

PATRON

PROMOTE ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE, CHAMPION INNOVATION, PROVIDE SUSTAINED FINANCIAL SUPPORT | 2012



Chad Hamilton
3rd grade, Havens



Courtney Goen
Social Studies, PHS



Richard Meyers
Math, Millenium



Joanie Sears
1st grade, Wildwood



Jed Scherman
Core 6, PMS



Ellen Garrett
4th grade, Beach

WHY THE FOUNDATION?

The Piedmont Educational Foundation (PEF) was created in 1975 by parents, educators and residents as a way to augment the school district's resources and provide opportunities for learning that otherwise wouldn't be possible.

PEF'S MISSION

PEF is a community-based organization whose mission is to promote academic excellence, champion innovation, and provide sustained financial support to the Piedmont Unified School District.



old



new

PEF LOGO GETS A MAKEOVER

Logos are like haircuts and eyeglasses: They become part of you, but even the best ones need to be updated from time to time. That's why your PEF Board decided to revise the foundation's logo, which had last been updated ten years ago.

Working with Piedmont graphic designer Kristen Malan, Amal Smith, former board member Andrea Swenson, and Anne-Marie Lamarche met to define goals for refreshing the PEF logo. The group came up with three:

- A fresh design – not stodgy or static, yet anchored and reliable;
- Communicate PEF's long history and Piedmont heritage; and
- Provide a consistent look when used in a myriad of ways.

The resulting design is somewhat like a Chinese chop—a square stamp that communicates the goals of our logo. We've incorporated the vase from Piedmont's exedra and executed the logo in Piedmont purple. The style is current, strong and stable, and upbeat. We think we've achieved our goals. What do you think? *Please send your comments to: helpingpiedmontschools@gmail.com.*



Front row, L to R: Ann Trutner, Anne-Marie Lamarche, Amal Smith, Doug Ireland **2nd row:** Gayle Sells, Barbara Giuffre, Conna McCarthy, Bob McBain, Nancy McHugh **3rd row:** Paul Manolis, Jim Baack, Tim McCalmont, Jen Wilson **Back row:** Bill Drum, Brad Hebert, Matt Heafey **Not pictured:** Cathie Geddeis

PEF BOARD OF DIRECTORS — 2011/2012

<i>Jim Baack</i>	Web Master (PMS, PHS)
<i>Bill Drum</i>	Secretary & Assistant Treasurer
<i>Cathie Geddeis</i>	Treasurer
<i>Barbara Giuffre</i>	Governance & Nominating Chair (PMS)
<i>Matt Heafey</i>	Partners in Education (PHS)
<i>Brad Hebert</i>	Vice President & Technology Chair (PMS, PHS)
<i>Doug Ireland</i>	Endowment Fund Chair (PHS)
<i>Paul Manolis</i>	Board Member
<i>Anne-Marie Lamarche</i>	2nd Vice President & Strategic Communication Chair
<i>Bob McBain</i>	Investments Chair (PHS)
<i>Tim McCalmont</i>	Board Member
<i>Conna McCarthy</i>	Community Outreach Chair
<i>Nancy McHugh</i>	Piedmont Student Directory Chair
<i>Gayle Sells</i>	Dress Best for Less Liaison
<i>Amal Smith</i>	President (PHS)
<i>Ann Trutner</i>	Community Liaison
<i>Jennifer Wilson</i>	Patron Editor (Beach)

HONORARY DIRECTORS

Helen Breck • Ann Chandler • Cameron W. Wolfe, Jr.

PATRON 2012

Editor: Jennifer Wilson
Design: Laura O'Hare
Photography: Sharon Hom
Printing: H & H Printing
Cover image: Josh Laverty,
www.joshlaverty.com

Contact us:
P.O. Box 11192
Piedmont, CA 94611
510.653.1816
info@PiedmontEdFoundation.org

Visit our website:
PiedmontEdFoundation.org

Federal Identification Number:
94-6426176

*United Way Designated Charity
Donors to the United Way should
notify the Piedmont Educational
Foundation's president or treasurer of
their donations. The PEF wishes to
properly acknowledge all gifts.*

A MESSAGE FROM AMAL SMITH

A Shared Legacy

I've been thinking about this excerpt that is attributed to Norman Cousins as he pondered the eternal and ultimate problem of a free society:

"It is the problem of the individual who thinks that one man cannot possibly make a difference in the destiny of that society.

It is the problem of the individual who doesn't really understand the nature of a free society or what is required to make it work.

It is the problem of the individual who has no comprehension of the multiplying power of single but sovereign units.

... In short, freedom's main problem is the problem of the individual who takes himself lightly historically."

This got me to thinking about the idea of building a legacy, of hard work and of the collective power of our efforts. We live in this wonderful town where so many take to heart the idea of creating and leaving a positive legacy, especially in our educational community: Individually and collectively we give time, effort, ideas and, yes, money. School district leaders, the school board, teachers, administrators, parents, other volunteers, students and the community as a whole should pat ourselves on the back for our strong and enduring commitment to creating and maintaining this educational legacy.

