



Mountain Oaks Newsletter

Volume 16 , Number 2

October 2009

View From the Tree House

Greetings!

Those of you who keep up with the rapidly changing face of our new website may already know that the STAR results are in and we increased our Annual Performance Index (API) score by a whopping 43 points! Congratulations to all of our Mountain Oaks community -- parents and staff -- as well as the students who took the STAR and demonstrated how well Mountain Oaks students can test! This incredible jump in our API makes renewing the Mountain Oaks charter this year a much less daunting prospect. Thank you to all those who participated in the STAR testing for a job well done!

Please do take a moment to fill out the National Free and Reduced Lunch form available from either the website or the three resource center secretaries. At stake is approximately \$103,000 in discounted technology rates and costs, money that we would much prefer to use to focus on the students.

We continue to adjust to the changing economic climate while keeping our eyes firmly on the ultimate goals of serving our students and fulfilling our school's Expected Schoolwide Learning Results (ESLRs). We want our students to be globally aware, with a personal mission and goals, with good communication skills regardless of the situation, and lifelong learners who pursue personal academic excellence. No small order, but our kids can do it!

As always, the Mountain Oaks administration team looks forward to hearing your concerns, compliments and suggestions.

Anne, Jacqueline and Linda

Announcements

National School Lunch Program Form – Required for Each Family

Hello Everyone,

I know you have been inundated with forms, but unfortunately I have one more that needs your immediate attention. I would like to apologize that this survey was left out of the back-to-school packet.

This year's survey should save Mountain Oaks over \$103,000, a huge number in today's budgetary environment. We see direct savings in discounts for telecommunications services, internet access, technology equipment and other services. These savings enable us to free up dollars to be spent on services and curriculum for students.

I need your help! Please complete and return the survey within the next few days. It is a clickable form which is available on the Mountain Oaks website or from your mentor teacher. You may save and email it back to me at shamilton@ccoe.k12.ca.us or you may print it and return it to the front office or your mentor teacher.

The information collected is strictly confidential and will not be shared with any other entity.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Samantha Hamilton (Administrative Assistant) 754-0532 ext. 2258

Announcements - Continued

Sample Week

This year we are offering two ways to collect the required information for Sample Week. We are still offering the traditional Sample Week as described below, but we are also offering an alternative Sample Week. The alternative Sample Week allows for families to turn in work in each academic area the student is studying between now and Dec. 11th. The student's work should still reflect a minimum of 20 hours of appropriate work for their grade and the work still needs to meet the minimums listed below.

Sample Week # 1: Sept. 28 to Oct. 2

Once each semester, Mountain Oaks collects a week's sample of each student's work for attendance auditing purposes. The state auditors select several packets each year in order to verify our process of educating your students. The quality/quantity of the work should reflect **a minimum of 20 hours of appropriate work for grades 1st through 12th or 15 hours for kindergarten**. Please remember that **the sample must be all original work** and not copies of work completed.

See your mentor teacher for additional information.

Picture Day Reminder

Mountain Oaks San Andreas and Amador picture day will be Oct. 14th from 10A to 4P. Please bring in your children to either of the sites to have their photos taken for the yearbook, even if you do not plan on purchasing any photos. Students that have their picture taken will receive a very nice looking student I.D. card for free.

Graduation Meetings Set

Mark your calendars for this year's first 8th and 12th grade graduation meetings on Fri., Oct. 23rd. The 8th grade meeting will be from 3-4P and the 12th grade meeting will be from 1-2P at the San Andreas site.

We would love to have all graduates attend their meeting. Your input is crucial to ensure that your graduation is everything you have envisioned.

The following items will be discussed at the 8th grade meeting: graduation speakers, theme, yearbook pages, dinner/dance, and the graduation trip.

The following items will be discussed at the 12th grade meeting: graduation theme, music choices, yearbook pages, and the graduation trip. **We will be choosing the design for the senior shirt** at this meeting so that we can hopefully have the shirts before Christmas.

A graduation survey will be sent to all graduates. Please return these forms prior to the graduation meeting so they can be tallied and the results can be discussed at the meeting.

Questions? Please call Samantha Hamilton, 754-0532 ext. 2258.

2008 / 2009 Yearbooks are Coming Soon!

The 2008/2009 Yearbooks should be here by Oct. 29th for those who pre-ordered a yearbook. We will call everyone who ordered a book and let you know when they arrive. If anyone still wants to order a book, it will be available for purchase at Blurb.com. Information will be posted on the website on how to order a copy of the yearbook directly from the company.

Winter Craft Day

Calling all creative parents - this is your time to shine!! Winter Craft Day in San Andreas is just around the corner on Fri., Dec. 11th. We really need a parent or two who would be willing to organize Winter Craft Day for this year. Those parents would be in charge of collecting craft ideas from other parents, getting a list of needed supplies together by Nov. 6th and also organizing parents, staff, and teens to work that day. Anyone interested in being the Winter Craft coordinator should contact Samantha Hamilton at 754-0532, ext. 2258.

