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Talon Talk

Foothill High School Newsletter

John Dwyer, principal

March 1, 2011
Office Phone 461-6600
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Sophomores to Take High School Exit Exam

Sophomores will take the [California High School Exit Exam](#) next week on [Tuesday, March 8](#) and [Wednesday, March 9](#). Seniors who have not passed one or both parts of the exam will also be tested.

Students must show up at their designated test room no later than 7:45 a.m. on test dates. Testing starts promptly at 8 a.m.

Students will take the English-language arts exam on Tuesday and the math exam on Wednesday. Tests are not timed.

Students whose last names start with A-L should report to the large gym. Students whose last names start with M-Z should report to the small gym.

Students must bring their school ID and two No. 2 pencils.

Volunteers Needed

We need at least 20 parents to help when sophomores take the state high school exit exam on March 8 & 9 from 7:45 a.m. until noon each day.

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

Quick Calendar

March 1 -- School booster (AABC) meeting, 7 p.m., library

March 1-11 -- Register for AP exams, counseling office

March 2 -- Band booster meeting, 7 p.m., C-6

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

March 3 -- Mr. Foothill contest, 7 p.m., MPR

March 5 -- Practice ACT, 9 a.m., Foothill

March 8 & 9 -- High school exit exam, sophomores

March 9 -- Panda Express & Yogurtland fundraiser, Dublin. Click [here for flier](#).

March 11 -- **Minimum day**. School ends at 12:30 p.m.

March 14 -- Athletic boosters meeting, 7 p.m., C-6

Volunteers will need to come in before the test dates to watch a brief 15-minute training video before being cleared to supervise exams. If you have a student taking the exam, you will be placed in a location away from your student.

Please e-mail Judi Palin at jpalin@pleasanton.k12.ca.us to let her know you'd like to help.

You do not need to be a sophomore parent to volunteer. We'll take volunteers from any grade level.

Register for AP Exams

Students currently enrolled in AP courses may register **March 1-11** to take AP exams. There is an \$87 fee per exam. Checks should be made to Foothill High School.

Students may register in the counseling office with Mrs. Bing before school, at lunch or after school. Students will get a registration form and booklet with information about the exams, schedules, policies and procedures in their AP classes.

Click [here for the AP testing form](#) that includes a list of all AP exams offered. You must complete this form and hand it in with your payment to the counseling office.

NOTE: The deadline to register for AP Chinese and Japanese language exams is **Friday, March 4**. The deadline to register for all other exams is March 11.

Exams are given at Foothill May 3-13. Click [here for the College Board web site](#) for more info about AP exams and sample questions.

Last Two Weeks for Foothill Survey

The deadline to take the survey that's part of Foothill's

March 15 -- Eddie Papa's restaurant fundraiser. Click [here for flier](#).

March 17, 18, 19, 24, 25 & 26 --

Spring musical: The Sound of Music, 7:30 p.m., Amador Theater

March 19 & 20 --

Athletic boosters' spring meat sale, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.,

Foothill parking lot

March 25 -- Friday Forum for parents, 9 a.m., C-6

March 26 -- Lacrosse March Madness fundraiser, 5:30-11:30 p.m.

Quick Links

[Foothill High web site:](#)

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

[Bell Schedule](#)

[Foothill Athletics](#)

[Foothill Band](#)

[District Calendar](#)

[District Newsletter](#)

accreditation process has been extended to [March 15](#).

Foothill parents, students and staff are strongly encouraged to complete a brief survey as part of the school's effort to maintain its [accreditation](#).

Foothill, currently accredited by the [Western Association of Schools and Colleges](#) (WASC), is in the process of getting its long-standing accreditation renewed. WASC works with the California Department of Education in an ongoing school improvement process for an in-depth look at what exists and what needs to be improved in regards to student learning and the school program.

Part of this process includes a brief survey to be completed by Foothill parents, students and staff. The survey results will be used to identify areas of strength and weakness as the school develops an action plan for growth and improvement.

Please [click here for the links for the parent, student and staff surveys](#). The deadline to complete the survey is Tuesday, March 15.

Thank you for taking the time to complete the survey.

Here He Is ... Mr. Foothill

You won't want to miss the most talked about talent show and beauty pageant this side of the Mississippi -- the annual Mr. Foothill competition.

This tongue-in-cheek competition pits a dozen of Foothill's male seniors against each other in a take-no-prisoners competition to win the coveted title of Mr. Foothill. You'll laugh yourself silly at this hilarious competition to determine the best male senior at Foothill.