But I urge you to remember what Abigail Adams said, "Learning is not attained by chance. It must be sought for with ardor and attended to with diligence." It is our responsibility to remain dedicated to the ideal of excellence in our public schools. It is this shared legacy we leave to our children and to their future.



**PRESIDENT, PIEDMONT
EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION**

THANK YOU
to our Parents, Alumni,
Staff, and the
Piedmont
Community

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Amal Smith".

PEF in partnership with The Piedmont Unified School District
WELLNESS CENTER brings you the

PUSD WELLNESS CENTER
FALLFEST 5_k 

Saturday, September 29, 2012



Proceeds from this community run/walk will help sustain the school district's vibrant Wellness Center which currently serves students in grades 6-12, providing student leadership opportunities, counseling services and health education.

R U N F O R T H E H E A L T H O F I T !

DRESS BEST FOR LESS

MARKING ROOM

BACKGROUND

Many of you already know and use Dress Best for Less. But did you know that this volunteer organization is one of the largest donors to the Piedmont Educational Foundation each year? In fact, it delivered \$55,000 to PEF's Foundation Fund in 2011, which helped underwrite grants across the District.

Founded by a group of mothers in 1982, Dress Best For Less was a "green" business before going green was a popular movement. Back then, as now, Piedmont was a community that had a relative abundance compared to many surrounding areas. Thus, DBFL sprang from the idea that by reusing items that would otherwise fill local closets and homes, Piedmont schools could reap the rewards of reselling these items and local shoppers could benefit by getting great deals.

THE WAY IT WORKS

Volunteers and paid staff sort through your used clothing and household items at the Marking Room here in Piedmont. The best of these items are then sent to the Dress Best For Less store on Piedmont Avenue to sell. Thanks to your generosity, many of the items are top quality. You will find designer and high quality women's, men's, and children's clothing, as well as jewelry, handbags, shoes and house wares at the store.

We always need your high quality donations and our goal is to donate more each year but we can't do it without your donations. Think of us when you are making room in your closets or when you are reducing and simplifying your life. To learn more about DBFL, take a minute and explore our website, www.dressbestforless.org.



Drop your donations off here...



...and shop for our high-quality items here!

DRESS BEST FOR LESS

3861 Piedmont Ave.
Oakland
658-8525

Tuesday – Saturday
Winter hours: 10:00 - 5:00
Summer hours: 11:00 - 6:00

www.dressbestforless.org

MARKING ROOM

Sales and Donations
799 Magnolia Ave., Piedmont
653-0221

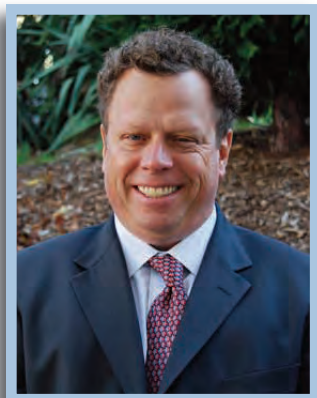
Saturday 10:00 - 12:00
Monday 10:30 - 12:30
Tuesday 9:00 - 1:30
Wednesday 9:00 - 4:00

Please donate only when open

Partners In Education

For the past five years, The Partners in program has raised over \$310,000 to provide continuing education for teachers across our District. Many of them have attended workshops led by Dr. Anne Beninghof, an innovator and author on the subject of Differentiated Instruction. These workshops have had a direct influence on how our teachers instruct students. Here is how these workshops have helped them:

- “Anne’s inservice gave a variety of ideas of how to differentiate assignments in many curricular areas. I was able to come back to my class and implement the ideas immediately.” —*Melissa Costello, Havens 4th/5th grade teacher*
- “Anne Beninghof offered unique strategies to use to address children’s different modalities (visual, kinesthetic, etc). Several of these strategies have found their way into my daily practice with my first graders.” —*Melina Rinehart, Beach 1st grade teacher*
- “Anne Beninghof’s work with Core 6 at Piedmont Middle School continues to influence our work on common assessments in language arts. With Dr. Beninghof’s assistance we created a rubric for assessing student writing. We have continued to refine our evaluation of student writing by working as a team to clarify and standardize our mutual understanding and application of each element in the rubric. This ongoing process ensures we are sharing best practices for the benefit of all our students.” —*Stella Kennedy, PMS 6th grade Core teacher*



Matt

Matt Heafey, Partners in Education Chair

DO BUSINESS WITH A PARTNER IN EDUCATION!

We would like to acknowledge and thank the following businesses that donated generously to continue to educate our teachers and enrich the lives of Piedmont students. Please show our business partners how much you appreciate their support by doing business with them.