Winter Craft ideas are also needed. Anyone with a fun, unique craft idea should contact Samantha by Oct. 29th. Any suggestions or ideas for Winter Craft Day in general, would be greatly appreciated.

Announcements - Continued

Pentathlon for 7th and 8th Graders

There is currently a workshop in Amador and Monika and Claire are planning one in San Andreas for the brand new Pentathlon. The curricular theme for 7th and 8th graders in 2009–2010 is “The American Revolution”.

The Pentathlon competition is comprised of five academic events: Essay, Mathematics, Social Studies, Science and Super Quiz (The American Revolution).

All competitions for the Pentathlon will be held online and are strictly voluntary.

Practice Competition – Feb. 27, 2010

Essay for State Competition – Apr. 9, 2010

State Competition – Apr. 24, 2010

National Competition – May 15, 2010

Competitors can win team and individual medals for their efforts.

The USAD Pentathlon teams should consist of a maximum of nine team members and a minimum of six team members. Each team must consist of at least two “A” students, at least two “B” students and at least two “C or below” students. The team score will be determined by the sum of the top two student scores in each GPA category. A perfect team score is 30,000 points (6 students x 5 events x 1000 points possible per event).

1. Essay: Students will select one out of three prompts based on the novel My Brother Sam is Dead by Collier and Collier. Students are allowed 45 minutes to complete their essay. Highest score possible is 1000 points.
2. Math: 25 problems with a value of 40 points each.
3. Science: 50 questions with a value of 20 points each.
4. Social Studies: 50 questions with a value of 20 points each.
5. Super Quiz: 40 questions with a value of 25 points each.

A student’s maximum possible score is 5000 points (5 events x 1000 points)

The “focus semesters” for GPA computation are the fall and spring semester grades of the previous year.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Janet at jkendig@ccoe.k12.ca.us or ext. 2256 at the Amador site. You may also contact Monika at ext. 2260 or Claire at ext. 2230 at the San Andreas site.

Winter Creek Grant

Last year, Mountain Oaks had the good fortune to receive a grant in the amount of \$100,000 for capital equipment in the fields of science, art, and/or technology. After much deliberation, Mountain Oaks purchased a gas kiln for pottery, robotics materials and software, and a large amount of technology equipment including 2 active boards, 3 media carts, 11 laptop computers, and other assorted equipment. The expenditures last year totaled \$60,000.

Recommended ideas for additional purchases totaling \$40,000 for this year’s budget include: microscopes and microscope cabinets, digital software/virtual labs, scales/balances, a weather station, more robotics equipment, science kits/dissection kits, a technology/technical theater program, and a simulated space shuttle.

If you have any suggestions for art, science, and/or technology items you would like to see purchased by Mountain Oaks with these funds, please email Jacqueline at jdennis@ccoe.k12.ca.us. The Program Committee will review all suggestions and make the final decision for the remaining purchases.

The Turtles are Coming!

Friday, Oct. 9 at 11A, Stan the Turtle Man will be at school with his turtles and tortoises. If Brutus, the 150 pound tortoise is in a good mood, he'll be here too!

Announcements - Continued

Parents of Children with Special Needs

You are invited to attend the monthly Community Advisory Committee (CAC) meetings. The CAC is a group of caring and concerned parents, educators, and local agency representatives who are interested in providing quality education for children with special needs.

What We Do....

- ..Strive to build communication and cooperation between parents and educators.
- ..Aim to inform, educate and support one another in partnership with Calaveras County SELPA (Special Education Local Plan Area).
- ..Provide educational workshops to better understand and parent our children.
- ..Provide support, understanding and collaboration regarding the challenges in educating our children.
- ..Provide information in understanding your child's IEP (Individual Educational Plan) and the Special Education system.
- ..Facilitate communication between parents and school.
- ..Raise community awareness for the needs of individuals with disabilities.

Upcoming meeting dates:

Nov. 17, 2009 - Speaker Topic: Behavior Strategies

Jan. 26, 2010 - Speaker Topic: Speech Interventions

Mar. 30, 2010 - Speaker Topic: Issues Faced by Siblings of Children with Special Needs

Apr. 27, 2010 - Speaker Topic: Infants and Preschool

CAC meetings are from 5-7P and childcare will be provided.

CAC meets at the Calaveras County Office of Education, 185 S. Main St., Angels Camp.

Please contact Lorie Wise for information at 736-6016 or lwise@ccoe.k12.ca.us or visit the CAC website for information and helpful links - www.ccoe.k12.ca.us/programs_services/cac.html.

To receive CAC e-mail updates, either call or e-mail your address to Lorie Wise.

