

2014
DECEMBER

explorer NEWS

principal's message Dr. Joseph Backman

Fabulous Foothill Parents,

Happy Holidays! I hope you enjoyed your Thanksgiving break. I love the holiday season. It brings out the best in people and helps us remember what matters most in life (i.e. family, service, kindness, gratitude, etc.). It is a time for us to not only think of our own needs, but the needs of those around us. Each of us has the opportunity and responsibility to get to know others, understand their needs, and then to genuinely love and serve them to meet or alleviate those needs.

I want to share an inspiring story of what our students have recently done at Foothill to help someone in need. As you are aware, we held a fundraiser (Penny Wars) at our school to earn money for one of our great employees in need of a much-needed surgery. A group of 6th-grade students, independent from the teacher, saw the need of this employee and decided to start a fundraiser among their peers. They earned over a hundred dollars and brought the money to the teacher. She thanked them for their generosity and kindness, but was hesitant to take their money. This sparked the idea for us to do our Penny Wars fundraiser.

Through your kindness and generosity and that of your children we were able to earn \$3,764. I even heard of a student bringing in \$100 from his own savings account to give to the cause. What an inspiring story of love and service that will bless the life of this employee in need, her family, and the entire school as she goes about her duties. Thank you for your kindness and generosity. It is an honor to be the principal at Foothill Elementary and to have the privilege of working with your wonderful children, such incredible teachers, and with each of you great parents.

I shared this incredible story with our students as well as their grandparents on Grandparents Day (which was a fantastic day!). These are the experiences that teach our students of things that matter most in life. I hope each of us will try always to be like children, to love those around us genuinely, and to serve those in need. That is what the holiday season is all about. That is what life is all about!

Happy Holidays!

Dr. Backman (Dr. B.)

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out of the loop?

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Dr. B.'s
Readers

No Books:
Dr. B will read Holiday Stories to
the children.

Submissions to the January Newsletter are due by December 19th. Send submissions to oremfoothillpta@gmail.com with NEWSLETTER as the subject.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
1 Early Out PTA Meeting	2	3 STEM Robot Club	4 Holiday Concert 6:45-8 p.m.	5
8 Early Out	9 STEM Robot Club	10	11	12
15 Early Out	16	17	18	19 Newsletter Submissions DUE
22 Christmas Break No School	23 Christmas Break No School	24 Christmas Break No School	25 Christmas Break No School	26 Christmas Break No School
29 Christmas Break No School	30 Christmas Break No School	31 Christmas Break No School	1 Christmas Break No School	2 Christmas Break No School

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Karen Crabb	Dec. 09
Melissa Mears	Dec. 17
Christine Young	Dec. 31

NEXT MONTH:

December 4
Holiday Concert 6:45-8 p.m.

December 22-January 2
Christmas Break - No School

president's message Liesha Geddes

I would like to take another opportunity to thank our fabulous PTA and all the parent and teacher volunteers that helped with the Fall Festival. Thanks to their amazing efforts, we have been able to spend the last couple of months determining the needs of the school and how we can help fulfill those needs. Just Monday we were able to vote on the expenditures and we are excited with the results!

Through your generous donations of time and money, we will be able to finish installing sound systems in all of the classrooms, provide funding for the PE teacher (which gives our teachers some much needed prep time), listening stations for 1st grade, Battle of the Books program, a new copy machine, just to name a few! We hope to be able to fund some more STEM after school programs as well. We appreciate all of the feedback we have received from parents!

During these meetings our discussions have always been, "What will help the teachers the most?" One of the things that we were made aware of was the great need for classroom donations, which most of the teachers addressed at the beginning of the school year. This is not a fee, no one is required to pay it. But we would like to gently remind each of you to think of your teacher and the direct needs they pay for out of their pockets.

Did you know that teachers get approximately \$1 per student, per month, for the entire school year? Did you know that if a new student comes into the school after October, the teacher receives no funding for that student? Did you know that the teachers pay for all their classroom supplies, copies, fieldtrips, out of this meager allotment? This is why these donations are so badly needed. These items and others find our teachers paying from their already meager salaries. Our teachers will hesitate to ask again, but we won't! As we come closer to Christmas break and begin thinking about teacher gifts, please consider making your classroom donation or providing them with paper, or other items they might need.

