

2016  
APRIL

# explorer NEWS

## principal's message Dr. Joseph Backman

Fabulous Foothill Parents,

I can't believe April is already here! We had a great month of March with many exciting events where Foothill students represented us very well.

- Foothill's Ballroom Dance Team placed 3rd overall for their division at the BYU Dance Sport competition. We have been complimented for such a strong showing our first year of holding ballroom at our school.
- We had three of our Knowledge Bowl teams place in the top ten in the district. Congratulations scientists!
- Foothill's Battle of the Books competitions went great. We had almost 200 students participate, which is very high for our first year. I have heard multiple comments from parents about how many books their children read and how engaged they were. Battle of the Books is a great way to open students' eyes to a variety of great books. We hope to have many more students join next year.
- We have had many visitors to Foothill to learn of our endeavors to deepen student learning through STEAM and 21st Century Learning. In just the month of March we had visitors from a BYU graduate class and over 70 teachers and administrators from the Orem cluster elementary schools. It was exciting to see several of our students sharing their experiences with these adults, answering their questions, and really teaching them about engineering and STEAM.

We look forward to several events coming up in April that I want you to be aware of.

- Spring Break is April 4-8th. We hope you have a fun, safe break with your children.
- SAGE testing for our 3rd-6th grade students will start after spring break. Please ensure your children are well rested, well fed, and not absent during our testing window. You should hear from your child's teacher of the dates they will be testing.
- School Community Council elections. Nominations are open now and will close April 13th. Voting will take place April 18th-20th in our front office.
- We have purchased Chromebooks for 3rd-6th grades that will bring a class to a 1 to 1 ratio (one student to one device). We will be purchasing iPads for all classrooms to bring the class to a 2 to 1 ratio (two students per device) as students work together to build, create, and design using technology. These tools will be used to accelerate student learning and deepen understanding.

Thank you for your continual support. I am honored to be the principal at Foothill Elementary! Have a wonderful month of April.

Sincerely,

Dr. Backman (Dr. B.)

Principal, Foothill Elementary

Be Kind. Be Optimistic. Learn. Work Hard. And Live Life to the Fullest!

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## Dr. B.'s Readers

Grades 1-3  
Gooney the Fabulous  
By Lois Lowry

Grades 4-6  
The View From Saturday  
By E.L. Konigsburg  
(Newberry Award Winner)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
28 Early Out Kindergarten Registration	29 Kindergarten Registration	30 Kindergarten Registration	31 Kindergarten Registration 4th Grade Wax Museum	1 Kindergarten Registration
4 Spring Break	5 Spring Break	6 Spring Break	7 Spring Break	8 Spring Break
11 Early Out SAGE Testing Begins	12	13 PTA Meeting 1p.m.	14	15
18 Early Out	19	20 PTA Appreciation Lunch 11:30am	21	22 Newsletter Items DUE
25 Early Out History Fair - Noon	26	27	28	29 Yearbook Photos Due

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Jan Burr	Apr. 06
Glenna Mineer	Apr. 15
Kara Muir	Apr. 19
Laura Mendenhall	Apr. 28

### NEXT MONTH:

- May 5 - 5th Grade Hope of America
- May 10/11 - 7 p.m. Kindergarten Program
- May 12 - Art Gala/Spring Concert
- May 20 - 3K Run
- May 23 - 6th Grade Graduation
- May 25 - Dance Festival
- May 26 - Field Day
- May 27 - Last Day of School

## president's message

**Lisa Oliver**

As a PTA, we hope Spring Break is a great "pick-me-up" for all our Foothill Explorers, teachers and parents so we can finish off this year strong.

We had so many wonderful volunteers helping pull off Foothill's first Battle of the Books in March! What an exciting and fun new tradition Mrs. Heubert has brought to our school. Also, we had our annual knowledge bowl. Thank you to Lisa Johnson and her committee for the many hours preparing our great students to compete. (see this newsletter for details on each of these great events)

In addition, the PTA Awards night was held in March. Congratulations to our very deserving Foothill winners who were honored at our Region 9 PTA Awards Banquet last month:

- Educator of the Year - Julie Siebach
- Administrator of the Year - Joseph Backman
- Volunteer of the Year - Angela Jones
- Spirit of PTA Award - Lisa Oliver
- Foothill Outstanding Students - Hope Golly and Caden Van Wagenen



In April, we will hold our final "formal" PTA meeting on the 13th from 1-2 in the Library. Everyone is always welcome to come and participate, learn, ask questions, and voice opinions. We plan to vote on the 2016-2017 PTA Board. We'd love to see you there.

April 20th will be our PTA Volunteer Appreciation Lunch. This will be held at 11:30 in the pavilion north of the school (in case of inclement weather we will hold the lunch in the school gymnasium.) ALL VOLUNTEERS who have helped at Foothill in ANY WAY this year are invited to attend. Please come to this is a fun and social lunch so that we can say "Thank you" for helping make Foothill great! (Young children are certainly permitted to accompany parents - no excuse not to come.)

