

The Hillparent Bulletin

VOLUME 112

ISSUE 1

SEPTEMBER 2012

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- FOPHS Board Meeting Sept 5, 630pm
- Grad Night Meeting Sept 11, 630pm

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Message from the Principal...

Greetings Hillmen,

Welcome back to what has hopefully been a fun and relaxing summer. I wanted to take just a few moments of your time to bring you up to speed with Placer High news and important dates to remember. Currently, Placer is operating a bit over our projected enrollment, which is a good thing, and we have been able to add a few new classes to alleviate large class sizes in some freshmen classes.

Though we still face many challenges because of the economy, the staff at Placer is continually committed to your students and their learning.

The bell schedule remains the same as last year, with first period beginning at 7:55 am and school ending at 2:55 pm. There is a nutrition break between first and second period, with food available for students in the cafeteria and the courtyard area outside the

auditorium. Attendance procedures will remain the same. Please remember to call in the same day your child is out of school, and if you have a planned early dismissal, please send your child to the office with a note prior to the period they will be missing. We will be continuing with PLC Mondays, slated for every Monday of the school year. As mentioned at Back to School Night, Placer will be completing our six year accreditation process with WASC (Western Association of Schools and Colleges). This will involve a few of the PLC Mondays and a 3 day visit from the WASC committee in April.

Teachers and staff will continue to work on the three questions:

What do we want students to learn?

How do we know students are learning?

What do we do when students do/do not learn?

Student scores from last years standardized testing is now available for viewing on the parent portal. If you wish to learn more about your student's score, please use the following web link. <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sr/resources.asp>

Fall sports are in full gear, with Cross Country, Boys Soccer, Girls Volleyball, Girls Golf and Football all looking forward to fantastic seasons. Please note that all these successful programs rely on your contribution to maintain the level of success they have enjoyed these past years. You can refer to the school website for dates and times of athletic events that will be taking place over the next few months.

Sincerely,

Peter Efsthathiu

Message from the FOPHS Board..

I would like to welcome all the new and returning parents to Placer. The Friends of Placer High School has two objectives, first to support communication to the parents via email, web or newsletter and two, raise monies to support the school. Over the years, FOPHS has been able to support such activities as wish lists for teachers and staff not funded by the school, Senior Grad night, staff appreciation, athletic programs and much more. We raise monies thru membership drive, SCRIP programs such as Raleys/Bel Air, Savemart and Safeway, casino night event and general donations from the community.

Our membership drive began on the first day of school. Our goal is to raise over \$5,000, so if you did not receive your form in the mail in August let us know and we can send you another one. If you did receive your form, please send it in as soon as possible. Any donation would be appreciated, it all makes a difference.

We have the following positions open for the school year:

Grad Night Chair - Responsibility for coordinating grad night and creating committee to implement the event. This takes time and great leadership skills to direct and organize all the details for the end of the year event. There are already some committee members in place but lacking a person to take over leadership.

Vice President - Responsibility to support Presidential responsibilities. Coordinate any fundraising events FOPHS plans to host/sponsor. Work with other board members to provide support when needed.

Shadow positions - Secretary and Treasurer. We are looking to have a person for each position shadow the current board member this year to learn and take over in 2013-2014.



If you are interested in helping out or staying connected to what is going on at the school come to our next meeting, September 5th at 6:30pm in the staff lounge upstairs above the school office. Thank you in advance for your support!

Sincerely,
 Kim Lightfoot
 FOPHS President

Like us on Facebook

www.facebook.com/pages/Fophs-Friends-of-Placer-High-School

Rotary Exchange Opportunity

Placer High Students have the opportunity to participate in the Rotary Youth Exchange program for the 2013-14 school year. As a Rotary Youth Exchange student, you will spend ten months to a year living with a host family in another country. You may learn a new language, a new way of living, and a great deal about yourself. While you are busy learning, the people you meet will be learning as well - about your country, your culture and your ideas. You will be helping bring the world close together - and you'll be making some good friends in the process. More information on the program can be found at <http://rye5190.weebly.com/> You may also contact Auburn Rotarian Mike Wilson at [530-885-6252](tel:530-885-6252) for application and other information. Applications should be submitted to Auburn Rotary, c/o Mike Wilson 564 Auburn Ravine Rd. no later than September 28.