[District Newsletter](#)

[Career Center](#)

[Community Events](#)

[InFlight School
Newspaper](#)

[Sports Physical
Release Form](#)

[Volunteer Clearance
Form](#)

[MyNutriKids Lunch
Program](#)

[Scholarships](#)

[Senior Activities](#)

[SAT Test Dates](#)

[ACT Test Dates](#)

Vaccine Proof Due by May 2

All students must have a current whooping cough vaccine or booster before they'll be allowed to attend school in the fall.

Proof of vaccine is due to the Foothill health office no later than May 2.

Click [here for more info](#).

This year's contest will be held **Thursday, March 3** at 7 p.m. in the multipurpose room. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. The pageant includes talent, dance numbers, interviews, formal wear and casual wear.

Advance tickets will be sold on campus for \$5 starting Feb. 28. Tickets at the door are \$10 each. Buy your tickets and show up early. This is always a standing-room-only event.

Calendars featuring the Mr. Foothill contestants will be sold for \$10 each at the show. Calendars will also be sold during lunch on March 4.

Proceeds from the show go to the senior class to cover costs of various senior activities.

Practice ACT

Students have the chance to take a practice ACT in a real test setting and get a detailed report for just \$20 per student -- and 100 percent of the fee will be donated to the school booster group (AABC).

The practice ACT, given by the Kaplan company, will be given **Saturday, March 5** from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Foothill. Students and parents will get test results on **Monday, March 14** from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Students can pay by check (made to AABC) or cash in the counseling office.

Delicious Food Fundraisers

Panda Express & Yogurtland

Foothill's WISER club will host two fun and scrumptious food fundraisers on **Wednesday, March 9** at the Panda Express and Yogurtland eateries in Dublin.

Click [here for the flier you must present](#) at either establishment so that 20 percent of your purchase will be donated to the WISER club.

Panda Express and Yogurtland are located next to each other at 6851 Amador Plaza Road, in the Safeway shopping

Straight Talk About Drugs

Dozens of parents showed up at the February Friday Forum for some straight talk about drug use among teens.

Click [here for an article](#) with details about what was discussed.

center. The offer is good all day at both locations.

[WISER](#) (Women's Institute for Secondary Education and Research) is a non-profit organization started at Duke University. It fights poverty in Muhuru Bay, Kenya through a multi-pronged approach: health promotion, HIV/AIDS education, clean water programs and education programs for the youth.

Eddie Papa's American Hangout

Enjoy a delicious meal with friends, including fluffy cotton candy for dessert, and Foothill's Grad Night and senior activities committee will get a cool 20 percent of your meal purchase price.

The Eddie Papa's fundraiser will be held [Tuesday, March 15](#) from noon until 9 p.m. That gives you plenty of time to enjoy lunch with friends or colleagues, then return in the evening for a meal with your entire family.

[Click here for the flier you must present](#) to ensure that Foothill gets its share of your meal purchase. This offer is good for lunch and dinner -- dine-in or take-out. (Alcohol purchases not included in this offer.)

This deal is good at the Pleasanton Eddie Papa's location only, 4889 Hopyard Road.

FABulous Spring Meat Sale

Get your freezers cleared out and ready to stock up on the wildly popular Foothill Athletic Boosters' annual spring meat sale [Saturday, March 19](#) and [Sunday, March 20](#).

Take advantage of fantastic market prices to stock up on filet mignon, New York steak, rib eye, top sirloin, ground beef, sausage, ham, lamb, chicken and bacon. A butcher will be on site to cut meat to specifications. Prices will be set on sale dates based on the going market rate.

The meat sale will be held each day from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in front of the high school. The sale is sanctioned by the Alameda County Health Department.

Be sure to buy enough meat to get you through the summer grilling season and to keep tummies full until the fall, when the next fabulous meat sale will be held.

Raffle

This year's meat sale will feature a fun raffle. Tickets are \$2 each or 30 tickets for \$20. Anyone who spends at least \$100 on meat will get one free raffle ticket. There will be three raffle prizes. Prizes have not yet been determined.

Volunteers

The boosters will need plenty of student and parent volunteers to help both days of the busy meat sale. Students who volunteer can get community service time. If you'd like to help, please drop a note to Jan Hope at jmhope@msn.com.

Honor the Best Teachers

Here's a prime opportunity for students and parents to nominate Foothill's outstanding teachers for special recognition through the 21st annual Excellence in Education Awards.

The deadline to nominate a teacher is 4 p.m. on [March 24](#). The awards are sponsored by the Pleasanton PTA Council.

Students and parents may nominate a special teacher, administrator or staff member. Previous honorees are eligible only if it has been five years since their past recognition.

