

SPECIAL POINTS
OF INTEREST:

- **FOPHS Board Meeting Feb 6, 630pm**
- **Grad Night Meeting Jan 8, 630pm**

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Message from the Principal

Greetings Hillmen,

Happy Holidays! We are nearing the end of the first term and still much is happening on the Hill. Progress reports were distributed to students on November 15, 2013 by their second period teacher. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your child's teacher and/or counselor. Finals for the Fall Term will be held on Thursday and Friday, December 19 and 20. Periods 1 and 2 are on Thursday and periods 3 and 4 on Friday. Each period is two hours long and school ends at 12:15 pm. Please remember that the library is open from 7 am to 3:30 pm Monday through Friday and after school tutoring is available in the library on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 3 pm to 4 pm. This tutoring time is staffed with 2 English teachers, a bilingual aide and soon two math tutors. Computers are also available to students during this time. Teachers also offer their time before school, during lunch, and after school, for students requesting help. Please encourage your child to seek out their teacher and establish a time they could meet for extra help.

The Placer Drama department just completed their Fall production of Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Nights Dream." Congratulations to a job well done to all performers and their director, drama teacher Josh Green with help from past Drama pro Jason Long. The Placer High Music Department has been busy as well this Fall, putting on great halftime shows at home football games and participating in the Veterans Parade. They wrap up the term with a Winter Concert in the school auditorium on Wednesday, December 11. And don't forget, if you are looking for a Christmas tree, the Band Boosters is selling a great selection in the school parking lot. As we head in to Winter sports, we congratulate all Fall sport athletes and their tremendous success this year. Placer captured five out of six PVL titles and the Boys Cross country team is heading to state finals, along with Grace Schoenhoff representing the girls team. Winter sports is getting under way with girls and boys basketball busy with numerous tournaments, including the Coach G Memorial Tournament and the Kendall Arnett Tournament. Wrestling will look to avenge their loss to Bear River last year and win a PVL crown. Please refer to the school web site for dates and times of events.

As mentioned in my message to parents a few weeks ago, Placer High School administration dealt with several students in regards to misuse of social media. After an investigation with help from administration at the District office and our SRO, the situation was handled. Parents, I urge you to speak with your children regarding the proper use of social media and the ramifications that can follow through misuse. We encourage you to have your students delete any inappropriate material they may receive from others and to have open and honest conversation with them. If you have any questions, please contact me at school.

Chromebooks that were distributed to all sophomores has been received wonderfully by staff and students. We will be following up with the two dozen or more who have yet to pick theirs up. Students need to bring their Chromebook with them to school every day.

Please note some future dates: The school will be closed for the Winter Break, December 23 through January 7, 2014. Teachers report back to school on January 6, 2014 for district wide inservice day and teacher work day. All students report back for the Spring Term on Wednesday, January 8. Schedule distribution will take place in the Lower Gym beginning at 7:15 am. Wednesday. Back to School night will be held Monday, January 13, 2014 beginning at 6:30 pm.

Have a great Holiday.

Sincerely,

Peter Efstathiou
Placer High Principal

Go Hillmen!

Message from the FOPHS Board...

We would like to thank all the parents who signed up to be a member this year and gave a donation. Your membership helps to support the teacher wish lists. The wish list this year is over \$7,500 in requests that supports many classrooms from science, math, English, mechatronics, art, print making and much more. Our goal was to raise at least \$5,000 and we are still \$1,500 shy of our goal. Any donation matters, so we are kicking off the \$5 membership drive in early January to support what \$5 can do to support the school. Keep an eye out for your letter and if possible send your \$5.00 donation in to FOPHS.

I would like to thank everyone who supported the Casino Night fundraiser for the Placer athletic program. We had a great event with over 100 people that attended. We are finalizing all the numbers and hope to share our results later in the month. I would like to recognize businesses and individuals you sponsored or donated to the event. Our community steps up every year to support Placer for all its fundraisers so as you shop for the holidays remember their support for Placer and shop local as a thank you.