BMW of San Francisco
Mini of San Francisco
The Grubb Co.
TECTA associates architects
Matt Heafey, The Grubb Co.
Montclair Sports
Righellis & Associates Orthodontics
Highland Partners Real Estate
Mulberry’s Market
Virginia’s Live a Little
Graff Architects
La Salle Financial Services
Berkeley Orthodontics/Orinda Orthodontics
MetLife
Anian Tunney, The Grubb Co.
AAA
Bay Design & Build
Julie Gardner, The Piedmont Perspective

Rebecca Schnier Architecture
Dana Cohen, The Grubb Co.
MadeToOrder
Claremont Veterinary Hospital
Transpak, Inc.
Montclair Orthodontics/Bradley Irving, D.D.S.
Old Republic Title Comapny
Mark Duval Fitness Training
W. Thomas Sharp, Jr., D.D.S.
John Malick and Associates Architects
Nancy Kent Landscape Architecture
McMullen
The Dailey Method
Polish on Piedmont
Sunny Piedmont Cleaners
Jane Anderson, The Grubb Co.
Carol Brown, The Grubb Co.

Katherine Cooper, The Grubb Co.
Elizabeth Dickson, The Grubb Co.
Linda McClain, The Grubb Co.
Anne Feste, The Grubb Co.
Mindy Scott, The Grubb Co.
Angela Wei Grubb, The Grubb Co.
Michelle Winchester, The Grubb Co.
Teresa Baum, Pacific Union
Carla Buffington, Pacific Union
Teri Carlisle, Pacific Union
Debra Dryden, Pacific Union
Gini Erck, Pacific Union
Sheila Gallagher, Pacific Union
Maureen Kennedy, Pacific Union
Sandi Klemmer, Pacific Union
Tom Nemeth, Pacific Union
Jane Strauch, Pacific Union

**This Directory
is used by over
1,800 families
every day,
all year long.**

BECOME A PARTNER IN 2012-2013!

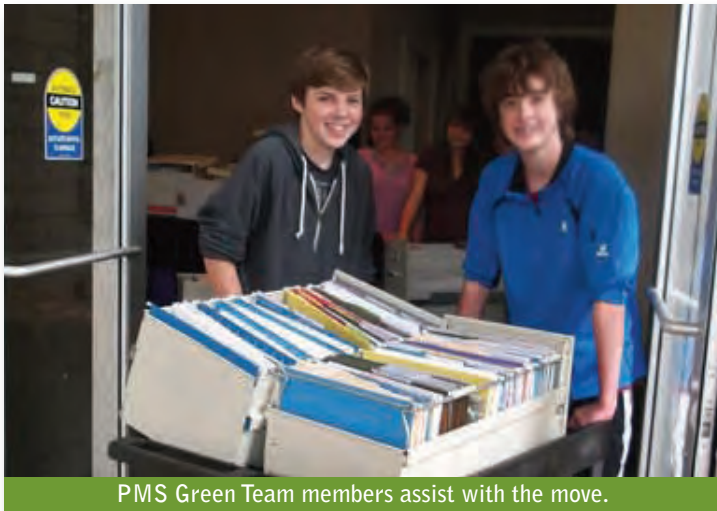
\$5,000 Inside Front or Back Cover ♦ \$3,000 Full Page ♦ \$2,000 Half Page ♦ \$1,250 Quarter Page

PATRON

C. LEE EMERSON JR. • May 27, 1917 – November 15, 2011

Piedmont resident and one of the founders of the Piedmont Educational Foundation, C. Lee Emerson, Jr. passed away November 15, 2011, at age 94.

Ann Trutner remembers Lee this way: "I have always admired Lee's very capable, gentle, but strong leadership style. He was so good at finding solutions for a problem. Not only did he rally his influential Piedmont friends to support the creation of the Piedmont Educational Foundation in the early 1970s, but also the donation and parcel tax campaigns which were to follow after Proposition 13. No one said no to Lee. The Piedmont Schools have benefited from his dedication to education and the Piedmont community."



PMS Green Team members assist with the move.

After 5 years in their Community Hall location, the Joint Fundraising office has moved into the Veteran's Hall. This move gives the staff a more accessible office as they continue supporting PEF's and the District's fundraising activities.

On June 10th, 2012 the Piedmont Educational Foundation will host an advance screening of the Pixar movie, *Brave*, directed by Beach School Dad Mark Andrews. The movie is the first Pixar film to feature a female lead character and its Scottish setting ties in well with Piedmont's Highlander motif. The event will take place at Pixar's Emeryville headquarters and all proceeds will support PEF's Endowment and Foundation Funds.



DID YOU KNOW?

Each of the three elementary school auditorium ceilings has its own theme? For Beach it's Literature, at Havens it's California History, and Wildwood's is U.S. History. Long ago, 5th and 6th graders painted these panels in a paint-by-numbers fashion before they were applied to the ceilings.



Meet Board Members BILL DRUM...



