

Phoebe Hearst Elementary School Foundation News

September 2011

Welcome All Hearst Families!

The Hearst Foundation would like to welcome all new and returning Hearst families. It is always an exciting time of year for you as parents and for the students & teachers at Hearst. We wish all of you a fun, educational year ahead with many memories to be made.

Let me introduce myself to you. My name is Heather Shabestari and I will be the Hearst Foundation President for this school year. I am excited to take on this role and volunteer my time to help the school and our students. There have been some changes that have taken place over the summer, which I will explain in this newsletter. If you should have any questions or would like further information, please do not hesitate to contact me. I would be happy to speak to you! For those that are new to the school here is a brief background.

Foundation Background

The Foundation has existed for 13 years and is a non-profit entity that operates completely independent of the PTA and other organizations at Hearst.

When the Foundation was first put into place many years ago, the idea was to help fund capital improvements. One of the very first projects the Foundation completed were the grass fields. Since it's inception, the Foundation has funded many items including the computers for the computer lab, a laptop computer for each teacher, document cameras for each classroom, teacher mini grants, a projector, and grade level Reader's Theater textbooks.

For over the past five years, the Foundation has been called upon by teachers and parents to help support programs that have been cut from our school. Most recently, the Foundation has funded a computer lab technician, a supplemental art teacher (not Art Corps) and a general music and choral teacher.

The Foundation funds these programs through a dinner and auction fundraiser held each year in the

spring. You will want to save the date for this year's event taking place on **March 24, 2012**. You won't want to miss an extraordinary night!

Art Program Update

Mrs. Christine Haddaway, our visiting artist for several years, will no longer be with us. Christine had been a wonderful addition to the Hearst family and as a Hearst parent herself strived to bring valuable and creative art into the classrooms. Christine always went above and beyond her lesson plans and thoroughly enjoyed working with the students and seeing their artistic abilities blossom. Christine has accepted a full time position at another school this year. The Hearst Foundation wishes her all the best and appreciates her dedication and beautiful artistry she taught all our students. Thank you Christine! You will be missed by each and every student, parent, and teacher at Hearst!

Music Program Update

The Hearst Foundation will be funding a music program for this school year. We are currently in the process of working with Ms. Jorgensen to determine what type of music program to put in place. Several candidates and organizations have been interviewed and within the next few weeks our students will have an exciting new music program in their classrooms. The Foundation will be funding music for all grades. This allots for thirty minutes of music each week for K – 3rd. Our 4th and 5th graders will also have the option to work with a choral music teacher for choir if they so choose. Keep a look out for more information in regards to music as the year progresses!

Computer Lab Update

Several years ago the Hearst Foundation funded all the computers in the computer lab. The computer lab this year will be located in the library, just as last year. Due to our expanding school, we do not have an empty room that can be dedicated to computer lab time.

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In addition, due to the results from the parent and teacher surveys, many meetings with Ms. Jorgensen, and a meeting with some of the teachers, it has been decided that for this school year the Hearst Foundation will not fund a computer lab technician. The computer lab can and will be used by the students and their teachers though.

Mr. Paul Rion had been our computer lab technician for the past few years and worked closely with the teachers and students to facilitate lessons in the computer lab. Paul went above and beyond the role of technician each and every day, developed a great relationship with the students, and always strived to make the computer lab experience fun and educational. Paul, at the end of last year, also felt that his role as technician had been fulfilled and that technology as a whole needed to be looked at by the school and Foundation to keep progressive. Mr. Rion will be missed by all students and faculty, as well as the Hearst Foundation. We wish him all the best!

Foundation Happenings

With the money raised from the 2010/11 auction the following items have been funded and/or budgeted:

1. \$3,800 for Reader's Theater complete grade level sets for K-5 (already purchased).
2. \$6,050 allotted for teacher mini grants.
3. Music Program for K-3
4. Choral Program for 4th & 5th grade.

The Foundation would like to thank all of the parents who attended and/or donated to the 2011 auction to help make these programs possible. With your continued support our children are enriched with programs that otherwise would not be.

Foundation Aspirations

This year is a year for research and ideas at Hearst. The world of technology is ever changing and many parents have expressed their desire to look into different ways that the Foundation can help in shaping the technological future for Hearst students. This year, 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders will all have computer net books in their class for their use.

Kindergarten through 2nd grade will eventually have their own net books as well. Moving forward, how can our computer lab evolve? What would we like each grade level to learn while working with computers? What other elements do we want to bring to Hearst in terms of media & technology? We hope the answers to these questions can be determined by forming a sub-committee this year that specifically looks into media and technology in primary grades. If you would be interested in getting involved with this sub-committee, please let us know.

In addition, this year the Foundation will be looking into other capital improvements the school needs as well as other programs that would benefit all students at Hearst. If you have any ideas and/or contacts that you would like us to know about, please email me at hshabestari@cox.net.

Ways to Get Involved

- Media/Technology Sub-Committee
- Volunteer to help with the Hearst Foundation Auction and Dinner on March 24, 2012.
- Get involved in your child's Classroom Project which will be auctioned off at the event.
- Send your ideas, comments, and aspirations for projects and programs at Hearst to any Foundation Board Member.

2011/12 Foundation Board of Directors

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