Informational Forums and Homeschool 101

Informational Forums are the first step in our enrollment process. These group meetings are where families interested in Mountain Oaks can get the information they need about the Mountain Oaks program. The next forums are scheduled for Fri., Oct. 2nd, and Fri., Nov. 6th from 1-3P for K-8 and 3:30-5:30P for 9-12.

Homeschool 101 is the second step in the enrollment process. It is a group meeting designed to inform families of the different styles of homeschooling and to share information on how to structure an individual homeschool experience. The next Homeschool 101 meetings will be on Fri., Oct. 16th, and Fri., Nov. 20th from 2-4P.

Please make sure to RSVP to 754-0532, ext. 2258 prior to the meetings. If you have not called in to RSVP, please call on the day of the Informational Forum or Homeschool 101 to make sure the meeting is still scheduled as planned. Please understand that on occasion we have to cancel a meeting. Without an accurate RSVP list, families may show up to a meeting that has been cancelled.

Field Trips / Special Events

Monterey Bay Aquarium Trip

We will be exploring the Aquarium starting at 10:45 on Mon., Oct. 19. Cost is \$2 per child with one free chaperone per child. All money is due by Oct. 7 to hold your space. Field trip forms are required by Oct. 14 and can be obtained from the website or picked up at your site and put in Rose's box. Please access the link on the website for directions, educational activities, and other information or call Rose at ext. 2255.

Kirkwood Ski Trips

We are trying to organize a ski/snowboard trip to Kirkwood this winter. If you are interested in participating, please call Rose Justi at ext. 2255 to add your name to our list. We need at least 20 participants for a trip to happen.

Field Trips / Special Events - Continued

Living History Day Meeting

There will be a Living History Day meeting on Thurs., Oct. 8th from 2-3P at the Amador site. The coordinators this year are Pat Martin and Tracy Roll.

We will be discussing two items at this meeting: 1. Whether we want to actually continue Living History Day and 2. If so, what will the date, place and theme be? (The Great Depression, Miwok Indians, Ancient Egypt?)

Everyone is welcome to attend! The more you participate, the more fun Living History Day is for your child and your family. If you want to attend, but you can't make it due to scheduling, let Pat or Tracy know!

Kudos To:

Lake Tahoe Science Camp

Thirty students and adults ventured out to explore the beautiful Lake Tahoe area. We learned of the Washoe, miners, loggers and the rich and famous. The tours of mansions, Taylor Creek and the Baldwin museum, swimming, a night hike, fishing, art, an awesome visit to the Angora fire area, pine needle baskets, campfires, skits, etc... made a great start to the year with new and old friends. The weather was great, potlucks delicious and Lake Tahoe fantastic. A grateful thank you to all who made this a great success especially the Martin-Thompson, Roll and Broderick families for leading activities.

San Andreas News

San Andreas Learning Lab

Our Learning Lab is an on-site computer lab that provides technical and curricular support, project guidance, math tutoring and a focused collaborative learning environment for students.

New Learning Lab hours:

Mon. through Thurs. 9:30A to 3:30P

New! CAHSEE Math Prep., Tues. and Wed. 3:30-4:30P in the Learning Lab. Sign up in the front hallway. The Math Lab workshop has been replaced by open math tutoring available upon a drop-in or appointment basis by both Tia and Sally, Mon. through Thurs. for any math curriculum support.

San Andreas Steering Committee

The Governing Board has approved the formation of a San Andreas Steering Committee. The second meeting of the new school year will be held on Wed., Oct. 21st, from 10:30A to 12P. If San Andreas is your primary site, please join this important committee.

Amador News

Halloween Carnival and Family Dance

On Thurs., Oct. 29, the Student Leadership Class and parent volunteers are planning a fun-filled Halloween Carnival and Family Dance. Join us in costume for: game booths, pot luck, hot dogs, treats, cake walk and possibly a haunted house.

We will need lots of help: teens to organize and run game booths, teens to set up and coordinate a haunted house, spooky decorations, candy, cakes and other baked goods (for the cake walk), parent helpers, prizes, hot dogs, buns and condiments.

To help or for more information please contact Tracy Roll at tesroll@gmail.com or Linda Mariani at the Amador site. Also see sign-up sheets and watch for future emails with more detailed information.

Amador News - Continued

Latin Club

Our 2nd year Latin students have been working and studying very hard for the last year to be ready for our trip to Italy this spring. Please help support our students' efforts by buying our delicious custom blended coffee and See's Candy. See Rose at Justi ext. 2255 to order.

Tuolumne News

Nature Trail

Our nature trail at our Longeway site took some work to uncover with the growth of summer. The berry bushes are bearing fruit, the poison oak continues its campaign to take over and the deer continue to visit.