We moved to Piedmont because it was known to be a good place to live, we liked the setting, and it was close to my work at Children's Hospital. Joan and I soon learned that Piedmont was also a wonderful community. We had great neighbors (and still do) and excellent city support services and city sponsored activities. As our children entered the schools we learned how really lucky we were to have come to Piedmont. Our two daughters both had extraordinary experiences completing K-12 in the PUSD and going on to good colleges and successful careers. They both married local men and we are now the proud grandparents of four grandchildren.

For years my main volunteer effort has been working on the Piedmont Harvest Festival which I co-founded. I have chaired the Harvest Festival Committee for 13 years. I joined the Board of Directors of the Piedmont Educational Foundation because I knew the foundation is an important vehicle of support for the Piedmont public schools. I believe the schools are the most important contributor to the quality of our Piedmont community. I took it as an honor to be able to help with the effort to provide funding and ultimately a consistent stream of funds to support the excellence of the education programs. I felt that I had the experience, knowledge, and skills that could be put to use to make a contribution to the board. I serve as the secretary on the PEF board as well as on the Joint Operations Committee.

...and JIM BAACK

When my wife and I moved to Piedmont over 10 years ago, our son was about to enter kindergarten and our daughter was in preschool. One of the first invitations extended to us by our new neighbors was to attend Fiestaval, and that friendly, welcoming gesture made us realize how committed parents are to the schools. Like many other young families, we were excited to join a community with a reputation for a strong and long-standing commitment to education. As our son grew older and our daughter followed at Havens, we became more involved in the Parents Club, and learned a lot about how that focus on education required an extraordinary commitment from the community in both time and money.

When I had the opportunity to join the Board of the Piedmont Educational Foundation, I looked at the PEF mission and goals in more depth, and realized I hadn't yet made the connection in my mind between the many efforts I was already participating in and the tremendous backbone of support provided to them by the Educational Foundation. After spending time with other Board members and learning more about the numerous ways that PEF supports education in Piedmont, I understood how important it is to augment, support and assist the Parents Clubs from a broad-based organization which focuses on attaining sustainable funding for the entire district. I am now pleased as a member of the Board to have the opportunity to continue my involvement across this wider spectrum while also focusing on the crucial longer-term stability provided by the Endowment Fund. It is reassuring to know that in Piedmont, even in these challenging times, we will find a way to work together to continue the quality of the program we all know to be so important.





Making Education Work—How W

It's a reality: California's spending on education has been on a steep decline. In the last four years alone, the state has cut revenues to Piedmont by 20%, and this number may be growing in the coming years. According to the District, if proposed state ballot measures in November 2012 are not approved by California voters, mid-year cuts may push current state revenue losses in excess of \$1,300 per pupil.

And let's consider what it actually costs to educate a student in Piedmont. That number is approximately \$11,500 per pupil, but unlike our revenue from the state, it hasn't been changing dramatically over the last few years. Per pupil spending actually has stayed more or less steady in recent years because of the closely aligned interests of parents, teachers and the broader community in developing a budget to sustain a breadth and depth of learning opportunities for all students.

TEACHERS AND ADMINISTRATION—doing their part

One of the main reasons that we have been able to keep our per pupil costs very stable over the last few years is because of the teachers. They are the focus of our cover this year because not only did the Piedmont Educational Foundation, PEF, want to recognize their contributions to our children's and grandchildren's education, but we also wanted to highlight how they help make Piedmont a forward-thinking, cooperative and engaging place to learn.

Our teachers certainly boast impressive credentials: an average of 16 years teaching experience and approximately half who hold Masters or Doctorate degrees. This year alone, a remarkable eleven teachers in the District

are taking the rigorous and time-consuming, not to mention courageous step of applying for National Board certification. This is exciting on a number of levels. Studies have shown that students taught by nationally board certified teachers are more engaged and make higher gains on achievement tests. Furthermore, these board certified teachers stay in the classroom longer, support new and struggling teachers, and assume school-based leadership roles. In short, our children are being inspired to learn from teachers who are experienced and want to become even better at what they do.

Imagine then what it means to take this group of professionals and tell them that for the second year in a row, in order to maintain the academic program we have, we need to freeze salary schedules and ask that they concede five paid work days in the form of temporary furloughs. This is unfortunately what the District has been forced to do in light of shrinking state revenues.

And in an incredible show of cooperation and collaboration with one another and the District, both the teacher's union, APT, and the classified staff's union, CSEA, agreed to "give backs" this school year in the form of assuming higher insurance premium costs, fewer paid work days, and little or no collaboration time. While all of this is going on, teachers have voluntarily piloted a new evaluation system to build and improve upon best practices in teaching in our school district. In fact, to honor their determination and commitment to creating this new evaluation system, the District came to PEF with a grant request to help provide a small stipend for the teachers on the committee. We awarded the \$59,625 grant to the District in recognition of the leadership of the team of teachers serving on the committee.



e Sustain the Academic Program

PARENTS—raising money to restore student instruction and collaboration days back into the school schedule

One way that we've been able to maintain the District's K-12 educational program with shrinking state revenues is by cutting paid student instruction days and teacher collaboration and training days from the school year through a temporary furlough program. Paradoxically, collaboration and training are what help make our teachers, and in turn, our program, so exceptional.