Click [here for the nomination form](#). Click [here for a list of previous honorees](#).

Spring Musical: The Sound of Music

Pleasanton's highly anticipated spring musical is right around the corner as Foothill and Amador Valley's most talented performers team up to present Rodgers & Hammerstein's *The Sound of Music*.

This classic musical will be performed [Thursday, March 17](#); [Friday, March 18](#); [Saturday, March 19](#); [Thursday, March 24](#); [Friday, March 25](#) and [Saturday, March 26](#). All shows start at 7:30 p.m. at the Amador Theater, 1155 Santa Rita Road.

The musical will be performed by two separate casts. Click [here for the full cast list](#), including the dates each cast will perform. The # or % symbol next to the performer's name

indicates in which cast they perform.

Tickets may be purchased online at www.firehousearts.org. Click on "Buy Tickets" and scroll through list to find Sound of Music. Click on "Buy Now" and follow prompts to get tickets for the date(s) you prefer.

Senior News

This is the time of year when there's a ton of info targeted specifically at seniors and their parent. In order to not bog down the newsletter with gobs of senior info, we're sending monthly e-mails specifically to senior parents.

Click [here for the March issue of the senior info Talon Talk](#).

If you did not get the senior info Talon Talk today, 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.

Laws of Life Essay Contest

Students are encouraged to take part in Foothill's 7th annual Laws of Life essay contest, which culminates in the 20 top essay writers being awarded cash prizes.

Students were given essay information in their English classes. The purpose of the contest is to get students to focus on the positive character traits touted by the school and community.

Students who write the top 20 essays, as determined by an expansive panel of community judges, will be awarded cash prizes. Another 20 honorable mentions will be recognized.

There will be five winners and honorable mentions per grade level.

The deadline to turn in essays is [Friday, March 4](#). Students should see their English teachers if they need more info or have questions.

The Laws of Life awards luncheon will be held March 25 at 11:45 a.m. in the multipurpose room.

Volunteer Judges Needed

We need a whole slew of eager readers to help us judge the many interesting Laws of Life essays. You do not need to be an English expert or skilled writer to be a judge. All we need are interested volunteers.

Judges will gather in the small gym from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. on [Tuesday, March 8](#) to judge essays. It's incredibly interesting to read the diverse topics students tackle in their essays. Believe us -- this is a fun volunteer gig.

You will be rewarded with that warm, fuzzy feeling that comes with giving your time to a good cause.

Please e-mail Judi Palin at jpalin@pleasanton.k12.ca.us to sign up as a volunteer judge. Recruit a bunch of your friends to join in the fun.

Lacrosse March Madness

Enjoy a sinfully delicious barbecue dinner and a relaxing evening with friends at the 6th annual Lacrosse March Madness event on [Saturday, March 26](#) from 5:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.

This adults-only evening will feature a scrumptious meal catered by Red Smoke Grill, plus live music, dancing, blackjack, games, silent auction and a raffle. Come and mingle with other lacrosse parents and the lacrosse coaches.

Tickets are \$25 each or \$40 for two. You'll enjoy dinner, water or soda and a dessert. Beer, wine and game tickets are sold in advance for a discount or \$1 per ticket at the door.

March Madness will be held at the Becker residence. Safe rides home, provided by upperclassmen players, will be

provided for \$5 per person.

This event is a fundraiser for the Foothill boys lacrosse program.

Please [click here for more info and the ticket order form](#).

Scholarships

Seniors are encouraged to check the Foothill website regularly for the latest news about the many scholarships available for graduating seniors.

You can find scholarship info on the Career Center page on the website. Click [here to go directly to the scholarship page](#).

The Activities & Academic Booster Club is offering six \$500 scholarships for students going to a four-year college or two-year college/vocational training. The deadline to apply is **April 18**. Click [here for more info](#) on the Foothill website.

The Foothill Athletic Boosters is offering four \$1,000 scholarships for Foothill athletes. The deadline to apply is **April 22**. Click [here for more info on the Foothill sports website](#).

Extended Absences: Know the Rules

We know it's tempting to pull your kids out of school to experience record-breaking snowfalls at Tahoe or to escape to warmer climates, but please keep in mind that these fun family trips are breaking the rules.

Students need to be in school. Independent study cannot replace the classroom discussions, presentations, demonstrations, guest speakers and events crucial to the learning process.

It's true that the school district offers an Independent Study Absence Contract for students who miss several days of school. But there are stringent guidelines under which parents should request independent study, such as travel to a funeral or a family emergency.

Please [click here for the rules and regulations regarding the district's Independent Study Absence Contract](#).

Thank you for your cooperation.

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
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