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Talon Talk

Foothill High School Newsletter

John Dwyer, principal

March 15, 2010
Office Phone 461-6600
Attendance Line 461-6686

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Friday Forum for Parents

Budget cuts once again top the list of topics that will be discussed at this month's Friday Forum. We'll discuss pink slips, layoffs and changes to next year's schedule. (Goodbye late days!)

That brings us to our other discussion topic -- fundraising.

Friday Forums are a great, informal way to hear what's going on at Foothill while you also share your thoughts and ideas about how to improve our school. In these tough fiscal times, the school needs more parent support than ever.

The forums are hosted by Principal John Dwyer and the three vice principals. The morning get-togethers start with a brief update from Mr. Dwyer before the floor is opened for parent feedback.

This month's Friday Forum will be [March 19](#) at 9 a.m. in room C-6, just east of the library. Forums last about an hour.

Thank you to the [AABC parent group](#) for providing light snacks and coffee.

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

Quick Calendar

March 16 -- High school exit exam for sophomores, 8:12 a.m., gyms

March 17 -- High school exit exam for sophomores, 9 a.m., gyms

March 18 -- Sweet Tomatoes fundraiser, 5-8 p.m. Click [here for flier](#).

March 19 -- Friday Forum for parents, 9 a.m., room C-6

March 18, 19, 20, 25, 26 & 27 -- Seussical the Musical, 7 p.m., Amador Theater. Click [here for tickets](#).

March 27 -- Winterguard & percussion show, 8 a.m., Foothill & Amador

March 31 -- End of 3rd quarter

April 1 -- No school. Teacher furlough day.

April 2-9 -- No school. Spring break.

Support Grad Night

You don't have to be a senior parent to support Foothill's annual Grad Night, a safe and sober way for our seniors to celebrate graduation.

Grad Night 2010 is a mere three months away. We still have a lot to accomplish and need parents to help reach our goals.

What we need the most is gift cards to give to students as prizes and raffles during the Grad Night celebration, plus cash to support the scholarship fund for students who cannot afford Grad Night tickets.

Gift cards from Target, Walmart, Macy's, American Express, Visa, Subway, Chili's, McDonald's, Starbucks, Jamba Juice, In-n-Out and Bed, Bath & Beyond would be greatly appreciated. If you have extra points on your credit card, redeem them for gift cards to donate or buy bulk gift cards next time you're at Costco. Gift cards should be for \$10 to \$25.

Gift cards and cash donations (checks are preferable) can be dropped off in the Grad Night box in the front office. Be sure to include your name and address so we can thank you for your **tax-deductible** donation. You'll also be entered in the raffle for an "I'm So Done!" parent sweatshirt.

Thanks to everyone who has so generously donated gift cards or made cash donations.

High School Exit Exam This Week

Sophomores will take the California High School Exit Exam this week on **Tuesday, March 16** and **Wednesday, March 17**. Seniors who have not passed one or both parts of the exam will also be tested.

Quick Links

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[site:](#)

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[Senior Activities](#)

[SAT Test Dates](#)

[ACT Test Dates](#)

Students must show up early for school on test days -- 30 minutes before 1st period starts.

Click [here for more details about test days](#), including time schedules and information about what students must have with them on test days.

Volunteers Needed

We need at least 20 parents to help when sophomores take the state high school exit exam on [March 16 & 17](#).

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 volunteer coordinator Diane Phillips at diane.phillips@sbcglobal.net 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.

School's Out: Three Extra Vacation Days

All Pleasanton schools will be out of session three extra days this school year as a cost-cutting measure to help offset the \$8 million the school district must cut from the budget.

The teachers union agreed to three teacher furlough days this school year, meaning students will not attend classes on those days. The furlough days are:

- [Thursday, April 1](#)
- [Friday, May 28](#)
- [Tuesday, June 1](#)

Seussical the Musical

The annual spring musical presented by Foothill and Amador Valley students starts this [Thursday, March 18](#). Get your tickets before they sell out!

Click [here for all the details](#) on the Foothill web site.

Student Spotlight

Foothill's incredible students are making news left and right with their talents and skills. Be sure to check the school web site for the latest news about students.

Click on the links for these stories on the web site:

[Mr. Foothill contest and winner](#)

[Laws of Life essay winners](#)

[Special drama camp](#)

[Student garden](#)

[Students learn about oncology nursing](#)

The April 1 date extends spring break by having it start a day earlier than planned. The May 28 and June 1 dates extend the Memorial Day weekend, making it a five-day break.

The furlough days were proposed by the teachers union and approved by the district's board of trustees.

In addition to this year's furlough days, there will be three fewer instructional days next school year. The calendar is currently being set, so those dates have not yet been announced.

District administration understands that these extra days off school may present a challenge to families. They thank you in advance for your support.

And the Beat Goes On

Tap your toes to the beat of Northern California's premier percussion groups while you enjoy the sight of spectacular winterguard performances at the Northern California Band Association's Winterguard and Percussion Championships on [Saturday, March 27](#).

