

THE PARENT NEWS

NOVEMBER 2011



French Ford Middle School teacher Mike Clark holds a ruler next to the jug that students, parents, faculty and staff filled for Primary Children's Medical Center.

FFMS 'grows tall' for hospital

STUDENTS, PARENTS, faculty and staff at French Ford Middle School recently collected thousands of pennies and other coins and currency in an effort to raise money for the Primary Children's Medical Center in Salt Lake City, Utah.

From September 16 through October 14, the school's generous donors dropped coins down a funnel into a five gallon water jug on behalf of the hospital.

The theme was "Pennies by the Inch" and all donors were encouraged to be generously tall—giving at least one penny for every inch of their height.

Teacher Mike Clark, who helped organize the drive, concluded that French Ford has some very tall people.

"This was an enormous jug and they filled it half full," he remarked. "I was so impressed at everyone's generosity."

He added, "It was a great experience for all of us."

In all, French Ford Middle School raised \$383—\$160 more than was collected last year.

A check for the total amount was mailed to Primary Children's Medical Center last month.

"Thanks to all who were very tall this past month," said Mr. Clark.

The Pennies by the Inch program covers hospital services for children whose families can't afford to pay. ♪

Flu season is on its way, prepare now

FLU SEASON HAS arrived and district officials are issuing a reminder that small actions can make a big difference for students, teachers and staff.

Humboldt County School District Nurse Marian Tyree encourages community residents to wash their hands frequently with soap and water for 20 seconds, to cough and sneeze into a tissue or into the inside of their elbow, and to stay at least six feet away from people who are sick.

"Flu viruses are spread from person to person mainly through the coughing or sneezing of a sick person," she said, adding that flu virus also may be spread when a person touches something that is contaminated with the virus and then touches his or her eyes, nose, or mouth.

"Those who are sick should stay home from work, school and daycare and stay away from other people until they are better," she advised.

Additionally, in communities where the flu virus has occurred, Tyree said residents should stay away from public places where
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superintendent MESSAGE

Welcome back to another exciting school year!! In preparation for the school year, several significant events occurred within the district this summer. First, many school maintenance projects have been completed. Many of these projects were completed utilizing school bond monies the district received from the passage of the bond initiative in November, 2008. Reporting to you the completion of projects may seem mundane, but it is incumbent upon the district and board of trustees to provide up-to-date and safe facilities to support student growth and learning.

Lowry High School installed a new fire alarm sprinkler system, will have new boilers by September, installed a new system for the recovery and cycling of kitchen grease waste, and received some upgrades in the cafeteria kitchen. Sonoma Heights installed new flooring in a major portion of the school, replacing flooring that was installed when the school was built in the 1950s. Orovada and Denio Schools received new flooring, and a portable classroom has been installed at Winnemucca Grammar School, to address increasing enrollment.

The Board of Trustees has worked diligently to define its mission and vision for the school district. After a lengthy and robust discussion, board members agreed on its vision: "Every child will graduate, each being prepared and confident to succeed."

The adoption of the vision clearly addresses a major concern of Nevada and Humboldt County citizens: a graduation rate that hovers at about 50 percent in Nevada and 67 percent in Humboldt County. It also underscores a concern that was expressed by every board member: that each child needs to be prepared to succeed in ANY path they choose upon graduation, whether college-bound, trade bound, or entering the work force

The board also defined its mission: "As a community, we will provide a comprehensive, safe, challenging and effective learning environment to prepare students for success." Discussion by board members centered on assuring that the school makes every effort to provide the necessary support for every student to achieve at a high level, including those struggling, but also for those who excel and wish to accelerate their learning. Both the vision and mission statements are concise and clearly charge the Superintendent and school district with specific focus in our efforts to educate children.

On a financial note, the district recently applied for a rebate grant in the amount of \$5.1 million from NVEnergy to fund solar power at some school sites. The estimated annual energy savings to the district will be about \$200,000. The total cost of the projects is anticipated to be \$5.675 million, for which the district is seeking medium-term financing. That loan will be repaid by applying the entire amount of the rebate grant, \$5.1 million, to the principal; the remainder will be repaid through energy cost savings. School bond funds will NOT be utilized to fund this project, in accordance with assurances the district made to the public when the bond was passed by voters in 2008.

Finally, if you have an opportunity, please do visit our schools and witness for yourself the great things that are happening. We are privileged to have a fantastic cadre of teachers and staff members, who make great things happen every day for our students!!

