

# Pleasant Hill School District WINTER 2019 NEWSLETTER

**Our Mission:**  
To graduate all students with high levels of academic and personal achievement, who are ready for post-secondary excellence, and who are prepared for productive, compassionate citizenship, through research-based instruction and a collaborative system of support.

## Message from the Superintendent

During each budget cycle, it is the desire of the Pleasant Hill Board of Education to gather input during the budgeting process from the Pleasant Hill school staff and community members. It is especially critical during this current cycle to develop a long-range plan prioritizing the needs and wants as funding becomes available and/or funding decreases to operate the Pleasant Hill School District.

In this mailing, we will provide you with a survey (located on page 4) that you can fill out and return to the district office at 36386 Highway 58, Pleasant Hill, OR 97455, or complete the survey online, at [www.pleasanthill.k12.or.us](http://www.pleasanthill.k12.or.us) and click on the Budget Funding Survey link.

## Budget Survey Background Information

### The Governor's Budget

The current Governor's Budget sets the State School Fund (SSF) at \$8.972 billion. The SSF in the current biennium is \$8.2 billion and according to the Oregon School Business Officials (OASBO) we would need \$9.13 billion to maintain current service level. The Governor's budget has an additional \$100 million to offset PERS rate increases. Therefore, the Governor's commitment to K-12 education is actually about \$9.07 billion.

The Governor also pointed out key investments should there be more money available through revenue reform. These include:

- School Improvement Fund of \$793 million to increase school days to 180 and lower grades K-3rd class sizes.
- Fully funding Measure 98 (\$303.2 million total).
- \$285 million for expanded early learning opportunities for low income children.
- \$45.6 million increase in Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education.

Altogether, the Governor's budget and the additional investments total roughly \$10.15 billion. At this time, there are no specifics on how to get the level of revenue reform the investment items would require.

### Pleasant Hill School District

To help you better understand our school district budget, we're including a list of programs and electives offered at Pleasant Hill Elementary School and Pleasant Hill Middle and High School. You can find that list on page 2 of this newsletter to use as a reference as you complete the survey.

Respectfully,

*Scott Linenberger*  
Superintendent

## Inside This Newsletter:

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- The Pleasant Hill Community Center is available for rent
- How to stay in touch by signing up for the community email list

## Current electives and programs

### Elementary School Programs

#### Music

60 minutes a week per grade level

#### Physical Education

60 minutes a week per grade level

#### Library

30 minutes a week per grade level

### Middle & High School Electives

#### Vocal

Vocal (sixth grade)

Variations (seventh & eighth grade)

Chansonaires and Ascensions

#### Band

Band (sixth grade)

Concert Band (seventh & eighth)

Winds Ensemble and Solar Jazz

#### Arts

Art Survey (seventh & eighth)

Introduction to Art

Advanced Art

Ceramics

Design

Crafts

#### Foreign Language

Spanish

### Career & Technical Education (CTE)

#### Computer science

Middle School Computer Science

Web Development

Robotics

Intro to Gaming Development

Computer Science

Business Technology

#### Agriculture

Introduction to Agriculture

Intro to Business Leadership

Agricultural Lab

Animal Science

Horticulture

#### Wood

Introduction to Construction

Advanced Construction

Drafting

#### Metals

Introduction to Metal

Introduction to Advanced Metal

Academy Survey

STEAM

## School Board Meetings

### Board Meetings and Work Sessions

February 11, 2019

February 25, 2019 (work session)

March 11, 2019

April 8, 2019

April 22, 2019 (work session)

All meetings will begin at 7:00 p.m. in the Pleasant Hill Community Center unless otherwise noted.

### Board & Budget Committee Meetings

May 6, 2019 (orientation)

May 20, 2019

June 3, 2019

June 10, 2019 (if needed)

### Budget Hearing & Board Meeting

June 24, 2019

Adopt 2019-2020 Budget,

Approve Resolutions

## Interested in joining the Budget Committee?

The District is currently welcoming applications for Budget Committee members. Applications will be accepted at the District Office through Monday, April 1, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. Selection of new Budget Committee members is tentatively scheduled for April 8, 2019. Applications are available online or in the District Office. Please contact the District Office at 541.746.9646 with any questions.