Foothill's award-winning band has the honor of hosting this incredible event that will draw more than 120 performance groups from all over Northern California. More than 100 drum majors will also compete.

This is such a massive show that performances will be held at both Foothill and Amador Valley high schools. Performances start bright and early at 8 a.m. and will run until at least 8 p.m.

The ticket price of \$12 for adults and \$8 for kids and senior citizens gets you into both performance venues. Foothill's percussion group will perform around 1 p.m. and the winterguard will perform around 8 p.m., both at Foothill.

This is a great family event as the best percussion and winterguard groups vie for the championship title.

Volunteers Needed

We need lots of students and parents who'd like to spend part or all of their Saturday working at this entertaining event. We have several different jobs and flexible

scheduling. This is a perfect way for seniors to get community service hours.

Drop a note to Sandi Newton at sandinewton@hotmail.com for more info and to sign up for this fun event.

Junior Prom: Tickets On Sale Soon

Juniors won't want to miss a memorable *Night in Venice*, the theme for this year's junior prom on [April 17](#).

Prom tickets will be sold at school the weeks of [March 22-26](#) and [March 29-31](#). These are the only dates tickets will be sold. Tickets are \$70 per person.

The prom will be held April 17 from 7:30 p.m. to 11 p.m. at Castlewood Country Club. Pictures will be taken in advance at Foothill from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Appetizers and hors d'oeuvres will be served at prom.

Foothill's special dance dress code must be followed for this event. Click [here for details](#).

Questions? Please contact the junior class officers at class11officers@yahoo.com.

Health Notes

Update Emergency Info

Please drop by the health office if you need to update any emergency contact info that has changed since August 2009. Updated info will help speed up the checkout process if your child is ever ill or injured.

Allergies

Tickling noses and itchy eyes can mean only one thing -- allergy season is upon us. Students must have consent forms on file to have prescription or over-the-counter meds on campus.

Click [here for the district's policy](#) about medications and the forms that must be completed to have meds on campus.

Going Home Sick

Students who are ill and must leave campus must check out through the health office and not the attendance window. If

your child calls to say they need to come home, please remind them to go directly to the health office to get the pass needed to be excused and leave campus.

The attendance office will not excuse students who need to go home because they are ill. The health office is open daily from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Questions? Contact health clerk Chris Faubion at cfaubion@pleasanton.k12.ca.us or 461-6605.

Calling All Artists

Foothill's talented artists are invited to submit their best work for the annual Congressional Art Competition hosted locally by Congressman Jerry McNerney. The deadline to submit artwork is [April 12](#).

One lucky student from McNerney's district will get his or her art chosen to be displayed on Capitol Hill for nearly a full year. The winner also gets a free trip for the artist and one guest to Washington, D.C., in June to attend the awards ceremony.

The national art exhibit, staged in the corridor between the Cannon House Office Building and the Capitol, features exceptional artwork from all 435 congressional districts throughout the country.

Art must be two dimensional and no larger than 30 inches wide and high, plus 4 inches deep.

Please see art teachers Trish Fenton or Caroline Fields for more info.

P-Town T-Shirts & Sophomore Class Fundraiser

Keep Ptown Blue T-Shirts

Foothill's sophomore class is selling awesome Falcon-blue T-shirts with the logo "Keep P-Town Blue." Click [here to see the design on the front of the T-shirt](#).

The short-sleeved T-shirts feature the FHS initials on the left sleeve and the back reads "This Is Our Town."

The T-shirts are a great deal at only \$10 each. Please state

the shirt sizes you want and include a check made to Foothill High School. Put an envelope with your contact info, shirt sizes and check in teacher Stephanie Maimoni's mailbox in the front office.

Sophomore Fundraiser

This fundraiser for the sophomore class offers one-stop shopping for all your magazine, cookie dough and restaurant coupon needs. What more could you want?

Click [here to place your orders online](#) for a wide variety of magazines, two levels of restaurant coupon books and three delicious flavors of cookie dough. All orders are shipped directly to your home. Shipping fees may apply.

Both promotions are fundraisers for the Class of 2012.

Coupon Books Save Big Bucks

Save tons of money at local restaurants and businesses with Gift Checks coupon books offered by the AABC*.

The coupon books cost a mere \$10 each and are chockful of fabulous coupons from local businesses. These books pay for themselves with only one or two purchases.

Here are some of the great offers:

- Dublin Regal & Livermore Cinemas -- movie tickets for only \$7 each (cheaper than Costco)
- Vic's All-Star Kitchen -- buy one menu item, get one free
- Girasole Grill -- buy one meal, get one free
- Gene's Fine Foods -- \$3 off a \$10 deli purchase
- Mahalo Grille -- \$20 off a dinner
- Casa Madrid -- \$10 off two meals
- Dublin Auto Wash -- \$2 off
- And much more!

There are nearly 100 coupons in this mighty little book. You'll save money while supporting the school. Foothill gets \$5 of each \$10 purchase.

For more info or to buy a book, contact Jill Thomas at jilldthomas@comcast.net or 216-6423.

