

Pleasant Hill Education Commission Newsletter

March 2017

www.pleasanthillca.org/education

Safe Schools Hotline

Parents and students: Did you know that there is a hotline that we can call to report incidents or problems that occur at any MDUSD schools? It's called the Safe Schools online reporting tool, and goes directly to a voice mailbox at the MDUSD. This mailbox is monitored. It can be used anonymously, or you can request a call-back. HOTLINE: (925) 709-4TIP (4847).

Hour of Code Event

The Hour of Code started as a one-hour introduction to computer science, designed to demystify "code", to show that anybody can learn the basics, and to broaden participation in the field of computer science. It has since become a worldwide effort to celebrate computer science, starting with 1-hour coding activities but expanding to all sorts of community efforts. This grassroots campaign is supported by over 400 partners and 200,000 educators worldwide.

In December, the Pleasant Hill Education Commission sponsored the inaugural Pleasant Hill Hour of Code event. The Pleasant Hill Library and Hackingtons Code School provided computers and technical assistance. More than 80 students, ranging in age from 6-17 participated.

If your student was unable to participate this year, he or she can still find self-directed activities on the Hour of Code website to get ready for next year! The Pleasant Hill Education Commission would like to thank the Pleasant Hill Library, Hackingtons, and all the students who made our Hour of Code such an amazing experience. Thank you!



Pleasant Hill Librarian, Patrick Remer, with MDUSD Superintendent, Dr. Nellie Meyer, at the Hour of Code Event in Pleasant Hill, December 2017

Mentors Needed!

Do you have experience with engineering, design, programming or fabrication? The College Park High School Robotics team needs your help!

The team is preparing to compete in the F.I.R.S.T. Robotics San Francisco Regionals this month. Under strict rules, limited resources, and an intense six-week time limit, teams of students are challenged to raise funds, design a team "brand," hone teamwork skills, and build and program industrial-size robots to play a difficult field game against like-minded competitors. It's as close to real-world engineering as a student can get. High-school student participants call it "the hardest fun you'll ever have."

Last year, despite being nearly entirely self-taught, the team placed 4th-9th in a series of matches out of 41 teams and were highlighted by the [East Bay Times](#). They are hoping to continue to improve their performance this year. Individuals interested in providing mentorship or other support should contact Jason Vega at jasonvega14@yahoo.com.



Upcoming Events

March 2nd - 3rd & 4th periods and lunch (10:06am-12:34pm)

Vocational College & Career Fair at College Park | Small Gymnasium

The Pleasant Hill Education Commission, in partnership with the MDUSD Workability Program, is hosting the annual Vocational College & Career Fair at College Park High School on Friday, March 2nd. This is an opportunity for students to explore the world of non-traditional learning and careers available after high school, as well as summer job openings.

March 15th

F.I.R.S.T. Robotics San Francisco Regionals

St. Ignatius College Preparatory | 2001 37th Avenue, San Francisco

March 15-17th, 8:30 a.m.

The Intel-Affiliated Contra Costa County Science and Engineering Fair - Awards and Public Viewing | Los Medanos College Gym, Pittsburg

The 2018 Intel-Affiliated Contra Costa County Science & Engineering Fair welcomes all to attend and view numerous projects submitted this year by county middle and high school students. Attendees can observe the presentations and experiments up close, as well as

talk to the students who entered them. For info: Contact Janice Fujii or visit the [Fair's website](#).



March 20th, 6:00 p.m.

Cyber Safety with Above the Fray

Northgate High School | 425 Castle Rock Rd., Walnut Creek

Join MDUSD staff for an evening with Above the Fray, a non-profit organization dedicated to empowering responsible and safe social media users. The event is open to all MDUSD parents, guardians, and caregivers to look at what's happening in the digital lives of young people, which may be a surprise for many parents.

We will proactively address topics like cyberbullying, social media, internet safety, sexting and gaming. The objective is to give parents tangible tools to use to start meaningful conversations at home before issues arise. Spanish translation will be available. Learn more at <http://www.beabovethefray.org/>.

How to get involved in MDUSD

There are many ways to make your voice heard and to become an active participant in improving the quality of education for students in MDUSD. Below are links to the many PTA's and other groups that play an active role in the District, as well as links to District bodies and meetings.

City

Join your school's PTA or Parent/Faculty Club.

