

From: Foothill High School <foothillnews@me.com>
Subject: Talon Talk: December 1
Date: November 30, 2010 4:39:17 PM PST
To: foothillnews@me.com
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Talon Talk

Foothill High School Newsletter

John Dwyer, principal

December 1, 2010
Office Phone 461-6600
Attendance Line 461-6686

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

Character Week

Foothill is as serious about teaching students [positive character traits](#) as it is about teaching students academics.

It's with that dedication that the school hosts Character Week each year. This year's event is coming up the week of [Dec. 6-10](#) with the theme of giving back to our community and the world.

Kicking off the week's events on Monday will be motivational speaker [Spencer West](#) of the group [Me to We](#). West is a young adult who lost both legs due to a genetic disease. He speaks about the importance of being positive not only to lead a full life, but to help others.

Be sure to ask your kids throughout the week about that day's character lessons.

Foothill's Tech Guidelines

Students and parents are encouraged to brush up on Foothill's latest technology guidelines to ensure students follow the rules when using electronic devices on campus.

Quick Calendar

Dec. 1-3 --

Sophomores: Register in counseling for Pre-ACT

Dec. 1 -- Carols by Candlelight choir concert, 8 p.m., MPR

Dec. 3 -- Deadline to submit senior yearbook quotes

Dec. 8 -- Parent ed night: Teen stress, depression & anxiety, 7 p.m., Amador Valley High

Dec. 9 -- College financial aid & FAFSA workshop, 7 p.m., MPR

Dec. 13 -- Athletic boosters meeting, 7 p.m., C-6

Dec. 17 -- Friday Forum for parents, 9 a.m., C-6

Dec. 17 -- **Minimum day**. Time TBA.

Dec. 20-31 -- **No school**. Winter break.

Quick Links

[Foothill High web site:](#)

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

[-
Bell Schedule](#)

[Foothill Athletics](#)

Foothill has a rather lenient technology policy, designed to give students freedom as long as they are considerate and follow the rules.

Click [here for all the details about tech guidelines](#).

New Minimum Days

The Pleasanton school district has changed this school year's minimum days, expanding minimum days in December and March to include students in all grades.

The [Friday, Dec. 17](#) minimum day originally planned for students in elementary and middle school only has been expanded to include high school students, too.

The [Friday, March 11](#) minimum day originally slated for elementary students only has been expanded to include students in all grades.

The changes were made to make the school calendar more consistent for families with students in varying grade levels.

The time Foothill students will get out of school on the new minimum days has not yet been set. Please check the website for info as soon as it's announced.

Carols by Candlelight

Celebrate the holiday season with Foothill's award-winning choir at the Carols by Candlelight concert on [Wednesday, Dec. 1](#) at 8 p.m. in the multipurpose room.

The admission fee of \$10 includes desserts served during the show. The event is a fundraiser for the choir to help close a budget gap that's left the choir without enough money to fund a classroom piano accompanist.

The concert will feature the entire choir, plus several student solos and duets.

Usher in the holiday season by listening to the glorious sounds of Foothill's talented vocalists.

[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](#)

The Foothill Robotics Team ranked high enough at regionals to qualify for the world competition.

[Sophomores: Sign Up for Pre-ACT](#)

Sophomores can get a head start on college exams by taking the [PLAN assessment test](#), a pre-ACT test that will give you a good idea about how well you might do when taking the ACT college prep exam. Students typically take the ACT during their junior year.

The PLAN test will be given at Foothill on Dec. 4.

The cost of the test is \$25 with checks payable to Foothill High School. Students should drop by the counseling office the week of [Nov. 29](#) to register for the exam.

[Spring Musical Tryouts](#)

The hills will be alive with the *Sound of Music* when Foothill and Amador Valley high schools present the always-anticipated spring musical.

The spring musical is a rich annual tradition in Pleasanton, combining the most talented young actors from both schools to present a Broadway-quality performance right here in our humble hometown.