Recognizing this, parents clubs from all six schools apportioned monies to the District specifically to "buy back" two furlough days this school year. PEF did the same in the form of a grant. Because of this, students will attend school, instead of missing a day of learning; and instead of missing out on the kind of collaboration and specialized training teachers so value, they will have the time to share best practices and think strategically for a day—an increasing luxury in these fiscally constrained times.

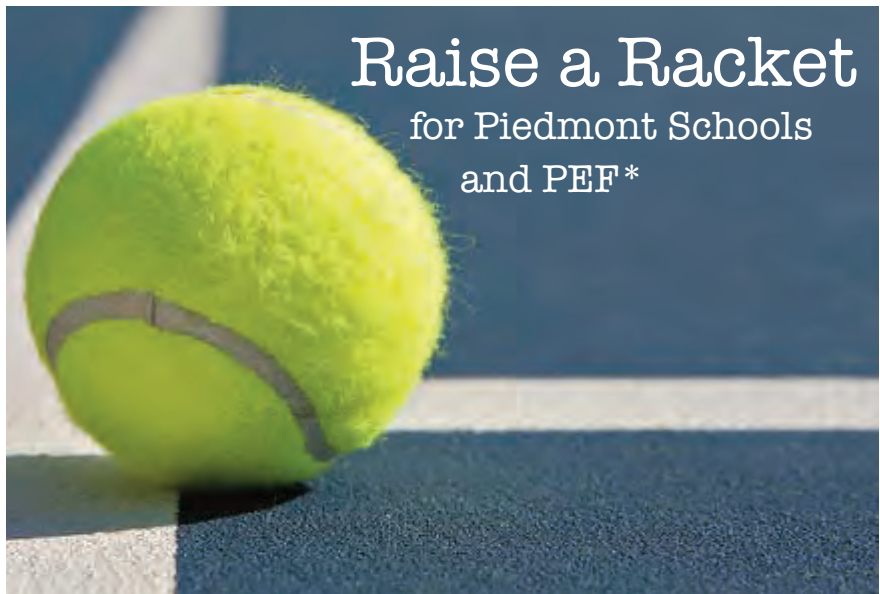
But perhaps one of the most important aspects to these buy back days that the parents clubs provide is how it demonstrates an abiding faith in our teachers, and how much they are valued. When furlough days were implemented in Piedmont, they were levied against both student instruction days and teacher training days. So, our kids and grandchildren would attend fewer school days, and our teachers would have less time to hone and perfect their skills. These parent-group led buybacks do more than provide additional paid working days for teachers; they provide the morale-enhancing opportunity to step back from the lesson plans and think more creatively about our children's education. "Professional Development has energized teachers in a way that has

helped them get through this," says Superintendent Constance Hubbard.

COMMUNITY—lending tax support and investing in long term health of our school district

Piedmont is not just comprised of families with children in school. On the contrary, 60% of households in town have no children in Piedmont's public schools. In spite of this, this group constitutes another important aspect of how Piedmont makes education work. Naturally, these community members contribute to our District through their property taxes, which make up a considerable contribution. But they also have been supporting our K-12 program beyond that. As stalwart supporters of the schools, this group has been supporting both the Endowment Fund, established in 1989 to provide long-term financial support to the District, and the Foundation Fund, which supports annual District-wide priorities. In fact, 33% of the donors to the Endowment Fund are community members without a student at home. These gifts represent the ultimate pledge of support to the District in making education work. Future generations of Piedmont-educated children will reap the benefit of these gifts for many years to come.

So it boils down to this: Teachers are making our academic program strong in spite of continued state budget cutbacks by sacrificing their compensation while simultaneously creating a new evaluation system to improve their skills. Parents are supporting teachers by "buying" back collaboration and school days for the school district. And the broader community is providing support for our schools through school parcel taxes and through their ongoing generosity to the PEF Endowment and Foundation Funds. Thank you all for making education work in Piedmont!



Raise a Racket

for Piedmont Schools
and PEF*

Join us for a great day of community tennis to support Piedmont Schools through the Piedmont Educational Foundation (PEF) Endowment Fund. Cost is \$100 per player for a fun-filled day of tennis, drinks and snacks with Piedmont friends and neighbors.

