

2015
DECEMBER

explorer NEWS

IN THIS ISSUE:

pres. message - 2

calendar & birthdays - 2

the news - 3-4

nursing news - 5

a.i.l. testing info - 6-7

pay for grades - 8

out of the loop?

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Dr. B.'s Readers

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

Fabulous Foothill Parents,

principal's message Dr. Joseph Backman

Our theme at Foothill Elementary this year is "Leaving a Legacy." We desire to teach our students to be kind and make a difference in the world. While academic achievement is clearly our main focus, this endeavor would not fully serve our students unless our children learn to be kind, find joy in their lives, and learn how to make a difference in the world. Positive Psychology is a new field in the research world. "Positive Psychology is the scientific study of the strengths that enable individuals and communities to thrive. The field is founded on the belief that people want to lead meaningful and fulfilling lives, to cultivate what is best within themselves, and to enhance their experiences of love, work, and play" (Mission of the Positive Psychology Center at the University of Pennsylvania).

As we do our best to help students learn by improving instruction through professional learning like STEAM, we desire to improve our ability to help students learn the science of positive psychology. We want to intentionally teach our students so they can develop characteristics such as kindness, creativity, curiosity, integrity, honesty, work, compassion, resilience, respect, responsibility, optimism, friendship, forgiveness, and wisdom. Like learning math or reading, children need to learn and develop these positive traits by being explicitly taught, to be shown, and to experience these qualities for themselves. I believe the best setting for this to occur is in the home. At Foothill Elementary, we desire to support you as parents in helping your students learn these important characteristics through positive education.

Last year as a faculty we read "Mindset," a great book about having a growth mindset where one sincerely believes they can learn and grow by consistent effort, practice, and work. We were able to share what we learned with students to help them thrive more fully in the classroom and in life. This year, we have talked about the message of "Pay It Forward" by Catherine Ryan Hyde. The philosophy of Pay It Forward is to do more acts of kindness to others, which we refer to as our Kindness Campaign. When students are seen doing something kind they are given a leaf to put up on one of our Leaving a Legacy trees in our hallway. At Foothill, we desire to Pay It Forward through kind acts to others among our teachers and students and believe that this will cultivate an even happier and more caring environment in our classrooms and school.

As we Pay It Forward and focus on teaching the whole child at Foothill Elementary, I believe our students will continue to excel academically as well as emotionally. They will be happier in life and will develop essential characteristics to leave a legacy in our school, community, and world.

Sincerely,
Dr. Backman (Dr. B.)
Principal, Foothill Elementary

UPCOMING EVENTS

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
30 Early Out Foothill Choir	1 Ballroom	2 Orchestra	3 Holiday Concert 6:45-8 p.m. Ballroom	4
7 Early Out Foothill Choir	8 Ballroom	9 PTA Meeting 1-2 p.m. Orchestra	10 Ballroom	11
14 Early Out Foothill Choir	15 Ballroom	16 Orchestra	17 Ballroom	18
21 Christmas Break No School	22 Christmas Break No School	23 Christmas Break No School	24 Christmas Break No School	25 Christmas Break No School
28 Christmas Break No School	29 Christmas Break No School	30 Christmas Break No School	31 Christmas Break No School	1

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Karen Crabb Dec. 09
Christine Young Dec. 31

SERVICE PROJECT:

November 30th - December 16th

NEXT MONTH:

January 11-15 - Penny Wars
January 11 - Science Fair
January 13 - PTA Meeting 1 p.m.
January 18 - No School
January 24 School Community
Council Meeting 11 a.m.

president's message Lisa Oliver

As a PTA we are so grateful to our Amazing Volunteers! We extend a special thanks to PTA volunteers Sarah Warnick and her committee for their great work on Reflections. We had a huge number of submissions and many of our Foothill kids have gone on to Council and District.

We would also like to thank Katie Fox and her committee for a successful and fun Red Ribbon Week. Kim Riggs and her Fuel up to Play 60 group have been holding great activities to get our kids active and thinking about healthy foods.

Thanks to our wonderful Art committee and all of the art volunteers who have been spending hours in each classroom teaching and enriching our students. We have such great parental support at Foothill and it shows!

As the Holidays approach and in this gift-giving month we also want to announce that the PTA (thanks to funds raised from the Fall Festival) will be able to give every teacher at Foothill a financial "grant" to enrich their own classrooms in whatever way they desire. We love our dedicated Foothill Teachers and thank them for their daily efforts with our children.

