

The Hillparent Bulletin

VOLUME III ISSUE 09

FEBRUARY 2012

SPECIAL POINTS
OF INTEREST:

- **Grad Night Meeting**
February 7th, 630pm
- **Casino Night Meeting**
February 8th, 6pm
- **FOPHS Meeting**
March 8, 630pm

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Message from the Principal

Greetings Hillmen,

Welcome to the beginning of the Spring Term. I find it hard to believe that we have finished half a year and are beginning to gear up for the class of 2012 graduation. By now you should have received your child's final grade report for the Fall Term. You can also view your child's transcript on the portal along with class schedule and attendance.

Winter sports is in full swing as girls and boys basketball and wrestling are deep into league play. Wrestling is looking again to be PVL champs with a new crop of young men hitting the mats hard for the Hillmen. Boys and Girls basketball is still looking for a league banner and continue to excite the crowd with fantastic play. The boys team this season is 4-0 in overtime games, with an exciting double overtime win in the Kendall Arnett Tournament. Ski and Snowboard have been doing their best on the man-made stuff, and with a little help from Mother Nature, should be dominating the slopes of "real" snow very soon. Senior Ryan Mason, pitcher for the Hillmen baseball squad, recently signed a baseball scholarship to attend and play at UC Berkeley. Congratulations to Ryan.

On the academic front, thanks to all who attended Back To School Night on January 23rd. As we all know, Placer exceeded 800 on their API score for the first time with a score of 804.

Students and teachers should be very proud of the hard work they have put in to achieve this standard. It is very impressive. We hope to continue with this hard work and see another rise in the academic success of our students. As always, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher or counselor with questions or concerns. Encourage your child to reach out to their teacher as well and become an advocate for themselves. Congratulations also goes out to several members of the Band program. Three of Placer's very own have qualified to participate in the 50th annual Northern California High School Honor Band. Kyla Truman (Tuba), Evelyn Yee (Bassoon), and Janos Csontos (Baritone Saxophone) will be traveling to Chico State February 2-5 to participate in live auditions to see where they will be placed within the band. Following this and two days of intense rehearsal, they will perform on February 5. Along with this, Janos was also accepted into the 2012 All -State Honor Band.

As many of you know, the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) will be administered to all sophomores March 13th and 14th. This test is a huge indicator for our API score and is a graduation requirement. Please encourage your child to visit the District website www.puhsd.k12.ca.us and click on the Parents, Students and Com-

munity link. From there scroll to the **CAHSEE** link to view sample test questions, practice exams, and tutorial videos.

Lastly, for the first time Placer will be offering an SAT prep course on campus. ClubZ Tutoring Services will be offering preparation courses for reading, writing and math beginning February 27. Registration forms will be available in the counseling office beginning February 1. There are 12 sessions and each session runs two hours. The cost of the program is \$385 and includes materials and pre diagnostic test.

Please take a moment to thank your child for a great start to the new term. And after that, please remind them that if they have a textbook from last term that has not been returned, to kindly see Mrs. Shirley Hall in the library to return their book. Also for parents, I received a call from the Head Start program, the building across from Taco Tree. They kindly ask that parents and students not park in their parking lot.

Sincerely,

Peter Efstathiou
Placer High Principal

Go Hillmen!

Message from the FOPHS Board..

Wow- what a great turnout we had at our February FOPHS meeting! THANK YOU to all the new parents who attended. I hope you found it very informative. For those of you who missed it, our next one is Wednesday March 8 at 630pm. Come listen in, ask questions, and learn what's going on at PHS.

We have started the planning for our largest fundraiser "Casino Night on the Hill". This event will be hosted on April 21st at the Power Pub and will be a fun filled evening with casino games, food and drinks, silent auction, raffle, and much more. So mark your calendars and plan to buy a ticket. Look for more details to be posted on the website and emails coming out.

This event is very important to the sports program. Last year, we raised over \$11,000 to support sports in need and to date we have paid for a budget shortage for the Boys Soccer team, a coaching stipend for the Freshman Girls Basketball team and we are expected to cover budget shortages for some of the Winter Sports and Spring Sports.

If you would like to volunteer to help with this event, please come to our next planning meeting on February 8th at 6:00pm at the Power Pub at 195 Harrison Avenue or call me at 916-952-1019.