What: Men's & Women's Round Robin Tennis Tournament

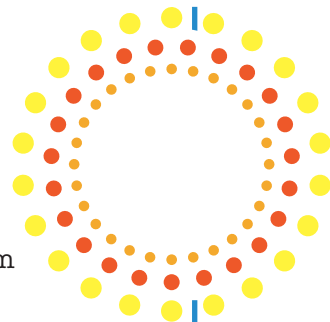
When: Women's: Friday, June 1st, 9am-12pm or 12-3pm
Men's: Saturday, June 2nd, 9am-12pm, 12-3pm,
or 3-6pm

Where: Vista Avenue tennis courts

Why: To support the PEF Endowment Fund

Cost: \$100

RSVP: Doug Ireland; doug.ireland@barclays.com
or 415-263-4777 or Ellen Wilson; epwilson@gmail.com or 510-912-0785



**Bring your "A" games for an action-packed day
of tennis in support of our Piedmont schools!**

We'll have drinks and snacks all day and a taco truck for late afternoon goodies.

Hope to see you on the courts June 1st & 2nd!

**The Piedmont Education Foundation has raised \$4.6 million for a permanent Endowment Fund and has distributed over \$800,000 in district-wide grants to supplement the curriculum in our schools.*



I attended Piedmont schools from kindergarten through 12th grade, and at nearly every step there was a similarly fantastic mind challenging us to love learning. I feel I owe a debt of gratitude to Piedmont's schools—and the members of the community who support

them—for helping me to become an enthusiastic lifelong learner. The learning community in Piedmont infects students with an enthusiasm for learning, and I hope this wonderful gift spreads for generations to come!

—Claire Menke, PHS Class of 2006 and PEF donor.

Piedmont Unified School District

760 Magnolia Avenue • Piedmont, CA 94611 • 510.594.2600

A Message from the Superintendent of Schools

Dear Community:

I want to thank the Piedmont Educational Foundation for giving me the opportunity, in this issue of the Patron, to provide an official update to you on the state of our school system.

Our Schools & Our Students

Piedmont Unified School District continues to be a school system that demands high standards of excellence in academic achievement and opportunities for all students, kindergarten through 12th grade. As you read the articles and enjoy the photographs in this issue, I hope you realize how much community support touches the lives of all students every day and over time, as they mature and grow into young adults.

The District Goals and Commitments for this year address the six major themes from the “Shaping Our Future” long-term visioning work: Academic Excellence, Program Adaptability, Individual Potential, Global Citizenry, Resilience, and Community Building. As stated in the Board of Education’s Policy on Philosophy, Goals, and Objectives: “We are committed to providing a safe, nurturing learning environment where every member of the Piedmont schools feels respected. We strive to increase everyone’s sense of inclusion in our community.”

We have an extraordinary partnership in our school district that includes students, education professionals, support staff, families and the community. This partnership has made it possible to create and deliver an excellent academic program, with an emphasis on continuous improvement in educational programming. As a partnership, we work to provide a safe learning environment that promotes the practice of respect and inclusiveness, encourages personal responsibility and healthy life choices for all students, and helps prepare students for the next chapter in their lives. This partnership also has made it possible to maintain the academic program despite severe and unprecedented reductions in state education funding.

Visit our website, www.piedmont.k12.ca.us, to view the electronic magazine, *The Magnolia*, and to get a glimpse of our extraordinary students in action.

A Safe Learning Environment for Everyone

Our community recognizes the importance of providing an excellent education to students in safe school facilities. I am pleased to report that we are on schedule and on budget to complete by August 2012 the Seismic Safety Bond Program approved by Piedmont voters in 2006. The leveraging of State funds (an additional \$15M plus) with the local bond authorization has enabled Piedmont to accomplish the following:

- ❖ Rebuild Havens Elementary School;
- ❖ Strengthen the PHS Library and Student Center;
- ❖ Install an integrated fire alarm system at PMS;
- ❖ Strengthen and modernize Wildwood and Beach Elementary Schools; and
- ❖ Strengthen the PUSD maintenance building that houses our first responders.