Constitution Anniversary

On Fri., Sept. 18th, Tuolumne site students got together to celebrate the 222nd anniversary of the signing of the Constitution. Together we role-played representatives at the Constitutional Convention to experience the conflicts and hardships that arose during this formative period of our country. An illustrated Preamble was read and discussed, followed by singing patriotic songs. Patriotic star-shaped ice cubes containing red, white, and blue food items were consumed, with a challenge to identify the items within without looking, all while singing "America the Beautiful"! We reviewed elements of the founding of the Federal Government and the Constitution as displayed in cartoon illustrations created by Kayla P. and Alex L. We ended our celebration by watching President Obama's Back-To-School Speech. We learned a lot about the Constitution and shared some laughs together during our celebration.

Workshops

Our workshops have started off with a bang in Tuolumne! We are elbow to elbow, smiling ear to ear with potential. We have some familiar faces returning, and we welcome new faces to our workshop instructor team. We start Mondays with Math and More/Study Hall with Tia and Shannon. Then we study Form Drawing and Woodworking with Kallae Brown. Tuesdays start musically in Guitar 101 with Mic Harper. Daniel is teaching a class for our teens called Choices and Challenges, followed by PE with a new instructor, Susan Lloyd. Thursdays are packed full, starting with PE for 7th-12th graders. Another new workshop instructor, Jill Vienop, is teaching three workshops on Thursdays: Doing Science, Using Language with Movement and Games, and Creative Writing for the teens. Welcome back Dianne Stearns, teaching Art I and Art II, and Shannon teaching Study Hall. Thanks to everyone for making the workshops fun and exciting.

Teen News

Prom Meeting

We will be having our first Prom Meeting on Fri., Oct. 17th from 2-3P at the San Andreas site. This is an important meeting because we will be choosing several themes that will go to all of our high school students to vote on. The theme with the most votes will be our prom theme for this year. We will also be discussing possible prom fundraisers and locations. Call Samantha at 754-0532, ext. 2258, with questions.

Calling Prom Fundraiser Volunteers

The Prom Committee will be selling desserts at the San Andreas site Book Fair on Wed., Oct. 14th from 4-6:30P. We are in need of desserts, any type, and a few volunteers to help sell the items.

High School Halloween Social

Date: Fri., Oct. 30th from 7-11P

Place: San Andreas Mountain Oaks gymnasium

Cost: \$5.00 per person

Costumes are requested, but not required.

Students may attend only the social or both the social and the Lock-In.

Please call Samantha at 754-0532, ext. 2258, if you have any questions.

Teen News - Continued

High School Halloween Lock-In

This year we will be having our first Mountain Oaks Lock-In immediately following the Halloween Social. The Lock-In will be from 11P until 7A. Students that decide to stay for the Lock-In will not be allowed to leave after 11P until 7A. At 7A they will need to be picked up promptly. All attendees must sign up and pay no later than Oct.23 so we know how much food to purchase. The cost for the lock-in is \$10 (to help purchase pizza, chips, and drinks).

We will have a Karaoke machine, game system, movies, and board games. This will be a great way to spend a fun evening with friends.

Anyone interested in helping plan the Halloween Social or the Lock-In should contact Samantha at 754-0532, ext. 2258, to be part of the planning committee. This will be the only Lock-In for this school year.

CAHSEE Schedule

All high school students are required to pass the California High School Exit Examination (CAHSEE) in the areas of language arts and mathematics as mandated by the State of California in order to receive a high school diploma. The test dates for the 2009/10 school year are as follows:

- Tue., Nov. 3rd – English/Language Arts (only for 11th and 12th graders who haven't passed)
- Wed., Nov. 4th – Math (only for 11th and 12th graders who have not yet passed)
- Tues., Feb. 2nd – Language Arts (all 10th graders and 11th and 12th graders who haven't passed)
- Wed., Feb. 3rd – Math (all 10th graders and 11th and 12th graders who haven't passed)
- Tues., May 11th – Language Arts make-up (10th grade make-up and 11th and 12th graders who have not yet passed)
- Wed., May 12th – Math make-up (10th grade make-up and 11th and 12th graders who haven't passed)

Students in the 11th and 12th grades that have not passed yet, should consider attending the CAHSEE Language Arts and/or CAHSEE Math workshops for 11-12th graders offered this semester at the San Andreas and Amador Resource Centers. You should also work with your mentor teacher on ways to focus study on weak areas.

Athletic News

Volunteers for Snack Bar

The snack bar needs volunteers during games. This is an enjoyable, easy way to fulfill your volunteer hours. Hours needed are 2:30-6:30P on home game days divided into 2 hour intervals. The snack bar is a fundraiser for the athletic program. If we don't get volunteers, the snack bar will not be open during games.

Girls Basketball Fundraiser

In conjunction with the Book Fair hosted by the library, the Girls Varsity Basketball team will be hosting a BBQ dinner on Wed., Oct. 14th from 4-6:30P in the courtyard. Hot dogs and hamburgers will be available. The girls are raising money to participate in the Big Valley Holiday Basketball Tournament in Modesto. Please support the girls and grab a dog!

Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser

On Sat., Oct. 24th, the Athletic Department will be holding a family style spaghetti dinner. Tickets will be available for purchase from athletes or the athletic office. The cost of each ticket is \$5. Cookies, cakes and delectable desserts will also be available for purchase. All desserts will be homemade by the athletes and families. To-go dinners will be available starting at 5P. Dining will start at 6P. Please join us for our very first family spaghetti dinner. Come with an appetite!

Basketball Season

Boys and girls basketball season starts Tues., Nov. 10. If you are interested, please contact Rob at ext. 2229. The teams are open to all high school students with a 2.0 GPA.

Athletic News - Continued

Cookbook Fundraiser

To All Mountain Oaks Families,

You may have already heard something about a cookbook fundraiser. This fundraiser is one of many fundraisers this year to help support our Athletic programs here at Mountain Oaks School. Without these fundraisers we would not be able to purchase the equipment and uniforms as needed, pay tournament fees or just help these programs to survive the budget cuts. We are encouraging all Mountain Oaks families to contribute your favorite family recipes for the first ever Mountain Oaks Family Cookbook. Although we are asking all athletes to contribute 3-5 favorite family recipes to be published in our cookbook, our goal is 150-200 recipes and the deadline for recipes to be submitted is Fri., Oct. 23, 2009. The more recipes, the bigger the cookbook! With everybody's hard work and dedication we could have this cookbook ready by winter break, providing that we have full participation from our Mountain Oaks community. Once the cookbook has been proofed and copies ordered, we can start pre-selling and selling gift certificates for the cookbooks. The price per cookbook will not exceed \$10. We are also asking that all athletes sell 5 or more cookbooks. This will ensure that we will be able to pay the publishing fees within 90 days of our order without interest.

The cookbook will be created on-line to save us time and money. We are asking that all families contributing recipes go to www.morriscookbooks.com and submit your recipes into the Mountain Oaks Cookbook yourself to ensure recipe accuracy. The login is **athletics** and the password is **jbbjx**. It is very simple, just follow the format instructions. Please do not forget to put your name in the contributor space. Your name will be published with your recipes.

For those of you that do not have access to a computer, you can come to the resource center and use one of our computers. If you are not computer literate, one of our committee members will be happy to help you get your recipes submitted. If contributing recipes to a committee member, the deadline is Fri., Oct. 16, 2009. This will give the committee time to get your recipes submitted into the cookbook. Please do not wait until the deadline to get your recipes submitted or your recipes may not get published in our cookbook. Please contact Lorna LaRoe at 286-1269 for more information. Please check the website for updates on the cookbook.

Thank you for all your support, Lorna LaRoe, Cookbook Chairman

Medical Insurance

CCOE requires that each athlete has on file a proof of medical insurance. Please submit a copy of a medical card or certificate for the individual athlete to the Athletic Department. If you do not have medical insurance, please contact the Athletic Department at 1-888-MTN-OAKS (1-888-686-6257), ext. 2262. We have low cost insurance available to students.

Library News

School-wide Library Events

As always, all library events are school-wide events. We hope families from Amador and Tuolumne will join in the fun! October looks like it will be a busy month for the library.

Halloween Party

An interest survey is posted in the library asking for names of people who would like to have a Halloween Party. This is likely to be geared towards elementary students, however all students will be welcome to participate. Look for updates on the homepage.

Show and Tell

Don't forget Show and Tell in the library every Monday from 12-12:30P and Wednesday from 12:30-1P. This is a great way for students to practice public speaking and its fun! Our regulars are mostly K-3 students, however, all ages are welcome.

Library News - Continued

Book Fair

The week of Oct. 12-16 we are hosting a Scholastic Book Fair. The Fair will be held in the library from 8:30A-4:30P daily. Wednesday we'll extend our hours to 6:30P to accommodate those who can't come during regular school hours. Profits from the fair go towards book purchases at all three sites.

The Book Fair will start off on Monday with Grandparents' Day. This event is for Grandparents and other "Grand" people in your child's life. If grandparents don't live close, you can use this as an opportunity to acknowledge aunts, uncles, friends and neighbors. "Grand" people will be welcomed in the library and given a special name tag. Students can give their "Grand" people a tour of the school as well as bring a lunch to share with them. Snacks will be provided.

Wednesday from 4-6:30P will be a Family Night. The Girls Basketball Team will be raising funds with a Book Fair Barbeque and the Prom Committee will be selling desserts as a fundraiser for the Prom. The Book Fair will be open until 6:30P. In addition, there is a Soccer Game at 3:30P and a Volleyball game starting at 5P.