Any fundraiser we do is important to supporting the many programs at Placer. This year we have paid for teacher wish list items, art needs, wood shop needs, welding needs and sports. As part of planning for next year and which fundraisers have the biggest return, we will host a parent meeting about our fundraising efforts and what we plan to do for the next school year in May. If you are interested in hearing about where the money was spent and how we plan to raise funds for next year, plan to come to the meeting. We would like to hear from you. More details will be posted online and emailed in April.

Don't forget to mark your calendars for "Casino Night on the Hill" on April 21st .

Sincerely,
Kim Lightfoot

[LIKE US ON FACEBOOK- FOPHS](#)



The Grad Night Committee STILL Needs You!

Freshman, Sophomore, and Junior parents - The time is running out to find a new Chair and Co chair for Placer High Grad Night. There is an amazing group of committee members already in place that help organize the various activities required to put on this huge event. We are looking for a person to spearhead the monthly meetings and be the main point of contact for correspondence. You can find pictures of last years event at our Facebook page "Placer High School Grad Night". For more information contact Chris Sands 305-9280 - **please help us keep grad night going for the class of 2013, 2014, 2015 and beyond!**

English Department News...

Freshmen Parents: Does the idea of your student participating in more challenging critical thinking and reading sound rewarding? Would your student benefit from being prepared to tackle AP classes as an upperclassman? Sophomore Accelerated English may be the right choice for your student. Testing to be eligible for Placer's Sophomore Accelerated English class is on February 13th at 1:45pm or February 16th at 6:00pm in the library. Students must take the test to be enrolled in the program. Call Mrs. Haydon at extension x5766 for more details.

Sophomore and Junior Parents: The English Department is offering testing to enroll in their AP Junior and Senior English classes. If you are currently not enrolled in an AP class, but would like to do so, please have your student attend one of our testing dates this February, either the 13th at 1:45 pm or the 16th at 6:00 pm. Students must take the test to be enrolled in the program, and students need only attend one of these dates. There is no need to pre-register. Just show up in the Placer Library with a pen, pencil and paper. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Haydon at extension x5766 for more details.



Important Deadlines For the Components of Senior Project

The Senior Project paper is a 1600 to 2000 word typewritten research paper that is in some way connected to the students' project. This is not to be a process paper wherein the student discusses how he/she went about completing the project. This is not to be an I-Search paper that narrates the trials and triumphs of the research. This is not to be an opinion paper that spells out a position on a particular issue. This is to be a standard research paper that draws on a variety of primary and secondary sources to prove a thesis.

Important Paper Dates

January 25:	Project Proposal
February 1:	Project Commitment Due
February 1:	Letter of Intent Due
February 1:	Parent Commitment and Index Card Due
February 29:	Preliminary Draft Due (Peer Editing)
March 7:	Teacher Draft Due
March 19:	Teacher Draft Returned
March 26:	Final Paper Due
March 29:	Final Paper Returned
April 11:	Mentor Update
May 2:	Project Progress Report Due
May 21:	Project Completion Date
May 24:	Project Paperwork Due
May 30:	Portfolio Due
June 6:	Senior Boards - 1 pm

Note: These dates apply to the entire spring 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...

Class Preview Day - Friday, March 2nd During Class Preview Day, students will be given the opportunity to explore four separate elective classes which they may be interested in taking next year. Elective class teachers will share the course outline, projects required, and teacher expectations. By attending these individual sessions, students are able to make better informed decisions on what classes they want to take for the next school year. Making good choices is even more important to all students, as we no longer are making class schedule changes once the new term begins. Following Class Preview Day, the PHS Student Online Registration process will be open for students to choose their 2012-2013 classes.

Online Class Registration for 2012-2013. Beginning March 3rd, current 9th-11th graders will be able to register for their 2012-13 school year classes online through the Parent Portal. All students must be able to access the Parent Portal in order to select classes. If you have questions about getting on the Parent Portal

call the counseling office. The online registration will be open for 9 days only March 3 - 11. Online registration instructions and course selection worksheets will be distributed to students on February 27th. Course descriptions can be found on the Placer High website in the counseling section under Course Catalog (Posted mid-February). Students will have the opportunity to learn about elective classes during Course Preview Day on March 2nd.