Aquarium of the Bay
ARD - Kahl Muscott
Auburn Racquet Club
Auburn Rotary Club
Auburn Valley Country Club
Awful Annie's
Baron's Heating and Air
Black Oak Golf
Brandee Ambrosia - College Bound
Callie Clifford Hair Design
Campus Outfitters
Carolyn Metzker - Lyon's Real Estate
Carpe Vino
Cathy Asbury - Lyon's Real Estate
Cindy Burris - Tupperware
D & G Sports
Don Robinson Sand & Gravel, Inc.
Earth It Up
Easton - Steve Cook

George Pagabucci
Gold Country Fair
Greg Garrett
Handle Babes
Holt of California
In N Out
Jack and Kelly Casper
Judy & Scott Pruett
Kelly Carducci
Kevin Summers
Laurie Wotus
Lightfoot Truck Repair
Lillis Construction
Longhorn Meats
MatteosPizza and Bistro
Maui Jim and Zeal Eyewear

Mr. and Mrs. Joel Cooper
Newcastle Produce
Nicky M. Hakimi, DDS
Oakland Raiders`
Placer Football Booster Club
Powers Mansion Inn
Pruett Vineyards - Scott and Judy Pruett
Quality Automotive
Randy and Sharon Keenan
Regal Cinemas
Richard Murphy - Pursley Law Firm
Ronald W. Berg Chiropractic
Roper's Jewelers
Sierra Doctors Medical Group, Inc
Sonoma Raceway
Steve M. Leighty, DDS
Sugar Bowl
The Houston Group
Vina Castellano Winery



We will not have a meeting in January so our next board meeting will be February 5, 2014 at 6:30pm in the staff lounge. We wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and thank you again for supporting FOPHS and the school.

Thank you,

President
Friends of Placer High School

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK

<https://www.facebook.com/FriendsofPlacerHighSchool.FOPHS>

Counseling News

Financial Aid Night Learn how to help pay for college through scholarships, grants, loans and work study December 2nd at 6:00 pm in the Placer High auditorium. The presentation by the Placer High counselors will include information about Cal Grants and tips for filling out the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). This information will be helpful to anyone planning to attend a 2 or 4 year college or trade/technical school. Students and parents are invited.

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) and loans (parent and/or student loans that must be paid back). The form consists primarily of financial information that must be filled out by parents and students. The application is done online at www.fafsa.ed.gov and is available for the 2014-2015 academic school year beginning January 1st. 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.

Cal Grants The State of California funds the Cal Grant program which can be used at colleges and universities in the state. This is “free money” that does not need to be paid back. In order to apply for a Cal Grant, a FAFSA must be filled out and GPA verification must be sent by the high school. This year we are submitting student information including the GPA verification to the Cal Grant program for all of our seniors. If you do not want your student’s information sent and wish to opt-out of the Cal Grant program go to the Placer High website, then to the counseling page and select the CalGrant Opt-out on the left side. It will be active until December 9. Keep in mind that if the information is not sent, the student will not be eligible to receive a Cal Grant.

Spring Term Class Changes: Students wanting to make a class change for the spring term should fill out a Course Change Request Form in the Counseling Office as soon as possible. Options for available classes are extremely limited and therefore not all change requests will be possible. **All requests for class changes must be turned in by Friday, December 13th. Once the spring term begins, students will not be able to make any further class changes except for going into a T.A. position or seniors taking an unscheduled 1st or 4th Period.**

The online application process for Sierra College will begin in January. See “Applying to Sierra College” on the Placer High website counseling page for the step-by-step process. All students who think they may attend Sierra (even students who are applying to 4-year colleges) should apply online in January. Applying in January will leave enough time for students to take care of assessments, orientation and meet with a Sierra counselor before selecting classes. We have been told that Placer High School will be able to administer the Sierra College Placement Tests this spring. More information will be coming as soon as we know the procedures for this testing. What we do know is that students must have already applied online and received their MySierra account in order to take the assessments. Students are urged to start the process early since counseling appointments at Sierra fill up quickly.



Counseling News Continued.....

Spring is the time Juniors should take College Admission Tests. Juniors who plan on attending a 4-year college immediately upon graduation from PHS need to take the SAT and/or the ACT. The tests can be taken multiple times and colleges will use the best scores for admission. See the schedule below, just go to the websites and register.

SAT Test Dates 2013-14

Test Dates	Test	U.S. Registration Deadlines (Expire at 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time, U.S.A.)	
		Regular	Late (a fee applies)
December 7, 2013	SAT & Subject Tests	November 8, 2013	November 22, 2013
January 25, 2014	SAT & Subject Tests	December 27, 2013	January 10, 2014
March 8, 2014	SAT only	February 7, 2014	February 21, 2014
May 3, 2014	SAT & Subject Tests	April 4, 2014	April 18, 2014
June 7, 2014	SAT & Subject Tests	May 9, 2014	May 23, 2014

Register at: Collegeboard.com

ACT Test Dates 2013-14

Test Date	Registration Deadline	(Late Fee Required)
December 14, 2013	November 8, 2013	November 9–22, 2013
February 8, 2014*	January 10, 2014	January 11–24, 2014
April 12, 2014	March 7, 2014	March 8–21, 2014
June 14, 2014	May 9, 2014	May 10–23, 2014

Register at: ACT.org

Japanese Exchange Program....