We will also be participating in the Scholastic "One For Books" program. A donation box for loose change will be at the cashier's table. For every dollar donated Scholastic will donate one BOOK to Toys for Tots. In addition, the money collected will be used by Mountain Oaks to purchase books for our local Santa's Express. Volunteers, adults as well as teens, are still being accepted to help with the Book Fair. Please sign up in the library.

Thank You!

Want to do a community project, but feel that you just can't raise enough funds? I recently had that challenge when planning my BSA Eagle Scout project at Mountain Oaks School in Lone. I want to thank Amador Community Foundation, the Jackson Rancheria, Meek's Lumber, and particularly the Randy & Heidi Ilich Family Foundation.

The Amador Community Foundation has given grants for projects to benefit Amador County since 2000. They connect "local generosity with local needs" in Amador County. They also maintain an Emergency Crisis Assistance Fund for life-altering events that occur in Amador County. Anyone can contribute to the Foundation to help support local groups. Give them a call at (209) 223-2148, or visit their website at www.amadorcommunityfoundation.com. Thank you Amador Community Foundation for helping me in my attempt at making my community a better place.

The Jackson Rancheria has been helping Amador County improve ever since they came to prominence. They award tens of hundreds of grants a year, which benefit everything from individuals to entire schools. They also actively support local groups such as the Sheriffs department, the District Attorney, local fire departments, and help support our roads. Their website is easily visited at www.jacksonrancheria.com. Thank you Jackson Rancheria for giving me funds to complete my project.

Meek's Lumber also has a history of helping those who need it for a worthy cause. They have helped numerous locals in schools, Boy scouts, and 4-H groups with supplies needed to complete various projects and accomplish goals. Thank you Meek's for giving me the supplies to make my project worth-while.

Last, but most certainly not least, is the Randy and Heidi Ilich Family Foundation. All I can say is that they have helped me the most, and I can never thank them enough for their generosity towards me. Thank you for the opportunities that you were able to open for me by your most generous grant.

Matt J.

Governing Board

UNOFFICIAL MINUTES
MOUNTAIN OAKS GOVERNING BOARD
150 Old Oak Road, P.O. Box 1209, San Andreas, CA 95249
Tuesday, September 15, 2009, 7:00 pm

Government Code Section 5494.3 provides that the public will have an opportunity to address the Board on any item described on a regular or special meeting agenda either before or during the consideration of that item. The Board reserves the right to limit the time of presentation by individual and/or group.

MISSION: *to support the learning, growth and development of the Mountain Oaks community and the community at large.*

GOALS for 2010-2009:

1. Improve Board focus regarding responsibility, authority and accountability.
2. Encourage Board to work in an efficient and effective manner.
3. Develop and improve methods for tracking student progress.

Action may be taken on any item on the agenda.

OPEN SESSION

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – The meeting was called to order by Board President Frank Meyer at 7:10 p.m.

2. **ROLL CALL**

Governing Board members: Bob Dean, Carolini DuCray, Marilyn Krause, Kate Leiga, Linda Mariani, Frank Meyer, Kelly Steinhoff

Non-Voting members: Katie P., Shelby S.

Administrators: Linda Mariani, Anne Colman and Jacqueline Dennis

Staff: Jean Hutton, Sue Mowatt

Visitors: Richard Anderson

3. **CONSENT AGENDA** – Bob made a motion to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Kelly, and passed unanimously.

- 3.1 **Approval of agenda**

- 3.2 **Approval of minutes of August 18, 2009 meeting.**

4. **COMMENTS BY VISITORS** – none

5. **COMMENTS BY STAFF**

- 5.1 **Letter to the editor from Gold Rush Charter School** – Anne passed out a copy of the letter published in the *Union Democrat* on 8/31/09. The letter written by the principal and vice-principal sought to add clarification around charter school demographics in response to comments about Gold Rush Charter School's math scores in an article pertaining to their school's STAR report.

- 5.2 **Introduction of new Business Services Manager** – Jacqueline introduced Sue Mowatt.

- 5.3 **H1N1 Swine Flu Protocol** – Jacqueline advised that an email and an all-call went out to parents, staff and teachers informing them of a reported case of H1N1 virus regarding a Mountain Oaks parent whose children use the San Andreas site only. Information was also posted on the website, and a letter outlining our H1N1 protocol was widely distributed. The parent reportedly was not contagious when she was at the school.

5.4 Student Council Report – Katie and Shelby provided an update on the fall election process. They are posting flyers and writing an article for the website to stimulate interest among the student population. The Board also suggested talking to students individually who may be good candidates for the council. Applications for candidacy are due on Oct. 15th. Candidate night will be held on November 16th. Elections will be held on November 19th-20th. Ballots will be tallied on November 23rd and the new term for the elected students will begin on November 30th. The Board suggested that ballots be returned in numbered envelopes to secure the integrity of the voting process.

