

# E-Newsletter from PH Education Commission

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Greetings from the Pleasant Hill Education Commission! We serve as an advisory body to the Pleasant Hill City Council and act as a liaison between the City and the Mount Diablo Unified School District. Our role also involves communicating education-related news and information.

Our next Education Commission meeting is Wednesday, March 25, 2015 at 7 p.m. in the large community room at City Hall.

[Please click here to review the agenda.](#)

**Education Commission Members** (with school assignment listed under each name):

**Emily Richards, Chair**

PH Middle, Horizon and Prospect Schools

**Linda Waters, Vice Chair**

Gregory Gardens Elementary

**Kelly St. Germain**

Valley View Middle School

**Joann Jacobs**

College Park High School

**Jennifer Andersen**

Hidden Valley Elementary

**Ryan Faulkner**

Fair Oaks Elementary

**Mary Gray**

Sequoia Elementary, Valhalla Elementary

**Tracy Ervin-Lowery**

Sequoia Middle School

**Jennifer Ortega**

Pleasant Hill Elementary

**Matt Rinn**

Strandwood Elementary

Our meetings are open to the public and we welcome you to join us.

[Pleasant Hill Education](#)

March 24, 2015

## Attend K-5 Common Core Night March 31



The Pleasant Hill Education Commission, in partnership with the Pleasant Hill Library, is hosting a Common Core Night on Tuesday, March 31 from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Topics will include how to create Common Core-aligned learning opportunities at home for your child; Common Core homework toolbox supports; and the public library as a school extension of Common Core learning opportunities.

The event is for parents of students in grades K-5 who wish to learn more about the Common Core Standards. Teachers will be sharing Common Core aligned mini-lessons in various subjects. This event is free to everyone and will be held at the **PH Community Library**, 1750 Oak Park Blvd. Please [preregister here](#).

## Local Youth Enjoy Citywide Science Fair

On March 9 the Pleasant Hill Library, in partnership with the Foundation for Pleasant Hill Education, hosted the second annual Citywide Science Fair. Twenty-four student presenters from Kindergarten to College Park High School exhibited their science experiments and hands-on science demonstrations of electrostatic fields, rainbow refractions, and dry ice concoctions.

Commission  
100 Gregory Lane  
Pleasant Hill, California 94523  
(925) 671-5229

### School Websites:

College Park High School

Pleasant Hill Middle School

Sequoia Middle School

Valley View Middle School

Fair Oaks Elementary

Gregory Gardens Elementary

Pleasant Hill Elementary

Hidden Valley Elementary

Sequoia Elementary

Strandwood Elementary

Valhalla Elementary



Presenters were awarded a certificate and free passes to the Lawrence Hall of Science. More than 150 youth and parent participants also enjoyed making their own hot air balloons and paper drones to explore the physics of flight.

### MDUSD Board Update

The Mt. Diablo Unified School District's Board of Education meets on the second and fourth Monday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Dent Center in Concord. The joint meeting for March 9 was postponed; instead, the Board held a study session to consider a potential future resolution authorizing Issuance and Sale of General Obligation Bonds, 2010 Election, 2010 Series F. The proceeds of the bonds would be used to fund capital improvements/modernization work as previously deemed by the Board of Education to be essential to the maintenance and improvement of educational programming. Work includes, but is not limited to: classroom technology improvements, roof replacements, restroom renovations, and kitchen improvements.

The Board's next meeting will be held on April 13. [Here](#) is a link to the Board's agendas and video clips from past meetings.

### Join the Amazing Race on May 3

The [Foundation for Pleasant Hill Education](#) (FPHE) invites you to join the thirdannual Amazing Race of Pleasant Hill on May 3 from noon to 4 p.m. beginning at Magoo's Grill of Pleasant Hill, 1250 Contra Costa Blvd. Based on the popular TV show, the fun event will challenge participants of all ages with interesting clues and activities, which occur at various locations throughout Pleasant Hill (activities will resemble those on the TV show's Minute to Win It). Test your skills at activities suitable for all ages.

Registration is \$50 per team. Teams can consist of a family or a group of four or less. Learn more and preregister at [www.fphe.org](http://www.fphe.org). Teams are encouraged to show team spirit with matching outfits. At 4 p.m. all teams will meet at Pleasant Hill City Hall, 100 Gregory Lane, to determine the

winner.

Questions regarding The Amazing Race can be directed to [amazingrace@fphe.org](mailto:amazingrace@fphe.org) or visit [www.fphe.org](http://www.fphe.org) for more information.

### **Contra Costa Times: Rep. Mark DeSaulnier explores education issues during local schools tour**

By Theresa Harrington

When Mark DeSaulnier was elected in November to succeed retiring Rep. George Miller, he knew he was replacing a powerhouse on the Education & Workforce Committee.

And after DeSaulnier was appointed to that same committee, he decided to launch an "Education Listening Tour" to hear ideas from students, parents, educators and school administrators for improving the country's educational system, including fixing No Child Left Behind and revamping immigration laws.

DeSaulnier's "tour" took him to Monte Vista High in Danville on Feb. 17, Mt. Diablo High in Concord on Feb. 18 and Diablo Valley College in Pleasant Hill on Feb. 19.

"My own instincts tell me that if we in the federal delegation and the state delegation had more informal discussions and Skypes with you, we would be much more sensitive and much more understanding of the pressures you go through," DeSaulnier, D-Concord, told a group of Mt. Diablo school district representatives. Such discussions, he said, could also help alleviate federal "top-down" mandates to local schools.

[Read the full article here.](#)

### **Mandated reporter training website**

Effective this year, a new state law based on AB 1432, and supported by California State Superintendent Tom Torlakson, will require that school employees, including teachers, coaches and teacher's aides, participate in yearly child abuse mandated reporter training. To aid in implementation of this requirement, last month the California Department of Social Services made public a new website which contains online training modules, answers to frequently asked questions (FAQs) and other resources.

Parents and community members can view these materials for free at <http://mandatedreporterca.com>. Suspected child abuse reports can be made in Central Contra Costa County by calling 925-646-1680 or 877-881-1116.

### **Volunteers needed for Reading Readiness Program**

The Foundation for Pleasant Hill Education, in partnership with the Pleasant Hill Education Initiative, is seeking volunteers for its Reading Readiness Program. Volunteers work under a teacher's guidance and help students with reading programs already established in the classroom. The time commitment is between 40 minutes and 1 hour per week.

Specifically, the program is requesting senior volunteers for the Strandwood Elementary's Senior Reading Buddy Program on Mondays from 10 a.m. to 11am. There are also unfilled positions at many other elementary schools.

All volunteers need to be verified for TB and fingerprint clearance in accordance with MDUSD standards and policy. If you are interested, please contact Cindy Rubin, Volunteer Coordinator, at [rubinfam4@comcast.net](mailto:rubinfam4@comcast.net).