

SPECIAL POINTS  
OF INTEREST:

- **FOPHS Board Meeting Feb. 6, 6:30pm**
- **Grad Night Meeting Feb. 12, 6:30pm**

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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 2013 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 just wrapped up regular season with big wins over Foothill and Bear River to capture another PVL title. In the match versus Bear River, the Hillmen recorded seven consecutive pins, along with a dramatic come from behind win against Foothill. Boys and Girls basketball is still looking for a league banner and continue to excite the crowd with fantastic play. The girls finished a very successful preseason and will be working hard to contain Colfax and Bear River as they hope to garner a PVL banner. The boys team enjoyed a tough preseason, with an exciting second place finish in the Kendall Arnett Tournament. Ski and Snowboard are enjoying the great weather that was missed from last year and the snow has been fantastic.

On the academic front, thanks to all who attended Back To School Night on January 23<sup>rd</sup>. As we all know, Placer exceeded 800 on their API score for the second time in a row with a score of 805. 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. The library is open every day from 7 am to 3:30 pm, and tutoring is available on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm. The library is staffed with a credentialed teacher in English and a math help is available as well. The PASS (Pursuing Academic School Success) program will begin again for freshmen as we near the end of the first grading period February 8, 2013. Freshmen students with two or more NC's (no credits) will be assigned lunch tutoring Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday until the next grading period and grades improve. As many of you know, the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) will be administered to all sophomores March 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. 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](http://www.puhsd.k12.ca.us) and click on the Parents, Students and Community link. From there scroll to the **CAHSEE** link to view sample test questions, practice exams, and tutorial videos.

As you may have heard, Placer High School has been preparing for their WASC (Western Association of Schools and Colleges) accreditation review. Teachers and staff have been working since last spring to prepare for the accreditation team visit in April. Beginning April 7 and finishing April 10, 2013, a team of six educators will descend upon Placer to review information generated by teachers, staff, students and parents, attesting to Placer's accreditation. Please be on the lookout in your email or phone message home for a parent survey that we would like you to complete.

Lastly, 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.

Sincerely,

Peter Efstathiou  
Placer High Principal

Go Hillmen!

## Message from the FOPHS Board..

Wow- it was great to see some new faces at our January 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 February 6 at 630pm. Come listen in, ask questions, and learn what's going on at PHS.

We have already started the pre-planning for a golf tournament in May and hosting the "Casino Night on the Hill" in the fall this year. These 2 events will provide a large amount of funds that will go to support teacher wish lists, art, welding, sports and much more. Look for more details online in the next couple of months.

In the past, have you told yourself you would like to help but not sure how? Ask us how? We have many areas that parent volunteers are always welcomed. We have small jobs to being involved with the board. If you are interested in helping out, plan to come to a meeting or email us. We would like to hear from you! Our email is [fophsnp@puhsd.k12.ca.us](mailto:fophsnp@puhsd.k12.ca.us).

Sincerely,

Kim Lightfoot

President  
Friends of Placer High School

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## Grad Night News.....



The next Grad Night meeting is Tuesday, February 12<sup>th</sup> 6:30pm at Tango. Donation letters will be distributed to those who volunteered to hand deliver to local merchants. Please join us to get involved.

eWaste collection Saturday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> 9:00am-1:00pm in the PHS lower parking lot. Acceptable items include anything with a plug expect for large appliances. Items with glass, including monitors, laptops and TVs, write your name and address on a piece of paper taped to item.

Start your spring cleaning and donate your unwanted items to our annual Rummage Sale scheduled for Saturday, April 6<sup>th</sup> in the PHS school cafeteria.

Like us on Facebook– Placer High School Grad Night. Take a look at the amazing event that is put on for the graduating seniors. Pictures of past Grad Nights are there.

Undergrad parents– NOW is the time to get involved! When your student is a senior, the last thing on your mind is Grad Night. You want to enjoy the senior year. Please– Freshman, Sophomore, and Junior parents– HEED THE CALL!!!

## TO REPORT YOUR STUDENT'S ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL CALL:

(530) 885-4581 Ext. 5704

### Attendance Procedures




- **All absences need to be cleared by a Parent/Guardian:**
  1. By sending a note to school with the student to turn into the attendance office or
  2. By phoning into the attendance office

Please remember to always do one or the other as it is required that all absences be cleared, including partial day absences and late arrivals to school.

