

2015
OCTOBER

explorer NEWS

Fabulous Foothill Parents,

principal's message Dr. Joseph Backman

We are proud to be a STEAM school. STEAM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics. Being a STEAM school means we purposefully integrate subjects to create engaging, meaningful learning for students. These learning experiences apply to the real world and encourage students to work with each other to think critically and to develop problem-solving strategies. This type of learning prepares students well for college and for future careers.

The Engineering Design Cycle is the core of STEAM instruction (see picture below). Students think like engineers to solve a real-world problem(s). They naturally ask questions and imagine ways they can solve the problem(s) effectively. Together with others they make/draw a plan and then create it. After they see how well (or not well) it works they find ways to improve upon their creation. When students' creations fail or don't work as well as they had originally thought, students naturally repeat the Engineering Design Cycle to continually improve their work.

An important part of STEAM is that it is for every student in every classroom. It is not a special program, a club, or just for a certain group or class. STEAM is for everyone! This type of learning will give students confidence to face problems that will come their way and have the needed skills to effectively, creatively solve them. I once heard that many of the jobs our students will have in ten years have not even been thought of, created, or invented yet. Gone are the days where we can merely train students with a specific skill set. We need our students to think creatively, to problem solve effectively, and to work well with others.

We are excited for the incredible opportunity we have to focus on the Technology part of STEAM. Technology will not distract us from what we are doing as a STEAM school, rather it will strengthen and accelerate student learning and help them become creative problem solvers as they connect with the world and each other through authentic learning experiences.

I am confident that as we implement STEAM learning more and more into our classrooms and learning that students at Foothill Elementary will gain these essential skills for not only school and work, but for life!

Sincerely,

Dr. Backman (Dr. B.)

Principal, Foothill Elementary



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out of the loop?

subscribe to the newsletter:
oremfoothillpta@gmail.com

like us on Facebook!
www.facebook.com/FoothillPTA

www.foothill.alpineschools.org
www.foothillpta.org

Dr. B.'s Readers

1st-3rd Grades
Cam Jansen and the Mystery
of the Stolen Diamonds
- By David A. Adler

4th-6th Grades
The Invention of Hugo Cabret
- By Brian Selznick
(Caldecott Award Winner)

UPCOMING EVENTS

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
			1	2 Vision Screening Battle of the Books Forms Due
5 Early Out Reflection Deadline	6 Book Fair	7 Parent/Teacher Conferences Book Fair	8 Parent/Teacher Conferences Book Fair	9 Book Fair
12 Early Out	13 Family Skate Night 5:30-8:30	14 PTA Meeting 1pm	15 Fall Break No School Matching Grant Deadline	16 Fall Break No School
19 Fall Break No School	20	21 SCC Meeting 11am	22 Reflections Recognition 6:30 pm	23
26 Early Out 6th Grade Clear Creek	27 6th Grade Clear Creek	28 6th Grade Clear Creek	29 2nd Grade Program 6:30 pm	30 Halloween Parade 9:30 am

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Lauren Muir Oct. 20
Kris Pinegar Oct. 24

NEXT MONTH:

Nov. 2-6 - Red Ribbon Week
Nov. 11 - PTA Meeting
Nov. 13 - Trimester Ends
Nov. 18 - SCC Meeting
Nov. 24 - Grandparent's Day
Nov. 25-27 - Thanksgiving Break

president's message
Lisa Oliver

Our EPIC Fundraiser was a huge success this year. There were so many individuals who spent untold hours on making it truly EPIC. Thank You! Be sure to thank Nan Black, Erin Brown and Amy Hulme for being the masterminds behind that great night. Also, a big "thanks" to the all the teachers and faculty who time spent running booths, driving golf carts, getting dunked, cleaning up, etc. We have such an amazing community at Foothill.

Thanks to all of you the Festival raised enough money to cover all of the PTA expenditures for the year with additional money to allocate to the EPIC Technology Grant. From festival funds and family donations we have over \$60K going toward our \$150K Technology goal. That is amazing! As a PTA we would love to see our Foothill community join together and collectively reach this amazing goal for our kids. We are excited to see enhanced teacher resources and student learning through Technology at Foothill.

Please be aware there are many upcoming school and PTA events. Be sure to mark your calendar so that you don't miss out. October 14 (Wednesday) from 1-2 pm, we will be holding our monthly PTA meeting in the library. This is a great time to see the PTA in action. At that time we will be discussing allocation of money and voting to put these great fundraising efforts into action. We will also be discussing upcoming events and activities. We would love to have everyone join us.

