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Talon Talk

Foothill High School Newsletter

John Dwyer, principal

May 15, 2011
Office Phone 461-6600
Attendance Line 461-6686

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New "In This Issue" items (above) are marked with asterisks.

Friday Forum for Parents

Come one, come all for the final Friday Forum of this school year on **Friday, May 20** at 9 a.m. in room C-6.

Friday Forums are a popular and informal way for parents to find out what's happening on campus and share their ideas for improving our school.

The forums are hosted by Principal John Dwyer and the three vice principals.

May's topics will include:

- Update on budget & staffing
- Follow-up on teen stress workshop/presentation
- Traffic update
- School accreditation update
- Open forum for discussion

These informal meetings are a great way to ask questions or address concerns regarding the school. Please limit discussions to broad school topics and not specific issues with your student.

The [AABC](#) (school booster group) will provide coffee and morning snacks.

Quick Calendar

May 16 -- Requests accepted for graduation handicapped parking/seating

May 16 -- Final day to turn in senior memory collages

May 17 -- Final day to submit baccalaureate photos

May 18 -- Grad Night & senior events meeting, 7 p.m., library

May 20 -- Friday Forum for parents, 9 a.m., C-6

May 21 -- Senior ball photos, 4-6 p.m., small gym

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May 21 -- Senior ball, 8 p.m., Oakland

May 22 -- After-the-ball breakfast, 12:30 a.m., MPR

May 25 -- Senior awards night, 6:30 p.m., MPR

May 30 -- No school. Memorial Day.

May 31 -- Last day to buy Grad Night tickets

June 1 -- Seniors only: Yearbooks delivered, English

Graduation Help Needed

We rely on non-senior parents to fill volunteer shifts for graduation on [Friday, June 10](#) since all senior parents will be watching their students graduate. Volunteers are asked to dress nicely.

Here's how you can help:

- Monitor gates in parking lot from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.
- Take tickets at graduation entry points from 5 p.m. to 6:45 p.m.
- Drive golf carts for handicapped attendees from 5 p.m. to 8:45 p.m.
- Help with reserved seating from 10 a.m. to noon (time may vary)

If you can help at graduation, please contact Judi Palin in the front office at jpalin@pleasanton.k12.ca.us.

Junior Parents: Sign Up for Senior Year

There are lots of fun and exciting events during senior year and most are completely engineered by senior parent volunteers. It takes a few dozen enthusiastic, creative and hard-working parents to make all of the senior events successful for the graduating class.

Junior parents are encouraged to attend the upcoming Grad Night and senior events meeting on [Wednesday, May 18](#) at 7 p.m. in the Foothill library. You can sit in on a meeting, meet committee people and learn what's involved with each fun job.

There's an old saying that many hands make light work. It's for that very reason that there are many committee jobs to help spread the work among our eager volunteers, thus making the jobs easier for everyone.

Any of these jobs can be split among two friends or more, further lightening the load and making the work even more fun as you support each other and share ideas.

Here are the committee jobs that need to be filled:

classes

June 1 -- Senior BBQ & swim party, 5 p.m., Foothill pool/field

June 2 -- Yearbooks delivered, English classes

June 2 -- Final Grad Night & senior events meeting, 7 p.m., library

Quick Links

[Foothill High web site:](#)
[Bulletin Board](#)
[Events Calendar](#)

[Bell Schedule](#)

[Foothill Athletics](#)

[Foothill Band](#)

[District Calendar](#)

[District Newsletter](#)

[Career Center](#)

[Community Events](#)

[InFlight School Newspaper](#)

[Sports Physical Release Form](#)

- Grad Night chair(s)
- Senior picnic breakfast (in September)
- Senior awards night in May
- Senior BBQ & swim party in June
- Senior checkout (last day of school)
- Decorations & foods for various events
- Fundraising to support all events
- Prizes & raffles
- Treasurer
- Volunteer coordinator
- Secretary

Click [here to visit Foothill's Senior Information pages](#) to learn about the various senior events. Please drop a note to Ellie Wrenn, 2011 Grad Night chairperson, at k.wrenn@comcast.net to grab your favorite job.

CORE Campaign

The school district's CORE fundraiser is back with the goal of raising money to fund school technology support and library assistants at all school levels. In addition, funds would be reserved for extra counseling services at the high schools.

CORE stands for Community OutReach for Education.

Parents and community members are being asked to make a \$150 tax-deductible donation to the CORE campaign. Donations may go into the campaign's general fund, or you can request that your donation be used at a specific grade level, such as high school.

While the campaign seeks \$150 donations, any amount families can afford will be gladly accepted. Every little bit adds up to a great deal of financial support for our cash-strapped schools.

[Volunteer Clearance Form](#)

[MyNutriKids Lunch Program](#)

[Scholarships](#)

[Senior Activities](#)

[SAT Test Dates](#)

[ACT Test Dates](#)

Student Spotlight

Freshman Yandi Wu won second place in the 11th District Congressional Art Competition.

