



Creating a New Renaissance

Playbill

The Newsletter for Public Academy for Performing Arts

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Principal's Message

Fall is here and winter is just around the corner. Our first quarter has ended and report cards are mailed out. We're on our way!

Those of us who attended our Town Hall and Open House on August 29 will recall an opening activity lead by Kathy Richter-Sand of the Governing Council. She asked everyone to answer questions about our expectations for the year.

Dorothy Kerwin, parent volunteer, organized the responses and throughout the year we'll use them as discussion starters. This month we look at "What do you expect of your child's teachers?" This question garnered 51 responses. Two in particular caught my eye:

- *I want my 8th grader's teachers to use homework in a judicious manner. Volume is not equal to quality.*

How true this is! We strive at PAPA to provide a rigorous academic environment while respecting time demands on students who study performing arts. We're still working out the ebb and flow of a performance year, but our goal is to

use homework as meaningful academic support, not busy work.

- *Discipline!*

As Donna Miles, Vice Principal, says, "Discipline is freedom." This staff believes—for ourselves and our students. Discipline is invaluable to all people, for it helps us achieve our goals and live together peaceably. When students understand and honor boundaries they are free to relax and learn in safety. Parental support is vital, because when we all work together, the child wins. Discipline is everyone's responsibility.

Communication is imperative to life at PAPA. We strive to communicate when there is cause to celebrate and when corrective action is needed. With discipline and communication we can all work and learn joyfully. Here's to a joyous 2nd quarter!

Danielle Johnston
Principal
djohnston@paparts.org

November 7 is Portrait Day

Student Portrait Day is **Thursday, November 7**. Flyers will be sent home with envelopes for prepayment. Even though every student will be photographed, payment **must** be received on or before Portrait Day in order to receive pictures. Checks should be made payable to Lifetouch.

Portraits will be distributed at the end of November—in time for the Holidays. There will be a retake day in early December. Please call Mandy Ruden at 899-3056 if you have any questions.



Duran Family Donates Color TV

Our heartfelt thanks go to the family of **Carlos Duran, 7th grade**, for their generous gift of a color television set to Mrs. Zufall's class. Those of you who have old TVs and VCRs in closets or spare rooms, please donate them to PAPA. We can give them new life as A/V equipment!



Join the PTA and make a difference! Next meeting Tuesday, November 12, 6:00 p.m. Call Laura Tapia at 296-5841 for details.



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“Whatever you can do, or dream you can, begin it. Boldness has genius, power and magic in it.”

—Goethe

From the PTA President

We would like to welcome everyone to the next PTA meeting on **Tuesday, November 12th at 6:00 p.m.**

Now is the perfect opportunity to get in on the ground floor and help shape this organization. If you have not yet paid your membership dues (only \$10.00 per year) you are still welcome to come and be a part of the discussion. We plan to meet once a month. Our focus is to provide additional resources that will improve the level of education and well being to students.

We recently elected officers: Tony Hice, President; Kurt Weber, Vice President; Tomas Tapia, Secretary; and Laura Tapia, Treasurer.

We have asked for a "wish list" from the faculty. This could be donated library books, TVs, VCRs, computers, paper, help in the classroom, or just special assistance on certain projects. We will circulate the list for suggestions on how we might help.

We welcome your participation and want to reassure you that you can choose your own level of involvement. Please come and be a part of PTA!

—Tony Hice, PTA President

Note: PAPA PTA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. You can have your United Way contribution go to PAPA PTA, or you can make a direct donation which is 100% tax deductible. Receipt will be provided. Please contact Tony Hice, PTA President, at THice1@aol.com if you are interested.

Volunteer Honor Roll



Thank heavens for volunteers! Volunteers are the lifeblood of charter schools. Unlike regular public schools, a charter must use its operating budget to pay for facilities and capital improvements. Remaining dollars are stretched tightly to cover the actual costs of delivering education. As a result, most charters cannot afford to spend lavishly or hire fleets of employees.

PAPA is no exception. Volunteers make it possible for us to function more smoothly and provide goods and services to students and teachers that regular schools take for granted. We'd like to publicly thank the following volunteers who have been working behind the scenes, quietly and heroically, to help PAPA fulfill its mission.

