaabctr@comcast.net). She will gladly refund you money so that you can make a new donation that's eligible for matching funds. Apple has made it super easy to apply for matching funds online, and Foothill has already been registered as an approved recipient.

## **Directory: Last Chance to Get In**

If you want your student listed in the directory, this is your last call. We're also still accepting advertisements from local businesses.

Please contact Cheryl Palange at [fhsaabctr@comcast.net](mailto:fhsaabctr@comcast.net) to have your student or business listed in the directory.

## **Stay in the Loop at Foothill**

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Foothill is a communications juggernaut, but we're worried that many of you do not know how to access the latest campus news. Well, here's a refresher course.

If you're reading this, you're already getting the Talon Talk e-

newsletter. It's published twice a month and delivered straight to your computer's inbox.

In between Talon Talks, the Foothill website -- [www.foothillfalcons.org](http://www.foothillfalcons.org) -- is the best source of information and late-breaking news. Take some time to peruse the site. There's a moving marquee scroll with important reminders. You'll find both a main calendar and a student activities calendar. The special notice area highlights, well, special notices. And "News & Announcements" features stories about students and staff.

The website has links for the school booster group (AABC), athletics, the Foothill Athletic Boosters and the school's award-winning band and choirs.

Another fantastic way to get late-breaking news and important reminders is with Foothill's Facebook page, maintained by the Academic & Athletics Booster Club.

Click [here to go straight to the FHS AABC Facebook page](#). Once you "like" this page, you'll get important notices and reminders in your news feed. You must be a registered Facebook user to "like" the Foothill Facebook page.

## **Volunteers: Sign Up Online**

Every year, parents ask us how they can help at Foothill. Well, ask no more. We are stepping boldly into the 21st century with a new system that allows you to sign up online for whatever volunteer opportunities suit your fancy.

The new volunteer lists are part of the main e-mail system used to deliver the Talon Talk. You may access the lists either by clicking on "Update Profile/Email Address" at the bottom of this e-mail or by clicking on the "Sign Up to Volunteer" link on the new [volunteer page on the Foothill website](#).

Once you gain access to the system, you'll see a full list of targeted e-mails to which you may subscribe. You'll want to make sure you're subscribed to the Talon Talk. Your next step is to choose your kids' graduation years to get e-mails targeted to specific classes. This is especially important during senior year.

The final step is to take a look at the many volunteer opportunities and choose the ones that best suit your talents

and interests. You'll be notified by e-mail when we need help.

Once you've checked all the boxes, click on "Save" to save your news preferences. You can access the system at any time to update your preferences. If you no longer want to get e-mails for a particular list, just uncheck that box and save your changes.

Please note that choosing Unsubscribe on the list page or at the bottom of any e-mail will remove you from ALL Foothill communications, including the Talon Talk. If you want to get fewer e-mails, just update your communications profile so fewer boxes are checked.

## **Classroom Help Needed**

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English teacher Michele O'Neill needs a few enthusiastic and dedicated parents to help with two different classes this entire school year. No special skills are required.

Parent volunteers are needed in the first period English language development class. Parents will help individual students improve their English language skills by helping with homework, reading to students, quizzing them on vocabulary and more.

Volunteers are also needed in fourth and fifth periods to help with the Latino academic support class. Parents would work one-on-one with students to help complete homework and study for tests.

Volunteers may come on any days that work for them. The goal is for volunteers to be mentors for particular students.

Please use our new online volunteer system to sign up for this opportunity. Click on the "Update Profile/Email Address" link at the bottom of this e-mail. When you get to the list page, check the box next to "Volunteer -- Support/Skills" to sign up. Be sure to save your changes.

You'll get an e-mail to work out details about when you can volunteer.

## **Volunteer Clearance**

All volunteers must be cleared by the district before they can help on campus. Please [click here for the volunteer clearance form](#) to complete and turn in to the front office.

## Renew Safeway Club Cards

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If you've registered your Safeway Club card through eScrip, it may be time to renew your registration. It needs to be done once a year.