Parents and students are encouraged to visit the Parent Portal home page and click on the Online Registration Tutorial on the right side of the page. These two tutorials demonstrate 1) how to review your student's transcript so they know which classes are still needed for graduation, and 2) how to actually choose specific classes online. Students will also meet with a counselor one-on-one to review their classes during the week of March 12 - 19.

Sierra College Seniors who plan on attending Sierra College next fall should be applying at this time. Go to

the Placer High website, select the Counseling page, then select (from the left side margin) Applying to Sierra College. This will take you through the process step-by-step with live links to Sierra College. We have reserved two assessment dates at Sierra College for Placer High Students. They are Tuesday, February 21 (during Presidents week vacation) at 10:30 am and Monday, March 5 (PLC minimum day) at 2:30 pm. Call 916-660-7430, press 4 and identify yourself as a Placer High student to schedule for one of these dates. If neither date is suitable, students can make appointments for any available dates. Remember that students must have completed the application process before making an assessment appointment.

College Scholarships and Financial Aid The FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) is the Financial Aid Form to apply for federal, state and specific college campus-based financial aid. This includes grants (free money), loans (parent and/or student loans that must be paid back) and work study programs. The form consists



Counseling News cont...

consists primarily of financial information that must be filled out by parents and students. The application is done online at www.fafsa.ed.gov. Since funds are limited at many colleges, early submission of the FAFSA can maximize chances of receiving financial aid. The FAFSA should be completed no later than March 1 but again the earlier the better. The State of California funds the Cal Grant program which can be used at colleges and universities in the state. By filling out the FAFSA your student will automatically be reviewed for Cal Grant eligibility by the California Student Aid Commission. Other scholarship opportunities are ongoing and can be found in the Placer High Scholarship Bulletin which is available on the Placer counseling website.

California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) All public high school students in the state of California must pass the CAHSEE to earn a diploma. All PHS sophomores will take the test for the first time on March 13th (English-Language Arts) and March 14th (Math). It is very important that all sophomore students are well-rested and prepared to take this very important test. We strive to have all of our students pass the CAHSEE on their first attempt. Those who do not pass will have to wait until their junior year to try again.

College-bound Juniors Students who plan on attending a four-year college upon graduation from Placer High School should take the SAT or ACT at this time. See the schedules below. There are several testing dates and the tests can be taken as many times as you want. It is highly recommended that all testing be completed by June and not left for the fall. Also, the upcoming Spring Break is a great time to visit prospective college campuses. Plan ahead! Application period for the CSU system begins October 1st and the UC system on November 1st. Subject tests are no longer required for the UC system. For private and out-of-state colleges, check out their requirements and dates online.

2011-12 SAT Test Dates

Test Date	Tests Offered	Regular Registration Closes	Late Registration Closes
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	(Late Fee Required)
April 14, 2012	March 9, 2012	March 10 – 23, 2012
June 9, 2012	May 4, 2012	May 5 – 18, 2012

Grad Night News...

E-WASTE DRIVE

Placer High School's Sober Grad Night is sponsoring an E-Waste Drive on Saturday February 25th from 9am-1pm in the lower parking lot! It is an excellent way to rid your home of the unused or broken electronic waste that you have laying around to raise money for Sober Grad Night. In case you are not available to drop off on 2/25 during the specific hours, we are offering two other dates (Wednesday February 15th and Friday February 17th) for easy drop and run in front of the cafeteria from 5-7 pm. If other arrangements are necessary, please feel free to call 916-532-2761!

Please help us raise money for our kids! If you can share this with other friends and family, we would really appreciate it!