Join Us For a Unique Opportunity



Open your home to the world...

The world becomes your home

PLACER HIGH TO HOST HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS FROM JAPAN FOR 15 DAYS IN MARCH

Cultural Homestay International, a nonprofit educational exchange organization & Placer ASB students are co-sponsoring a group of Japanese high school students (boys and girls,) for a homestay from **3/11-3/25/2014**. The students are here to experience American school life and to see what it's like to be a member of an American family. During the 15 day visit, the Japanese students will be observing classes, having cultural exchanges on Placer's campus and becoming familiar with our community. Families interested in hosting a student will receive:

- Application, letter and photos of their student.
- Orientation prior to their student's arrival
- On going support during the visit.

Host Family responsibilities:

Provide a bed (students may share a room with a sibling of the same sex & beds are available if you don't have an extra bed.)

Provide meals while the student is in your home (meals purchased on field trips are the responsibility of the student.)

Make arrangements for the student to be dropped off, on most days, at Placer by 7:55am and picked up at 2:55. (If you are not available to pick your student up until 5 or 6 pm on weekdays, other arrangements can be made.) Weekends are spent with the host family.

**For information on how to become a host family,
please call or email CHI at 1-877-791-2425**

**chicathy@chinet.org More information about CHI
can be found at <http://www.chinet.org>**



Accelerated and AP English

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 Monday, February 10th at 1:45pm or Thursday, February 13th at 6:00pm in Room 105. There is no need to pre-register. 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 Monday, the 10th at 1:45 pm or Thursday, the 13th 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. Students just need to show up in Room 105 with a pen, pencil and paper. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Haydon at extension x5766 for more details.



Grad Night



Help support Grad Night at the upcoming events:

Holiday Boutique - Saturday, December 7th 10-3 in the PHS cafeteria. Come shop for the holidays and support local vendors. Also, purchase a baked good for your upcoming party or buy a raffle ticket for a basket.



If you have volunteered to donate a raffle basket or baked goods, please drop off at the PHS cafeteria Friday between 3-7pm.

Festival of Lights Parade - Saturday, December 7th in front of Tango. We'll be selling hot cocoa, coffee, popcorn and baked goods.

If you have volunteered to donate supplies, please drop off items at Tango upstairs in the box labeled Grad Night.

E-waste, Saturday, January 4th in the PHS lower lot. Recycle your old unused electronics after the holidays.

Grad Night E-Waste Drive

The E-waste, Saturday, January 4th in the PHS lower lot. Recycle your old unused electronics after the holidays.

Acceptable Electronic Waste Items Not Acceptable As e-Waste

CEW (Electronic Waste with Screen Display)

Cathode Ray Tube (CRT) Monitors & TVs
Liquid Crystal Display (LCD) Monitors & TVs
Light Emitting Diode (LED) Monitors & TVs
Plasma Televisions
Projection Televisions
Laptop PCs, Notebooks & Tablets

Computers (CPU)

Desktop PCs, Servers & Mainframes
Network Equipment & Telecom Equipment
Hard Drives & Zip Drives
Power Supply Units
Computer Peripherals, Keyboards & Mice

Office Products

Printers (Please remove paper, toner & ink cartridges)
Copiers (Please remove paper, toner & ink cartridges)
Fax Machines (Please remove paper, toner & ink cartridges)
Laser Scanners
Multi-Function Devices (Please remove paper, toner & ink cartridges)

Consumer Electronics

VCRs & Compact Disc Players
Calculators
Telephones
Cell Phones & Smart Phones (Remove Li-ion battery)
Digital Cameras
Stereo Equipment
Speakers (Non-Wood Speakers Only)
Electronic Cables
Video Game Consoles
Microwaves
Small Kitchen Appliances (mixers, toasters, etc.)

All Non-Electronic Waste – Items that do not have both a circuit board and a power cord.
All Batteries (unless previously accepted), including household, car and computer batteries.
Battery Powered Consumer Products, such as power tools, toys, remote control units and portable radios.

All Lamps, such as incandescent light bulbs, fluorescent bulbs and Christmas lights.

Radioactive Devices.

Hazardous Household Waste: pesticides, paint, used oil, or cleaning supplies.