## Reaching Out Mentoring Program

Our program would like to thank all of our volunteers who take time out of their day to help a student in our community to become more successful. Please join the district and the Reaching Out Mentoring Program as we say **THANK YOU!** to our 22 wonderful volunteer mentors who meet weekly with their student mentees:

Clarissa Anderson

Dan Ferguson

Tom Harris

Jim Leach

Shari Pickar

Kathy Rife

Bob Beck

Geneva Burford

Dennis Biggerstaff

Karen Gibson

Lori Griffiths

Carol McLeod

Rusty Rexius

Darrell Shoemaker

Susie Rexius

Sue Nay

Bob Hoitt

Andrea Landers

Paul Parker

Kiyallah Heatherstone

Scott Springate

Rebecca Keepers

In addition to these adult volunteers, we want to thank our 15 high school peer-mentors who volunteer for the Lunch-Buddies Program and our 17 middle school mentors!

### What is the Reaching Out Mentoring Program?

The Reaching Out Mentoring Program (ROMP) is our school-based mentoring program. This means that our meetings happen *on campus during the school day*. Mentoring provides social, emotional and academic support for students. Students nominated for ROMP are matched with screened and trained adult volunteers for weekly visits. We offer peer mentoring for younger students through our Lunch-Buddy Program and Middle School Mentors.

For more information please contact Lorena Hammond, Program Coordinator, at the Pleasant Hill Community Center at 541.736.0495 or [lhammondmendez@pleasanthill.k12.or.us](mailto:lhammondmendez@pleasanthill.k12.or.us).

## A Note from the Board Chair

Best wishes for a Happy New Year to all members of the Pleasant Hill School District community! As we enter the new year, in my role as Board Chair, I resolve to continue to further our District's mission in all the ways I can, and I invite you all to share in this endeavor. Our mission is multi-faceted but can be summarized by our mission statement:

**To graduate all students with high levels of academic and personal achievement, ready for post-secondary excellence, prepared for productive, compassionate citizenship through research-based instruction and a collaborative system of support.**

One way we can collaborate is to complete our pre-budget on-line survey asking for input on establishing funding priorities for the 2019-20 school year. You can find the survey on the Pleasant Hill School District website. Another way to collaborate is to attend the Community Budget Forum at the Community Center early in the new year to discuss the budget survey results and work with the Board and Budget Committee to provide guidance to our superintendent as he constructs the budget. A third way to further our mission is to be a supportive audience for our students at District events such as musical concerts, athletic games, open houses, living museums, Destination Imagination conventions, and a host of others. These are listed by the month on the District Calendar found on the website. Of course families of students are always welcome, and I'd like to extend a special invitation to community members who do not have children enrolled in the District. You will be supporting some of our future leaders in action, and be immersed in the spirit of the Pleasant Hill School District.

If you have a little extra time, special skills or interests you'd like to share, or just want to be part of an active, creative environment, volunteering at the Elementary, Middle and/or High School is an excellent way to invest in the future. A simple phone call, text message, or e-mail to the building principals or superintendent will get you started.

To further our mission, the Board is continuing to work with members on the Pleasant Hill Improvement Plan Committee to increase students' literacy achievement, heighten their level of engagement in their classes, and strengthen relationships among students, staff, and community. We have identified specific, measurable, attainable, relevant, and timely ways to measure each of these focus areas, and have entered the data-gathering phase of the process.

Board members are committed to focusing on improvement because we want the very best education possible for our students. At the same time, it is important for us all to celebrate the inspiring successes, from kindergarteners learning to sing together in tune to our seniors meeting all the graduation requirements. We can celebrate as well by peeking down the exciting paths many of our graduates follow as they practice their productive, compassionate citizenship. Just look at Kate Faber: she graduated from Pleasant Hill in 2013, studied both Environmental Science and Wildlife at the UO and graduated in 2017, worked for the National Park Service and Forest Service, and now is serving in the Peace Corps in Guinea, West Africa, where she will be assigned to a village to work as an agro-forestry volunteer, helping with gardening, planting trees, and bee-keeping! Send more success stories my way so we can all celebrate them together.

As 2019 begins, the Pleasant Hill School District Board of Directors is eager to work with our staff and community to continue and improve our tradition of excellence. Happy New Year to you all!

Sincerely,

*Wylde Cafferata*  
Board Chair



## Updates from the Pleasant Hill Booster Club

The Booster Club reports that the basketball hoops are up at the tennis courts. Thanks to Sue Doe and the generous donors for their support!

We have two important upcoming fundraisers:

The first is on February 21 at the Hilltop Bar and Grill from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m.

The second is our 50th Anniversary Auction event, which will be held on Saturday, May 4. We are looking for copies of any and all photos people may have from our past auctions. Please send your digital or scanned images to [pleasanthillboosters@gmail.com](mailto:pleasanthillboosters@gmail.com).

Be sure to join us at our Booster Club meetings, which are held on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Pleasant Hill Community Center.