Library Volunteers Needed

Placer High is in need of some new volunteers in the Library. The volunteers staff the Library and Computer Lab at lunch. They must get life scan and TB clearance. The lead volunteer this year is Ty Elkins. If you are interested in helping out for even just a few hours here and there, please email Shirley Hall shall@puhsd.k12.ca.us.

Leadership News

The Leadership Class will be selling Placer High School ASB cards at lunch throughout the month of September. The card costs \$20 and gives students discounts on dance tickets, home athletic events and many other events at Placer. Leadership will also be selling Homecoming Class Spirit Shirts for \$10 each. The Class Color shirts can be worn all year long and especially during Homecoming Week to earn points for their class. Order forms are available in the foyer of the Leadership classroom. If you have any questions, please call Mike Sabins at 885-4581 x5762.



Counseling News...

Welcome to Katy Chamberlin! Katy joined our counseling staff in August, replacing Steve Prather who retired in June. Katy has taught English here for 19 years and has also coached track. She'll work with students with last names beginning with A-G and also be our go to person for scholarships and financial aid.

Katy Chamberlin, Counselor "A-G"

Carol Koons, Counselor "H-M"

Neil Polaske, Counselor "N-Z"

Senior Guidance: At the beginning of the year our counselors verify that each senior is in the required classes for graduation and meet with those students who need Adult School for additional credits. Letters have gone out to parents of all seniors letting you know exactly what your son or daughter needs to be able to graduate in June. In September, we'll visit all English 12 and Government/Economics classes to review transcripts with students and talk about how to get ready for their next steps. For most of our students, that's going to college so we'll cover both 4 year and community college applications. Paying for college is another hot topic, so we'll cover the process for applying for scholarships and financial aid as well.

Four Year Planning for 9th-11th Grade: Counselors will soon begin meeting with all 9th, 10th and 11th grade students to create or adjust their personal Four-year Plan. This is designed to assist students in determining what courses to take, what sequence should be followed, what classes are required to be college eligible, and to help plan for goals after graduating from high school. Students will also spend time on the Career Cruising website to take interest inventories and learn how to research occupations and post-secondary schools.

California High School Exit Examination: All seniors and juniors who have not yet passed this exam will be tested in November. (English Language Arts on Nov. 6 and Mathematics on Nov. 7)

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 20th 7:30 - 11:00 am in the library. Registration will begin in late September at the counseling office counter. The fee for the test will be approximately \$17. See the counseling website for specific information in mid-September.

PLAN Test (practice ACT and career interest assessment): 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 20th 7:30 am - 11:00 am in the library. Registration will begin in late September at the counseling office counter. The fee for the test will be approximately \$13. See the counseling website for specific information in mid-September.

(continued on page 5)



Counseling News continued....

College Application Deadlines: Seniors applying to either CSU or UC campuses must submit their completed applications online by November 30th! Online applications are available beginning October 1st for both the CSU and UC systems. CSU applications can be submitted online October 1st to November 30th. (csumentor.edu) Even though the UC application window opens on October 1st completed applications can only be submitted November 1st - 30th. Since the UC applications are very detailed and include an essay we suggest that students start as early as possible. (universityofcalifornia.edu/admissions/how-to-apply/) Seniors applying to private universities and colleges should verify the specific registration deadlines by contacting the individual college or university. Students who plan on attending Sierra College should apply beginning in January, 2013. 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! Del Oro High will host our district wide college information night on Thursday, September 27th at 6:00 pm in the Del Oro auditorium. Students and parents from all the high schools in our district are invited to attend. We expect to have representatives from the California State University system, the University of California system, University of Nevada Reno, UOP, Sierra College and a representative from private independent colleges. On Wednesday, October 10th Rocklin High will host its annual college night. Placer High, Colfax, Del Oro and several other schools help to put on this event. 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 September 12th, September 26th, October 17th, November 7th, November 28th and December 12th. Contact Sierra College Outreach office at outreach@sierracollege.edu to make reservations. Please include your name, number of people and the date of meeting in your e-mail reservation.

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 lismith@puhsd.k12.ca.us In addition to the Parent Portal we urge you to check the Placer High website at www.puhsd.k12.ca.us/placer/ Here you will find the daily bulletins, information about upcoming events, class information, teacher contacts and so much more. The counseling page includes information about colleges, scholarships, financial aid, ROP programs and more.