Click [here for more info](#) and a photo of Yandi's artwork.

Teacher Spotlight

Choir teacher JoAnn Koobatian is Pleasanton's Teacher of the Year.

Click [here for a full story](#) on the Foothill website.

The campaign's goal is to raise \$843,000 by the [June 15](#) deadline so that programs can be preserved for next school year.

The CORE campaign is coordinated by the school district, Pleasanton Partnerships in Education (PPIE) Foundation and all school parent groups, such as Foothill's Academics & Activities Booster Club (AABC).

Please [click here for more information and to make an easy and secure online donation](#) to the CORE campaign.

Yearbooks Arrive in Early June

Get your Sharpies ready, folks, because the much-anticipated 2011 edition of the Foothill yearbook is just around the corner.

Seniors will get a sneak peak when they get their yearbooks on [Wednesday, June 1](#). The rest of the students get their yearbooks the following day on [Thursday, June 2](#). Students will get their yearbooks during English classes, at the teacher's discretion.

Extra yearbooks will be sold for \$100 starting after school [Thursday, June 2](#) in room D-19. Sales will continue [June 3 & 6](#) before school and during lunch in room D-19. This is also when and where students who did not get their yearbooks during English may pick them up. (Checks should be made to Foothill High School.)

Note from Yearbook Adviser

The yearbook is the end-product of a class at Foothill. This year's book is truly outstanding, and as the adviser, I am especially proud of it. I am equally proud of the hard work and time my students put into it all year long, trying their best to provide the Foothill community with the best yearbook to date.

Teachers Jeremy Detamore and David Middleton are honored with Crystal Apple Awards.

Click [here for a story](#) on the Foothill website.

David Middleton was also chosen as an Excellence in Education award honoree. The awards are given annually to outstanding school district employees, as nominated by school and community members.

The awards ceremony will be **Wednesday, June 1** at 4 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1225 Hopyard Road.

The awards are sponsored by the [Pleasanton PTA Council](#).

Like any class, the students are bound to occasionally make mistakes. Please keep in mind that the students tried their very best. If there is a problem or concern, please contact Lindsay Franco at lfranco@pleasanton.k12.ca.us. Please do not contact the students or interrupt class time to resolve yearbook concerns. We hope you will enjoy the book, which showcases the creativity and originality of our talented yearbook staff. -- *Lindsay Franco*

Final Exams Last Week of School

The school year is coming to a close, but that doesn't mean it's time to slack off. Au contraire! Students need to hit the books to study for the last round of finals for this school year.

Final exams will be given **June 8, 9 & 10**. School hours and class schedules are altered on test days.

Click [here for the final exams schedule](#) on the Foothill web site.

Walk-Through Registration & Fall Sports

Mark your calendars for **August 15 & 16** to register your students for next school year. Registration will be open both days from noon until 7 p.m.

Monday, August 15 -- Freshmen and seniors

Tuesday, August 16 -- Sophomores and juniors

Please follow this schedule for walk-through registration:

- A-F -- Noon to 1:45 p.m.
- G-L -- 1:45 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- M-R -- 3:30 p.m. to 5:15 p.m.
- S-Z -- 5:15 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Makeup registration will be **Monday, August 22** from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Freshman and new-student orientation will be **Wednesday, August 17** from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the large gym.

Fall Sports

A mandatory meeting for all students who want to play fall

sports will be held [Monday, August 8](#) at 7 p.m. in the large gym. The first day of fall sports is [Monday, August 15](#).

California Supreme Court Justice to Speak

California Supreme Court Justice Joyce Kennard will talk about her experiences on the high court and the structure of the justice system as a special presentation [Wednesday, May 18](#) at 7 p.m. in the multipurpose room.

Justice Kennard is the longest-serving state Supreme Court justice who sat in on many key legal issues before our state. She will have interesting stories and valuable lessons to share.

This event is free and open to the public. Everyone is encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity to gain a better understanding of the California justice system.

Justice Kennard's presentation is hosted by Foothill's We the People team.

Turn In Library Books

We are begging students to not wait until the last minute to turn in library books. Sure, if you're still using books for studies, then hold onto them until you're done. But books not being used should be turned in immediately.

Seniors: Your diploma will be held until you turn in any overdue books or pay outstanding fines.

Non-Seniors: Your schedules and transcripts will be withheld until you turn in overdue books or pay fines.

Please check your rooms and backpacks now for any library materials and turn in anything you find.

EVERYTHING must be turned in before the last day of school on [Friday, June 10](#).

Thank You, Foothill Parents

A huge THANK YOU to the many generous Foothill parents who prepared dozens upon dozens of scrumptious entrees, salads and desserts for the annual teacher appreciation

luncheon on May 13.

Teachers and staff were wide-eyed in amazement as they walked into the multipurpose room and saw the incredible array of foods representing cultures from all around the world. Everyone enjoyed the delicious foods prepared by our supportive Foothill families.