# School District News

## Budget Survey

1. Financial transparency is important to the Pleasant Hill School District. Currently our business manager makes regular reports at monthly School Board meetings. What are some other ways we can establish and maintain financial transparency?

2. During each school year, the School Board completes a budget cycle that includes several steps before the final budget for the next school year is approved in June. One of these steps is receiving input from the community and staff. What are some ideas that would meet this need and get the most participation?

3. In considering our mission, if Pleasant Hill School District received additional revenue, which would be the highest priority. Please explain your rationale.

- A) Student contact days/time
- B) Lower class size
- C) Instructional programs
- D) Mental health and other wraparound services for students
- E) Other

4. In considering our mission, if Pleasant Hill School District received additional resources, and it was decided to add or expand programs, what instructional program should we add? Please explain your rationale.

- A) Career and technical education (CTE)
- B) Electives (music, arts, etc.)
- C) Early learning
- D) Mental health and other wraparound services for students
- E) Other

## We Need Your Feedback!

Please take a moment to answer the following survey questions and return to the district office by February 13, 2019.

For your convenience, an online survey has been set up on the Pleasant School District website at [www.pleasanthill.k12.or.us](http://www.pleasanthill.k12.or.us).

**Our Mission: To graduate all students with high levels of academic and personal achievement, ready for post-secondary excellence, prepared for productive, compassionate citizenship through research-based instruction and a collaborative system of support.**

5. In considering our mission, if Pleasant Hill School District had to make reductions or cuts, which would be the highest priority to cut or reduce? Please explain your rationale.

- A) Student contact days/time
- B) Class-size
- C) Instructional programs
- D) Mental health and other wraparound services for students
- E) Other

6. In considering our mission, if we had to make reductions or cuts in programs, which would you recommend? Please explain your rationale and list the programs or electives you would recommend.

- A) Career and technical education (CTE)
- B) Electives (music, arts, etc.)
- C) Early learning
- D) Mental health and other wraparound services for students
- E) Other

7. Any additional thoughts or concerns?

8. Which best describes you? Select all that apply.

- A) District Employee
- B) Community Member
- C) PHSD Parent
- D) Other (please specify)

# Pleasant Hill Elementary School

## From the PHES Principal

The students of Pleasant Hill Elementary have been busily working on their journey to master the grade level standards. We have so many things to be proud of in the areas of learning, community service, and enrichment opportunities. Our students have experienced so much this year.

We started the year with our annual Meet and Greet prior to the start of school. Not only did we welcome students back, but our PTO held the grand opening of the new playground structure purchased with community donations via years of Jog-a-thons, PHEF Paddle Race and many other fundraisers and donations. We all are extremely grateful for the years of community support that made our new playground a reality.

The first day of school, the elementary staff welcomed everyone to an assembly before students headed to class. Shortly thereafter, we held an Open House for all of our friends and families to see the great things taking place in each classroom and around the campus.

At the end of September, we held our annual fundraiser the Jog-a-thon. Our families generously donated their time by hosting this event. This year we raised over \$23,000 for field trips and enrichment activities for this school year.

In October, we introduced a new goal/parent conference format. Families were invited to participate in setting goals for their students to achieve this school year. The feedback we received was positive and appreciative of having an opportunity to meet with teachers earlier, building relationships and forming partnerships to assist students in being successful.

We held our 2nd annual STEAM Night inviting families and community members to come spend an hour or two experimenting with common materials, performing engineering challenges involving science, technology, engineering, art and math. Later in November, we held our annual Thanksgiving Luncheon inviting families and community members to school that day. Over 550 lunches were served with the assistance of many volunteers, including the Pleasant Hill Fire Department who helped serve up pumpkin pie and visited with students and families alike.

December has been a month for our students to give back to the community. Our students' community service project has been to fill our community buckets collecting food for the community. Our third graders collected donations to purchase toys at Target that they donated to the Toys for Tots program.

Under the guidance of our two music instructors and the support of the staff, 430 students performed for the community at our annual Winter/Holiday Music Program. It was exciting to see so many of our community members in attendance that evening enjoying this gift from the students to you.

Our students have been blessed to see our community members supporting them in so many ways from donating their time, volunteering in the classrooms, volunteering as a reader or mentor to a student through our Reach Out Mentoring Program. Research shows and proven in Pleasant Hill, community and family engagement increases students' overall growth, as displayed in our school wide data collected in the areas of reading, math, student engagement and attendance. Oh, the places we have yet to go!

Go Billies!