- [Gregory Gardens Elementary PTA](#)
- [Fair Oaks Elementary PFC](#)
- [Hidden Valley Elementary PFC](#)
- [Pleasant Hill Elementary PTA](#)
- [Sequoia Elementary SPA](#)
- [Strandwood Elementary PTA](#)
- [Valhalla Elementary VPFA](#)
- [Pleasant Hill Middle PTSA](#)
- [Sequoia Middle PFC](#)
- [Valley View Middle PTSA](#)
- [College Park High School PTSA](#)

- Attend your School Site Council (SSC) or English Learner Advisory Committee (ELAC) meeting. You don't have to be a formal member of the SSC or ELAC to attend and give your input!
- Attend a [Pleasant Hill Education Commission](#) meeting. Meetings are held on the 4th Wednesdays of the month and public comment is welcome.
- Participate in a [Foundation for Pleasant Hill Education](#) event. Many volunteer opportunities are available throughout the year.
- Participate in an education event at the [Pleasant Hill Library](#).
- Don't forget higher education! [Diablo Valley College](#) sponsors many community education events throughout the year.

District

- Attend a [LCAP](#) meeting or one of the [LCAP Speaker Series](#) events.
- Join a [MDUSD committee](#), or just attend a committee meeting to learn more about District operations. The [Parent Advisory Council \(PAC\)](#) is a particularly important committee. It is comprised of parent representatives from each school. They meet with the Superintendent and other district staff on a monthly basis during the school year to help implement and monitor the elements of the Local Control Accountability Plan.
- Attend a [MDUSD Board Meeting](#). Regular meetings are typically held on the second and fourth Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room at the Dent Center, 1936 Carlotta Drive, Concord and public comment is welcome. Board meetings are also broadcast on the Clayton Valley Charter High radio station [KVHS 90.5](#).

County/State

1. Attend a [Contra Costa County Education Board Meeting](#). The the Board meets at 5:00 p.m. (unless otherwise noted) in the Board Room of The Ronald L. Stewart Center, Contra Costa County Office of Education, 77 Santa Barbara Road, Pleasant Hill.
2. Attend a [Contra Costa County Community College District Board Meeting](#). The Governing Board typically meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month in the District Office Board Room at the George R. Gordon Education Center, located at 500 Court Street, Martinez. Most meetings begin with a closed session at 5:00 p.m., followed by open session at 6:00 p.m. Public comment is welcome.
3. Learn more about [California State Board of Education](#) committees.

School Policies to Know: The Williams Settlement

On May 17, 2000, the ACLU, the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, and other civil rights organizations, filed a class-action lawsuit on behalf of public school students against the State of California. The case argued that the state and its agencies were denying thousands of California students their fundamental right to an education under the California Constitution by failing to provide them with the basic tools necessary for that education.

In August 2004, the parties announced a settlement agreement. The Williams Settlement Legislation established new standards and accountability mechanisms to ensure that all California public school students have textbooks and instructional materials and that their schools are clean, safe, and functional, and it took steps toward ensuring all students have qualified teachers.

All districts must perform self-evaluations to ensure compliance with the textbook and facilities standards. The overall condition of facilities, the availability of textbooks and instructional materials, and the number of teacher vacancies and misassignments must be reported in annual School Accountability Report Cards (SARCs) that are made available to all parents and the public.

In addition, it created a new Uniform Complaint Process for parents, students, teachers, and others to use to ensure that all schools and districts meet the new standards and provide sufficient instructional materials, qualified teachers, and safe, healthy school facilities. The form used for this complaint process can be obtained on the MDUSD website under [FORMS LIBRARY–Williams Complaint Form](#). Please note that this form MUST be responded to if contact information is provided.

The process is as follows:

- Complainants may write as much as they would like on the complaint and then file the complaint with the principal or the designee of the district. The principal or the designee of the district superintendent shall make all reasonable efforts to investigate any problem and remedy a valid complaint in a reasonable time not to exceed 30 working days from receipt of complaint.
- The principal or the designee shall report the remedy to the complainants within 45 working days of the initial filing of the complaint.
- A complainant who is not satisfied has the right to describe the problem to the governing board of the school district at a regularly scheduled hearing.
- A complainant can appeal a decision regarding a facilities condition that poses an emergency or urgent threat to health or safety directly to the Superintendent of Public Instruction. School districts must report summarized data on the nature and resolution of all complaints on a quarterly basis to the County Superintendent and the district governing board.