As we begin art, choir, orchestra, ballroom, vision screening, Battle of the Books, Fuel up the Play 60 and run our Book Fair please know how important you are to the success of our school and how much your time and efforts mean to the teachers and students at Foothill. Thank you for all you do!

Please watch for information on all PTA programs at www.foothillpta.org and follow us on Instagram at [oremfoothillpta](https://www.instagram.com/oremfoothillpta)

THE news

BOOK FAIR - OCTOBER 6-9

Come visit us during Parent/Teacher Conferences and help support our school library with your purchase. 40% of all sales go directly to the school!

Tues	Wed/Thu	Fri.
11:15-12:30 3:30-4:30	11:15-12:30 3:30-7:30	11:15-12:30



RED RIBBON WEEK

Red Ribbon Week will be November 2-6. The theme this year is "Respect Yourself". Watch for a flier to come home, as the date gets closer, with the daily themes and activities.

BATTLE OF THE BOOKS

We are so excited to get started on our inaugural year for Battle of the Books! This is a program for kids grades 3-6. They get together to form teams and then as a team read all the books on the assigned list (dividing the books up within the team) and then do head to head "battles" with other teams in March to see which team got the most out of the books. It is a fun way to work on reading skills and build camaraderie between students. The students need to read THREE books before Thanksgiving break to show they are serious about the program. Registrations and team request forms are due by October 2nd. If you have questions, please contact Mrs. Hebert for questions or if you'd like to help. dhebert@alpinedistrict.org



PTA REFLECTIONS

REFLECTIONS ENTRY & RECOGNITION NIGHT

Reflections entries are due on Monday October 5th! You still have time to put your creativity to use. Remember the theme: "Let Your Imagination Fly"

Turn in your entries to the office. Don't forget your entry form and Artistic statement. These forms can be found on the Reflections table at school or at www.utahpta.com/reflections

Good luck!!! Please contact Sarah Warnick with any questions at: arrowsmithse@gmail.com

The recognition night for all participants is scheduled for Thursday October 22nd at 6:30. Come see what our Foothill students can produce when they put their creative energy to work!



BOX TOPS!

Just a reminder to turn in all your Box Tops you've been collecting! It's free money for the school! All you need to do is cut/rip them off and send them in. Thanks for your support!



MORE news

TECHNOLOGY MATCHING GRANT!

Fabulous Foothill Parents,

Have you heard?!

A very generous donor has pledged \$150,000 for technology at Foothill if we can match that amount in the next 30 days (by October 15th, 2015). This may sound daunting, but we have already raised more than \$60,000! We, as a school and community of families and businesses, need to unite our efforts to take full advantage of this incredible opportunity!

What can you do?

I hope every family of Foothill will donate, no matter the amount. Every bit will make a difference. What an exciting opportunity for all of us to unite together for a great cause that will directly benefit our students and help them learn. You can also spread the word to extended family members, employers, businesses and neighbors as we continue to ask for help in raising the money for this effort.

Why technology?

At Foothill we are committed to help every student learn. We are proud to be a STEAM school where students are taught to think creatively to solve real-world problems. The limited funding we are allocated each year is directed to those endeavors that will best increase student learning.

Technology (the T in STEAM) is an effective accelerator of student learning. Foothill has been encouraged by the district to use Trust Land funds and any other sources to increase technology in classrooms. The district has provided the infrastructure for technology in our school but does not have the funds to procure the hardware.

As you know, smaller class sizes can increase the likelihood that students will learn and as the principal I am committed to do all I can to keep class sizes as small as possible. This year, a significant portion of our Trust Land money was allocated to reducing class sizes rather than going toward technology.

As we look toward integrating technology in our school to accelerate student learning this grant would make our technology dreams a reality. What an amazing opportunity! It is my belief that through generous donations from local businesses and from as many Foothill families as possible we will be able to secure this grant.

I am excited about this amazing opportunity. Foothill has such incredible teachers and parents who work together to make things happen. Donate and spread the word. Together we can make a difference to help every Foothill Explorer learn!

Sincerely,
Dr. B

P.S. Checks and donations can be written to Foothill PTA and turned into the office. All donations are tax deductible.

Have some news to share? Submit your news for the November 2015 Newsletter by October 23rd to oremfoothillpta@gmail.com with NEWSLETTER as the subject.

