

# The Hillparent Bulletin

VOLUME III ISSUE 06

OCTOBER 2011

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **FOPHS Meeting,**  
November 2, 6:30  
pm
- **Grad Night Meeting,**  
October 11, 6:30 pm

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## Message from the Principal

Greetings Hillmen,

Well, the school year is in full swing, and like always, the Placer campus is full of activity. By now you have heard that for the first time ever, Placer High School eclipsed the 800 benchmark for the API, with a score of 804. This a tremendous accomplishment made only possible by the work and dedication of our students and staff. Our goal for this year is to continue with the hard work from last year and add another 5%. I know that by working together, Placer High School can meet that challenge

We are nearly at the halfway mark of the first term and students have received their first progress report of the year. Please contact your child's teacher and/or counselor if you have any questions for concerns. Teachers and staff are continuing their work with PLC's, with every Monday this year designated again as a PLC day. Students are excused at 1:35 pm. This year teachers will be asking themselves three questions: What do we want students to learn, how will they learn it, and what do we do if they have not

learned it. To answer these questions, they will look over many aspects of data collected through CST/STAR test scores and grades from formative assessments given in class. Teachers will also be looking at possible ways to incorporate an intervention schedule for the next school year, to see if such a schedule is viable. This would include some time during the school day for teachers to work with students who "have not learned it," and get the help they need to be successful.

In Athletics, Placer Fall sports teams are enjoying successful seasons. The girls golf team, currently undefeated, is looking to repeat as League champs and hopefully Section champs. The cross country team is heading in to league play with an outstanding showing at the Stanford Invitational, with the team finishing in first place among teams from the Sac-Joaquin Section teams at the competition. The girls volleyball team begins league play again ranked in the top 20, with their big contest against Colfax at home on October 5. The

boys soccer team, also undefeated, opened up league play with a big win against Center High School.. And the football team is on a roll, averaging nearly 60 points a game in search of a section crown.

Lastly, I would like to give a big thank you to Debbie Holden, along with tennis coach Tom Issac and his wife Jennifer, and the work they put into getting the funds from the County Board of Supervisors to resurface the tennis courts. And another big thank you to the Hillmen Foundation and their generous donation which paid for the spectacular new scoreboard in Lefebvre Stadium.

Sincerely,

Peter Efstathiou,  
Placer High Principal  
Go Hillmen!

## Message from the FOPHS Board..

Greetings, Placer Parents -

We had a great start for our membership drive this year. We have over 50 new members and raised over \$ 3,000. Thank you to everyone that has already signed up. If you have not signed up yet, it is not too late. You can logon to our website [www.fophs.org](http://www.fophs.org) to find out more information. We need the support and encouragement of your membership to help us continue our efforts.

Fundraising by a school's parent organization is a critical component of every school budget. Friends of Placer High School (FOPHS) raises monies from the membership drive, SCRIP programs and Casino Night. These fundraisers help to support the teacher/staff wish lists, parent monthly newsletter, grad night, sports and other school programs. Already the FOPHS board members are busy working on ideas to make our largest fundraiser, Casino Night, the most successful event this school year. Casino Night will be hosted again at the Power Club in April 2012. Last school year, this event raised over \$10,000 for sports. So keep your calendar open in April and look for more details to follow. If you are interested in finding out more, please do not hesitate to come to our next meeting hosted on October 5th at 6:30 in the staff lounge.

With so many programs that are in need, we encourage you to come to our meetings to work together as parents to come up with ideas to help support the school. Have a great October!

Sincerely,  
Kim Lightfoot  
Friends of Placer High School  
(916) 952-1019

*LIKE US ON FACEBOOK- FOPHS*



## Boys Soccer Italian Night Fundraiser

When: Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2011, 6pm - 9 pm

What you get: Pasta, Salad, Bread and Dessert

Fun times: Raffles

Cost: \$20 per adults/ \$10 per child

Wine & Beer available at additional cost

Where: The historic Masonic Hall

956  $\frac{1}{2}$  Lincoln Way, Auburn

Contact Sylvia Fontes for ticket information at 530-906-6560

## From the District..

### Placer County Libraries in our Backyard

If you or your child needs access to technology, research sources, or reading material beyond the scope and hours of our wonderful high school libraries, don't forget about our Placer County libraries in Colfax, Loomis, Foresthill and Auburn--public service partners that extend a quality resource to our community. Their hours are listed at this website: <http://www.placer.ca.gov/Departments/Library/LocationsandHours.aspx>

And coming soon to our own libraries will be the ability to access our collection online. More details to come!

