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Subject: Talon Talk: February 15
Date: February 14, 2011 12:16:51 PM PST
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Talon Talk

Foothill High School Newsletter

John Dwyer, principal

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

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In This Issue

- At-a-Glance Calendar
- Quick Links
- * Student Spotlight
- * Foothill Survey
- * Friday Forum Date Change
- * Update Talon Talk Subscription
- * Vaccine Paperwork Due
- Freshman Honors English Testing
- * Sign Up to Volunteer
- * Spring Musical
- * Laws of Life Essay Contest: Judges Needed
- * Lacrosse March Madness
- * Mr. Foothill
- * Scholarships
- * Traffic Update
- * Senior News
- * Eddie Papa's Fundraiser
- * Practice SAT

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

Important Foothill Survey

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 Monday, Feb. 28.

Thank you for taking the time to complete the survey.

Date Change: Friday Forum is Thursday, Feb. 24

Quick Calendar

Feb. 15 -- Athletic boosters meeting, 7 p.m., C-6

Feb. 16 -- Freshman honors English exam, 3:45 p.m., front office

Feb. 21 -- **No school.** Presidents Day.

Feb. 24 -- Friday Forum for parents, 9 a.m., C-6 (*Note date change*)

Feb. 24 -- Makeup exam: Freshman honors English, 3:45 p.m., front office

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

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

Quick Links

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

[Bell Schedule](#)

The January Friday Forum discussion about teen drug use was so popular that the discussion will be continued at the February forum.

Please note that the date has been changed to accommodate our speaker's schedule. The new date is **Thursday, Feb. 24**. Yes, the Friday Forum is on a Thursday and a week later than usual.

The forum's keynote speaker will be Pleasanton police Sgt. Jim Knox, a well-known drug expert. The meeting starts at 9 a.m. in room C-6.

If time allows, we will get a state-of-the-campus update from Principal John Dwyer, review traffic committee work and discuss campus recycling.

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

Update Talon Talk Subscription

Please, oh pretty please, update your Talon Talk subscription to make sure that you're on both the main list and lists targeted at each of your children's graduating classes.

Updating your Talon Talk subscription is super easy. 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 any years you'll have students graduating from Foothill. We will use these grad year lists to send targeted e-mails, particularly during your student's senior year.

The final step is to click on "Save Profile Changes" to make sure your updates are saved.

Thank you for taking the time to update your Talon Talk subscription!

[Foothill Athletics](#)

[Foothill Band](#)

[District Calendar](#)

[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](#)

[Student Spotlight](#)

Senior Jacob May has his artwork displayed at an Alameda gallery. Click [here for more info](#) on the Foothill website.

The varsity and junior varsity competition cheer squads win championship titles. Click [here for more info](#) on the Foothill

[Vaccine Paperwork Due ASAP](#)

It's time to check your child's immunization records to make sure they have an up-to-date whooping cough (pertussis) vaccine before the start of next school year.

A new California law requires that all students entering 7th-12th grades this fall must show proof of a whooping cough (Tdap) vaccine before students will be allowed to attend school.

Please contact your child's physician now to make sure his/her vaccines meet the new standards. The requirement may be met if your child has received one Tdap dose on or after his/her 10th birthday.

Ask your pediatrician for written proof that your child has had his/her whooping cough vaccine or booster, and please deliver that info to the health office ASAP.

Only the Tdap, Boostrix and Adacel brands of the whooping cough vaccine or booster are acceptable.

The deadline to turn in vaccine paperwork is [May 2](#).

The health clerk will keep track of which students are in compliance with the new law. Turn in your vaccine paperwork now to avoid delays at walk-through registration.

Click [here for more info about the new state law](#).

[Freshman Honors English Testing](#)

Incoming freshmen who want to enroll in honors English must take a placement exam to qualify for the class.

The exam will be given [Wednesday, Feb. 16](#) at 3:45 p.m. at Foothill. Students should meet at the front office for room assignments. Be sure to bring two No. 2 pencils.

A makeup exam will be given on [Thursday, Feb. 24](#) at 3:45 p.m. for students who cannot make the original exam date.

Students do not need to pre-register for either exam, but they must be on time to be included.

website.

Twenty students are recognized at December and January Students of the Month. Click [here for the full list](#) on the Foothill website.

Sign Up to Volunteer

Ask not what your school can do for you -- ask what you can do for your school.

Since you're asking ... what you can do for your school is to complete and turn in a volunteer clearance form so that you can help at events later this school year.

