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Hart Weekly Woof

Week of May 16, 2010

Attendance Line 426-3770
School Office 426-3102



Honoring Mr. Maher

The phones have been ringing off the hooks with calls from people eager to know if there are any special plans to honor our retiring Head Husky, Steve Maher.

Of course we have something special planned! There's no way we would let the world's best principal slip through our fingers without letting him know how much we appreciate him.

Mark your calendars for [Monday, June 7](#) for a special assembly honoring Mr. Maher. This event will also include some special student recognition, but the bulk of the assembly will focus on honoring Mr. Maher.

Parents are invited to attend this ceremony, the only public event scheduled in honor of Mr. Maher.

The festivities start at about 9:20 a.m. on the outdoor fields just south of the school. We simply do not have enough indoor space to accommodate all the people who worship Mr. Maher, so we're holding the event outdoors so

In This Issue

[Quick Calendar](#)

[Quick Links](#)

* [Student Spotlight](#)

* [Calendar Set](#)

* [Congrats, Mrs. Rief](#)

* [Honoring Mr. Maher](#)

[* Book Fair This Week](#)

[* Debating the Dress Code](#)

[* Library Books Due Friday](#)

[* 8th-Grade News](#)

[* Pick Up Meds](#)

[* We Need Snacks](#)

[* Attention Athletes & Volunteers](#)

[* Homework Survey](#)

[* Cookie Dough News](#)

[* E-waste Thanks](#)

[* Rummage Thanks](#)

[* Donlon Honors Retiring Principal](#)

[Save the Arts](#)

Quick Calendar

May 17-21 -- Spring book fair. Click [here for details](#).

May 17 -- PFA meeting, 7 p.m., library

May 17 -- Principal's coffee for parents, 7:30 p.m., library

May 18 -- 8th-grade panoramic picture, 9:30 a.m., outdoor quad

May 18 & 20 --

that nobody will be left out.

Please dress casually and wear outfits appropriate for the weather. There will be no seating provided, so feel free to bring along your own folding chairs, stadium seats or blankets.

We anticipate the entire ceremony will take about an hour. Please plan accordingly based on that day's weather.

Book Fair is This Week

If you relish the crack of a new spine and the luscious smell of freshly printed pages, then Hart's spring book fair is bound to make your heart go pitter-patter.

Students and adults alike will find plenty of interesting titles at Hart's spring book fair this week -- [Monday, May 17](#) through [Friday, May 21](#) in the school library. Click [here for more details](#), including the hours the book fair will be open.

Mark your calendars for a special family night at the book fair on [Tuesday, March 18](#) from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Our very own Head Husky, Steve Maher, will be on hand for chatting and perhaps even some personal reading suggestions. (We hear he's a big fan of *The True Story of the 3 Little Pigs*.)

During family night, people who buy a book will be entered in a raffle to win these prizes -- a pizza lunch with Mr. Maher, the raffle winner and three friends, and a baseball autographed by Jason Giambi and donated by Mr. Maher.

Don't forget that the book fair offers more than books. You'll find posters, diaries, notebooks and all sorts of cool stuff like groovy pencils and funky-shaped erasers.

Volunteers Needed

We need lots of friendly folks to help during the book fair. We also need one, two or more people to take charge for next year's book fair since our current book fair coordinator is moving on. Leading the book fair would be a great job for two or more friends to share.

If you'd like to volunteer during the book fair or are interested in leading the charge next year, please contact

8th-grade promotion party tickets on sale at lunch

May 20 -- Spring choir concert, 7 p.m., MPR

May 24 -- Spring band concert, 7 p.m., MPR

May 25 -- Pick up cookie dough, 2:30-4:30 p.m., MPR

May 25 -- Band fundraiser at Sweet Tomatoes, 5-8 p.m. Click [here for flier](#).

May 26 -- Dress code debate, 8:30 a.m., room C-114

May 26 -- Deadline to pay for 8th-grade Six Flags field trip

May 27 -- International Fair

May 28 -- No school. Furlough day.

May 31 -- No school. Memorial Day holiday.

June 1 -- No school. Furlough day.