**PLEASE MAKE CONTACT WITH THE ATTENDANCE OFFICE WHEN YOUR STUDENT MISSES ANY SCHOOL TIME.**



-  **Checking out of class:** If a student needs to leave campus any time during the day, **for any reason**, they need to have an admit slip from the office **PRIOR** to leaving campus. When you know that you will be picking your student up early for any reason, **please send the student to the attendance office with a note.** An admit slip will be issued to the student to show their teacher when it's time to leave.
- **Checking into class:** When a student comes to school late a note or phone call is needed for the student to go to class. The student is to come to the attendance office prior to going to class. An admit slip will be given to the student whose parents have sent a note or made a phone call. The admit slip shows the teacher that the student has been cleared.
- **Extended weekends or vacations:** When going out of town, please call the office ahead of time so the student's attendance will be cleared.

*If you should have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Rhonda Holden, Attendance Secretary.*



## Counseling News...

During February and March students will go through the process of selecting classes for the 2013-2014 school year. The timeline is as follows:

February 26	Class meetings for distribution of course selection sheets.
February 28	Course Preview Day
March 2-10	Online student class registration (through the Parent Portal)
March 4	Future Hillmen Night for incoming 8 <sup>th</sup> Graders 6pm in Auditorium
March 11, 14-19	Students meet with counselors one-on-one to verify schedules
March 18	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade course registration in PHS Cafeteria 3:30-5:30

Course Preview Day – Thursday, February 28 During Course 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 classes are full and options for schedule changes are extremely limited. In addition, we no longer make class schedule changes after class starts each term.

Online Class Registration for 2013-2014 Beginning March 2<sup>nd</sup>, current 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> graders will be able to register for their 2013-14 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 2 - 10. Online registration instructions and course selection worksheets will be distributed to students on February 26<sup>th</sup>. Course descriptions can be found on the Placer High website in the counseling section under Course Catalog (Posted mid-February). 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 March 11, 14 - 19.

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 12<sup>th</sup> (English-Language Arts) and March 13<sup>th</sup> (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 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 primarily of financial information that must be filled out by parents and students. The application is done online at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://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.



## Counseling News continued....

**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. There is also one more Sierra College informational meeting on Monday, February 4<sup>th</sup> at 1:45 pm in the PHS library. After you have applied, received your MySierra account and completed online orientation, then you are ready for the assessment process. Check with your counselor to see which assessments you need to take. We have reserved two assessment dates at Sierra College for Placer High Students. They are Wednesday, February 20 (during Presidents week vacation) at 10 am and Monday, March 11 (PLC minimum day) at 2:30 pm. Call 916-660-7430 and identify yourself as a Placer High student to schedule for one of these dates. If these dates are not suitable, students can make appointments for any available dates. Remember that students must have completed the application process before making an assessment appointment.

**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 1<sup>st</sup> and the UC system on November 1<sup>st</sup>. Subject tests are no longer required for the UC system. For private and out-of-state colleges, check out their requirements and dates online.

**UC Davis Young Scholars Program** – Sophomores and Juniors are invited to apply to this 6 week residential program to have the opportunity to participate in a variety of research experiences within the areas of biological and natural sciences. The cost for the entire program (including room, board and 5 units of university credit) is \$6200. For more information see <http://yjsp.ucdavis.edu> or stop by the counseling office.

### 2012-2012 SAT Test Dates

Date	Test	Registration Dead-line	Late Registration Dead-line
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](http://www.collegeboard.com)

### 2012-2013 ACT Test Dates

Test Date	Registration Deadline	(Late Fee Required)
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](http://www.act.org)

**MR. DOUGLAS MARQUAND**  
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT  
ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

**MR. JEFFREY TOOKER**  
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT  
EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

**MS. LILA McALLISTER**  
DIRECTOR OF CHILD NUTRITION SERVICES

**MR. GREGG RAMSETH**  
DIRECTOR OF TECHNOLOGY & ASSESSMENT

**MR. GREGG ROBERTS**  
DIRECTOR OF CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT  
& FACILITY PLANNING

**MS. SANDRA RUSSO**  
DIRECTOR OF BUDGET & ACCOUNTING

**DR. LORENA SPITZER**  
DIRECTOR OF PUPIL SERVICES

**MR. ERIC VEREYKEN**  
DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES



**13000 NEW AIRPORT ROAD, AUBURN, CA 95603**  
**530-886-4400 FAX: 530-886-4439**

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**MR. DAVE HORSEY**  
SUPERINTENDENT

CHANA HIGH SCHOOL

COLFAX HIGH SCHOOL

DEL ORO HIGH SCHOOL

FORESTHILL HIGH SCHOOL

MAIDU HIGH SCHOOL

PLACER HIGH SCHOOL

PLACER SCHOOL FOR ADULTS

## Parents of Sophomores!

CAHSEE Encouragement  
from Dave Horsey, your Superintendent

State testing is fast approaching, and our faculty is diligently teaching your students while our support staff is preparing to ensure an optimal testing environment. This team effort on campus, partnered with your encouragement from home, allows your student to best demonstrate their learning on these high-stakes tests. We've done well in past years and we have complete confidence that our students will make us proud again.