### Native Families

If you haven't already, please take a few minutes to fill out our Indian Education form and return it to the school office as soon as you are able. It's available by following the links at [www.puhsd.us](http://www.puhsd.us) -> *Superintendent, School Board & District Staff -> Unique Programs/Indian Education*. Your small effort helps fund the tutoring and cultural activities that support our Native students' achievement district-wide. If you need information

about tutoring, don't hesitate to contact your son or daughter's counselor who can connect with our tutors. As always, student participation in Indian Education activities is optional, but your simple effort at filling out an enrollment form is really a vote of support for all the Native students in our schools. And for those who've filled this form out year in and year out, we thank you for helping us update our list of Native family names! If you have questions, call Charis Grey at 530.886.4406.

### Atomic Learning

*Learn From Home Using AL's Short Videos*

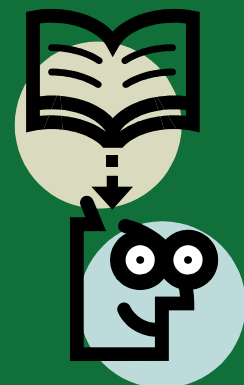
Where are you "gonna click" when that computer stumps you? Just click over to AL - [www.atomiclearning.com](http://www.atomiclearning.com). Our school board has generously supported our district subscription to Atomic Learning, a library of over a thousand short 2-minute videos explaining all things related to your computer and software. Students and faculty have access at school, but so do you as a parent from home. Log on at [www.atomiclearning.com](http://www.atomiclearning.com). Your username is "parent@puhsd" and the password is "atomic."

Call Gregg Ramseth at 530.886.4447 with any questions regarding this rich learning resource for PUHSD families.

### Student Google Apps Accounts

*Providing student tools for communication, collaboration and creativity*

We are thrilled by the increased use of Google Apps for Students, providing web access to Mail, Calendar, Docs and (web) Sites. While looking similar to Google's Gmail service, this suite of online apps is different--more secure and ad-free--with their account names ending in @puhsd.us. Please encourage your child to use this collaboration suite for their organization and project creation. It also provides convenient online storage for any type of computer file, including Microsoft Office files, PhotoShop graphics, and even videos. For more information, visit [www.puhsd.us](http://www.puhsd.us) -> *Log-in -> Student Apps*. Call Gregg Ramseth at 530.886.4447 or email [gramseth@puhsd.k12.ca.us](mailto:gramseth@puhsd.k12.ca.us) with any questions about this student initiative.



## English Department News...

Dear PHS Parents:

The Senior Project teachers would like to invite you to be a part of Placer High School's Senior Boards. If you would like to be an evaluator of student portfolios and speeches, please click on our invitation below. Senior Boards are on Tuesday, December 20th and Wednesday, June 6th. The boards will last from 1pm to approximately 3:30 pm.

Each year hundreds of community members participate in this senior rite of passage, and we welcome new and returning evaluators. Your participation in Senior Project is much appreciated by the students, and they value your commitment to them and to the school.

Please press ctrl + click on the address below to complete a brief form that will register you as a judge for this year's Senior Boards. Feel free to contact me if you should have any further questions.

[Press control key and click here to sign up for Placer's 2011-2012 Senior Boards](#)

Sincerely,  
Brittany Haydon



## Important Deadlines For the Components of Senior Project

<b>October 5:</b>	<b>Preliminary Draft Due (Peer Editing)</b>
<b>October 12:</b>	<b>Teacher Draft Due</b>
<b>October 24:</b>	<b>Teacher Draft Returned</b>
<b>October 26:</b>	<b>Mentor Update</b>
<b>October 31:</b>	<b>Final Paper Due</b>
<b>November 3:</b>	<b>Final Paper Returned</b>
<b>November 16:</b>	<b>Project Progress Report Due</b>
<b>December 5:</b>	<b>Project Completion Date</b>
<b>December 8:</b>	<b>Project Paperwork Due</b>
<b>December 13:</b>	<b>Portfolio Due</b>
<b>December 20:</b>	<b>Senior Boards - 1 pm</b>

Note: These dates apply to the fall term senior class of 2012. There are no extensions on deadlines! However, due dates may be moved forward at the discretion of the Senior Project teacher.