Now for a Technology Update

This past month Dr. B and myself along with the Technology Committee, teachers, and the District have been hard at work preparing the groundwork to implement the upcoming technology we will be integrating into the classrooms.

We have had consultations with ESpark and spent an entire day working with the National Government's Future Ready representative from Washington DC in making preparations to implement this technology in the most responsible and successful way.

Over the Thanksgiving break and continuing through this next week all of the necessary infrastructure will be installed to make connectivity a success for our new devices. Teachers will begin training and working with iPads this month and by January we will have classrooms piloting the new technology in every grade level. We are excited about what lies ahead for our teachers and students as we accelerate and enrich learning at Foothill. As we roll out the new technology we will be adding devices and facilitating training so that by the beginning of the 2016-2017 school year every classroom will be fully equipped and running.

Once again, we are so grateful for the support of families, businesses, the district and our teachers and administration for making this all possible for our kids at Foothill.

Have a wonderful, safe and Happy Holiday!

THE news

SPELLING BEE

Buzzzzzzzzzz...hear that? It's coming. The school spelling bee! The school spelling bee will be early in February with your classroom spelling bee held sometime in January. (Check with your classroom teacher for a date.) If you want to start preparing the lists can be found on the school website at <http://www.spellingbee.com>. Login with the email address: oremfoothillpta@gmail.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. We will send home a list the first week in January with more details. Have fun and good luck!

A.L.L. TESTING

Testing will be each Saturday in January. It is for all 2nd-7th graders interested in a placement for next year. For times, locations and registration information, see pages 6-7 of this newsletter

BOX TOPS

Remember to clip and save the Box Tops from your holiday baking and gifts. Then turn them in to your child's classroom. Each Box Top is worth 10¢ !!

RELECTIONS

Foothill Elementary has some really talented kids. This year we sent the most amount of Reflections entries to the council level and had the most amount of winners! Congratulations to all who participated and all our winners. Here is a list of the winners from the council level:

Film: Angelica Perez **3D Art:** Camilla Partridge, Jarett Nelson

Visual Art: Alivia Dean

Music: Jessica Wood **Photography:** Shelby Anderson, McKay Nelson

Literature: Katharine Collins, Mercy Thomas, Rebecca Partridge, Gwendolyn Walker

We can't wait to see who wins at the regional level!

BATTLE OF THE BOOKS

We are so excited to kick-off the inaugural Battle of the Books this month with a party for all the participants. T-shirts will be handed out and teams will come up with their names. Each child needs to keep working on the books for their grade (see attachment) and for each book they read fill out a form in the library with Mrs. Hebert. The form needs a parent signature and a sample question to practice with. For each book a child reads they get a button on their lanyard and a little treat. When the kids read at least 10 books they get to pick a prize! Practice flashcards can be found on Cram (app and website) under

2015-2016 Battle Of The Books 5Th/6Th Grade Alpine and 3rd/4th Grade Alpine.

KNOWLEDGE BOWL

Knowledge Bowl is up and running!! Knowledge Bowl is a group where students get together to be quizzed on their knowledge of a particular subject. This year's topic is: Science! Study sessions will take place two-three mornings a week from 8:00-8:55 am starting in January. To be considered for Knowledge Bowl, students and parents must fill out this form AND students are expected to take a test on December 3rd before school. Study information for this test can be found at: <https://sites.google.com/site/foothillknowledgebowl/study-guide-for-dec-test>. There is a \$10 fee per student (scholarships are available).



MORE news

Let it snow! Let it snow! Let it snow!

sundance

Ski and Snowboard School for Foothill Elementary 2016 Season

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

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

Parents are responsible for transportatin to Sundance.

Release forms are available on the counter in the Foothill office.

Turn in completed forms and payment at the office.

Deadline for registration: Jan. 8, 2016

For questions, contact Katrina Larson leifandkatrina@yahoo.com or 801-361-0287

DECEMBER STUDENT COUNCIL SERVICE PROJECT

For the Student Council service project starting November 30th, we are joining Project Teddy Bear and collecting teddy bears. You can donate your new or clean, gently used stuffed animals at Foothill Elementary. There will be a collection box near the main office. We will then take them to a Bank of American Fork branch. The Bank of American Fork will hold a presentation of the stuffed animals on December 17th at 11 A.M. at the American Fork branch.