*Devery Stoneberg*

Principal

## Pleasant Hill Education Foundation

**Thank you!** The Pleasant Hill Education Foundation awarded 28 Innovative Educator Grants, totaling over \$53,000 to the Pleasant Hill School District for the 2018-2019 school year. Funded by generous contributions and community support, PHEF grants aim to enhance student academic performance, and support the mission, goals and initiatives of the school district. Learn more about these grants at [www.phillfoundation.org/recipients](http://www.phillfoundation.org/recipients).

### Breakfast on the Hill

On October 23, 2018 we welcomed over 100 guests for our 3rd Annual Advocacy Breakfast on the Hill. We were lucky to have Lori & Adam Griffiths as our Honorary Chairs, Lou Radja, our keynote speaker, as well as several Alumni speakers. Thanks to your generosity, we raised over \$30,000.

### Save the Date

Saturday, February 23 at 6:00 p.m. is Havana Nights, our 8th Annual Casino Night at the Emerald Valley Golf Club. This will be our largest fundraiser, directly supporting the students of Pleasant Hill. We hope you'll join us for a fun evening of food, drinks, gaming, live music and dancing! All are welcome—tickets are available at the Elementary and High School offices and online at [www.phillfoundation.org](http://www.phillfoundation.org).

### Want to get involved?

We have many different ways to help support our mission ranging from sponsorships, volunteering at events, serving on a committee and board membership! Contact Jennifer Anderson at [janderson@phillfoundation.org](mailto:janderson@phillfoundation.org).

# Pleasant Hill High School & Middle School

## From the PHHS and PHMS Principal

Pleasant Hill High School staff works very hard to support our students and their success. Most days you will find staff working with students before school, at lunch, and after school assisting them with their schoolwork, helping them manage life, and encouraging them to strive to be their very best.

I am impressed daily as I walk down the hallways at lunch and see nearly every teacher spending their time with students. I know that society is changing and I often hear that things are not the same as when we were kids. In many ways this is true, but I also know that Pleasant Hill is and has always been a place where community, parents and school work together to support our youth in their journey to fulfill their dreams. I call this Billie Spirit and it is alive and well at Pleasant Hill High School.

With this, I would like to inform you of another opportunity for students to get extra assistance with their school work. Starting in February, on early release Wednesdays from 1:50-3:00 p.m., Pleasant Hill High School would like to offer students the opportunity to get extra assistance on school work from hired staff. Students and parents will be informed as plans become finalized.

Go Billies,  
*Randy Fisher*  
Principal

## Despite All Odds: Christina's Story

### Timothy Meinzen

At 13 she was homeless. She moved with her dad from house to house, never being sure of anything. Surrounded by drug abuse and poverty, Christina's future looked a lot like her parents' present: addicted, impoverished, and chaotic.

She was an infant when social services got involved in her life. Her mother left her with a drunk grandfather while heading to a party. Her grandpa took baby Christina in a stroller and accidentally tipped her over. The police were called and since then she has been in and out of the foster care system. At age 8, she lived with her other grandparents and grew close to her grandmother. But then her grandfather died, so she moved in with her great-grandparents. Within a few years they died. When her great-grandmother died, Christina lay for a long time on her great-grandmother's deathbed full of grief.

In middle school, she lived with her step-mom and dad. The home was packed with people, cousins, friends, but no privacy—just the chaos of too many people living off too little money. Then she moved in with an aunt. Fewer bodies, but an uncle who was emotionally abusive and a heavy drinker who “said really gross stuff.” Eventually she moved back in with her pill-addicted dad. Unable to hold a job, he offered her some form of stability. Without a home, they moved around. She remembers sitting outside to get the WiFi from a neighbor to complete her school studies. She remembers living in a garage, always living with too many people. Eventually she began using. Her life seemed on the same downward trajectory as her parents. At school, Christina worked hard, finding escape in creativity. Art became a portal to a better world. She also learned to adapt—a necessity with so many people in her living place. Eventually, she realized that she had to leave her father, who was in serious trouble with the law.

Christina's Story, continued on Page 7

## Middle School and High School Grief Counseling

### Jolene Hill

Courageous Kids is a local, long-established nonprofit that provides bereavement and grief support for school-age children (and their families) due to the death of a loved one.

To find more information about their many programs and services, email [kkintigh@peacehealth.org](mailto:kkintigh@peacehealth.org), call 458.205.7474, or visit their website at [courageouskidsoregon.org](http://courageouskidsoregon.org).

In addition, a teen grief group is being organized by middle school Ms. Hill, projected to begin in early 2019. This 8-week counseling group will meet once a week. The group will be led by a Courageous Kids counselor with Ms. Hill present & assisting.

If you have a middle or high school student that you think would benefit from this program, please contact Jolene Hill at [jhill@pleasanthill.k12.or.us](mailto:jhill@pleasanthill.k12.or.us) or call 541.736.0774.