Auditions for acting, vocal and dance roles in the *Sound of Music* will be held after school [Dec. 6, 7 & 8](#) with call-backs posted on Dec. 10. The second week of auditions will be [Dec. 13, 14 & 17](#).

Click [here for more details](#) about how you can audition for the spring musical.

[Call of Duty: Blue Ops](#)

We're calling upon all parents, especially those without seniors, to pay it forward by helping to make this year's

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

Ten students are honored as October Students of the Month.

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

The Perfect Gift: Foothill Earrings

Wear your school spirit for the world to see with fashionable Foothill earrings.

These stylish earrings are back by popular demand, but quantities are limited. Earrings make great gifts or stocking stuffers.

Click [here for details](#), including photos and pricing, on the Foothill website.

Office Hours Changed

The Foothill office has new hours that will have the office closing promptly at 3:15 p.m. on

Grad Night a huge success.

You'll be paying it forward by helping out this year because in the very near future, you'll be calling upon non-senior parents to help out so that you can enjoy graduation with your senior while other parents do the work.

Grad Night is an all-inclusive party designed to give Foothill's graduating seniors a safe and sober way to celebrate. This year's event will be held **June 10** at City Beach in Santa Clara.

Senior parents do all the planning and fundraising for this blockbuster event, but they rely on non-senior parents to pull volunteer duty the evening of graduation.

The senior class needs at least 65 parents to help with Grad Night. Parents will check in students at Foothill before they board buses and will chaperone the event. Parents who work at Grad Night will ride buses to and from the party.

Parents who work at Grad Night are required to stay through the night. Folks who've worked previous Grad Nights assure us the event is a real blast because students are so incredibly upbeat, having just finished high school. The night goes by in the blink of an eye.

Parents who work check-in will report to work around 9 p.m. and stay for about 90 minutes. Parents who work at Grad Night will work from 10 p.m. to 4 a.m.

Encourage groups of your friends to work together at this fun event. It's a great way to get an inside look at Grad Night so you'll know how to tailor the event to your child's graduating class.

Please e-mail Ellie Wrenn at k.wrenn@comcast.net to sign up for Grad Night.

Senior parents are encouraged to volunteer, but only if they are absolutely certain they'll be able to help after graduation.

Wednesdays only.

The office opens at 7:30 a.m. weekdays and is open until 4 p.m. every weekday except Wednesday.

Gift Card & Grad Night Donations

When you're doing your holiday shopping, please consider grabbing an extra gift card to donate to Grad Night.

The Grad Night committee collects dozens upon dozens of gift cards to give as prizes during the safe-and-sober graduation party.

You don't need to spend a ton of money to make a huge impact. 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.

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.

Bandages & Tissues: Donations Needed

Supplies in the health office are dwindling as the school year marches straight into the cold and flu season. And let's not forget that even high school kids get boo-boos.

Donations of these items are needed:

- Facial tissue
- Small paper cups (like Dixie brand)
- Disinfectant wipes
- Bandages (3x3/4, 1x3, 2x4 and large sizes)
- 3-inch ACE bandages (or other brand)
- Self-adhesive wrap (like [3M Coban](#))
- Two 3-volt lithium batteries for thermometer
- Ear thermometer probe covers

Please drop donations in the health office. Questions? Contact health clerk Chris Faubion at cfaubion@pleasanton.k12.ca.us.

Thank you for your support!

Booster News

Friday Forum for Parents

Join us for the last Friday Forum of the calendar year on [Dec. 17](#) at 9 a.m. in room C-6. The forum is hosted by Principal John Dwyer and the vice principals.

Friday Forums are a fun and easy way to learn what's going on at school and what's coming up. Parent feedback is an essential part of the forums. It's a welcome setting for sharing thoughts and ideas.

Be sure to drop by for holiday treats, coffee and lots of great information about our fabulous school.

Teachers' Wishes Granted

Thanks to Foothill's generous families, the [AABC](#) school booster group has funded \$113,005 in teacher wishes this school year.