## Counseling News...

**Parent Portal:** We strongly encourage you to use the Parent Portal to access your student's grades, assignments and attendance. If you have any questions on how to access this valuable tool, please contact the counseling secretary Lisa Smith at 885-4591 ext 5705.

**Senior Transcript Review:** During September, counselors met with all the seniors to go over their graduation status. In addition to your student receiving a transcript, these meetings included a transcript review, credit verification, establishing a plan for class or credit deficiencies, career exploration and college issues such as applications, scholarships and financial aid.

**Four-Year Planning:** During October, the counselors will meet with sophomores and freshmen to go over graduation requirements, college requirements generally plan for their four years of high school. In addition, career research activities will be included in these meetings.

**California High School Exit Examination:** Counselors will provide 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders who have

not passed the CAHSEE with study guides for the individual English and/or math tests. All seniors and juniors who have not yet passed this exam will be tested in November.

(English Language Arts on Nov. 1 and Mathematics on Nov. 2)

**Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/**

**NMSQT):** This assessment is a "practice" SAT test as well as the qualification exam for the National Merit Scholarship competition. It is primarily designed for juniors. Sophomores may also take the PSAT, but they are not qualified for the NMSQ program until their junior year. The test will be given at Placer High School on Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup> from 7:30 - 11:00 am in the library. Registration at the counseling office counter. The fee for the test is \$18.

**PLAN Test (practice ACT and career interest as-**

**essment).** This assessment is a "practice ACT college assessment" test for sophomores. In addition, students are given a comprehensive career assessment to match their personality and academic

abilities with possible career areas. The Plan Test will be administered on Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 am - 11:00 am in the library. Registration at the counseling office counter. The fee for the test is \$15.

**Please note:** The PSAT and PLAN will be given at the same time and place. Students can only take one of the tests. It is suggested that sophomores take the PLAN and juniors take the PSAT.

**College Application Dead-**

**lines:** Seniors applying to either CSU or UC campuses must submit their completed applications online by November 30<sup>th</sup>! Online applications are available beginning October 1<sup>st</sup> for both the CSU and UC systems. CSU applications can be submitted online October 1<sup>st</sup> to November 30<sup>th</sup>.

([csumentor.edu](http://csumentor.edu)) Even though the UC application window opens on October 1<sup>st</sup> completed applications can only be submitted November 1<sup>st</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup>.

([universityofcalifornia.edu/admissions/how-to-apply/](http://universityofcalifornia.edu/admissions/how-to-apply/)) Seniors applying to private universities and colleges should verify the specific registration deadlines by contacting the individual



## Counseling News cont...

college or university. See counselors for help with filling out applications. Find out how to do it before you press the "submit" button. Students who plan on attending Sierra College should apply beginning in January, 2012. Seniors should keep their transcript they received during their grad status meeting so they can accurately report their classes and grades on their college application.

### College Information

**Nights: Open to all grade levels!** Placer High will host a district wide college information night on Thursday, October 6<sup>th</sup> in the auditorium. Registration begins at 5:45 pm and sessions begin promptly at 6:15 pm. Breakout sessions will include representatives from the California State University system, the University of California system, Sierra College, University of Nevada Reno, University of the Pacific and William Jessup University. On Thursday, October 13<sup>th</sup> Rocklin High will host its annual college night. Representatives from over 100 colleges and universities will be there to hand out information and answer questions. The event begins at 6:30 pm in the Rocklin High gym.

### Sierra College Student & Parent Information Meetings:

Learn more about the many academic and career opportunities offered through Sierra College. Meetings are held on the Rocklin campus at 6:00 p.m. in the Learning Center, room 212. Meeting dates are October 19<sup>th</sup>, November 16<sup>th</sup>, and December 7<sup>th</sup>. Contact Sierra College Outreach office at [outreach@sierracollege.edu](mailto:outreach@sierracollege.edu) to make reservations. Please include your name, number of people and the date of meeting in your e-mail reservation.