★ PTA members and others who moved us during the summer: **Tony Moraga, Yolanda Rodriguez, John and Suzanne Kochersperger, Kim and John Hooker, Jeff and Linda Brody, Ann Buehler, Jim Oomringer, Martha Sousa and Family, Wallace Lopez, Dan Boling, Barbara Brandon, Joe Stefanovich, Suzy Lopez, Ned and Graham Gentz, Susan Sedillo, Richard Talley, Tomas and Laura Tapia**, and all the others who donated time, trucks, dollies, aching backs and sweat equity. If we inadvertently omitted your name, please let us know so we can restore you to your rightful place on our Volunteer Honor Roll!

★ PTA members who provided a Teacher Appreciation Luncheon for staff and faculty at their professional development day on September 3: **Carla Baron, Bernadetta Crawford, Ilona Csangi, Melanie Costanzo, Lynn Padilla, Dolores Vigil, Jon Hudson, Veronica Hice, Kurt Weber, Bob Humbles, Jon Hudson, and Tomas and Laura Tapia.**

★ **PTA members** for providing art boards for Ms. Bessom's students.

★ **Suzy Lopez** for donating eight 2-way radios that support student safety by enabling staff to keep in touch from virtually anywhere on the PAPA campus.

★ **Mr. and Mrs. Alfaro** for repairing seven teacher desks initially thought unusable due to transport damage.

★ **Cathy Scott** for being Superstar Assistant to the Vice Principal, Ms. Miles.

★ **Dorothy Kerwin** for helping Mrs. Johnston, Principal, and Ms. Miles.

★ **Lana Kroth** for donating a VCR.

★ **Valerie Scott** for providing books and professional development materials to administrators and teachers.

★ **John and Suzanne Kochersperger** for donating a printer and a combination printer/fax machine.

★ **North American University** for providing—free of charge—the use of a computer lab for one of Mrs. Zufall's classes.

Inspired by Our Incredible Volunteers?

You, too, can take your place on PAPA's Volunteer Honor Roll. All it takes is a little of your time and a desire to see our school be all it can be. Call **Danielle Johnston at 262-4888** to find out how you can help.

Coming November 4-7 Book Fair and Performance Week

Our annual Book Fair is coming **November 4th, 5th and 6th**, scheduled concurrently with PAPA Performance Week.

This is not only a great opportunity to stock your own home library—and do some early holiday shopping—but all money generated will benefit our school library.

Book Works, a fabulous local bookstore, is our vendor this year, so selections will not only be of high quality, but will also encompass a broad range of age levels and reading tastes.

Students and faculty have already submitted many ideas in their “book wish lists,” which have been forwarded to Books Works so that they can customize their stock for us. There will also be opportunities for you to add to our school library directly by buying and donating a book.

It goes without saying that it is difficult to host an event like this without your help. We need volunteers to set up the merchandise, supervise the book fair, collect money, take down the fair, and return remaining books.

This is a great chance to have fun as a volunteer. Please commit to a just a few hours and help with this important event. The fair will be open before, during and after school, and also during the evening performances.

Please contact Linda Brody, Library Committee Chair, at **281-4479**, or send an e-mail to jeffbrodyusa@netscape.net to schedule your volunteer hours and show your support for PAPA.

(Of course, you are also welcome to join the Library Committee. We're working on ideas for our new library space. If you love books, you'll love this Committee!)

Mid-School Students Travel to Europe

Karen Mains, Language Arts teacher, is the Northern New Mexico delegation leader for the People to People Student Ambassador Program. Every summer she takes mid-school (6th-8th grade) students overseas to inspire good will and cultural understanding, with the aim of promoting world peace.

Students must be nominated and interviewed in order to participate. Ms. Mains is looking for students who are interested in learning about other cultures, and are willing to represent their community, state, and country in a positive manner. The trips are highly academic, and students who love to learn have the most success.

This summer will include twenty-three days in Spain, France, and Italy. It promises to be a fantastic trip. If students or parents are interested, they can find information and a sample itinerary at www.studentambassadors.org (the trip is called "Mediterranean Discovery"), or they can contact Ms. Mains at p2pnm@comcast.net, or call her at **271-5751**.

There is also a high school group, and Ms. Mains can put parents in touch with the leader of that particular group if they are interested.