Beach



Havens



Wildwood

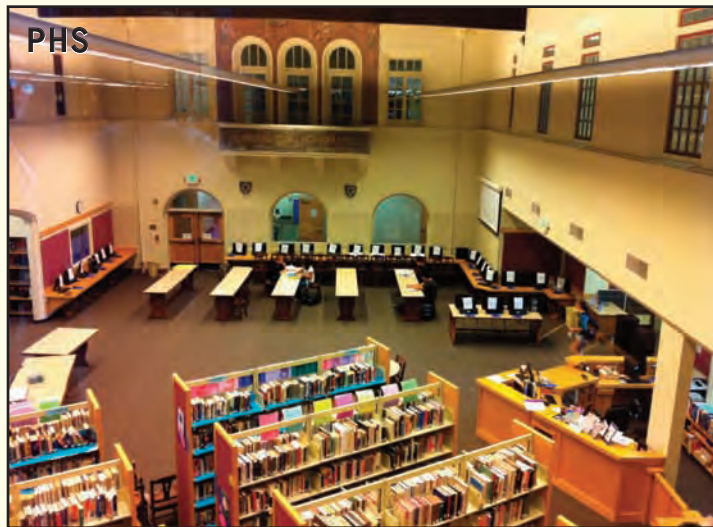


The retrofitting, rebuilding, and associated accessibility improvements made on our school campuses also has increased the likelihood of their usability after the earthquake. While protecting lives is our primary concern, being able to resume education as soon as possible in the aftermath of a major earthquake also is important. I would like to invite any of you who are interested, to visit our schools and to see the incredible safety and infrastructure improvements that have been made with your tax dollars. As you will see, the designs for each of the facilities maintain the character of the original late 1930s architecture for the older buildings. And community volunteer designer, Mark Becker, made sure that the new Havens School reflected the same architectural details from that era. As reported in recent news articles, our first priority has been to address the structural issues on every campus and after the completion of Beach in August 2012, other issues such as roofs and heating systems will be addressed as funds permit.



Budget Update

I wish I had better news to report on the budget. We, like all schools in California, continue to be woefully underfunded. State funding for schools has dropped 20% in the last four years, which leaves us ranked 43rd in the nation in funding for public education. One of the proposals for funding schools next year will land us in the 48th spot! Unlike other school districts in California, however, our working partnership of employees, parents, community and students has resulted in our keeping the school system robust in spite of inadequate funding. Community support of the school parcel taxes is a major reason why students experience a well rounded education that is academically rigorous and provides the necessary support to students when they need help. We will be asking the community to continue its 27 year history of advancing excellence in our schools by renewing the school parcel tax in the spring of 2013. Community support is vital and integral to the success students experience while attending the Piedmont schools.



Our Students & Our Future

The success of students upon graduating from Piedmont Unified is a key indicator of our success as a school system. Are students prepared academically and emotionally to take on the next phase of their lives? We measure effectiveness by taking a look at the colleges and universities our students attend after graduation. We check to make sure they were well prepared to assume the rigors of the academic challenges they will face. We conduct surveys to learn how we did and what we can do better. The premise that we can and must continue to try to do better, is imbedded in our culture of "continuous improvement" and we hope is thoughtfully practiced by our students in school. Students re-

port that for the most part they feel well prepared for the academic challenges they face after graduation. It is important to note that students, whether in a college setting or not, report feeling able to solve problems, work cooperatively with others, and enjoy creative endeavors that involve art and music. That students return to visit teachers, attend plays, musicals, and sporting events, and stay connected with the schools and their friends through social media networks, is proof that we are doing well when it comes to inspiring students to become well educated, caring, and resilient citizens of the future.

On behalf of the students, staff, and families of the Piedmont Schools, thank you for the significant role you continue to play in helping to shape our future. Please contact me at any time if you have questions or want to learn more about the great things happening in our schools. I am happy to speak to individuals and/or groups on any issues related to our schools.

Sincerely,

Constance Hubbard

Superintendent of Schools

Ph: 510-594-2614; e-mail: chubbard@piedmont.k12.ca.us

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

FOURTH OF JULY PARADE



Once again, PEF represented itself in the Fourth of July parade to thank the entire community for supporting our schools.

FALL FEST 5K



In partnership with the PUSD Wellness Center, PEF sponsored the first Fall Fest 5K on September 24, 2011. Nearly 300 people completed the course, helping to raise awareness, and valuable funds, for the Wellness Center.

WILDWOOD OPEN HOUSE



On August 28th, 2011, PEF hosted a public open house for the newly renovated Wildwood Elementary School. Hundreds passed through the halls—reminiscing about their school days there—and admiring the new improvements such as the student-created mosaic (below).



“EMPTY NESTER” PARTY



PEF held its first “Empty Nester” party last November to bring together parents whose children have graduated from the Piedmont school system. Held at the Piedmont Center for the Arts, it also helped raise money for the PEF Endowment Fund.

New Website Provides Gateway to District and Townwide News and Information



In January of this year, the vision of creating one website for all things Piedmont School-related became a reality. The Piedmont Portal aims to be “a dynamic, online gateway for K-12 parents and community members that brings together information about the school district, community, and a multitude of support organizations for our children under one roof.” It is a joint venture of the Piedmont Educational Foundation (PEF) and the Associated Parent Clubs of Piedmont (APCP).

The idea for the portal emerged from PEF discussions and plans to overhaul its own website in 2011. A small group of APCP and PEF members saw an opportunity to address the wider issue of parent fundraising and communication through an online portal.

The total cost to develop and implement the portal was budgeted to be \$10,000, with PEF contributing \$5,000, and the parent clubs putting up the rest of the cost.