On March 12 and 13, sophomores will make their first attempt at the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE). We need every student to accept this first at-bat opportunity, confidently step up to the plate, and hit it out of the park. That means tuning up their math and English, resting prior to test day, getting a good breakfast, and bringing an attitude that ensures a best effort.

While the vast majority of students earn a 350 on this test—the minimum score for graduation—we expect all students to reach for a 380 or better. That's a **proficient** score of 380, not just a **passing** score of 350. Our thinking is this: Why settle for a base hit when you can hit it out of the park! The message must be clear: **we need every student to strive for the 380 Club!**

Thanks for all you do to support your child's learning. Of course, we couldn't do what **we do** without you doing what **you do!**

## CASHEE letter to parents.....

**\*The following pertains to students with disabilities or students with a 504 Plan:**

*All grade ten students must take the CAHSEE to meet state and federal requirements. This requirement includes students who are English learners and students with disabilities. However, eligible students with disabilities do not need to pass the CAHSEE to graduate from high school (EC Section 60852.3). To be eligible, a student must have an individualized education program (IEP) or Section 504 plan. The IEP or plan must also show that the student has or will satisfy all other state and local requirements to earn a high school diploma after July 1, 2009.*

*Students with disabilities must be allowed to use an accommodation or modification if they are part of the student's IEP or Section 504 plan. The IEP or plan must specify that these modifications or accommodations can be used on the CAHSEE, standardized testing, or for use during classroom instruction and assessments. Students who use an accommodation and earn a score of 350 or higher have passed that part of the CAHSEE. Students who use a modification and earn the equivalent of a passing score on one or both parts of the CAHSEE have not passed. However, to meet the CAHSEE requirement, a principal may request a local waiver from their school board or apply for the CAHSEE Streamlined Waiver for Eligible Students with Disabilities.*

January 14, 2013

Dear Parent or Guardian:

This letter is a reminder that your sophomore student will take the CAHSEE on Tuesday March 12, 2013 and Wednesday March 13, 2013. The exam will be given at the school site during regular school hours. It is important that your child be present on test days. All students, except eligible students with disabilities\*, must pass the CAHSEE as well as meet all other local and state requirements to graduate from high school.

The primary purpose of the CAHSEE is to make sure that students who graduate from high school can show that they are performing at grade level on California's content standards. The content standards on the CAHSEE include reading, writing, and mathematics. Standards describe what students should know and be able to do at each grade level from kindergarten through grade twelve.

The exam consists of two parts. The first part includes English–language arts (reading and writing). The second part covers mathematics. All questions are aligned to California's content standards adopted by the State Board of Education (SBE). Our school district will receive student results within eight weeks. Your child's results will be sent to your home. Students who do not pass one or both parts of the CAHSEE will have additional opportunities to retake the part(s) not yet passed.

For more information about the CAHSEE and your child's participation, contact our school office during regular school hours at (530) 885-4581. Helpful instructional videos and practice exams are posted at [www.puhsd.us](http://www.puhsd.us) under the *Parents, Students, Community* link. Additional information about the CAHSEE is posted on the California Department of Education Web site at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/hs> (including released test questions from the CAHSEE in English-language arts and mathematics, study guides, questions & answers for parents/guardians, etc.).

Sincerely,

Mr. Peter Efstathiou  
Principal

# Placer School for Adults

## Placer School for Adults – Spring Classes

It is a new year and most of us decide on new goals for the New Year. Placer School for Adults has many excellent classes that could fit with your goals, including over 35 new classes. Do you want to learn a new subject, start a new hobby, refresh your commitment to fitness, learn a new skill, get a new job, get your high school diploma or GED? Whatever it is you're looking for, a good bet is that you'll find something of interest in our Spring Catalog at [www.placeronline.org](http://www.placeronline.org).

We are offering several FREE classes for the community – 'One Book, One Community' is a class that will collectively read and discuss the book *Nature Noir*, written by Jordan Fisher Smith. Other free classes are offered in partnership with PIRS, who services people with disabilities and senior citizens, with a focus on greater independence and choices in their lives. We also partner with AARP to offer training in our classroom for tax-aid preparation, referred to as the Auburn AARP Tax-Aide Program.