Denise Bassi at denisebassi@comcast.net or 462-1620.

Debating the Dress Code

The smack-down of the century will take place at Hart this week when the school's top student debaters take on Principal Steve Maher and Vice Principal Terry Conde in a heated debate about the student dress code.

Students and parents are encouraged to attend this lively debate on [Wednesday, May 26](#) at 8:30 a.m. in room C-114. Fresh donuts and drinks will be served.

You won't want to miss this thrilling debate!

Leaders Needed for Next Year

Hart's had a strong debate club for a couple of years, but the fledgling tradition could be nipped in the bud if we don't get at least one parent volunteer to take over the group.

You don't need to be a lawyer or even an expert debater. All you need is a passion to help kids learn about debate and guide them through their debates.

If you'd like to lead next year's debate club -- and this is a great gig for a couple of parents to share -- please let Principal Steve Maher know as soon as possible.

Questions? Contact our current debate club leaders, Kim Muller at kimmuller@comcast.net or Candace Cole at candacercole1962@yahoo.com.

Library Books Due Friday

All Hart library books are due back to the library no later than [Friday, May 21](#).

Please remind your students to check their backpacks and rooms for library books. Some books have been checked

Quick Links

[Hart Middle School](#)

[Teacher Wish List](#)

[Hart Sports Schedules](#)

[Sports Physical Release Form](#)

[District calendar](#)

[Hart Bell Schedule](#)

[Dress Code](#)

[Volunteer Clearance Form](#)

[School Lunch Program](#)

[District e-connection](#)

[School Report Cards](#)

[eScrip](#)

[Adult ed parenting classes & more](#)

Student Spotlight

Congratulations to 7th-grader Theresa Gao for getting top honors in a national essay contest.

Click [here for the full story](#) on the Hart web site.

out since the fall.

Any 8th-graders with outstanding books or library fines will not be allowed to buy promotion party tickets until their accounts are cleared.

If you have any questions or want to know if your student has any outstanding books or fines, please contact library Harpreet Kang at hkang@pleasanton.k12.ca.us.

8th-Grade Promotion News

Lots of fun events are just around the corner for Hart's 8th-graders celebrating their big move from middle school to high school.

Your 8th-graders should have brought home a letter chockful of great info about all these events. If your letter is missing in action, click [here to read the letter](#).

Don't forget that the answers to all of your burning questions can always be found on Hart's fabulous web site. Look on the upper left side for the **8th-Grade Promotion Info** link. You'll find all the info you need, plus the two forms that must be filled out and turned in when your student buys a ticket for the field trip to Six Flags Discovery Kingdom.

Promotion Party Tickets

Ticket sales for the 8th-grade promotion party start this week with tickets being sold at lunch **Tuesday, May 18 & Thursday, May 20**.

Tickets are \$13 per student. Checks may be made to Hart Middle School. Students do not need a permission form to buy tickets or attend the dance.

MUSIC! Students will get to vote for three of their favorite songs when they buy party tickets. We're letting students choose this year's party tunes, as long as the lyrics are clean. The DJ will play the top picks.

The 8th-grade promotion party on **Friday, June 4** is a fun way for our kids to end their middle school careers. There will be music, games, snacks and much more.

Panoramic Photo

2010-11 School Calendar Set

The calendar for the 2010-11 school year has finally been set.

Click [here for all the details](#) on the Hart web site.

Congratulations, Mrs. Rief

Congratulations to teacher Kathleen Murray Rief for being honored recently with an Excellence in Education award.

The awards are given by the Pleasanton PTA Council based on nominations by students, parents and colleagues.

Click [here for a full list](#) of this year's honorees.

The entire 8th-grade class will gather in the outdoor quad on **Tuesday, May 18** for a panoramic shot of the entire class. The photo will be taken at 9:30 a.m.

Check your student's backpack for the photo order form. Prints are \$18 each or \$30 for a framed shot.

Students may turn in orders on picture day or submit orders to the office until **Friday, May 21**. Checks should be made to Hart Middle School.