We are lucky to be a part of this great school where our children are fortunate to have many great experiences and where so many parents are involved in helping in our school. The culture of Foothill is so unique because of the incredible teachers, faculty, administration, and parents. Thanks for all you do.

# THE news



## FOOTHILL ARTS GALA & SPRING CONCERT

Thursday, May 12th, 2015  
Art Display from 6:30 - 8:30

## YEARBOOK PICTURES

If you have pictures from the year you would like to submit for the yearbook, please email them to [oremfoothillpta@gmail.com](mailto:oremfoothillpta@gmail.com) and put yearbook in the subject line. Deadline is April 29th.



We had such a great time with Battle of the Books here at Foothill! In our first year we had 14 teams of 3rd and 4th graders and 12 teams of 5th and 6th graders. We had many great parent volunteers who helped the battles run smoothly and all the kids learned and had fun!

CONGRATULATIONS to the top teams:

From the 3rd and 4th grade competition, our two final teams were:

2nd place: GOLDEN LIGHTNING: Anna Livingston, Michelle Meyers, Kyah Smith, Annika Wood, William Thayer

1st Place: RAPID READERS: Nisha Jarman, Ava Duncan, Elena Jensen, Wynter Hendricks, Tyler Pinegar

From the 5th and 6th grade competition, our two final teams are:

2nd Place: THE BOOKS AWAKEN : Grace Blumell, Jared Billings, Christina Altamirano, Lindsay Brown

1st Place: THE DREAM TEAM: Meili Haggard, Ellie Hill, Lexi Michaelis, Emma Webb, Jessica Wood

Look for a flyer next month of the list of books for next year's BATTLE of the BOOKS!

We hope to see many more kids enjoy this great program!

## VOLUNTEER LUNCH

Calling ALL volunteers! Come one, come all.

Wednesday, April 20th at 11:30 will be the Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon for ANYONE who has helped in ANY capacity this year at the school. You don't have to be a PTA member to come and don't be afraid to bring your younger children. This is a chance to eat and socialize, and gives us the opportunity to recognize each and every person who has contributed this year in some way for the benefit of Foothill. We are so grateful for all of you and hope you will plan on attending!!

Mark your calendars now!



# MORE news

## NURSING NEWS

25% of public schools report that bullying among kids happens on a daily or weekly basis. 1 in 5 high school students reported being bullied in the last year.

Bullying is intentional tormenting in physical, verbal, or psychological ways. It can range from hitting, shoving, name-calling, threats, and mocking to extorting money and possessions. Some kids bully by shunning others and spreading rumors about them. Others use social media or electronic messaging to taunt others or hurt their feelings.

It's important to take bullying seriously and not just brush it off as something that kids have to "tough out." The effects can be serious and affect kids' sense of safety and self-worth. In severe cases, bullying has contributed to tragedies, such as suicides and school shootings.

Unless your child tells you about bullying or has visible bruises or injuries, it can be difficult to figure out if it's happening.

There are some warning signs: Parents might notice kids acting differently or seeming anxious, or not eating, sleeping well, or doing the things they usually enjoy. When kids seem moodier or more easily upset than usual, or when they start avoiding certain situations (like taking the bus to school), it might be because of a bully.

You can do your part at home, too. Here are 5 smart strategies to keep kids from becoming targets and stop bullying that has already started:

1. Talk about it. Talk about bullying with your kids and have other family members share their experiences. If one of your kids opens up about being bullied, praise him or her for being brave enough to discuss it and offer unconditional support. Consult with the school to learn its policies and find out how staff and teachers can address the situation.
2. Remove the bait. If it's lunch money or gadgets that the school bully is after, you can help neutralize the situation by encouraging your child to pack a lunch or go to school gadget-free.
3. Buddy up for safety. Two or more friends standing at their lockers are less likely to be picked on than a child who is all alone. Remind your child to use the buddy system when on the school bus, in the bathroom, or wherever bullies may lurk.
4. Keep calm and carry on. If a bully strikes, a kid's best defense may be to remain calm, ignore hurtful remarks, tell the bully to stop, and simply walk away. Bullies thrive on hurting others. A child who isn't easily ruffled has a better chance of staying off a bully's radar.
5. Don't try to fight the battle yourself. Sometimes talking to a bully's parents can be constructive, but it's generally best to do so in a setting where a school official, such as a counselor, can mediate.

Kim Lowe, RN, School Nurse

Submissions to the Final May Newsletter are due by **April 22nd**.

Send submissions to [oremfoothillpta@gmail.com](mailto:oremfoothillpta@gmail.com) with NEWSLETTER as the subject.