



SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2021 DSF/PTA/PTO ACTIVITY UPDATE

Davis Schools Foundation (DSF): DSF awarded a \$100,000 grant to DJUSD for the 2021/22 school year to fund the following programs: (1) \$25,000 to provide Mindful Schools training, (2) \$25,000 to provide restorative practices/anti-bullying training, (3) \$25,000 to fund DESSA-SEL (Devereux Student Strengths Assessment-Social Emotional Learning) screener tool to assess students' social and emotional learning, and (4) \$25,000 to provide 24/7 Care Solace, which connects students, staff, and families to available mental health providers.

The Flying Carousel of the Delta Breeze at Central Park turned 25 years old and DSF has been working on some necessary renovations and maintenance during the pandemic. Former DSF Board members, community leaders, and public officials created a fundraising committee to raise funds to not only renovate the carousel but provide an endowment fund to support future renovations and schools' use of the carousel. The committee raised over \$100,000! DSF celebrated the 25th anniversary with a small celebration in Central Park on October 8th that included local public officials, former DSF Board members, and the original and 25th anniversary major donors, at which the Mayor presented a proclamation for the carousel. DSF hopes to open the carousel to school fundraising groups and the community as soon as it is safe for young children to gather. Memorabilia and artifacts from 25 years of the carousel are on display at City Hall for the month of October and DSF invites the community to check it out.

DSF will kick off its Fall Fundraising campaign in October to raise funds for its 2022/23 grant to DJUSD.

SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL/JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Davis High School (DHS): 1) We solicited donations from families and Partners in Education (PIE) grant applications from teachers/staff and expect to give approx. \$16,000 in PIE grants; 2) We began a new scholar athlete program and are exploring how we can help support the college admissions process; 3) We are updating our teacher's lounge with new furniture, art, small appliances and cabinet cleaning/organizing.

King High School: No update.

DaVinci High School and Junior High School: DaVinci Boosters is in a rebuilding mode this year recruiting for our Board of Directors. We have a new Secretary and Treasurer. We

tabled at school registration at both schools, signing up volunteers and annual donations. We joined with Emerson PTA to support a Welcome Back lunch for the Emerson/DaVinciJR HS teachers, and outfitted the new JR HS staff kitchen/lounge at the JR HS with all the basic kitchen supplies from a toaster oven, plates, mixing bowls, utensils, etc. We have approved a fiscal year budget that includes Teacher Grants; Teacher appreciation; Jr HS, HS signature project nights and more.

Emerson Junior High School: EJHPTA started the year with a Welcome Back lunch for all staff, an all-school free popsicle giveaway orchestrated so that PTA parents were stationed at all the school exits with coolers full of popsicles ready to hand out as kids left on the first day of school. It was a well-received and well-executed mission that helped everyone end the first day with a smile.

We are reviewing applications for Teacher/Classroom grants to be awarded at our Oct 20 meeting. We received fewer applications than in pre-Covid years, but our direct donations are also still lower than in pre-Covid years, so we anticipate being able to fund all eligible requests anyway.

We are still seeking Chairs for Hospitality and Fundraising, but we have enough engaged parents that activities can be planned and coordinated by board members with the support of those parents. We are still meeting via Zoom. We haven't decided if or how we will replace our annual holiday cookie swap for teachers, and are seeking ideas from the group for what would be feasible for our site.

Harper Junior High School: At Harper, we kicked off the school year with our return to school fall fundraiser and membership drive in September and October. We also asked the teachers/staff to submit their grant requests to PTO for consideration. We are voting on the grant requests at our PTO meeting on October 11th. We received requests for things such as frogs, fetal pigs, art supplies, volleyball poles, calculators, etc. Also, over the last month, we have been working on gathering information and researching options to repair our Harper fields. We presented at the October 7th DJUSD Board Meeting with our requests to permanently fix the fields, not use the same bandaids. On campus, Friends of Francis and Tree Harper have already started to have Saturday work parties and continue to beautify the campus.

Holmes Junior High School: Our PTA hosted a Welcome Back lunch for all teachers and staff catered by Jack's. A generous parent donated beautiful garden plants for centerpieces and for staff to take home. This first event was received with much appreciation. Due to Covid health and safety concerns, as a Board we decided that it would be best to continue to cater food from local vendors instead of asking parents to donate home prepared items. Our direct donation campaign is off to a robust start and we have approved a budget which funds all programs in full (similar to pre-covid). However, we are unsure of our fundraiser campaign which typically begins in the late fall/early winter. This fundraising campaign funds large grade level events including buses for 9th graders' end of the year hike in Marin County.