You'll find a huge selection of computer and technology classes to pick from. The choices for classes are endless, if you want to learn Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Basic Computer Skills, how to back up your computer, QuickBooks, Photoshop, Digital Photography, tips on vacation photography, making home movies, getting to know your new smartphone or iPad, building a website, and the list goes on and on...whatever you're looking for you'll find it.

If you love art you'll find classes in oil, pastel, watercolor, acrylic, ceramics, drawing, and more, from beginner, to intermediate, and advanced levels. If you enjoy building things with your hands, we have an array of choices: Welding level 1 and 2, Welding for Women level 1 and 2, TIG Welding, Welding with Gas, Blacksmithing for beginners and intermediate students, Copper Repousse, Art Metal, Woodworking level 1 and 2. These classes fill - quickly so don't delay.

We have several healthcare courses to consider; Medical Assistant – front and back office, Medical Terminology, EKG Technician, and Veterinary Assistant. We plan to build more classes in the Fall, including Pharmacy Technician, so please stay tuned. Check our website and/or Facebook newsfeed for more information on class development.

Don't miss our new fitness classes. Please check back on our website for more information coming soon (mid to late January) about our fitness classes. With the retirement of our favorite long-term instructor (Kathy) we are now in the process of rebuilding classes with a new set of quality instructors. These classes did not make it in time for publication of this Spring catalog. If you were a current student, we will contact you, but the classes are open to all...many classes have an emphasis for the 50+ crowd. Never forget Kathy's favorite phrase "one more time".

Placer School for Adults is a great place to start your New Year routines. Remember, if you register in January you will get the '\$5 Early Bird Discount'. If you register with our online system, you can save time and gas, and you can use your charge card.

Go to [www.placeronline.org](http://www.placeronline.org) to see more about our program, and several links to assist you with your choices and to register online, and you can call us at 530-885-8585, or stop by 390 Finley St, Auburn CA 95603. Remember to 'Like' us on Facebook "Placer School for Adults", for a continuous update on what is happening at P.S.A..





# February 2013

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
				BBB @ Colfax 4/5:30/7
		<b>Salad Dressing Day</b> See February 6 Frosh/Blue Cheese Soph/Caesar Dressing Jr/ 1000 Island Dressing Sr/Ranch Dressing		
PLC-Min Day Ski @ Alpine 10am <b>College Days</b>	SAM Meeting 7:30am CAHSEE/Eng/Lang Detention 3:00-5:00 GBB @ Bear River 4/5:30/7 <b>Ugly Sweater Day</b>	CAHSEE/Math Site Council Mtg. 3:10 FOPHS Mtg. 6:30pm BBB @ Bear River 4/5:30/7 Rally <b>Salad Dressing Day</b>	Leadership Team 3:10 GBB vs Foothill 4/5:30/7 Wrestling PVL Championships Rally <b>Twin Day</b>	End of Grading Period BBB vs Lincoln 4/5:30/7 Wrestling PVL @ Lincoln Rally <b>Green &amp; Gold Day</b>
<b>Spritt Week</b> →				
4	5	6	7	8
PLC-Min Day Faculty Mtg. 2:45 Library Ski @ Boreal 10am	Detention 3:00-5:00 Grades due by 3:00pm Department Mtg. 3:00 BBB @ Foothill 4/5:30/7			Wrestling Div. Finals Benicia <b>Extended Lunch</b>
11	12	13	14	15
<b>Washington Day-Holiday</b>	<b>No School</b>  Soccer vs Lib. Ranch 3:30/5 Golf vs Jesuit 3:00	<b>No School</b>  Tennis vs Colfax 3:30	<b>No School</b>  Golf vs Roseville 3:00	<b>Lincoln Day-Holiday</b> Wrestling Masters Stockton  BB vs Rio Linda 3:30/6:30
18	19	20	21	22
PLC-Min Day  FOPHS New sletter Deadline Golf @ Jessup Tourney 12:00	Detention 3:00-5:00 Class Mtg-Course Selection Tennis vs Ponderosa 3:30 Golf vs Nev. Union 3:00		Course Preview Day 8-9:30 SB @ Oakmont 4:00 Golf @ Del 3:00	
25	26	27	28	

**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, February 6, 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](mailto: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
Janeen Steinheimer	Grad Night Liaison
Shelley Wright	Hospitality
Lisa Voss	Ways and Means (Scrip)
Tyann Elkins	Library Volunteer Coordinator
Peter Efstathiou	Principal