*The [Academics & Activities Booster Club](#) is a parent group

that raises money to fund supplemental supplies and programs for the school.

Graduation Leis

Graduation will be here before you know it, so don't delay placing your order for a customized graduation lei.

The senior class sells the colorful leis as a fundraiser for the class. The ribbon leis come in 11 different styles with prices ranging from \$22 to \$47. Click [here to see the different styles and prices and for ordering info.](#)

The deadline to order is [April 15](#). Leis will be handed out at school. You will be notified by e-mail regarding the delivery date.

Questions? Contact Jenni Lee at jenni_lee423@yahoo.com.

Senior News

Sweet Tomatoes Fundraiser is Thursday

Get out of the kitchen and join your friends at Sweet Tomatoes this [Thursday, March 18](#) for a Grad Night fundraiser from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Click [here to print the flier](#) you must present for Foothill to get its share of your purchase price. Forward the flier to all of your friends, neighbors and relatives. The more, the merrier.

Mark your calendars for these upcoming fundraisers:

[April 14](#) -- Sweet Tomatoes senior parent night

[May 6](#) -- Casa Orozco senior class celebration

All events are to raise funds for Grad Night

Grad Night Meeting

The next Grad Night and senior events meeting will be held [Monday, April 12](#) at 7 p.m. in the Foothill library. Everyone chairing a senior event *must* attend and provide an update on your event. Please include current plans for your event, any funding or fundraising you may need, plans for publicity or other issues that should be addressed.

Senior T-Shirts

Get your senior T-shirts and hoodies before they're all sold out! These awesome T-shirts have a falcon graphic and the words "Senior 2010 I'm So Done." Click [here for prices and](#)

[the order form.](#)

Scholarships

Seniors should check the Foothill web site regularly for up-to-date scholarship information. Scholarship info is posted in the counseling section of the web site. Look for the counseling link on the left side of the home page, and then click on "Scholarship Information." Click [here to go directly to the scholarship page.](#)

Special thanks to parent volunteer Maureen Kyer and our counseling staff for working so diligently to make sure students have the latest scholarship news.

Grad Night Tickets On Sale Now

Get your Grad Night tickets now while prices are low!

Tickets for Grad Night '10 are \$170 each. The price includes admission to the party, all activity fees and bus transportation (required) to and from City Beach in Fremont. The ticket also covers the cost of the senior pool party and picnic at the end of the school year.

The hike in ticket prices, up to \$185, has been delayed until April 15. Scholarships are available through Mrs. Shanker in the counseling office.

Click [here for the Foothill web site page with Grad Night info and details.](#) Scroll to the bottom to find the three forms that must be filled out before seniors can buy tickets.

Questions? Contact Patty Haykin at 998-0056 or phaykin@aol.com.

Plan Ahead for Baccalaureate

Baccalaureate is a non-denominational, inspirational and voluntary senior celebration of graduation that includes speakers, music, readings and a memorable slide presentation -- all coordinated by seniors and their parents. This year's event is planned for [Sunday, June 6](#) at 5 p.m. at Valley Community Church in Pleasanton.

Students who want to perform may audition after school on [May 4](#) in D-1 with teacher JoAnn Koobatian.

Baccalaureate also features a slide show of seniors who attend. We need two photos of each senior. It's a good idea

to get this out of the way ASAP before life gets too hectic.

Click [here for details](#) about what types of photos we need and how to submit your photos.

Career Center News

Las Positas College Info

Foothill students can take the Las Positas College assessment test on the Foothill campus [Tuesday, April 13](#) or Thursday, [April 15](#) at 3 p.m. in the computer lab, room B-16.

The assessment test is required for any seniors who plan to attend Las Positas in the fall. Students must have completed [registration online for early admissions](#) no later than **TODAY -- March 15**. An official Foothill transcript must be ordered (\$2 fee) and sent to Las Positas. See Jacque Barker in the career center for more info.

Job & Community Service Fair

Meet with employers, apply for jobs, sign up for volunteer work and attend a resume workshop at the Tri-Valley Teen Job & Community Service Fair on [Saturday, March 20](#) from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the San Ramon Community Center, 9300 Alcosta Blvd., in San Ramon.

The fair is for students ages 13 to 18. Admission is free.

Health Quest 2010

Students will get the chance to learn all about health at the annual Health Quest 2010, a walk-through fair where students visit booths to learn about various health-related community resources. This year's Health Quest will be held on [March 31](#).

Health Quest is organized and presented by the students and staff of the Health & Biosciences Academies at Foothill and Amador Valley high schools. The schools work with Las Positas College and local health professionals and groups to put on this extensive event.

Special thanks to Pleasanton Partnerships in Education and the California East Bay Oncology Nursing Society for their support. Thanks also to the catering services of Kit Little's Village High School catering students.

Teacher Recognition

Here's your chance to nominate your student's favorite teacher for special recognition through the 20th annual Excellence in Education Awards.

The deadline to nominate a teacher is [March 31](#). The awards are sponsored by the Pleasanton PTA Council.

Teachers 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 more info](#), including the nomination form and a list of previous honorees.

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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