WE ACCEPT ELECTRONIC DEVICES INCLUDING THE FOLLOWING:

- ✦ Monitors/TVs
 - ✦ Desktop PCs/ notebook PCs (they will shred hard drives for security)
 - ✦ Small equipment: VCRs, stereos, speakers, keyboards, mice, PDAs, digital cameras, zip drives, telephones, video game consoles, etc.
 - ✦ Printers/copiers
 - ✦ Laser and multi-function peripherals: scanners & fax machines
 - ✦ Small kitchen appliances like blenders, mixers, toasters, etc.
- Microwaves, hairdryers

WE DO NOT ACCEPT THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

- ✦ Household Appliances (i.e. refrigerators, washers, dryers, etc.)
- ✦ Furniture

Hazardous household waste, including: Fluorescent light bulbs, household batteries, car batteries, paint, pesticides, used oil, cleaning supplies, tires

Grad Night Thanks Our Sponsors:

The grad night committee has recently mailed out the annual fundraising letter for Grad Night 2012. You can help us by shopping at and thanking the following businesses for their support of the class of 2011. Their donations helped us raise the \$28,000 needed to put grad night on. See our Facebook page for pictures "Placer High School Grad Night".

-----*Top of the Hill Sponsors*-----

Auburn Area Recreation and Park District

The Dwelle Family Foundation

Auburn Rotary Club

The Auburn Journal

-----*Gold Sponsors*-----

Tango Frozen Yogurt

Taco Tree

Kiwanis Club of Auburn

Hillmen Foundation

Local Hero's

Taco Bell – Auburn

Arthur L. Leonard Jr, MD

Moules Foothill Glass

Roper's Jewelers

Auburn Car Tunes

Sierra White Water Rafting

West Coast Fire Protection

Friends of Placer High School

Auburn Host Lions Club

Auburn Elks Lodge

Auburn Racquet & Fitness

-----*Green Sponsors*-----

Recology – Auburn Placer Disposal

Dimple Records

Law Office of Mark A. Berg

Scoops Ice Cream

Felipe's Mexican Food

DG Sports – Hansen Family

Hunami Sushi

Auburn Exchange Club

Animal Medical Center

Dutch Brothers Coffee

Board's N Motion

Sutter Auburn Faith Hospital

VFW Donner Post 904

Auburn Dental Group

Ken & Nancy Nittler

Rivercity Rentals - Auburn

-----*Contributing Sponsors*-----

Soroptomist Int'l of Auburn

Auburn Eye Care

Auburn Ford Lincoln Mercury

4 Logo Gear

Thomas Brenner O.D.

CA State Auto Insurance

Geri's Reflection Salon

Gretchen Davis – Kerry Terese Salon

Blockbuster - Auburn

Pizza Express

Auburn Printers

Auburn Valley Country Club

A & A Stepping Stone

Best Buy - Auburn

Rodney Kihara, DDS

HPM Huber Property Management

24 Seven Fire Protection

Harris Industrial Gasses

In-N-Out Burger

Placer County Contractors Assoc.

Placer County Association of Realtors

Placer County Board of Supervisors

Super 8 Motel

Magnussen's Auburn Toyota

Sierra at Tahoe

Sierra Doctors Medical Group Inc

Electronic Arts

Nor Cal Beverages

Bruce Ulrich, DDS

Union Bank of California

Wells Fargo

Placer County Deputy Sheriff's Assoc.

Auburn Medical Group

Tribal Weaver

Old Town Pizza

Placer High Maintenance Crew

County of Placer Office of Auditor

Fast Friday's Speedway Racing

Sugar Bowl Ski Resort

Alpine Meadows Ski Resort

Paula's Bakery

East Wind Yoga

News from the District...

You Asked For It. You Got It. Your Preference!

To receive timely school messages the way you prefer---phone, text message, and/or email---take a minute to fill out our survey: School Messenger Contact Preferences for Parents. The survey is found at www.puhsd.us on the Parents, Students & Community page. You'll have the option to enter your SMS texting number as well as an additional phone number for our occasional announcements.

Also, there's a space to enter your email address. (FYI: In cases of emergency, know that all phone numbers, text message numbers, and email addresses associated with your student are contacted within minutes.) If you are not receiving this information correctly or have questions about our notification system, please email Gregg at: gramseth@puhsd.k12.ca.us or contact your school office.

Thank you.

E-Scrip...

Placer Parents!

Did you know that Friends of Placer High School participates in escrip? This is the same program you saw when your kids were in elementary school and it is just as easy! You can register your Safeway Club Card and also your Credit cards if you shop any of the other merchants on the escrip site on a regular basis.

Just go to www.escrip.com and follow the directions. You can register with up to 3 organizations like other schools and some churches.

If you already an escrip member and have a registered Safeway Club Card, **you must re-register every year.** If you do not do this, your designated schools are not getting contributions.