—Mike Bumgartner, Superintendent



Pictured above, from left to right, are: Humboldt County School District Assistant Superintendent Dave Jensen, Don Wilhite, Process Manager for Newmont Mining Company's Twin Creeks/Midas properties and Mark Evatz, General Manager of Operations for Twin Creeks/Midas.

Newmont donation will fund classroom wants

Newmont Mining Corporation has once again allocated its school-designated grant funds to the Humboldt County School District for distribution to where school officials feel there is the greatest need.

"We understand that the school district has the best knowledge of how to distribute these funds," said Sue Hawkins, Newmont external relations representative.

This is the fourth year for the unique collaboration. In all, Newmont has asked the school district to funnel \$30,000 in flow-through moneys to area classrooms. A school district committee oversees the distribution of the funds.

According to Humboldt County School District Assistant Superintendent Dave Jensen, the district is looking for projects that are sustainable and can be tied to increased student academic achievement.

"Those will be the higher priority applications," he said. "We are looking for those things that will have the greatest impact on our students and their classrooms."

Newmont Mining Company Twin Creeks/Midas General Manager of Operations Mark Evatz was on hand last month along with Twin Creeks/Midas Process Manager Don Wilhite to present this year's check to Jensen.

Evatz said the check represents the efforts of employees, contractors, shareholders and mining leadership in helping to shore up local education.

"We're here to do whatever we can to help this district be successful," said Evatz. 

UPCOMING

WGS Cookbook



Winnemucca Grammar School has a new cookbook filled with recipes from past and present teachers, administrators, staff members and parents at the school. The cookbook was put together by teacher Nancy Swindle on behalf of the FROGS PTO organization. Don't miss this chance to grab one

before they're gone. It really is a neat compilation of recipes and memories. Call the school at 623-8160 to reserve your copy, or drop by WGS. Cost is \$10 per book. ♪

See's Candies Fundraiser

Lowry High School's Key Club is selling See's Candies between now and December 9—just in time for Christmas! The proceeds will help pay for the group's district convention in April 2012. Key Club is hoping to send twice as many Key Clubbers as last year! If you would like to place an order, and a Key Clubber doesn't get to you, just email advisor Daralee Millikan at dmillikan@humboldt.k12.nv.us. ♪



Recital, Dinner Benefit



Encore Dance Academy is hosting a winter performance and spaghetti dinner on Saturday, December 17, at Lowry High School. Dances will feature excerpts from the Nutcracker ballet and favorite moments from past recitals. Dinner and show is \$15, show tickets only are \$10. The dinner will be served at 5:30 p.m. and the show begins at 7 p.m. A silent auction will be held, as well as a craft and bake sale. All proceeds from the dinner and performance will benefit Kim Baker who is battling cancer. Her daughter, Chelsea, is currently Lowry's Freshman Class Vice President. ♪

College Prep

The Lowry High School counseling department has purchased a new resource for college planning. Find it on the district's website at: <http://www.humboldt.k12.nv.us/lhs/downloads/>. This excellent resource includes answers to all the questions that students and parents may have regarding post-secondary education. It is available to copy as many times as you please and there is a free website included which contains handouts for 9-12 grades and PowerPoints about planning for the future. ♪

Box Tops Coupons

Please save your Box Tops for Grass Valley Elementary School, French Ford Middle School, Sonoma Heights Elementary School and Winnemucca Grammar School. Each one is worth 10 cents. You will find them on General Mills products. ♪

short TAKES



The **FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA** group recently returned from the 84th National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana. Four adults and nine students attended. Glenda Deputy participated as the School Board representative funded by the FFA Alumni. Dusty Theide, Jessica Rackley, Robyn Shafer, and Quinn Norcutt, with alternates Jessica Partee and Ryan Nelson, traveled for the Environmental and Natural Resources CDE Competition. The team brought home a silver medal! Students Ashley Bressemer, Megahn Brennan (on FFA Alumni Freshman Scholarship) and Ashley Buckingham) also attended workshops and tours.



NEWMONT MINING CORPORATION recently donated \$700 to the Winnemucca Grammar School to help the school rent the Winnemucca Event Center as part of its "Spook Night" Halloween fundraiser, held Saturday, October 22. Pictured above, from left to right, are: WGS Principal Dorene Kitras, Newmont Twin Creeks Operations Chief Mark Evatz and Friends of the Grammar School (FROGS) President Nicole Maher.

'Idol' talent show contest set

LET THE ADVENTURE begin! "Winnemucca Idol" is coming to the community and all area youth are invited to participate.

The first annual talent show will take place at 3 p.m. Saturday, January 28, at French Ford Middle School.

The competition will benefit the Hinton family, whose newborn son has spina bifida, and Kim Baker, who is battling stomach cancer.