**Work Permits:** All work permits expired on September 1, 2011. If you need to renew your work permit, please see Mrs. Smith in the Counseling office.

### College Representatives on Campus:

Portland State  
Friday, October 7  
St. Marys  
Thursday, October 13  
Point Loma  
Friday, October 14

Note: Sign-ups for presentations with Ms. Smith in the counseling office.

**Scholarships-** our counseling office has 2 full scholarships to send sophomore and junior students to a

Thunderhill Raceway. This program is supported by the Stephanie Bellotti Teen Fund and administered by the Placer Community Foundation. During the all day clinic, teens will learn basic and some advanced car control techniques to help them become safer drivers. The scholarships cover the entire cost of the program and are available to both boys and girls in the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grades who have their learner's permit or license. Students who have attended this program have fun while learning techniques that can be life saving. Applications are available from Mrs. Koons in the counseling office and should be completed right away. I'll be happy to email you the application form if you contact me at:

[ckoons@puhsd.k12.ca.us](mailto:ckoons@puhsd.k12.ca.us)

For more information, check out the Thunderhill Raceway Driving Clinic website at <http://nasaproring.com/event1235>

**Note: Please visit the Counseling page on the Placer High School website for updates and information on a variety of topics.**

Steve Prather, Counselor "A-G"  
Carol Koons, Counselor "H-M"  
Neil Polaske, Counselor "N-Z"

## 2011-12 SAT Test Dates

Test Date	Tests Offered	Regular Registration Closes	Late Registration Closes
November 5, 2011	SAT and Subject Tests	October 7, 2011	October 11, 2011
December 3, 2011	SAT and Subject Tests	November 8, 2011	November 20, 2011
January 28, 2012	SAT and Subject Tests	December 30, 2011	January 13, 2012
March 10, 2012	SAT Only	February 10, 2012	February 24, 2012
May 5, 2012	SAT and Subject Tests	April 6, 2012	April 20, 2012
June 2, 2012	SAT and Subject Tests	May 8, 2012	May 22, 2012

## 2011-12 ACT Test Dates

Test Date	Registration Deadline	<i>(Late Fee Required)</i>
October 22, 2011	September 16, 2011	September 17 – 30, 2011
December 10, 2011	November 4, 2011	November 5 – 18, 2011
February 11, 2012*	January 13, 2012	January 14 – 20, 2012
April 14, 2012	March 9, 2012	March 10 – 23, 2012
June 9, 2012	May 4, 2012	May 5 – 18, 2012

## Grad Night News...

### The Grad Night Committee Needs You!

**Freshman, Sophomore, and Junior parents...**Do you want Grad Night to be available for your future seniors? In order for there to be a Grad Night for the classes of 2013, 2014 and beyond, we urgently need new committee members! Our committee is heavy with Senior parents, most of which have been on the committee for over 3 years. This is an amazing event put on to keep the graduates' safe and off the street the night of graduation. Please keep this event going!

For more information contact **Chris Sands 305-9280** [chrissands@starstream.net](mailto:chrissands@starstream.net) or attend our next meeting - **Tuesday October 11<sup>th</sup> 6:30pm** at Tango Frozen Yogurt.

**DO NOT LET YOUR FUTURE SENIOR BE DISAPPOINTED!!!! JOIN OUR AMAZING TEAM NOW!!!!**

## More From the District..

### A New Voice on the Answering Machine School Messenger Notification System

Our district has migrated to a new notification system. It's designed to notify parents for reasons that impact the safety and academic performance of students. School Messenger will extend the district's existing community outreach efforts and emergency preparedness procedures, as well as inform parents of upcoming school events such as statewide testing and parent meetings.

The system also supports text messaging, email and multiple phone contacts, depending on the urgency of the notification. To ensure you receive our messages, please do not reject phone calls from (855) 608-5585 or emails from: [swiftwavenetwork.com](http://swiftwavenetwork.com) and [contact-me@schoolmessenger.com](mailto:contact-me@schoolmessenger.com). And to retrieve a previous message, simply call the above 855 phone number and follow the prompts.

