

Panther Press

The Latest and Greatest News from PAXSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

March 2014

FROM PRINCIPAL CHUMRAU

Dear Paxson Families,

Thank you for your continued support!

I want to especially thank all of the **Paxson parents** who helped to create, distribute, collect, analyze, and share out the Spanish Immersion Survey. Special thanks to **Alisa Wade** and **Claudine Wiley Cellier**!

Thank you to all of the parents who continue to **volunteer in classrooms** each day, thanks to all of you who help with **running club**, thanks for volunteering on the **playground**.

Thank you to **Kristin Gregoire, Gia Fairchild, Catherine Jones** and **Lisa Firehammer** for organizing the afterschool clubs. Thanks to all of the wonderful **parents who fed teachers** during conference time. Thanks for joining us on **field trips**. Thanks **Jordan Labbe** for running our Help Wanted program. Thanks **Holly Rogers** for creating our monthly newsletter. Thanks **Michelle Mori** and daughter **Nonoka** for creating the awesome new signage on the playground.

Thanks to all of the parents who are organizing **Science activities**, for organizing the **Auction**, and planning for the **Sock Hop**. Thanks for the help with setting up **MAP tests**. Thanks for your kind donations. **Thank you!**

You are an incredible team and we truly appreciate your support. Some of our PCA officers will be ready to pass on the torch at the end of this school year. **PCA officers**, we would not be able to do all of the wonderful things we do without your organization, thoughtfulness, and vision! **Way to go! Thanks!**

Kelly Chumrau

S-T-R-E-T-C-H Club

Hi this is Stretch Service Club. We want to tell you about the money that we made for Mr. Moffett. The Paxson community raised \$519.75! He is in China now and will be giving the money to a school in need. We can't wait to hear more about it when he returns. Thank you for your help!

Stretch sold origami during Christmas time and during the month of February. Stretch voted and we gave the origami money to Watson's Children Shelter, a place for children in a temporary living situation. We raised \$146.02 from our sales.

Thank you for helping us raise all of this money!

**By: Olivia and Alex
5th grade Stretchers**



APRIL

- 18th - Spring Auction
- 21st - After school clubs start, go through May 23
- 25th - Midterm
- 28th - No School (Teacher PIR)

MAY

- 5th - Teacher Appreciation Week
- 9th - Sock Hop
- 10th - River Bank Run
- 30th - Kindergarten Round Up

JUNE

- 4th - Field Day (tentative)



SPRING MUSIC

Wednesday, April 30

Grades 1, 2 and 3
2:00 p.m.

Paxson Gymnasium

Wednesday, May 7

Grades 4 and 5 at 2:30 p.m.
Paxson Gymnasium

Wednesday, May 21

Kindergarten in the Music Room
12:15 K Muhs 1:00 K LaRance
1:45 K Line 2:30 K Sonsalla



PAXSON SOCK HOP

When: May 9, 2014, 6 to 8pm

Where: Paxson Elementary School



Planning is underway for the 2014 Paxson Sock Hop. Mark your calendars for Friday, May 9, from 6 to 8pm, and get ready for this fun, free family event. There will be dancing, refreshments, a raffle, a Cake Walk, games, and many other activities.

We need lots of volunteers to make this fun and popular event a success, and there are loads of ways you can help. Sign up here - <http://volunteersignup.org/C7DQD> - or call/email Sasha Bell (646) 325-6856, sasha@sashabell.com or Ronni Flannery (406) 214-5700, rflannery@bresnan.net if you have any questions and/or want to volunteer.

Thank you! —Sasha Bell and Ronni Flannery, Sock Hop Co-Chairs

Parenting Courses

Paxson Elementary is proud to host "Working With Your Angry Child" on May 28th from 6-8pm in the library. This is a free workshop, with free, on-site childcare provided. In this course you will learn to understand the underlying message and needs of your "angry child" and the effect of your reactions on this behavior. You will also discover new techniques to help children diffuse the intensity of their emotions by naming their feelings, recognizing the problem, demonstrating your concern about the issues (more than behavior), and giving them tools to deal with their strong feelings. Register at childrensmuseummissoula.org or call 721-7692.



Garden Helpers Wanted

The Paxson Outdoor Learning Center/Garden is an awesome space used by the entire school. Students gain hands-on experience growing and studying plants; learning about soils, nutrients, and a host of natural cycles; and engage in a variety of outside activities. We need helpers to assist the Farmer in the Classroom Program and/or folks who can occasionally help out with the garden in general. If interested, please contact Gene Oliver, Paxson School counselor, by phone at 728-2400 ext. 4552 or by email at groiver@mcps.k12.mt.us.

DONATIONS NEEDED

Greetings Parents! Paxson Elementary's Family Resource Center is looking for old children's clothing to restock our shelves. We are especially in need of pants for boys and girls aged 5 to 11. We could also use belts and tennis shoes. Again, please don't bring new clothing, just things your kids have grown out of or grown tired of. These clothes are meant to help kids in case of an emergency - such as a rip or spill - so they can get through the day.

Please bring your donations to the front office and let our secretary know they are for the Family Resources Center. Thank you all for making Paxson such a giving, caring learning community.



MCPS Levies & Trustee Elections

Ballots will be mailed Monday, April 21
Return ballots by Tuesday, May 6

Elementary Operations Levy (Grades K-8)

Projected levy of \$181,000 (one year only)

Cost: \$2.23 per year based on a \$100,000 assessed property value

Cost: \$4.45 per year based on a \$200,000 assessed property value

Provides funding for elementary and middle school instruction materials and supplies, extra-curricular programs, employees' salaries and benefits, electricity, natural gas, and water.



Smarter Balanced Assessment Field Test

Our school is one of many in the country participating in the Smarter Balanced Assessment Field Test this spring. Schools in 22 states will administer the online assessment in mathematics and/or English starting this March.

The Smarter Balanced assessments are a key part of implementing our new academic standards and preparing all students for success in college and careers. When the assessments become operational in the 2014-15 school year, they will provide an academic checkup by measuring real-world skills like critical thinking and problem solving. In addition, they will provide information during the year to give teachers and parents a better picture of where students are succeeding and where they need help. This practice run of the assessments will be used to evaluate the testing software, ensure the quality of assessment questions, and evaluate the effectiveness of the assessment administration and training materials. It also provides teachers and students at our school an opportunity to preview the types of questions that will be part of the Smarter Balanced assessments and practice test administration procedures.

For our school, students in grade 3 through 5 have been selected to take the Field Test in English Literacy and Math. The assessment started March 18 and will continue through May 16. It will take approximately 6 to 8 hours and will be administered over multiple days. Participation is confidential, and your child's grades will not be affected.

If you would like more information about Smarter Balanced, please visit the Smarter Balanced website at <http://www.smarterbalanced.org/>. If you have any questions regarding your child's participation, please contact Ms. Chumrau at 728-2400 ext. 4550.



Submissions to the next newsletter should be submitted by Monday, May 5, to hollyhrogers@gmail.com.