



Foundation News!

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President's Message from Mike Fillat

Happy New Year! I hope you all enjoyed your break. Thank you for all the donations to the Foundation. The Foundation, the school and your kids appreciate you for joining the Foundation, no matter the level at which you have joined. Remember, the Foundation only does two fundraisers a year; the capital campaign and the spring gala. So far this year, we have donated over \$10,000 right back to the school. If you would like to volunteer some time to either the Foundation board or the Auction Committee, e-mail me at otldoc@gmail.com and I will get you the necessary information. Thanks!



Fiesta del Sol



Who's ready for a FIESTA? The planning is well underway for the Twin Trails Education Foundation 5th annual event to benefit our children at Sundance Elementary. The event is scheduled for
Saturday, April 25th, 2009.

Mark your calendars. This Mexican-themed celebration will surely be a night of great deals to bid on, delectable food, and dancing!

If anyone has any baskets they would like to donate to the Foundation's auction committee for silent auction baskets or have an item or service you would like to donate to the auction, please contact me to arrange drop off or pick up at:

Sandra Escobedo at (858) 484-2126 or
e-mail at Sandra_escobedo@att.net

- Save the auction date: **4/25/09**
- Be sure to check out the Foundation website at www.twintrailsfoundation.org
- All Foundation donors are listed on our website. See who is making an **IMPACT**
- The donor tiles from 2007 and 2008 will be mounted on the donor wall following completion of the renovation. Want to see your name there? Ask us how!



AUCTION CHAIRPERSON FOR 2009-2010
MUST WANT TO MAKE AN IMPACT ON SUNDANCE ELEMENTARY, ENJOY REWARDING EXPERIENCES AND LOVE WORKING WITH INCREDIBLE, ENERGETIC PEOPLE.
CONTACT SANDRA ESCOBEDO AT 484-2126

A Message from Principal Earl Scull...

First let me wish you a Happy and Prosperous New Year. My name is Earl Scull and I am, for the remainder of the year, the interim principal at Sundance. I was a Poway principal for over twenty years before retiring last June. Included in that time were five years each at Sundance and Deer Canyon. When Desiree Manuel moved to the district office and I was offered the opportunity to return here, I couldn't help but say yes. This is a school and a community that I know fairly well and thoroughly enjoy working in.

On Monday evening, I had the pleasure of attending my first Foundation board meeting and was thoroughly impressed by the high level of parent participation, their commitment and organization and their long list of accomplishments, all of which support student learning at Sundance.

Foundations and fund raising have unfortunately become all too common and necessary in these depressed budgetary times. But you can be assured that your Foundation board is right on target with its focus on children and learning.

As we move through the remainder of the year, it will likely become necessary for us to turn to the Foundation for things which in better times would be considered basics. I will do my best to keep you informed of the magnitude of the budget crisis, the effect it is having on Sundance and how you, if you are in a position to do so, can help.

What Has The Foundation Done This School Year?

VMath Live and Brain Pop/Brain Pop Jr.

We at Sundance are grateful and thankful to our Foundation for helping to buy two new educational software programs in December '08, to help enhance the student learning and provide a tool to enjoy and apply skills in a fun, interactive learning environment.

VMath Live: VMath Live is a Web-based mathematical resource that gives students from grades 3-5 an opportunity to practice their math skills, prepare for high-stakes testing, and gives them an opportunity to "play" with other students around the world. It also offers teachers the opportunity to monitor students' progress and assign specific tasks to individual students. It also displays its live statistics, top performing students and schools on its website on a weekly basis. There is a great enthusiasm among our Sundance kids to take these spots. Each student is assigned his username and password and the program allows him to work at his level at his own pace, and also challenges him on the entire curriculum required for his grade. More information is available at www.vmathlive.com. It is available for use by students and staff 24/7.

Brain Pop and Brain Pop Jr: We are indeed one of the lucky schools to subscribe to Brain Pop (for grades 4-5) and BrainPop Jr (for grades K-3). The students can access BrainPop and BrainPop Jr from 7:30am to 5:30pm. Both the programs provide educational, animated movies on a wide variety of subjects including Science, Math, Social Studies, Reading, Writing, and Health. Each animated movie is supported by quizzes, games, vocabulary, and activities for kids. The teachers at Sundance agree that it is a great tool to enhance the learning, critical thinking, and understanding of content on the subject. The content is also based on state standards and can be searched using that option. For more information please visit www.brainpopjr.com and www.brainpop.com.

To maintain our mission/vision to teach each child life-long skills necessary to be college ready, both these programs support us tremendously by motivating, enhancing and challenging our students. The programs are easy to use and fun to work on, which keeps our young and enthusiastic hands and minds excited and going.

-Nisha Dhirar, Computer Resource Aide

OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER WILL HIGHLIGHT THE UPDATED AND ENHANCED READING COUNTS PROGRAM. BE SURE TO CHECK IT OUT!

December 12, 2008

Dear Mike [Fillat],

I thought you might like you to know that I started my students on **VMathLive** this week on Wednesday during our computer lab time. They ADORE it! Most of them are using it at home with their parents. On the first day, one of our students, Alain, was the on the top 100 students in the world as number 10. Thursday, it was our student Nathan. Today, our classroom was listed as number 10 in the top 100 classrooms in the United States.

Thanks so much for all [the Foundation] does for us,

Christine Overson Hatch, Third Grade Teacher

Everyone a Reader Program

The Foundation has helped to fund the start- up fee and a book set for the "**Everyone a Reader**" tutoring program which was implemented at the beginning of the year. **Everyone A Reader** is a program designed and overseen by the San Diego County Office of Education and has proven to be a highly successful and positive way of supporting children in the process of learning to read. Trained, volunteer tutors are paired with students in need of reading assistance to practice reading strategies and help them develop confidence and fluency in reading. Even in just a few months of the program under way, we are starting to see significant progress amongst the participants.

- Ann Linn, Parent