Solar Panels.

All Hazardous Waste.

Contaminated Electronic Waste, such as medical equipment that has not been decontaminated.

Large Household Appliances, such as refrigerators, washers, dryers, ovens, water heaters and air conditioners.

Furniture.

All Wood, including wood encased stereo speakers.

All Mercury Containing Devices: such as electric irons, thermostats and switches.

Pressurized Containers, such as fire extinguishers and propane canisters.

Techno Trash, such as CDs, VHS tapes and DVDs



December 2013

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat/Sun
PLC-Min. Day	S.A.M. Meeting 7:30am	Site Council Mtg. 3:10	Leadership Team 3:10	Section Championship TBA	
<i>Financial Aid Night</i>	Detention 3:05-5:00	FOPHS Mtg. 6:30pm	BBB Harlan Carter Tourney -JV & V, Thur. Fri. & Sat. TBA		1
<i>Auditorium 6:00-8:30pm</i>	GBB vs St. Francis 4/5:30/7		BBB Harlan Carter Tourney -Frosh, Thur. Fri. & Sat. TBA		SAT-Library 7:30am
BBB vs Roseville 8:00			Operation Lifesaver		Grad Nigh Boutique 10am-3pm
GBB (V) @ Roseville 6:00			Cardio Health Classes		7
			GBB Live Oak Tourney-Varsity Thur. Fri. & Sat. TBA		
			GBB Rosemont (JV) - Thur. Fri. Sat. TBA		
2	3	4	GBB (F) Bea r River T-F-S TBA	6	8
Hearing Test-Grade 10	Detention 3:05-5:00	Winter Music Concert	BBB Mesa Verde Tourney-Frosh @ Mesa Verde Thur. Fri & Sat. TBA		
PLC-Min. Day	Department Meeting	Auditorium 7:30p.m.	BBB San Juan Tourney-JV @ San Juan Thur. Fri & Sat. TBA		
	BBB vs Liberty Ranch 5:30/7	BBB Rail City Classic-Varsity @ Sparks NV Wed. Thur. Fri. & Sat. TBA			14
			GBB Harlan Carter Tourney - JV & V, Thur. Fri, Sat. TBA		Wrestling @ Ponderosa 9am
			Wrestling @ Whitney 5:00		
				Hillmen Holiday 5-8:00pm	
				Senior Lawn	
9	10	11	12	13	15
Staff Mtg. 2:45 Library	Detention 3:05-5:00			End of Grading Period	Wrestling Var & JV (See Schedule)
PLC-Min. Day	BBB @ Woodland 4/5:30/7		BBB Mesa Verde Tourney-Var. @ Mesa Verde Thur. Fri. & Sat. TBA		
	GBB @ Pioneer 4/5:30/7		BBB Nevada Union Tourney-JV @ Nevada Union Thur. Fri. & Sat. TBA		
			BBB Placer Frosh Tourney-Frosh @ Placer Thur. Fri. & Sat. TBA		21
			GBB Coach "G" Memorial Tourney - Varsity Thur. Fri. Sat TBA		
			GBB Del Campo Tourney (JV) Tourney - Thur. Fri. Sat TBA		
			GBB Oakmont Frosh Tourny- Thur. Fri. Sat. TBA		
16	17	18	19	20	22
			***See Final Schedule Below		
Winter Break	Christmas Eve-Holiday	Christmas-Holiday	Winter Break	Winter Break	Wrestling @ Natomas 9am JV
			BBB Kendall Arnett Tourney @ Placer Thur. Fri. & Sat. TBA		
			BBB JV Kendall Arnett Tourney @ Placer Thur. Fri. & Sat. TBA		
				Wrestling @ Natomas 9am V	28
23	24	25	26	27	29
Winter Break	Admission Day-Holiday		Final Schedule Thur. 12/19 & Fri. 12/20		
			0 Period 7:00-7:45		
			1st or 3rd 7:55-9:55		
			Nutrition 9:55-10:05		

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 the **first Wednesday of each month 6:30pm. In the Staff 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 2013/2014 Officers

Name	Position
Kim Lightfoot	President
Judy Pruett	Vice President
Lisa Voss	Secretary
Jennifer Hensler	Treasurer
Patty Tomashefsky	Membership
Sylvia Fisk	Newsletter
Kathy Twietmeyer	Web Page
Janeen Steinheimer	Grad Night Liaison
Shelley Wright	Hospitality
Open position	Ways and Means (Scrip)
Open position	Library Volunteer Coordinator
Peter Efstathiou	Principal