Developed by a team that included former PEF Board member and current School Board member Andrea Swenson, APCP and PHS president Mary Ireland, PMS parent club representative Holly Hanke and School Board member June Monach, the developers say its goals are to:

- Raise awareness of important district funding issues, especially parcel tax information and how state funding works
- Highlight events and activities related to fundraising efforts in town via a shared calendar



- Educate parents and community members about our collective purpose (see graphic on the back cover that illustrates this)
- Share news items related to schools that are of interest to all
- Streamline fundraising across all groups by making online donations easy
- Feature photos of students and community members supporting our collective purpose
- Eventually host a secure, online version of the Student Directory

Take it for a test drive at piedmontportal.org!

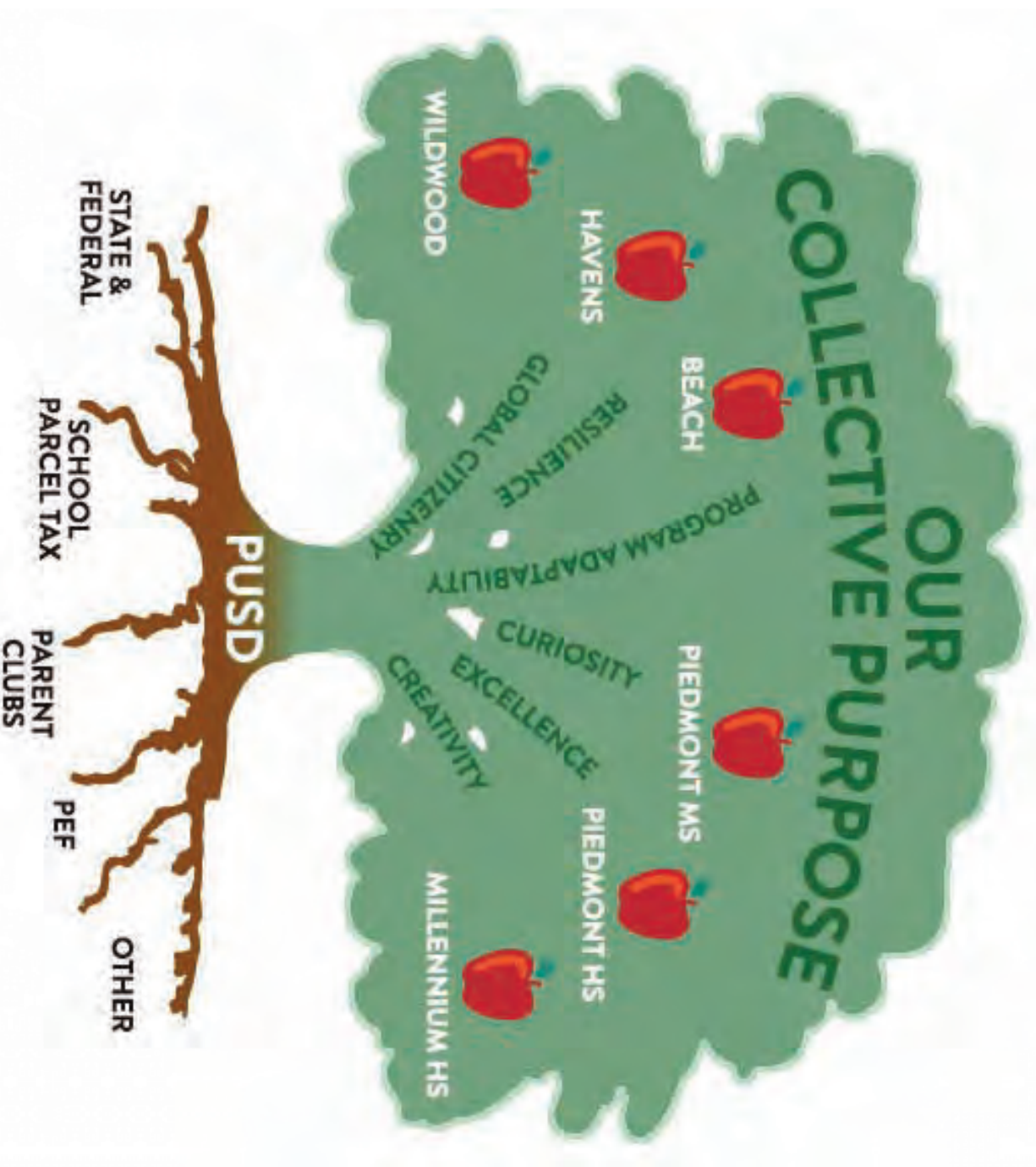
FEATURES INCLUDE:

- A detailed calendar of events
- Information on the Piedmont Unified School District and school fundraising
- Links to individual school websites
- Enrichment and youth sports programs information
- News stories about education
- Other resources



Clockwise from top left: Portal team members Holly Hanke, June Monach, Andrea Swenson, and Mary Ireland

At the foundation of our excellent K-12 school system is a support network.



The State and Federal root is shrinking, making the other sources of program health, including PEF, more important. We all—teachers, residents, parents, school support staff, administrators and school support and parent groups—help nurture this system that produces six highly effective schools and countless students prepared for further academic success.