“Project Teddy Bear is a community service project sponsored by Bank of American Fork. These teddy bears will be given to the Utah Valley Family Support & Treatment Center in Orem, Salt Lake Valley Family Support Center (locations in Midvale, Taylorsville, West Valley City and Sugarhouse), House of Hope (SLC, Provo and Ogden) and Family Connection Center (in Layton/Clearfield and Bountiful).

These centers have the mission of preventing and treating child abuse through education, therapy and outreach. Crisis nurseries are available for children who have been abused, are in danger of being abused or are awaiting placement in a foster home. A soft teddy bear to hug during these times of trauma or loneliness is a great comfort to the children. At-risk children also undergo therapy sessions at the centers throughout the year. A teddy bear gives them something to hold during sessions, provides much-needed comfort and helps in the healing process. It may also be the only Christmas present a child receives.”

STILL NEED SOME CHRISTMAS GIFTS?

Check out what the PTA still has available to purchase. Proceeds go to help the school.

<http://www.foothillpta.org/programs/fall-festival-info/foothill-store>

MORE

news

Thank you to these EPIC Donors

Todd and Andie Pedersen Family

Foothill Families

Foothill Teachers

Alpine School District



NURSING NEWS

Dear Parents,

The "flu" season is officially underway. Individuals who received their vaccine at least two weeks ago can breathe a sign of relief, because it takes about two weeks to build immunity. You need the vaccine each year because the influenza virus changes, sometimes significantly, from year to year.

The vaccine comes in two basic forms—the shot and nasal spray. The "shot" contains killed virus and the nasal spray contains weakened live virus. **NEITHER VACCINE CAUSES INFLUENZA!!!!** The most common side effects from a flu shot are a sore arm and maybe a low fever or achiness. The flu mist might cause congestion, runny nose, sore throat, or cough. If you do have any side effects, they are usually mild and short-lived. These side effects mean that your body is producing antibodies against the actual influenza which is a very good thing!!!!

The vaccine is the **BEST WAY** to protect against influenza. Flu vaccines have been given for more than 50 years and they have a very good safety track record. Flu vaccines are made the same way each year and their safety is closely monitored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Food and Drug Administration. Hundreds of millions of flu vaccines have been given safely!

It's not too late to get vaccinated! To get your flu vaccine, come to the Utah County Health Department or visit your doctor.

Happy, Healthy Holiday Season to you all!

Kim Lowe, RN, School Nurse

ATTENTION PARENTS: A Must Read for Parents of 2nd-7th Graders who are Advanced!



ASD Advanced Learning Lab (A. L. L.) Testing Saturdays – January 9th to January 30th 2016

The Alpine School District (ASD) Gifted Services department will be conducting 8 sessions of testing for placements in the district A. L. L. classrooms for the 2016-2017 school year. Any interested 2nd grader through 7th grader in ASD is invited to attend a testing session to qualify for a placement in an Advanced Learning Lab (A. L. L.). The testing will occur according to the schedule below. All 2nd-7th graders interested in a placement for the next year will **have to test** for original placement in the A.L.L. program. If students are currently in an elementary or secondary A.L.L. program they do not need to retest if they have completed the intent to continue form. However, all 6th grade students must retest for placement between the elementary and secondary level. Testing for secondary A.L.L. is for designated English, History and Science classes. Math testing and placement is completed at individual schools.

Testing for both Elementary and Secondary Advanced Learning Lab (A. L. L.) programs will be done on Saturdays, January 9th to January 30th. The online registration is now open and will close the Tuesday prior to each testing session. There will be a \$20.00 fee for the testing. Students on free or reduced lunch status will register on-line with a reduced cost. Registering within three days of testing is considered a late registration and will incur an additional \$5.00 fee. Late registrants will be admitted upon availability. There are no refunds.

Go to www.curriculum.alpineschools.org/gifted-services and register on the homepage through Xpress Bill Pay. Contact Gifted Services at 801-610-8475 or staylor@alpinedistrict.org with questions.