“You do not need to leave your room. Remain sitting at your table and listen. Do not even listen, simply wait. Do not even wait, be quite still and solitary. The world will freely offer itself to you to be unmasked. It has no choice, it will roll in ecstasy at your feet.”

—Franz Kafka

Teacher Wish Lists

Each month we feature teachers who could use a few “extras” in their classrooms. If you have any of these items sitting in your garage or spare room, please consider giving them as a gift to PAPA. We'll put them to good use!

♥ **Tamara Henderson, Director, Special Services**

Cassette Recorder. Students in special programs could really benefit from books on tape. Do you have a working tape recorder or cassette player to spare?

♥ **Naomi Zufall, Language Arts**

Two-Drawer File Cabinet, and Bookends. Oh, the paperwork a school can generate! Please donate your old, unused file cabinets, and bookends are appreciated, too.

♥ **Michael Connors, Earth Science, Science Seminar**

Old Computers. Students can learn a lot from getting their hands inside old computers, taking them apart, and then trying to put them back in working order.

♥ **Karen Mains, Language Arts**

PC to TV Scanner Converter. This device takes computer images and puts them on a TV screen, and will enable Ms. Mains to use her media literacy cd-roms in 8th-10th grade media literacy units.

Performance Week November 4-6

Dim the lights and turn off the cell phones—it's time for our student performers to shine!

November **4, 5 and 6** is Performance Week, and you are in for a treat. Here is the nightly schedule:

🎵 Monday, November 4

Ballet, Karate, Jazz Dance

🎵 Tuesday, November 5

"Cinderilly" (Theater Arts), Mixed Percussion Ensemble, Guitar, Fencing

🎵 Wednesday, November 6

Monologues (Theater Arts), Chorus, Strings/Orchestra, Band with Advanced Percussion

Performances begin at 7:00 p.m. every night. *We ask our student performers to be here by 6:15 sharp* to warm up and prepare.

This is a busy week, and transporting children back and forth can be trying. If you are having serious difficulties transporting your student, please call the office at **262-4888** and we will work together to solve the problem.

Seating in the Performing Arts Building at this time is limited. **We'll open the doors at 6:30 p.m.** and seating will be on a first come, first served basis. We apologize for any inconvenience, but the evolution of our building into a first class Performing Arts space is not yet complete.

There is no charge for any of the performances, however, your donation to PAPA's performing arts department is deeply appreciated, and will help our students fulfill their promise.

We look forward to seeing everyone!

Attention Parents

PAPA requires a birth certificate for each student to confirm legal name and date of birth. This requirement is a safeguard for all "minor students." As in all matters, student safety is our number one priority. Please bring in your birth certificates as soon as possible.

Computer Help Wanted

If any parent is experienced in technical support of Windows 2000 Server and/or Microsoft Exchange Server, and is willing to volunteer some time to help PAPA, please send an e-mail to Jorge Hernandez at hernandez_family_nm@yahoo.com.

Also, our computer support contract recently expired, and, as required by

our procedures, a request-for-bid to provide computer service to the school will soon be advertised.

If you know of any local small business that may be interested in bidding on this contract, please refer them to Michele Benavidez, PAPA's Business and Support Services Manager, at mbenavidez@paparts.org

Easy Ways to Raise Money for PAPA

Shop at Smith's and Albertson's (call **Susan Reuler at 883-5008** for details). Save your Campbell's Soup labels, General Mills Box Tops for Education, and Tyson's food labels. Bring 'em to PAPA. *Thank you!*

Dates to Remember

- October 28-November 1, ILP Week
- October 28-November 1, Spirit Week (Ask your Student!)
- October 29, Governing Council
- November 4-8, Book Fair and Performance Week
- November 7, Portrait Day
- November 11, Veterans Day, No School
- November 15, Progress Reports
- November 21, Governing Council
- November 28-December 2, Thanksgiving Break and In-Service Day, No School
- December 16-20, Finals Week
- December 19, Governing Council
- December 20, 2nd Quarter Ends
- December 23-January 3, Winter Break
- January 6, Third Quarter Begins

Drop-off/Pick-up Times

Parents, please remember that students may not be dropped off or picked up from campus earlier than 8:00 a.m. or later than 4:15 p.m. There is no adult supervision at these times, and we cannot afford the risk to children when they are unsupervised on our grounds. This is a very public area close to major thoroughfares and the freeway. Thank you for your cooperation.