Do your kids come home from school and make a beeline to the kitchen looking for something to eat? If so, how can you make sure they enjoy a snack while still saving room for a healthy dinner?

Kids need less frequent snacks as they get older, but it's not surprising that most are hungry after school. Many kids eat lunch early-11:30 am or even before- and then have an afternoon of classes and maybe even an after-school activity before their next chance to eat.

These steps can guide kids to healthy after-school snacks that will be satisfying and still leave room for a nutritious dinner.

FIGURE OUT THE TIMING

Find out: When is lunchtime for your kids. What and how much do they eat at lunch? Do they ever skip lunch? This will help you figure out how hungry your kids will be when they get home.

You'll also want to think about what time you normally serve dinner. A child who gets home famished at 3:15 pm and eats a large snack probably won't be hungry if dinner is at 5:30 pm. Likewise, it may not be reasonable to expect a child whose parents work late to go until 7:30 pm with nothing to eat since lunch. Think about your kids' schedules and plan accordingly.

CREATE A LIST OF HEALTHY OPTIONS

Talk about which snacks your kids would like to have at snack time. Come up with a list of healthy options together and be sure to include a variety of fresh fruits and vegetables. Take your kids along to the grocery store. Being involved in the process makes it more likely that kids will learn to make healthy food choices.

MAKE HEALTHY SNACKS AN EASY CHOICE

Make healthy snacks easily available by packing them in your kids lunchboxes or backpacks or by having them visible and ready-to-eat at home. Easy to pack snack options include trail mix, nuts, low-sugar whole grain cereal, whole-grain pretzels or crackers, fresh or dried fruit, and cut-up vegetables. Older kids often like making their own snacks, so provide the ingredients and a few simple instructions. If dinner is just around the corner, consider allowing a "first course," such as a small salad or side vegetable while you finish preparing the family meal.

For those nights when dinner is hours away, offer a more substantial snack such as half a sandwich or a quesadilla topped with salsa. A good snack should take more time to eat than it does to prepare!

If your child comes home to an empty house, the best strategy is to leave something healthy front and center on the kitchen counter or in the refrigerator. A hungry child, like a hungry adult, is likely to take the path of least resistance!

Kim Lowe, RN, School Nurse

\$150K Technology Matching Grant

Timeline showing the series of events that led to the Foothill \$150K Technology Challenge

- **2013-2014** – Utah State testing required to be taken on computers.
- **October 2014** - PTA expresses concern over lack of technology time and student access to computers at Foothill.
- **January 2015** - Dr. B proposes 5-year plan for Technology in classrooms.
- **September 2015** - PTA begins to fundraise for technology needs.
- **September 15, 2015** - Generous Donor Match offered to Foothill. \$150K matching grant.
- **September 18, 2015** Foothill families begin making a difference through donating to their own children's education.
- **September 24, 2015** Alpine School district technology team commits to helping make technology a success at Foothill.
- **September 25, 2015** \$60K total donations from families at Foothill.
- **October 2015** – Fundraising continues. Foothill families reach out to employers, businesses and neighbors.

Future (We HOPE!)

- **October 15, 2015** – Foothill community of families, neighbors and businesses donate a total of \$150K.
- **October 15, 2015** - Donor Match is given to Foothill.
- **November 2015** Teachers prepare for technology in their classrooms.
- **January - May 2016** - Students begin using technology in their classroom learning.
- **Spring 2016** – Students better prepared for State computer testing.
- **August 2016** – Every classroom has technology. Learning is enhanced, engaging and accelerated. Teachers have access to greater tools in teaching.
- **2016 and on** – teacher training and support is ongoing.

Technology in our schools is not the future...it is the NOW! Schools throughout the nation and even locally are integrating computer technology into the learning environment and seeing amazing results. Technology allows teachers to do more at a faster rate.

Studies show that children who are immersed in coding and hands-on technology have increased skills in logical thinking, problem solving, persistence, collaboration, self-expression and communication.

Computers in the classroom provide intervention and enrichment for all levels of students!! The possibilities include: researching, keyboarding, coding, interactive learning, publishing, collaborating among peers, and so much more!

Foothill is ready to plug the technology in the classroom. Alpine School District is providing the networking with multi-million dollar projects. The major missing link is our funding...until now! With a total of \$300K the funding will not only provide the computers and technology for every classroom, but will cover the costs of professional development, support and training associated in integrating this technology successfully.