5.5 Revised MO Organizational Chart – Jacqueline presented the new organizational charts incorporating recommendations from the previous Board meeting. The revised chart cleans up the committee responsibilities and shows two-way arrows of communication.

5.6 Accountability Progress Report (APR) – Anne reviewed the Accountability Progress Report (APR) showing that Mountain Oaks has exceeded its Academic Performance Index (API) growth target. The only specific area needing continued focus is math. Others areas offset the math numbers, meeting the overall target. Data will be put into the LARS system for further analysis.

5.7 Governing Board Members' Committee Membership – Jean followed up on an email asking Board members to specify the committees they are serving on so the information can be posted on the website.

5.8 Student Populations – The Board requested adding a standing agenda item to report student populations at future Governing Board meetings.

6. CORRESPONDENCE – none

7. PRESENTATIONS – none

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

8.1 Resolution supporting the participation of Calaveras River Academy (CRA) students on Mountain Oaks (MO) sports teams – Anne reported that two parent forums were held on this issue and that anonymous ballots resulted in overall support for the continuing participation by CRA with the MO teams. After discussion, a motion was passed to approve the participation of CRA students in MO sports. Resolution Number 09/10-1 was drafted. Two concerns were raised. The first concern addressed discipline standards for CRA students. CRA students will follow MO rules and, per Scott, are participating on a “one-strike you’re out” basis. Participating CRA students have received the MO athletics policy handbook and the CIF behavior policy and are being held accountable. In addition, grade checks are done weekly to determine who can play. The second concern surrounded communication and process. The parents did not want “backdoor” deals and wanted to ensure that expansion of shared ventures did not extend beyond sports to other activities. The Board gave assurances that Athletics was the only area of cooperation indicated by this Resolution.

The athletics committee reports no problems to date and that only one out of six original participating students is still successfully participating in the program. The Board requested an article be put in the newsletter regarding the outcome of this Resolution.

Motion:

***A motion was made to sanction CRA participating on MO athletics teams.
Made by Bob Dean, seconded by Marilyn Krause – Passed unanimously.***

8.2 Proposed Athletic participation fees for CRA students participating with MO in sports for initial review by Governing Board – Anne advised that this issue is in progress, and the Board tabled it until the October meeting.

8.3 Presented for information changes to Certificated Staff Employee Handbook –

Jacqueline presented an update to the Certificated Staff Employee Handbook which incorporated previously approved Governing Board measures.

8.4 Winter Creek Grant status update – There is a balance of ~\$40,000 left in Winter Creek Grant. We spent ~\$60,000 last year. The grant is to be used for science, art, and technology assets, and cannot be used for salaries. The goal is to use this funding to purchase items that can be used year-to-year by as many people as possible, and we must be able to support and maintain anything purchased. Jacqueline has a few requests pending and has requested ideas at teacher, staff, and site committee meetings. The Board recommended putting a request for ideas with examples on the website (without the dollar amount specified). It was also suggested that this same information go in the newsletter to ensure input is gathered from the families.

9. NEW BUSINESS

9.1 Governing Board members to sign confidentiality agreement for 2009-2010 year –

Anne did not locate a confidentiality agreement, but did find a conflicts of interest form (#700). Discussion was held determining that because the Governing Board was a public forum, confidentiality agreements would not be needed, except in closed sessions regarding personnel issues. Anne will further investigate the timing and process of signing the conflicts of interest forms with Debbie Koehler at CCOE.

9.2 Review of procedure for committees regarding agendas and minutes – Anne reviewed a procedure to standardize agenda and minute processes for Mountain Oaks committees. The templates were modeled after the Governing Board agendas and minutes. The Board recommended that a standard format for motions be added so that they are easy to locate within the minutes. Marilyn recommended that the agenda include a bullet and arrow highlighting whether the item required action and state a short sentence under each item. The action follow-up chart should be added at the end of the agenda and minutes to show open actions. Actions should be completed within one meeting cycle or submitted to the appropriate committee to complete. A date should be added to the item number to avoid confusion. Marilyn also suggested the person doing the agenda and minutes keep a tickler file for each month with items to add onto the agenda.

10. REPORTS AND INFORMATION

10.1 Superintendent's Report – No report.

10.2 School Support Monthly Financial Report – Sue reconciled the School Support Fund. Frank and Bob want to ensure we show proper account of the Winter Creek funds and track the associated assets. Sue will investigate this issue and provide the tracking methodology at the next Board meeting. It was noted that the Charter by-laws indicate assets and transfers will be in the annual report.

10.3 Fund 9 Monthly Financial Report. Jacqueline advised that Claudia was currently working on updates to the Fund 9 budget.