Six Flags Field Trip

The event many students look forward to since starting middle school is the all-day field trip to Six Flags Discovery Kingdom in Vallejo. This year's trip will be on **Wednesday, June 9**.

Field trip tickets are \$60 per student. The price includes chartered bus transportation, Six Flags admission and lunch at the amusement park.

Click [here for the page where you'll find the two forms](#) that must be completed and turned in with the field trip fee.

The deadline to pay for the Six Flags field trip is Wednesday, May 26.

Pick Up Meds & Medical Supplies

If your student has any medications or medical supplies in the health office, these items must be picked up by a parent or other designated adult before the last day of school on **Friday, June 11**.

Students will not be allowed to take home their medications. A parent or other adult must do this.

Any medication left after the last day of school will be taken to the district office for safe disposal.

Medical Forms for Next Year

New forms must be turned in each school year to allow students to have medications or medical supplies on campus.

Click [here for more information about these regulations](#)

[and to download the medication forms.](#)

Questions? Contact health clerk Sharon Beatts at sbeatts@pleasanton.k12.ca.us.

Desperately Seeking Snacks

We had a mere three people respond to our plea for food donations for the 8th-grade promotion party on [June 4](#). We need help, folks. It takes a village to feed hundreds of hungry teens.

We need lots and lots of snack donations:

- Chips
- Cases of bottled water
- Canned soda
- Cookies & brownies
- Candies like Skittles, M&Ms, Twizzlers and more

Snacks do not have to be individually packaged. Oversized packages of goodies are perfectly acceptable.

We would also gladly accept cash or check donations to help pay for pizza for the entire 8th-grade class. Checks may be made to Hart Middle School and dropped in the front office. Please note "8th-grade promotion snacks" on the memo line.

Please contact food coordinator Carol Richardson at carol.richardson@comcast.net to let her know which snacks you can donate. She'll keep a running tally so that we don't end up with too many chips and not enough cookies. We need to maintain that delicate balance of sweet and salty.

Donated food items will need to be dropped at Hart after school on [Friday, June 4](#). Carol can give you more details. She'll even send you a reminder the week of the party.

Looking Ahead: Athletes & Volunteers

It's never too soon to get a jump on next year's paperwork to ensure everything is in order for sports and volunteer work.

Athletes must turn in completed sports packets at the

start of each school year or prior to the start of their sport. The packet includes a physical exam done by a physician. Click [here for the entire sports packet](#).

We recommend you get the sports packet and the physical exam completed during the summer so that you can turn in the entire shebang as soon as school starts. ***Students are not allowed to take part in any sport, including tryouts, unless they have a completed sports packet on file.***

Check the Hart newsletter and website as next school year approaches for tryout info on various sports. Basketball tryouts are held in early September.

Volunteers are encouraged to turn in volunteer clearance forms at any time. We can already accept forms for next school year. It takes a few weeks to be cleared by the district, so it's always good to get your clearance early in case you ever want to help on campus or at school events. Click [here for the volunteer clearance form](#).

Homework Survey

The Pleasanton school district wants to know what you and your students think about the amount of homework they have and its relevancy to what is being studied in class.

Students are encouraged to complete the survey once. Parents may complete one survey for each child enrolled in the Pleasanton schools.

Click [here for the middle and high school student survey](#).

Click [here for the middle and high school parent survey](#).

Dough Delivery on May 25

Be sure to mark your calendars for **Tuesday, May 25** -- the day the Otis Spunkmeyer cookie dough orders will be ready for pickup.

If you ordered dough, you must pick it up on **May 25** from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the multipurpose room.

IMPORTANT: The cookie dough must remain frozen or refrigerated, so make sure to be there on the pick-up

date.

We finally figured out which advisement teacher wins the \$25 Amazon gift card. Drum roll, please ... it's Alex Ramirez! Congratulations to Mr. Ramirez and his hard-working students.

The top 10 sellers who won Jamba Juice gift cards are Gabriele Rinehart, Mackenzie Curran, Cierra Powell, Vinay Chand, Cassandra Washington, Chloe Santos, Emily McKeever, Simran Rijhwani, Nalani Scates and David Zatorski. Students will get their gift cards when they pick up their dough.