Thanks for helping make Foothill an amazing school and we wish you a very Merry Christmas!

THE news



HELP THE SCHOOL WITH YOUR GOOD GRADES!

Thompson Orthodontics has partnered with Foothill Elementary with its "We Pay for A's" Program. For each "4" on the report card they will donate \$1.00 to our school (Up to 7 per student). This is a fun incentive for students to get good grades and reward our school for their progress!

Here are the official rules of the program:

-This program applies to all students at your school! - It is the responsibility of the student/parent to send in the report card

-Report cards must come from individual email addresses (Thompson Orthodontics only looks at the school name, student name and grades. All other information can be blurred out. They will never contact the participants or advertise to them.)

-Students have 1 month from the end of the term to send us their report card -We will accept report cards from the most recent term of this school year only. We will not donate for A's earned in previous school terms. We would love to continue this program into next year and so on, as well!

-Rather than bringing in their report card, they can email an original picture. Their honesty is appreciated! Email to thompsonreportcards@gmail.com.

Once we have reviewed all of our participants report cards we will bring in a donation check.

It's simple! Email your report card within 1 month to thompsonreportcards@gmail.com

BOOK FAIR FOLLOW-UP!

Thanks to everyone who supported the library by purchasing books at Sir Read-a-lot's Castle at the book fair. A big thanks to all of the volunteers that helped run the fair.

We had \$9,500 in sales! More than we ever have! The school received \$3,000 in profit that went towards purchasing books for the library and the teachers.

Thank you for donating to books to our classrooms. A total of 107 books were donated through out Classroom Wishlist program.

We hope you are enjoying your new books and we will see you at the next book fair February 2nd through February 6th!

SPELLING BEE

Buzzzzzzzzzz....hear that? It's coming. The school spelling bee! The school spelling bee is scheduled for February 19th with classroom bees held before February 11th. If you want to start preparing the lists can be found on the school website at: <http://www.foothillpta.org/programs/spelling-bee> or at <http://www.spellingbee.com>. Login with the email address: luisa_rose@yahoo.com and the password: explorers. The student area has all the lists. Start with the list from your grade, once you have them down work on the others. Have fun and good luck!



MORE news

sundance

2014-2015 Season Ski and Snowboard School for Foothill Elementary
Ages 8 and up for skiing, 9 and up for snowboarding!

Dates are Jan. 12, Feb 2, Feb 23, March 16

Lessons are from 4-6 p.m.

Cost is \$168 (or \$128 with season pass)

Ski/snowboard rental available for \$10 per week. Helmet rental for \$5 per week

To sign up, contact Katrina Larson for a release form and more information
leifandkatrina@yahoo.com or 801-361-0287

NURSING NEWS

Dear Parents,

The Utah Clean Cities Coalition and its stakeholders has identified unnecessary vehicles idling as a contributor to air pollution and increased health risk in our state. One of the areas where unnecessary idling occurs the most is at schools by parents waiting to drop off and pick up their children.

Just one vehicle dropping off and picking up one child at one school puts about three pounds of pollution into the air per month. In addition, idling consumes ½ gallon to one gallon of fuel per hour and uses more fuel than turning off and on your engine.

The common effects of air pollution on most people are those you can feel, like irritation of the eyes, nose, throat, and lungs. These effects may be more severe and serious if you have certain health conditions such as a cold or have asthma, emphysema or allergies. Effects of air pollution are also more serious if you have a heart or circulatory disease.

Please help improve our air quality and reducing health risks by:

Eliminating idling in school zones, at ATM machines, at drive-thru lanes, and while running in to a dry cleaner or other place of business for a "quick stop."

This simple but critical change in behavior of idling your vehicle no longer than 30 seconds will drastically improve the air quality in your neighborhoods and the air your children breathe!

Thank you for your help!

Kim Lowe, RN, School Nurse