Also, let us know what your contact preferences are--priority phone numbers and/or text messaging--by visiting [www.puhsd.us](http://www.puhsd.us) and clicking on the Parent Contact Preferences link. Fill out the online form and click submit. For any questions about this system, don't hesitate to call Gregg Ramseth at 530.886.4447. Thank you.

October 2011					
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat/Sun
PLC - Min. Day GVB @ Center 4/5/6:00  3	S.A.M. Meeting 7:30 Detention 3:05-5:00 Soccer vs Bear River 5:30/7:30  4	Site Council 3:00pm GVB vs Colfax 4/5/6:00  5	College Planning Night 6:30 Lib. Frosh FB @ Bear River 5:30 Leadership Team 3:10pm Soccer vs Lincoln 3:30 Golf vs Center 3:00  6	FB @ Bear River 5:30/7:30 CC @ Stagecoach 3:30 <b>Picture Make-Up Day</b> <b>On Dance Floor</b>  7	1 SAT-Library Homecoming Dance EC Gym 7:30-10:30pm 2 8 9
PLC - Min. Day Faculty Meeting 2:45 GVB @ Bear River 4/5/6:00  10	Detention 3:05-5:00pm Department Meeting 3:00 Soccer @ Colfax 3:30  11	<b>Fall Music Concert</b> Auditorium @ 7:30 GVB vs Lincoln 4/5/6:00 CC @ Colfax 3:30  12	Frosh FB vs Lincoln 5:30 Soccer vs Center 3:30 Golf @ Lincoln 3:00  13	FB vs Lincoln 5:15/7:30 <b>Hall of Fame Game</b> End of Grading Period Hill Friday  14	Hall of Fame Reception GVB-Var. @ Roseville CC @ Folsom 9:00am  15 16
PLC - Min. Day GVB @ Foothill 4/5/6:00 Golf PVL 18 Hole TBA  17	Detention 3:05-5:00pm Grades due by 3:00pm Soccer vs Foothill 3:30  18	GVB vs Center 4/5/6:00 PHS Play 7:00pm  19	Frosh FB vs Colfax 5:30 PHS Play 7:00pm Soccer @ Bear River 5/7:00  20	FB vs Colfax 5:15/7:30 Hill Friday PHS Play 7:00pm  21	PHS Play 2:00 & 7:00pm  22 23
PLC - Min. Day GVB vs Colfax 4/5/6:00 Golf Divisionals TBA  24	Detention 3:05-5:00pm Soccer @ Lincoln 5/7:00  25	GVB vs Bear River 4/5/6 CC @ 12 Bridges 3:30  26	<b>Blood Drive</b> Frosh FB @ Center 5:30 Soccer vs Colfax 5:30/7:00 GVB @ Lincoln 4/5/6:00  27	<b>Blood Drive</b> FB @ Center 5:30/7:30  28	29 30
PLC - Min. Day Golf Masters @ Sparos Pk  31					

**Friends of Placer High School** is a non profit organization whose primary objective is to promote student welfare in the home, school, and community through the cooperative effort of parents, students, teachers and members of the community. We do this by supporting programs that strengthen communication, provide volunteer support, and through financial assistance that enhances, enriches and supplements district approved activities.

Some of our more significant programs include the Teacher Wish List, Monthly Newsletter, Grad Night, Library Volunteers and Staff Appreciation Day. Our meetings are held the first Wednesday of every month. **Everyone is welcome to attend!** Come see what we are all about and support PHS students on **Wednesday, November 2, 6:30pm. In the Teacher Lounge.**

Hope to see you there!

**FOPHS Board**

## Friends of Placer High School

275 Orange St.  
Auburn, CA 95603

[fophsnp@puhsd.k12.ca.us](mailto:fophsnp@puhsd.k12.ca.us)



## FOPHS 2010/2011 Officers

Name	Position
Kim Lightfoot	President
Julie Lardner	Secretary
Emilia Lawson	Treasurer
Denise English	Membership
Sylvia Fisk	Website/Web Newsletter/Mailing
Chris Sands	Grad Night Liaison
Renee Reale	Hospitality
Cathy Norcott	Ways and Means (Scrip)
Tyann Elkins	Library Volunteer Coordinator