The following will be the testing dates, locations and times:

January 9, 2016: (North)

- 6th and 7th graders (Sec -A. L. L.) - **Mt. Ridge Junior High**, 5525 W 10400 N, Highland, UT, (7:30 to 11:30 and 12:30 to 4:30)
- 2nd – 5th graders (El -A. L. L.) - **Highland Elementary**, 10865 N 6000 W, Highland, UT, (7:30 to 11:30 and 12:30 to 4:30)

January 16, 2016: (East)

- 6th and 7th graders (Sec -A. L. L.) - **Canyon View Junior High**, 655 E 950 N, Orem, UT (7:30 to 11:30 and 12:30 to 4:30)
- 2nd – 5th graders (El -A. L. L.) - **Lindon Elementary**, 30 N Main, Lindon, UT (7:30 to 11:30 and 12:30 to 4:30)

January 23, 2016: (South)

- 6th and 7th graders (Sec -A. L. L.) **Orem Junior High**, 765 N 600 W, Orem, UT (7:30 to 11:30 and 12:30 to 4:30)
- 2nd – 5th graders (El -A. L. L.) - **Orem Elementary**, 450 W 400 S, Orem, UT (7:30 to 11:30 and 12:30 to 4:30)

January 30, 2016: (West)

- 6th and 7th graders (Sec -A. L. L.) - **Vista Heights Middle School**, 484 W Pony Express Pkwy, Saratoga Springs, UT (7:30 to 11:30 and 12:30 to 4:30)
- 2nd – 5th graders (El -A. L. L.) - **Thunder Ridge Elementary**, 264 N 750 W, Saratoga Springs, UT (7:30 to 11:30 and 12:30 to 4:30)

Testing time includes the check-in process. Testers may bring a bottle of water, a simple snack and book. All other testing materials will be provided. If your child has testing accommodations through an IEP or 504 please contact Gifted Services (staylor@alpinedistrict.org) prior to the testing date to arrange for necessary accommodations.

Advanced Learning Lab (A.L.L.) Programs
Important Testing Information
For Placement in the 2015-2016 School Year

Various programs are necessary to meet the diverse needs of academically advanced students. In order to address some of these needs, Alpine School District has established classes at an advanced level for third through eighth grade called A.L.L. (Advanced Learning Lab) **A.L.L. programs are located in nine different elementary schools and every junior high/middle school.** (See the website for magnet site information at www.alpineschools.org select schools then programs) A.L.L. is a full day program at specific elementary schools, and is a subject specific program at secondary schools. Students are placed according to nationally normed testing results and a written essay.

The purpose of this letter is to inform all parents/guardians of 2nd-7th graders about the opportunity to test for possible placement in an A.L.L. program. Qualifying students will be offered placement and invited to meet with the teacher to learn more about specific magnet site offerings. The identified students and their parents/guardians will then make the final decision to accept or decline placement.

POSSIBLE INDICATORS TO CONSIDER PRIOR TO HAVING A STUDENT TESTED:

- The student's Utah State SAGE test scores are a 4 in Language Arts, Math and Science.
- The student is reading at two or more grade levels above current grade.
- The current classroom teacher has suggested during a Parent/ Teacher Conference that the student could benefit from a more complex or in-depth curriculum as offered in a gifted program.
- The student learns quickly, recalls information effortlessly, is curious, self-motivated, works independently and typically remains committed to a task until its completion.
- The student exhibits satisfactory to outstanding citizenship in both attitude and behavior.
- The student has good school attendance and is committed to the program for two years.
- The student completes homework in a timely manner, has task commitment for long-term projects.
- The student initiates his/her own learning through questioning and research.

ADDITIONAL SIGNIFICANT INFORMATION TO CONSIDER:

- The A.L.L. candidates must qualify for the program through a series of evaluations. The top students are offered placement, and an additional four to six become alternates in a "candidate pool."
- Evaluations for elementary students include taking the full battery Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT), secondary students taking the IOWA assessment in Reading, Writing, Social Studies and Science. All students will take a timed writing test based on a given prompt. Please note secondary mathematics is not tested through Gifted Services. This testing is done at the Junior High or Middle School.
- A.L.L. students will have assignments/homework that are greater in depth, breadth and complexity than in a regular class.
- For the elementary programs, parents are responsible for transportation to the A.L.L. site. Students attend the school closest to their boundary (see the website for school locations www.curriculum.alpineschools.org/gifted-services)
- For secondary programs, students must register for the school within their school boundary.

If you feel that your child could benefit from placement in an Advanced Learning Lab (A.L.L.) and you would like to begin the consideration process start by registering them online: Go to www.curriculum.alpineschools.org/gifted-services or www.alpineschools.org select schools, then Programs, then to Gifted Education and register on the homepage through Xpress Bill Pay. Contact Gifted Services at 801-610-8475 or staylor@alpinedistrict.org with questions.

Additional information can be found at www.curriculum.alpineschools.org/gifted-services



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

FOOTHILL ELEMENTARY
921 North 1240 East
Orem, Utah 84097