We are still seeking VP Fundraising and Parliamentarian volunteers. We are also unable to update our PTA website as we lost our tech support from a volunteer parent. Our membership meetings are held monthly every 4th Thursday via zoom except during holidays when an alternate date is posted.

DSIS: No update.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Birch Lane Elementary: BLE PTA has done the following: Board called all incoming Kinder families, Back to school luncheon for teachers and staff, two board meetings, bike check in up and running, rewriting by-laws, two Dinner Fundraisers, created a PTA/HDT liaison, membership drive, direct donation drive, Harvest Week including Scarecrow Breakfast (modified), Online store open, student banking, campus clean up event, bike registration with the Davis PD, administering classroom grants, forming auction committee, picture day. The MPAC (Montessori) is about to launch their direct donation drive and held a board meeting.

Cesar Chavez Elementary: One of our students recently passed from cancer. Dia de los Muertos event, Dos Coyotes Fundraiser.

Fairfield Elementary: Fairfield PTA has a number of fundraisers in the works.

- In September we worked with a local photographer who did family photos and donated a portion from each session to the PTA.
- We are having a virtual Talent Show in November – our virtual talent show raised over \$2,500 in 2020 and was a great, safe community building event so we are repeating that event.

We also created a COVID Support Group to help any families that may be impacted by quarantines. This allows families to identify needs that would be helpful and the school community to be supportive. Some ideas could be meal deliveries, arts and craft activity kit deliveries, or errands. So far we haven't been impacted by any quarantines at Fairfield but we wanted to make sure we had a way to support our community should the need arise.

We're doing a Meet the Families campaign in our email school newsletter. Since Fairfield is such a small community we are used to knowing all/most of the families through in-person events, school drop offs, etc. With COVID we haven't had as many ways to connect so the PTA is helping introduce families through the newsletter to help maintain the community connection.

Korematsu Elementary: Korematsu PTO has taken several efforts to show extra appreciation for our staff, who have been working incredibly hard this year. Efforts include chalking messages of gratitude on campus and in front of classroom doors, staff pizza party, and small goodie bags for all staff. We have also started an after school running club for our students in grades 1-3. Running club is twice a week for 30 minutes, and we have over 70 students signed up. In October we plan to have a door-decorating contest to celebrate fall, which is in lieu of our usual outdoor all-school movie night.

Montgomery Elementary: We are gearing up for our fun run in October. We have had a couple successful restaurant fundraisers (Lamppost, Sweet and Shavery and Sudwerks.) We also had great success selling MME T-shirts this fall after a couple years where we didn't put much effort into it. We sell them at only slightly above cost because we want to make them accessible to the population we serve. We are looking at ordering more car magnets and possibly sweatshirts to sell later on this year. We are also starting the process of figuring out a return to having an annual auction.

North Davis Elementary: Thus far the NDE PTA has focused largely on planning and budgeting for the 2021-22 year, providing the school its PTA grants, and making decisions for PTA-supported art and fitness programs. In October we are organizing our school directory and school shirt orders (shirts will go to all students), planning our annual jog-a-thon which will take place in early November, and discussing whether to pursue the BRAVO music program for K-3.

Patwin Elementary: We have worked on and approved our budget for this coming school year. We have begun our "Unfundraiser" and are deciding on other fundraisers to use throughout the year that will focus on community building. We have begun our monthly PTA Newsletter and are including a community spotlight to get to know members of our school community better, focusing on at least one staff member and one student or family every month. We may increase the frequency of these as the year progresses.

Pioneer Elementary: Pioneer PTA has been active in welcoming students, families and teachers back to school this year. We distributed information and registered many families as PTA members during the Paperless Parade. We have raised close to \$7,000 in our Dog Dollars Kick-off Fundraiser through the beginning of October. We have welcomed our new teachers to Pioneer during their on-campus training days and have provided a start of the year lunch for all teachers and staff from Dos Coyotes in October. Our Garden program has begun for TK and Kinder students and we look forward to expanding the program to 1st through 3rd grade shortly. Active4Me is up and running on campus with close to 150 students using choosing safe routes to school each day, and we celebrated Bike to School Day this month with goodies and prizes.

Our VP of Enrichment is diligently planning many after-school activities to start in November or later in the school year such as Chess Club, a STEM course/club offering, and possibly a Nature/Environment themed program. We have also gotten a great start to our Ambassador Program which links families new to our school with a more experienced family. These connections have been tailored by grade level/language/interests as needed to fully welcome new students and help their families settle in to our wonderful community.

We look forward to having Pioneer Pridewear available by the holidays and returning to our regular traditions as best we can, such as Book Fair, Fall Festival, and our Read-a-thon fundraiser over the coming months.

Willett Elementary: We are exploring potential fundraising and community-building activities, as well as ways to increase HDT testing on campus.