10.4 Charter Ad Hoc Committee Report – Anne advised they are in the process of getting data analysis reports and compiling data. Mountain Oaks exceeded its growth target for the Spring 2009 STAR testing, gaining a remarkable 43 points instead of the projected 9 points, bringing the total for our API to 671. This is great news and our MO community should be proud of demonstrating this level of progress on the STAR. One area of concern, however, remains the math scores, which were not high comparatively. This success in meeting our API score will make the Charter Ad Hoc Committee's job much easier in renewing the MO Charter. It was further noted that the Charter Ad Hoc Committee minutes need to be included in the future governing board packets.

11. DISCUSSION BY BOARD MEMBERS

11.1 Administration Transition Status – Marilyn asked for a transition status update from the 2009/2010 administrators. While the administrators are putting in a significant amount of long days especially with student intakes and other front-end loaded activity, the feedback received has been positive. Interning was a highlight. The student population is trending up with 103 students in Amador and a waiting list in Tuolumne. Total student population is currently at approximately 387. The Governing Board asked that current student population figures be included in their monthly Board packet.

11.2 Mentor Teacher Hired – Anne reported a new mentor teacher has been hired as a temporary, substitute mentor teacher to cover the waiting list of students in Amador. He is a highly qualified math teacher and will do upper division math and technology workshops.

11.3 Learning Lab – Anne and Jacqueline reported that the job sharing arrangement in the learning lab was working well and that the lab has seen increased student usage.

11.4 Webcasting – Jean asked about the possibility of using webcasting across the campuses. The technology needs to be investigated.

12. ADVANCE PLANNING

12.1 Next regular board meeting Tuesday, October 20, 2009 at 7:00pm.


























































13. ADJOURNMENT at 9:00 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Sue Mowatt*

Mountain Oaks All Events Calendar

 Student Event
  Field Trip
  Remember
  Meeting
  Athletics

October 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Sample Week #1  Athletic Committee, 12:30P	2 Sample Week #1  Family Fit Informational Meeting, 11A-12P  Charter Renewal Committee, 11A-1P  Informational Forum K-8th, 1-3P  Informational Forum 9-12th, 3:30-5:30P	3
4	5  Deadline to submit Agenda items for next Governing Board Meeting  Soccer vs. ROP @ ROP, 3:30P  Volleyball vs. Delta @ Delta, 5P	6  Amador Workshop Committee, 1-2P  Amador Steering Committee, 2-4P	7  Monterey Bay Aquarium Trip Money Due  Tuolumne Site Staff Meeting, 9-11A  Tuolumne Steering Committee, 11A-1P  Soccer vs. ROP @ Home, 3:30P  Volleyball vs. Delta @ Home, 5P	8  Living History Day Meeting, 2-3P	9  Stan the Turtle Man, 11A  Admissions Committee, 1-3P	10
11	12  Book Fair, 8:30A-4:30P  Book Fair - Grandparent Day, 8:30A-4:30P  Soccer vs. ROP @ ROP, 3:30P  Volleyball vs. Stoneridge @ Stoneridge, 5P	13  Book Fair, 8:30A-4:30P	14  Book Fair, 8:30A-6:30P  Monterey Bay Aquarium Field Trip Forms Due  All Staff Meeting, 9-12A  Life Touch Photos, 10A-4P  Soccer vs. ROP @ Home, 3:30P  Girls Basketball Fundraiser, 4-6:30P  Book Fair - Family Night, 4-6:30P  Volleyball vs. Stoneridge @ Home, 5P	15  Book Fair, 8:30A-4:30P	16  Book Fair, 8:30A-4:30P  Homeschool 101, 2-4P	17
18	19  Monterey Bay Aquarium Trip, 10:45A  Soccer vs. Don Pedro @ Don Pedro, 3:30P  Volleyball vs. Don Pedro @ Don Pedro, 5P	20  SA Classified Staff Meeting, 11-11:30A  Governing Board, 7-9P	21  November Newsletter Deadline  San Andreas Site Staff Meeting, 9-10:30A  San Andreas Steering Committee, 10:30-12A  Soccer vs. Don Pedro @ Home, 3:30P  Program Committee, 3-5P  Volleyball vs. Don Pedro @ Home, 5P	22	23  12th Grade Graduation Meeting, 1-2P  8th Grade Graduation Meeting, 3-4P	24  Athletic Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser
25	26  Soccer vs. Tioga @ Tioga, 3:30P  Volleyball vs. Tioga @ Tioga, 5P	27  Finance Committee, 2-3:30P  Personnel Committee, 5:30-7P	28  All Staff Meeting, 9-12A  Soccer vs. Don Pedro @ Home, 3:30P  Volleyball vs. Tioga @ Home, 5P	29  Amador Halloween Carnival and Family Dance	30 Core Development - Centers CLOSED  High School Halloween Social and Lock-In, 7P-7A	31

- Closed** - Centers are CLOSED.
- Day of Interest**
- In-Service Day** - Centers are CLOSED.
- Holiday** - Centers are CLOSED.