This is an easy way to make money and it costs you nothing but a few minutes of your time.

If you have any questions you can email Lisa Voss at voss.lisa@ymail.com

Thanks!

Music Boosters...

Placer HS Music Boosters Crab Feed and Silent Auction

Saturday March 10, 2011

Placer Building, Gold Country Fairgrounds, Auburn

Doors open at 6, Dinner served at 7 PM

Come and join the fun at one of the BEST crab feeds around!

Placer's great Jazz Band and other entertainment, our all-you-can-eat Crab Feast, and a Silent Auction. All proceeds benefit Placer HS Music students.

Earlene's famous clam chowder, salad, shrimp cocktail, bread, pasta, all-you-can-eat crab, bottled water, and coffee are on the menu. Sodas, mixed drinks, and various wines are available for an extra charge. You are sure to find a treasure among our delicious/ useful/ beautiful/ indulgent Silent Auction items! Auction purchases may be made by credit card.

Tickets are \$35 for adults (\$40 at the door), \$25 for children 3-12, free if under 3. Special reserved seating is available for tables of 8 or more. Are you an alumnus? Let us know if your family would like to sit at a special alumni table! Placer Music wine glasses and butter warmer kits are also available for pre-order. Tickets are available from music students, at Easley Nursery, or by calling 530-820-5022.

Do you have something you would like to donate to our Silent Auction such as musical instruments, something from your business, or handmade items? Please contact Karen Holt at Karen.holt@placermusic.org. Hope you can join us this evening to support the Golden Hillmen and the Placer High Music Department.



February 2012

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat/Sun
		Site Council 3:30 FOPHS Meeting 6:30 GB @ Center 4/5:30/7:00	Leadership Team 3:10pm BB @ Colfax 4/5:30/7 Wrestling @ Lincoln 6:00	GB vs Colfax 4/5:30/7 Rally Track sports clearance 3-4 on Dance Floor	Sadie Hawkins Dance EC Gym, 7:30-10:30pm Wrestling Division Championship at Lincoln HS
		Baseball/Softball sports clearance 3-4pm Dance Floor spirit week	***Lunchtime Activities ***Extended Lunch	→	
		1	2	3	4
PLC - Min. Day Faculty Meeting 2:45 Ski Team @ Boreal Snowboard @ Northstar Swimming sports clearance 2-3pm on Dance Floor	CAHSEE-Make-up S.A.M. Meeting 7:30 Detention 3:05-5:00 Department Mtg. 3:00 BB @ Bear River 4/5:30/7	CAHSEE-Make up GB vs Bear River 4/5:30/7	BB @ Lincoln 4/5:30/7	End of Grading Period GB vs Lincoln 4/5:30/7 Wrestling PVL Championship (V) at Foothill HS	Wrestling Jr. High Tourney at Placer 9am 11
6	7	8	9	10	12
PLC (WASC) - Min. Day Snowboard @ Boreal English Accel. & AP Testing 1:45 Library	Grades due by 3:00pm Detention 3:05-5:00 BB vs Foothill 4/5:30/7	Fire Drill GB @ Foothill 4/5:30/7 E Waste Drop Off 5-7pm in front of cafeteria	English Accel. & AP Testing 6:00, Room 101	Wrestling-Division Finals E Waste Drop Off 5-7pm in front of cafeteria	Wrestling-Division Finals Tennis Endurance @ Placer TBA
13	14	15	16	17	18
Holiday-Washington Day	No School Soccer @ Lib. Ranch 3:30/5:05	No School	No School Tennis vs Colfax 3:30	Holiday-Lincoln Day Wrestling-Master Champ Soccer @ Woodland TBA Vball @ Roseville 5/6:00	Wrestling-Master Champ E Waste Drive-Lower Parking Lot 9am-1pm
20	21	22	23	24	25
PLC - Min. Day Class information Meeting by Grade Level	Detention 3:05-5:00 Tennis vs Del Oro 3:30 Vball @ Rocklin 5/6:00	Soccer @ Whitney 4/5:30			
27	28	29			

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, March 7, 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 2011/2012 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
Lisa Voss	Ways and Means (Scrip)
Tyann Elkins	Library Volunteer Coordinator