Competition will be divided into four categories, including adult (19 and older), teen (13-18 years old) and youth (12 and under). There is also a group category.

Acts must not exceed three minutes and all content must meet approved school standards.

Costumes also must be appropriate. Spaghetti straps, t-shirts with bad language or inappropriate logos will not be permitted. Individuals or organizations should call with questions.

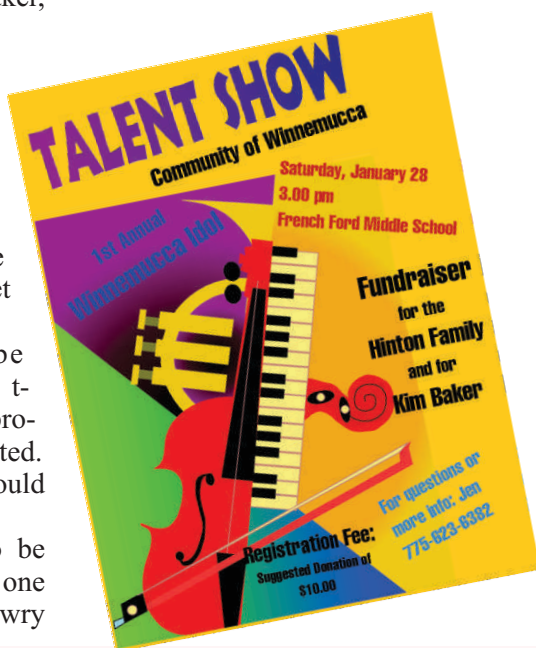
All sign-up forms need to be submitted by January 14, 2012 at one of the following locations: Lowry

High School's Attendance Office, 5375 Kluncy Canyon Road; Humboldt County Library, 85 E. Fifth Street; or Youth and Family Services, 737 E. Fairgrounds Road.

Suggested registration fee is \$10.

All youth under the age of 18 must provide written consent from a parent or legal guardian before participating.

For questions or more information, please call Jennifer Cannon at (775) 623-6382 or email jcannon@wmnv.net.



'Flu' (continued)

there are large groups of people.

The Centers for Disease Control recommends that everyone 6 months and older get vaccinated against the flu every year.

This year's flu vaccine will protect against an influenza A H3N2 virus, an influenza B virus and the H1N1 virus that emerged in 2009 to cause a pandemic.

Once administered, the vaccine will take approximately two weeks to protect against prevalent flu strains.

Flu shots are available through local physician offices, the office of the Community Health Nurse and area pharmacies.

Humboldt General Hospital

Emergency Medical Services Rescue also will be offering in-home flu shots to Humboldt County residents from Monday, November 28, through Friday, December 2.

Morning, afternoon and evening appointments are available. Cost is \$25, payable by cash or check.

Local residents should call (775) 623-5222, ext. 263 before Friday, November 25, to schedule their in-home flu shot. That will allow local crews to ensure they have enough vaccine for the community.

For information related to this year's flu season or vaccine, please contact Humboldt County School District Nurse Marian Tyree via district email at mtyree@humboldt.k12.nv.us.

did you KNOW?

Here are some ideas to help your child be a successful **READER**.

- Talk about books with your child. Ask what he's reading in school. Read to him, read with him, or simply listen as he reads.
- Share often something that you're reading with your child—books, newspapers, recipes, magazines, etc.—to let her know that you value reading. Do the same thing with writing. When you write a note or letter, share it and talk about it with your child.
- Get a library card for child at the public library, if possible, and visit on a regular basis.
- Consider giving your child a choice at bedtime: "Would you like for me to turn out the light, or would you like to read a book for 10 minutes?"
- Keep reading and writing materials available for your child.
- Read aloud to your child, even after he or she learns to read.



The Humboldt County School District is asking parents to create their own **LOGIN THROUGH POWERSCHOOL**. Go to the Parent Portal (www.humboldt.k12.nv.us Parents Powerschool). You must create an account first before you can use the Parent SignIn at the top. So go to the bottom of the screen where it says Create Account. Put in your parent information. You are setting your own username and password here, so remember what you set it as. Remember letters are case sensitive so you must watch your capitals. Then you will link your students at the bottom by filling in the information for every student in your family. This is the parent login information, not student, and is case sensitive. If you do not know this information, call the school where your student attends. When you are done press enter. Now you will login to the Parent Portal with this new username and password that you just setup and it will give you access to all your students at once. If you forget your username and password, click on the having trouble signing in and it will guide you how to retrieve them. Note: Students will still sign in the same way as before.