Utah ranks 51st in the nation in student spending for education. That is roughly \$6600 per student compared to other states of up to \$19,000 per student. Will education in Utah ever change? It's been this way for decades. The reality is we will never get the money from the State or District to supply our children with the tools they need in technology. We may not change state public policy, but we can stand up and change what is happening at our school. In addition, Foothill doesn't have the demographics to qualify for the big \$300K - \$400K government technology grants. This is our chance!

You may have already heard the buzz going around the school with regards to this grant. In just 3 days \$20,000 has been raised toward the \$150K goal through private family donations.

Talks with local businesses have begun trying to find creative ways to secure the hardware and to do so with ongoing relationships!! The hope is to continue to reach out to families and organizations locally (including local University resources) to help raise the needed money for the match. We need every family to help. Today someone mentioned their employer had a matching program. This parent is going to start asking the important questions and share our message. **If you do not have the means, we suggest using your voice!** Reach out to family members, friends, employers, neighbors and businesses in our area. 600 families working towards this goal will make all the difference. Together we can find a way to improve the educational experience for our children at Foothill Elementary.

If we don't take advantage of this offer now – we may never have a chance to bring technology into our learning environment in this way again. The Deadline is October 15th. Think outside the box and be creative. **Start spreading the word today. Donate generously where possible and help Foothill in this EPIC Fundraiser for Technology!**

Bring your donations to the Front Office!

Write Checks to Foothill PTA 921 N. 1240 E. Orem, UT 84097

As a 501 (c)(3) non-support organization all donations to the Foothill PTA are

Tax deductible.

Any and all donations will be appreciated

PTA Region: 9 Council: Orem EIN: 870632330 Local Unit ID: 00148590 Member ID: 1720675

EPIC

FOOTHILL
FUNDRAISER

EPIC FUNDRAISER!

LET'S MAKE A
DIFFERENCE!

\$150,000



DID YOU KNOW?

- OUR SCHOOL IS BEHIND IN TECHNOLOGY COMPARED TO OTHER SCHOOLS IN THE U.S.
- FOOTHILL ONLY HAS A PART TIME TECHNOLOGY TEACHER TO BE SHARED WITH THE ENTIRE SCHOOL
- TO STAY COMPETITIVE FOOTHILL NEEDS COMPUTERS IN EVERY CLASSROOM
- UTAH RANKS **51ST** IN THE NATION IN STUDENT SPENDING

LET'S CHANGE OUR SCHOOL!

FOOTHILL HAS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR

\$150,000

TECHNOLOGY MATCHING GRANT!

EVERY FAMILY CAN HELP!

CAN YOUR FAMILY GIVE \$1000

CAN YOUR FAMILY GIVE \$500

CAN YOUR FAMILY GIVE \$100

OR

FIND A
SPONSOR!

♥ GIVE WHAT YOU CAN... ANY AMOUNT WILL HELP!

PLEASE BRING CHECK AND DONATIONS TO
THE FRONT OFFICE!

GENEROUS
DONOR
MATCH



FOOTHILL
FAMILIES
MAKING A
DIFFERENCE



\$
30 DAYS
DUE
OCT 15TH

Family Skate Night

Foothill Ele. at Classic Fun Center
Tuesday, October 13th
5:30 - 8:30 pm

Skate Rental - \$2
Blades - \$3 and up
Scooters - \$3

You may bring your
own skates, blades,
or scooters



\$3 Dinner Deal

Nachos + drink
Pizza + drink
or
Hot dog, chips +
drink

Purchase at
front window

**Rollin' fun
for the
whole family!**

**See
you
there!**

**FREE Admission for you
and your whole family!**

Bouncing and Space Station Climbing Activities
Enjoy both activities for \$3 per person

250 South State Street, Orem 801-224-4197

As you are planning your calendar for the school year,
don't forget ski and snowboard school!
Lessons make a great Christmas gift too!

sundance

SKI AND SNOWBOARD SCHOOL

for

Foothill Elementary

Ages 8 and up for skiing,
9 and up for snowboarding!

2016 Season

Jan. 25, Feb 8, Feb 29, March 21

4-6pm

Cost is \$184

(or \$144 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 form
leifandkatrina@yahoo.com or 801-361-0287

FOOTHILL ELEMENTARY
921 North 1240 East
Orem, Utah 84097

