



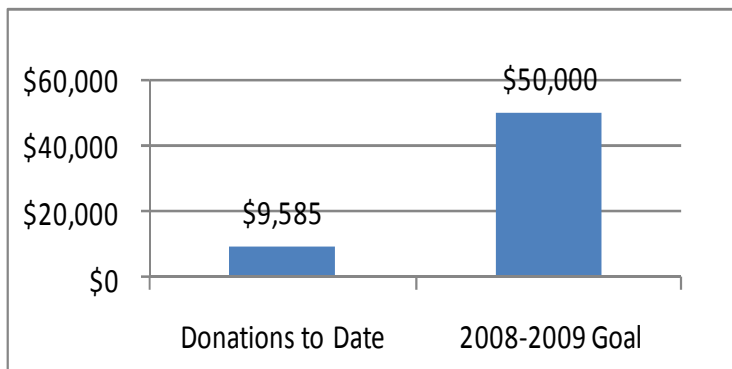
Foundation News!

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President's Message from Mike Fillat

Happy time change everyone. I hope you are all enjoying the added daylight. Every so often in an organization like ours, there are important times; this is one of them. We are in need of board members for next year. We have many of our most valuable players leaving us after this year. Now is the time to get involved in your children's education. Please join us in the Computer Lab on April 13th and/or May 4th at 6:30. From there we meet the first Monday of every month. We have lots of big decisions to make. We are considering replacing the marquee on the front of the school, the canopies by the portables and putting smart boards in the classrooms. Do you have any input?

Additionally, don't forget the auction. It is our last fundraiser of the year. It is April 25th. We hope to see you there. If you have anything at all to donate, please let us know.



NOTE: Since the Foundation began, the most we have made at our annual auction is \$27,430.

To Do List

1. Get empty baskets to Sandra for the auction
2. Think about any item or service donations I can contribute to the auction
3. Mark April 25th on calendar...Fiesta del Sol
4. Attend April 13th Foundation meeting at 6:30
5. Consider getting involved in Foundation for 2009-2010 school year.
6. Make a difference at Sundance!

A Message from Principal Earl Scull...

It seems like not a day goes by that we don't face some new piece of bad economic news. In my career, now stretching to 37 years, the educational budget situation has never been bleaker. In Poway, we have made extensive budget cuts for the past two years and look to next year knowing another approximately \$22 million of additional cuts still need to be made. We are past the point where the cuts can be made away from the classroom and at the elementary level, we know we'll be facing larger class sizes at all grades and absolute minimal resources to operate the school.

This budget dilemma will take place at the same time we are spending upward of \$10 million modernizing Sundance. But that's the way educational funding works; the money being used for all the modernization projects in PUSD comes primarily from the proceeds of two local school bonds and it can only be used for that purpose.

Next year, more than at any time in the past, we'll be looking for financial support from the Foundation to help with the basic operation of the school. Yet I know that our families are feeling the same financial strains that are gripping the rest of the country. But I'd like to ask that as you plan whatever charitable giving you may be doing in this tax year, that you consider Sundance. Our Foundation can take contributions and matching donations from employers which will directly support our school.

Reading Counts News Flash!

Last October, when Sundance staff members tried to purchase new Reading Counts quizzes, it came to our attention that Scholastic would no longer support our outdated version of Reading Counts with new tests, (or technical support), after January 1st of this year. That meant that we would no longer be able to offer our students any quizzes for newly published books. In addition, we also found out that our version of the Scholastic Reading Inventory, (SRI) was also being dropped. Instead, Scholastic was encouraging all users of the old systems to upgrade to the new Enterprise Edition. The Legacy edition we were running before the vacation break, was well over 10 years old, and Scholastic has made substantial improvements in Reading Counts since that time. Fortunately, Scholastic made Sundance a half price offer, and thanks to the Foundation, PTA and SLIP Funding we were able to accept it!

There were so many advantages to accepting this offer. First and foremost, the new Reading Count's Enterprise Edition has the advantage of having all 45,000 Reading Counts tests for our students to use, (rather than our current 9,000). We will never have to purchase new tests in the future (tests are currently \$2.75 each). We will also receive over 2,000 new tests free each year, (as they are made, on a monthly basis). The major selling point of changing to the new system, however, was that Scholastic is currently working on a new system that will offer Reading Counts on-line. They are still getting the "bugs" worked out, but hopefully, we will be able to offer Sundance students the ability to take tests at home through our Sundance website, by next September!

The Foundation made a donation of \$2700 towards the purchase of the new system. The Sundance PTA, also supported the purchase with \$500. The remainder was covered by \$700 from School and Library Improvement Funds, (SLIP). Sundance teachers are so pleased that parents, staff, and students teamed together to find a way to accept the Scholastic offer.

The District Technology Tech, Bryce Newell, our Sundance LAN Tech-Bob Zimmerman, our Reading Counts/SRI advisor, Jeanie Coppotelli, and all of the Sundance teachers have all spent valuable time working on the system installation. It has been a tremendous amount of work, but through a huge team effort, we now have the program up and successfully running! In the vast majority of cases, student records transferred over to the new system without a problem. Our students also adapted very well to the latest version. They were thrilled with the latest quizzes added from so many of their favorite series. We have a hit!



Fiesta del Sol



The Twin Trails Education Foundation's 5th annual event to benefit our children at Sundance Elementary is fast approaching. The event is scheduled for **Saturday, April 25, 2009**. Mark your calendars. Look for your invitations in the mail in the next couple of weeks.

Check the Foundation's website for a list of donations we have received so far. We've received some GREAT items! The website is **www.twintrailsfoundation.org**. You will also be able to bid on our "Live Auction" items online even if you can't make it to the auction. Check our website to find the link. Check the online bidding site regularly, as we will be updating it with more incredible items. The website can also be accessed from the Sundance Elementary web page.

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 Sandra Escobedo at (858) 484-2126 or e-mail at **Sandra_escobedo@att.net** to arrange drop off or pick up.

Viva Sundance Spirit!

NOTE: If anyone is interested in chairing this event next year, please give me a call for detailed information. This is my third year and it has been very fulfilling. You will have a great staff of people to work with and it is a great way to get involved in the Foundation.