We are going to need lots of friendly folks to help with various senior events, especially at graduation. We're looking at you, junior parents. Senior parents will be attending graduation, so it falls to the parents of non-seniors to help out during and immediately after graduation.

Don't think you're off the hook, senior parents. We have plenty of pre-graduation events at which we'll need lots of cheery volunteers.

Click [here for the volunteer clearance form](#) to fill out and turn in to the front office. Everyone must be cleared by the district before they can volunteer at any school events.

Thank you, in advance, for turning in your volunteer clearance form and being so eager about helping at Foothill. We appreciate your enthusiasm.

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.

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 Dickey's Barbecue Pit, 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](#).

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.

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.

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 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](#).

Traffic Update

New Crosswalk

Some of you may have noticed the new crosswalk on Foothill Road at the Oak Creek Drive intersection just north of campus. This crosswalk was added to help students from Lemoine Ranch Estates safely cross Foothill Road.

The crosswalk should be a benefit for both pedestrians and motorists. The crossing signals will flash any time there's a pedestrian in the crosswalk. Be sure to watch for students using this new crosswalk.

Longer Signal Time

The green light on the traffic signal controlling traffic flow out of the drive-through loop in front of the school has been extended by 5 seconds. This may not sound like much, but the extra time will help move more cars out of the loop and keep traffic flowing more smoothly.

Please pay attention as you exit the loop so that the maximum number of cars can exit when the light is green.

Misc.

The traffic committee is looking into the possibility of adding student volunteers to act as safety valets to encourage the proper flow of traffic through the drive-through loop. Drivers are encouraged to pull as far forward as possible when they enter the loop.

Parents are reminded to **not** stop in any red zones (curbs marked red). You risk the chance of being ticketed by police if you stop in red zones to drop off or pick up students.

Remember that parents can use the loading zone immediately north of Oak Creek Drive, the first street north of campus. The far east side of Foothill Road in the northbound lane is designated as a loading zone. This area can be used before and after school to drop off or pick up students.

Senior News

There's a lot to keep up with senior year, so parents and students are encouraged to check out the Foothill website regularly for the latest senior news and events. Go to the [Foothill website](#) and click on "Senior Information" to find out what's going on and coming up.

Grad Night & Senior Events Meeting

This month's Grad Night planning meeting will be [Wednesday, March 2](#) at 7 p.m. in the library.

We will get updates about upcoming senior events, discuss fundraising and get an update about City Beach, the party venue. Click [here for the tentative meeting agenda](#).

Everyone is invited to attend this meeting to share ideas and help brainstorm creative fundraising events. You don't have to have a senior to join in the fun. It's always good for non-senior parents to get involved so they can start scheming for their students' senior year.

Grad Night Tickets

Get your Grad Night tickets now for the low introductory rate of \$170 per ticket. The price goes up in April, so buy early to save a few bucks.

The ticket will get your senior admission to the all-night safe-and-sober Grad Night party at City Beach in Santa Clara. The ticket price includes bus transportation to and from the venue, plus fun games and scrumptious food all night long.

Click [here for info about how to buy Grad Night tickets](#).

Baccalaureate Photos Needed

Avoid the rush by getting your senior's kindergarten photo turned in right now for baccalaureate.

If your senior plans to attend baccalaureate, we need a kindergarten shot of your child. School photos work the best. Photos will be included in a slide show at baccalaureate. Pro Image Studios will provide all the senior photos needed for the slide show.

Click [here for instructions about how you can easily submit photos by e-mail](#).

Baccalaureate Tryouts

Seniors are encouraged to share a special song, poem or reading at baccalaureate. Tryouts to perform at baccalaureate will be held after school on Tuesday, May 3.

Click [here for details about tryouts, rehearsal and performance](#).

Gift Card Donations Needed

We need literally hundreds of small denomination gift cards to use as prizes for seniors attending Grad Night.

Gift cards ranging in value from \$5 to \$25 are greatly appreciated. Popular gift cards for graduating teens include Jamba Juice, Starbucks, Cold Stone Creamery, Bed Bath & Beyond, Target, Regal Cinemas, restaurants and Stoneridge mall. Costco offers some gift cards at a discount.

All donations are tax deductible. You may drop gift cards in the Grad Night box in the front office. Be sure to include your name and address so that you can get a tax receipt.

If you know of any businesses that would like to make a tax-deductible donation to support Grad Night, please contact Ellie Wrenn at k.wrenn@comcast.net.

Eddie Papa's Fundraiser

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.

Practice ACT

Students have the chance to take a practice SAT 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.

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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