Work Permits: All work permits expired on September 1, 2012. If you need to renew your work permit, please see Mrs. Smith in the Counseling office.

MORE COUNSELING....

SAT and ACT Tests : Seniors who plan on attending a 4-year college next year must take the SAT or ACT (see your counselor for questions). If your student still needs these tests, there only a few opportunities left. All testing must be completed in November. Make sure to send test scores to all colleges where you apply. See the testing schedule that follows.

2012-2012 SAT Test Dates

Date	Test	Registration Deadline	Late Registration Deadline
October-6	SAT & Subject Tests	September-7	September-21
November-3	SAT & Subject Tests	October-4	October-19
December-1	SAT & Subject Tests	November-1	November-16
January-26	SAT & Subject Tests	December-28	January-11
March-9	SAT only	February-8	February-22
May-4	SAT & Subject Tests	April-5	April-19
June-1	SAT & Subject Tests	May-2	May-17

Register online at www.collegeboard.com

2012-2013 ACT Test Dates

Test Date	Registration Deadline	(Late Fee Required)
September 8, 2012	August 17, 2012	August 18 – 24, 2012
October 27, 2012	September 21, 2012	September 22 – October 5, 2012
December 8, 2012	November 2, 2012	November 3 – 16, 2012
February 9, 2013*	January 11, 2013	January 12 – 18, 2013
April 13, 2013	March 8, 2013	March 9 – 22, 2013
June 8, 2013	May 3, 2013	May 4 – 17, 2013

Register online at www.act.org

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



German Exchange Program

Placer's German Exchange Program Accepting Applications for the 2013 Exchange Group

Placer's German Exchange program is holding a parent/student information meeting for students interested in participating for this school year on Wednesday, September 19 at 7 pm in the Placer library. 20 participants are selected and host a German student from our partner school, Tassilo High School in Simbach am Inn, Germany, for 2 weeks following spring break. Participants then travel to Germany for 3 weeks in June and July and spend 2 of those weeks with their host student and their family. All details will be explained and applications handed out at the 9/19 meeting. We are looking for students who have a willingness to be an excellent ambassador for Placer High School and our country, are engaged learners, and are responsible and trustworthy. Contact Mark Faulkner, this year's lead teacher, with any questions.

This incredible opportunity is a special program that Placer High School and the district have made available since 2000. Kerry McCullough was a member of our outstanding 2012 group. Below are some of her reflections of the exchange experience:

Meeting new people, perusing new places, delving into a different culture, and even piecing together your own personal puzzle is an opportunity offered through the PHS German Exchange Program.

One week after the end of school we were whisked away to San Francisco and flown out to Munich. It was a bit of a shock sitting on the plane and having the flight attendants already speak in German. Mr. Schroeder had us traverse all over Bavaria from the Alps to Nürnberg and from concentration camps to castles. We saw it all! And the 20 of us became a team. And that team built trust. And with that trust came freedom. You can use that freedom when you know 19 other people have your back and that Mr. Schroeder trusts you to not lose anyone in Germany.

When we did meet up with our German exchange partners, it felt like we had never left - except we had and were on the other side of the world. Plenty of crazy fun stuff happened but I actually wrote this in my journal: "I think it's the little things I get to experience here that are sometimes the most pleasant." I'm not saying that going to the Ball, traveling through salt mines, touring magnificent castles, dancing at the disco, walking through the alps, and doing something extravagant isn't spectacular but there's something to be said about sitting outside on a patio with your host family and just talking. Or walking down a cobblestone street with your friends, or singing a song at random all together, or throwing a football around in the evening, or sitting in a café with your partner, or just soaking everything in and taking a moment to realize you are a stranger surrounded by friends in a foreign land.

The German exchange program is a once in a lifetime experience. You are given the opportunity to put yourself into uncomfortable situations and although that sounds dreadful, it is there that you learn who you are and especially how to laugh at yourself, and why not do that in a beautiful foreign country? The exchange program not only opens the door to new friendships, a new culture, and a new world, it opens your own eyes: to what other people experience, to how other people speak, to how other people feel, eat, laugh, learn, live. It teaches tolerance, appreciation, humility, joy. When people ask me "How was Germany?" I really don't even know where to start. I usually say something like "It was really great," or "I had so much fun," but that doesn't really do it justice. Germany was eye opening and I wouldn't trade my experience for anything in the world.

Grad Night News.....

The Grad Night Committee Needs You!