Click [here to go directly to the eScrip website](#). Once you have signed in, you'll see a renewal check box like the image here. Simply click on that box to renew your Safeway Club card. If you do not see the red check mark, that means your card has been renewed.

If you do not renew, your Safeway purchases will no longer benefit the school. Nearly 70 percent of registered Foothill families will have their Safeway card benefits expire if not renewed by Nov. 1.



While you are on the eScrip website, you can choose up to three groups to benefit from your purchases. It's an easy, no-cost way to raise money for our school.

There are six Foothill groups with which you can register your Safeway card and other cards. Click [here for more info about eScrip](#), including a list of the six groups. (*Note: GAPP = German-American Partnership Program*)

If you registered for eScrip at walk-thru registration, you may still need to update your Safeway Card if you've chosen or want to choose more than one group to support.

If you have not yet registered with eScrip, please register and choose up to three groups to support. You can use the "My eScrip" feature to update your group selections at any time.

eScrip is a fantastic way to give back to our school without spending any extra money. The purchases you make with your registered charge cards or store loyalty cards will automatically give money back to Foothill's various booster groups or clubs.

## Bon Appetit: Wine & Dine for Education

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If you enjoy sampling an array of gourmet foods and sipping a selection of fine wines, then be sure to mark your calendar for [Saturday, Oct. 22](#).

The annual *Bon Appetit: Toasts & Tastes of Fall* fundraising event for Pleasanton Partnerships in Education is back for its seventh spectacular year. This year's event will be held from 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. at the CarrAmerica Conference Center, 4400 Rosewood Drive, in Pleasanton.

This is not your typical stuffed-shirt fundraiser. You move at your own pace through a room bursting with enough culinary delights to make Julia Child blush. Each delectable dish from Pleasanton's finest restaurants is exquisitely paired with a fine wine. There's also a martini bar, live music and silent auction.

Here's the really fun part: Each food station has a Pleasanton school principal who helps serve food and wine. You heard me right, folks. Mr. Dwyer will pour your wine.

Tickets are \$65 each for this fabulous fall fundraiser. This is an adults-only event. You must be at least 21 to attend. Click [here to reserve your tickets](#) before they sell out.

*\* PPIE is a nonprofit group that uses its funds to enrich programs at various schools and award grants to students and teachers.*

## **Drug & Alcohol Forum for Parents**

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Parents must stay ahead of the curve when it comes to knowing what's happening around town with drug and alcohol use among high school students.

Parents are invited to join in a high school drug and alcohol forum on [Wednesday, Oct. 26](#) at 7 p.m. at the Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave.

Students will share their firsthand experiences with parents and community agencies will offer information and guidance. Discussion will start with a recognition of the drug and alcohol issues our teens face in this community. We'll also discuss prevention strategies and resources to help parents and students.

Community info will be provided by representatives from the school district, city, police department, Mothers with a Purpose and Axis Community Health.

The event is free, but registration is requested to make sure enough handouts are available. Click [here to register through the school district's adult education department](#). Check that same page for other great parenting classes being offered this fall.

This event is hosted by the school district, the city, the Pleasanton PTA Council and Axis Community Health.

## **Fire Prevention Day**

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The Pleasanton school district is teaming up with the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department to promote Fire Prevention Day on Wednesday, Oct. 12.

Pleasanton will host a special open house for families on Oct. 12 from 3:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the fire training tower, 3301 Busch Road. There will be fire extinguisher training, firefighter demonstrations, an antique fire engine, fire trivia, escape plan info and stop, drop and roll training. Families may also drop off their used batteries.

Fire Prevention Week is Oct. 9-15. For more info, visit [www.lpfire.org](http://www.lpfire.org) or call 454-2361.

Deadlines for Talon Talk article submissions are the 10th and 22nd of each month. Please include all pertinent info -- who, what, where, when, why and, if applicable, how much does it cost.

Talon Talk is a twice monthly online publication brought to you the 1st and 15th of each month by the Foothill Academic & Activities Booster Club in cooperation with school administration.

Go Falcons!

Zoe Francis  
Talon Talk editor

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