Thank you to Gillian Holmes, AABC president, for coordinating this event for our fabulous teachers and staff. Thanks to the many volunteers who helped set up, serve and clean up after everyone enjoyed their meals.

We are truly fortunate to have such fantastic teachers, staff and parents at Foothill.

Senior News

Graduation is just a few weeks away, so that means lots of important dates and deadlines are coming up.

We're sending e-mails specifically to senior parents. Click [here for the May 15 issue of the senior info Talon Talk](#).

If you have not gotten a senior edition of the Talon Talk, it's easy to sign up. Simply scroll to the bottom of this e-mail and click on "Update Profile/Email Address." The system will verify that you're already on the list and will mail further instructions to you.

All you have to do is click on "Update your Profile" for a list of e-mail lists you can join. You should already be on the Foothill community-at-large list for receiving the Talon Talk.

Please click "Graduation Year 2011" to sign up for the senior newsletters. The final step is to click on "Save Profile Changes" to make sure your updates are saved.

Remember, you can always find the latest senior news on the [Senior Information](#) pages on the Foothill website.

Health News

Vaccine Proof Due ASAP

Please do not call Foothill's health office to see if your child's whooping cough vaccine proof has been properly

recorded. All paperwork that's been turned in is still being processed.

Parents who have not turned in their children's whooping cough vaccine proof will be notified by an automated call that they should turn in their paperwork ASAP.

Click [here for more info about the new state law](#) that requires all students in grades 7-12 provide vaccine proof before being allowed to start the 2011-12 school year.

Pick Up Meds & Medical Supplies

If your student has any medications or medical supplies in the health office, these items must be picked up by a parent or other designated adult before the last day of school on [Friday, June 10](#).

Students will not be allowed to take home their medications. A parent or other adult must do this.

Any medication left after the last day of school will be taken to the district office for safe disposal.

Medical Forms for Next Year

New forms must be turned in each school year to allow students to have medications or medical supplies on campus.

Click [here for more information about these regulations and to download the medication forms](#).

Questions? Contact health clerk Chris Faubion at cfaubion@pleasanton.k12.ca.us.

Free Bus Rides

Students Ride Free in May

Foothill students can get free bus rides to and from school every Wednesday through the end of May.

Foothill is working with the city of Pleasanton and the Wheels bus system to offer Free Ride Wednesday. The goal of the program is to promote awareness of the two Foothill bus routes and to increase ridership. Taking the bus is an inexpensive and environmentally friendly way to get to and from school. If more students ride the bus, fewer cars will clog the roads around Foothill.

Students who ride the bus on Free Ride Wednesdays will have their names entered in weekly drawings for food, entertainment and movie gift cards. There will be grand prize drawings at the end of each month for an Apple iPod.

Click [here for the two bus routes](#) that take students to and from Foothill. You'll need to scroll down until you find the two Foothill High School routes.

More Free Bus Rides

Wheels will offer free bus rides for high school students the second and third weeks of the new school year. Riding the bus is easy, inexpensive and helps ease traffic congestion around Foothill.

Bus rides to and from school will be absolutely free **August 29 through Sept. 9**. All students have to do is show a valid student ID to get their free rides.

We encourage all Foothill students who live on or near bus routes to take the bus to school to help ease traffic.

Blue Man Group for School Music

Here's a sweet deal to see the iconic Blue Man Group perform in San Francisco as an exclusive fundraiser for Pleasanton's music programs.

A \$60 ticket will get you bus transportation to/from the city to see Blue Man Group on June 15. That's only \$60 for bus fare *and* to see the show. The bus will leave from the Amador parking lot at 6 p.m.

This is a fundraiser for the [Pleasanton Schools Educational Enrichment Foundation](#). The group will get \$1,960 when all 56 seats are sold.

Please contact Marilyn Palowitch at marilynpalowitch@comcast.net to reserve your ticket before they're sold out.

Cyberbullying & Drug/Alcohol Seminars

The school district's final parenting education classes of the school year focus on two critically important topics -- cyberbullying and drug & alcohol abuse.

The cyberbullying and digital harassment seminar will be held [Thursday, May 19](#) at 7:30 p.m. at the Amador Valley High School multipurpose room, 1155 Santa Rita Road.

The seminar will educate and empower parents to take control of technology to ensure their kids are using it in a safe, smart and responsible way. The speaker will be Merve Lapus of Common Sense Media.

The drug and alcohol forum will be held [Thursday, May 26](#) at 7 p.m. at the Firehouse Arts Center, 4444 Railroad Ave. Representatives from the school district, city, police department, Mothers with a Purpose and AXIS Community Health will provide info about teen drug and alcohol abuse.

Both events are free, but registration is suggested to make sure enough handouts are available. Click [here and scroll down to find each item](#) on the school district's adult education website page.

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 Activities & Academics Booster Club in cooperation with school administration.

Go Falcons!

Zoe Francis
Talon Talk editor

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