## Metal Shop

### Can you spare supplies for the PHHS metal shop?

Metal shop needs used horseshoes and any other type of usable (not galvanized) metal. This would include bar stock, angle iron, square and round tubing or pipe, etc.

If you have materials or know of a source for our metalworking needs, please contact Dick Erickson at [derickson@pleasanthill.k12.or.us](mailto:derickson@pleasanthill.k12.or.us) or 541.736.0739.

# Pleasant Hill High School & Middle School

## Agriculture and FFA

**Angela White**

Enrollment in Ag classes are way up! We have over 170 middle and high school students enrolled first semester.

The Ag program has received grants to build a compost bin and four garden boxes on the south side of the student center. We are also running a hydroponics and small seed starting and growing experiments with different heat and lighting systems. Our classes have taken several educational field trips, tours, and hosted guest speakers in industry and career related topics.

FFA membership has doubled this year with over 30 members! Pleasant Hill FFA Chapter had a successful first semester and held our Winter FFA Annual Meeting last month. All FFA members, families, perspective members, and alumni chapter members were invited for an informative social event.

We are planning and focusing on fundraising for our Career Development Events, Leadership Events, National FFA Week, and Market Animal Projects. Our Greenhouse building has been purchased, stored, and is awaiting construction. We are fundraising \$60,000 for the balance of the costs of construction, all ADA facility compliance and utilities.

We are still seeking guest speakers, Agriculture Education Sponsors, and FFA Alumni Members. Thank you to the Pleasant Hill Education Foundation, Wilco, Tractor Store, Lane County Farm Bureau, and Lane County Livestock Association for your grants and donations!

## Emergency Supply Buckets

The Pleasant Hill School District, along with the Pleasant Hill/Goshen Rural Fire Department and Home Depot, worked together on November 6 to distribute emergency supply buckets to each classroom throughout the school district.

For the past 18 months, the Superintendents of Pleasant Hill and Marcola School Districts have been partnering with the Fire Chiefs of both Mohawk and Pleasant Hill/Goshen Rural Fire Departments, and staff from the Lane County Sheriff's Department on a project to enhance preparations for emergencies, including natural disasters such as earthquakes and human-caused such as school shootings. As part of this project, the Green Acres Road Eugene Home Depot graciously donated emergency supplies, including 5-gallon buckets with lids, flashlights, gloves, dust masks, and other safety and first aid supplies.

On November 6, Home Depot employees along with school staff and fire department members stuffed 50 buckets with supplies and placed them in classrooms. An additional 25 buckets were already put in place in the Marcola School District.



**Volunteers pose by emergency supply buckets**

## Christina's Story

**Continued from Page 6**

A foster couple took her in. Now she has rules, she has privacy, and she has adults who are clean and who care. Chris and Michelle Bonneau parent Christina, set rules, and provide what parents must. Christina's art is still a part of her healing, but she realizes that doing well in school is her ticket out of oblivion, her chance to avoid her parents' route. Her chance to pursue a dream in neuroscience.

Here at Pleasant Hill, she has found an encouraging place to do well. Kids know her as a powerful artist. "I get too OCD about things, I am not satisfied with my own work, nothing is ever finished. I finished two drawings in the last year, and that was just last week."

She likes 3-D modeling on Blender. Her career goals include laboratory research instead of art. But her childhood horrors still take their toll. "Sometimes," she says, "I just break down and cry. I don't know if I am making the right choices. I despise that stuff (drugs)." Christina wonders, "Why couldn't my mom make better choices?"

But for now, she is working toward college, Portland State or Arizona. She has earned a scholarship at PSU and she works hard to keep her grades up. Her teachers report that she is an outstanding writer and that they admire her. Her determination has kept her alive. Her foster parents are providing the home she never had. And now her future looks far better than her past.

# School District News

## Did you know? You can rent the PH Community Center

You can rent the Pleasant Hill Community Center for your events, birthday parties, baby showers, holiday parties, etc.

To make your reservation today, complete the PHCC Facility Use Form on our website at [www.pleasanthill.k12.or.us](http://www.pleasanthill.k12.or.us).

To check for availability, call the District Office at 541.746.9646.

## Join the Community Email List

Join the PHSD #1 community email list. You will receive periodic updates about important school and community events and endeavors. You can be added to our community email list by visiting our website, [www.pleasanthill.k12.or.us](http://www.pleasanthill.k12.or.us). Click on the "Sign Up for District Newsletter" link.

This list will not be shared with anyone else, so no other parties will be sending you ads or using it for anything other than the school community information.

### Pleasant Hill School District

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