Thanks for Lending a Hand

The Hart community really stepped up to the plate to support the e-waste recycling event to raise money for the school.

Early indications are that the move from Hart to the Lucky grocery store parking lot was a smash success, bringing in lots more recycling and lots more bucks. We're still working on the final tally. We'll get that to you as soon as we finish our calculations.

Special thanks to our wonderful volunteers who worked so hard on the day of the event -- Barbara Murray, Aisling O'Farrell, Kelly Dixon, Monica Shepherd, Amy Burchett, Simran Rijhwani, Anthony Burchett, Crystal Tang, Jonathan Tang, Hailey Do, Yooha Cho, Susan Cao, Gladi Pang, Jon Burchett and Marla Simon. Thanks also to Lucky for letting us use a corner of their parking lot.

This entire event wouldn't be possible without the hard work of event coordinator Devon Drake. Thank you, Devon!

Rummage Results

It was every rummage rat's dream last weekend as Hart's multipurpose room was stuffed to the rafters with high-quality second-hand goods on sale to benefit our school.

The spring rummage sale had steady business, bringing in about \$800 for our school. That's a big chunk of change to supplement much-needed programs and supplies.

Heartfelt thanks to these fabulous Hart families who so generously donated their time to help at the rummage sale: Jim, Alina & Rebecca Rodgers; Marianne, Erik & Nils Thornally; Glenn & Gabrielle LaFrank; Linda, Teddy, Allie & Cliff Wu; Faran Shojaie, Ashkon Honerdoost, Marina Herrera, Allie Jin, Ed Newton, Barbara Hill, Linda & Amy Semmelmayer; Joe & Julia Casados; Errol Jenkins and Mark Probst. A boy named Malik helped, too, but we did not catch his last name.

Foothill students who helped are Eric Singh, Ivan Wong Timmy Larsen, Visva Rao, Benjamin Chan, Nathaniel Yang Rachel Min, Emmy Rodriguez, Teddy Wu, Ashkon Honerdoost, Jason Hsuh, Christian Clark, Sohan Shah, Haris Hanif, Mikaela Schwab, Katie Downe and Nils Thornally. Amador student Christina Probst helped, too.

None of this would be possible without the tremendous efforts of our longtime rummage sale coordinator Cie Probst. Thank you, Cie!

Thank you to everyone who supported the rummage sale through volunteer time, donations and/or shopping!

Donlon Honors Retiring Principal

Former Donlon families are encouraged to return to the school's spring carnival on [Sunday, June 6](#) from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. to honor retiring principal Marc Schweitzer.

The celebration will include lots of food and plenty of games. Prices are discounted for meals and game tickets bought by May 26.

Search Facebook for Donlon Carnival 2010 for more info or contact coordinator Laura Molnar at lauramolnar@att.net.

Save the Arts

Mark your calendars for art and musical extravaganzas on [Friday, May 21](#) and [Saturday, May 22](#) to help save music and arts in Pleasanton schools.

The benefit, dubbed *Celebrate*, will include an art show Friday evening, followed by five separate musical performances on Saturday to raise money for music and arts in the schools.

Tickets are not required, but a donation of \$15 per adult and \$10 per student is greatly encouraged. Donations are suggested for each separate performance.

A gala featuring student art will be held Friday, May 21 from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Bankhead Theater in Livermore. All of the art on display will be for sale.

Musical performances start at 9 a.m. Saturday, May 22 and continue until 6:30 p.m. Click [here for the schedule of school groups that will perform](#), including the Hart Beats choir and the Hart band. You may print the form to order tickets or [order online at the Bankhead Theater web site](#).

The fundraiser is hosted by the Pleasanton Schools Educational Enrichment Foundation (PSEE). Click [here for more info about PSEE and the Celebrate benefit](#).

That's it for this week. Submissions for your Hart weekly update are due by noon Thursday. Please include all pertinent info -- who, what, where, when, why and how much does it cost. E-mails are sent on Sundays.

Go Huskies!

Zoe Francis
Hart PFA e-mail czar
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