For the last 24 years it has been a tradition at Placer High for parents of the future graduating classes to plan and host an all night event (10pm -5am) for the graduating seniors. The intent is to give them a fun, alcohol and drug free celebration, while keeping them safe the night of graduation June 8th. This is one of the biggest events put on solely by the parents of Placer High School, an average of 250 kids attend each year. To keep this going year after year for future graduating classes, we need help from the underclassman parents. Many of the committee members have been involved since their students were Freshman. We welcome any level of involvement, but particularly need **Freshman, Sophomore, and Junior parents.**

Our first meeting will be **Tuesday September 11 at 6:30pm.** Meetings are held in the loft of the frozen yogurt shop Tango next to Hanami Sushi on the second Tuesday of the month. There is parking next to Big O Tires. We use these meetings to plan grad night, discuss ideas for fundraising, and organize volunteers for various positions. It is not necessary to attend every meeting. If you can't attend meetings but still want to help, we can put you on our email distribution to keep you informed of what is going on. Please watch the monthly FOPHS News letter for additional information or send in your email address and we will send out notices of what we have going on.

Please email fophsnp@puhsd.k12.ca.us if you have any questions.



Attendance Information....

For All Day absences call: 530-745-5707

For Early Dismissal call: 530-745-5704

Please call the same day of your child's is absence.

If you have a planned early dismissal, please send your child to the office with a note prior to the period that he will be leaving from or missing. Or call well in advance and then have your child come to the office to pick-up his early dismissal slip prior to the period that he will be leaving from or missing. A student may receive a cut for not checking out through the office.

September 2012

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat/Sun
					1
					2
Labor Day-No School	S.A.M. Meeting 7:30am Detention 3:05-5:00 Department Mtg 3:00 VB vs Forestlake 4/5/6:00	Site Council Mtg. 3:10 FOPHS Mtg. 6:30pm Soccer @ Cordova 4:00JV	Frosh FB @ Del Oro 5:30 VB @ Woodcreek F-JV 4:00 Varsity 5:00	FB (V)Foothill of Redding @Oakridge Soccer @ Ponderosa 4:00V	
3	4	5	6	7	8
PLC WASC Focus Group (PLC-Min. Day) Faculty Mtg 2:45 Library Soccer @ El Camino 5/7:00	Detention 3:05-5:00 VB @ Roseville 4/5/6:00		Frosh FB vs Casa Robles 5:30 VB vs Whitney 4/5/6:00 Soccer vs Oakmont 4:00V	FB vs Casa Robles 5:15/7:30 Soccer @ Antelope 5/7:00 End of Grading Period Rally-Fall Sports Rally Club Rush @ Lunch Rally-Extended Lunch Sched.	VB Edison Frosh Tourney
10	11	12	13	14	15
PLC-Min. Day VB vs Rocklin 4/5/6:00	Detention 3:05-5:00 Grades due by 3:00pm Soccer @ Lindhurst 4:00 V	<i>German Exchange Program</i> <i>Meeting-Library 6:30pm</i>	Frosh FB vs Yuba City 5:30 VB @ Ponderosa F-JV 4:00 Varsity 5:00 Soccer vs G. Sierra 4:00V	FB vs Yuba City 5:15/7:30 Extended Lunch Sched.	VB Edison JV Tourney VB Var. Davis Tourney
17	18	19	20	21	22
PLC-Min. Day Soccer vs Foothill 3:30V	Detention 3:05-5:00 VB @ Rio Americano 4/5/6	Soccer vs Center 3:30V <i>Rock the Vote-Library</i>	PUHSD District Wide College Information Night at Del Oro 6:00-8:30pm Leadership Team 3:10 Frosh FB @ Woodcreek 5:30 VB vs Foothill 4/5/6:00	FB @ Woodcreek 5:15/7:00	VB JV Del Oro Tourney
24	25	26	27	28	29
					30

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, September 5, 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



FOPHS 2012/2013 Officers

Name	Position
Kim Lightfoot	President
Julie Lardner	Secretary
Emilia Lawson	Treasurer
Patty Tomashefsky	Membership
Sylvia Fisk	Website/Web Newsletter
	Grad Night Liaison
Shelley Wright	Hospitality
Lisa Voss	Ways and Means (Scrip)
Tyann Elkins	Library Volunteer Coordinator
Peter Efstathiou	Principal