The booster group raises funds through directory sales, membership fees and flat donations. Teachers then request items they need. This semester's requests ranged from \$50 for a DVD player to \$15,000 for the foreign language lab.

Click [here for a full list of teacher wish list items funded this fall](#).

Thank you to the many Foothill families who so generously support the school booster group.

Student Directories

If you ordered a student directory at walk-through registration, your long wait for these important little booklets is over.

Directories will be available at school on [Thursday, Dec. 2](#). Students may pick them up at the quad during lunchtime (please bring your ID) or directories will be delivered to advisement periods.

Be sure to check your kids' backpacks for these handy school phone books.

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 Tickets Make Great Gifts

We have the perfect gift idea for that hard-to-buy-for senior on your holiday list -- Grad Night tickets.

Grad Night tickets are the perfect gift for parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and friends to get that Foothill senior in their lives.

Get your tickets now at the low introductory rate of \$170 per ticket. The price includes bus transportation to/from Grad Night, plus an evening chockfull of fun and friendship.

Click [here for more details and the ticket order form](#).

Senior Ads

If you missed the Nov. 8 deadline for ordering an ad honoring your special senior, don't fret -- at least not yet. There are still a few coveted ad spaces remaining, but you have to act quickly.

You must submit your ad online ASAP for this last-minute offer. You can do everything online, including creating your copy, uploading photographs and paying for the \$110 ad.

Here are the easy steps to follow to take out an ad honoring your senior:

1. Log on to www.yearbookordercenter.com
2. Enter 7378 as the order number. You may also search by city and state for Foothill.
3. Follow the directions to create and purchase your senior message online.

Ads may be ordered by family members only, please. Ads are one-quarter page and in full color.

Click [here for a flier with more info](#).

Senior Quotes

Seniors may submit a special quote to be published under their photo in the yearbook. There is no fee for senior quotes. Quotes must be appropriate. Anything that is offensive, obscene or joking will not be used. Seniors will not get a second chance to submit quotes if their first

quotes are not acceptable.

Click [here to submit your quotes online](#). The deadline to submit quotes is **December 3**.

Senior Favorites

Seniors have until Dec. 17 to submit votes for senior favorites. Click [here to submit your votes online](#).

Counseling College News

Seniors who picked up secondary school report materials at the private college workshop need to fill out those papers and return them to their counselors ASAP.

Seniors: Ask your teachers right now to write letters of recommendation for colleges. The sooner, the better.

Alumni Soccer Games

Foothill soccer alumni are encouraged to take part in the 8th annual Ryan Gordon Foothill-Amador Alumni Soccer Games to benefit the soccer programs at both schools.

The games will be held **Saturday, Jan. 8** at Amador Valley High School. The final day to register is Jan. 6.

There will be two games featuring male and female players from the 1970s through the 2000s. Each game will be divided into periods for older players and younger players. (You know which one you are.) The event will also feature pre-game festivities with entertainment, games, raffles and food.

The gate receipts of \$7 for adults and \$4 for students and all snack bar proceeds will go directly to both schools' soccer programs.

Ryan Gordon was a 2003 Foothill graduate whose life was tragically cut short in a boating accident shortly after graduation. He played soccer at Foothill for four years and planned to continue playing at the college level.

Please contact Curt Gordon at curtgordon@comcast.net or drop by All-Star Sports to register for this fun and beneficial event.

Celebrate for Education

Ring in the New Year with friends at Stoneridge mall and the Pleasanton schools will earn a few bucks.

The New Year's Ball at the Mall event starts Dec. 31 at 9 p.m. and runs until 1 a.m. on New Year's Day. Tickets are \$75 for general admission or \$100 for VIP admission. All party goers must be at least 21 years old.

The New Year's Eve celebration is hosted by the Pleasanton North Rotary Club to benefit four charities, including [Pleasanton Partnerships in Education](#).

Click [here for more info and to order tickets online](#).

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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