



September/October 2022 DSF/PTA/PTO ACTIVITY UPDATE

Davis Schools Foundation (DSF): The DSF Board attended the DJUSD School Board meeting on October 20th to present DSF's \$100,000 grant to DJUSD! This money will go towards DJUSD programs that further DSF's mission of supporting our educators, providing equitable opportunity and access, and providing mental health and counseling services.

DSF's Fall Fundraising kicked off November 1st. This is one of our biggest annual fundraising drives to raise funds for our next grant to DJUSD and every dollar counts!

The DSF Central Park Carousel is now open. DSF held a grand re-opening event on October 15th to welcome the community back to the beloved carousel. Thank you to all our donors for supporting the renovations and reopening. The carousel will be open during Saturday farmers markets by various school groups as a fundraiser for that group and is available for private party rentals. We will have an event to thank our donors and welcome spring in early 2023!

SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL/JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Davis High School (DHS): The DHS PTA had a strong start to the school year. We helped to organize the annual schedule pick up day event by coordinating parent volunteers. New this year, we created QR codes for students to scan that would help them answer FAQs including how to purchase a yearbook, change a schedule, and of course join the PTA! DHS Link Crew wasn't offering their usual student orientation this year, so PTA stepped up to fill the void. We coordinated student volunteers to give small group tours of campus tailored to students' individual schedules.

Hospitality has been working hard to make teachers and staff feel at home. They had a back to school lunch and have been stocking the recently renovated staff lounge via campus groups that "adopt" the room for a month. They also surprised the custodians during their appreciation day with treats and a sign.

PTA was also able to successfully coordinate volunteers for the Homecoming dance and parade.

This year, we are trying to increase student involvement in the PTA. I myself am a senior at DHS having been the PTA student representative last year and now the president. We are encouraging students to join the PTA and attend meetings. We have two official student representatives who report at our meetings. This gives us the unique perspective on the largest group that experiences DHS daily.

As part of the push for student involvement, we are opening our PIE grant program to student clubs and organizations for the first time this year. The application window is right now and students, teachers, and staff are all applying for grants of varying sizes.

At this time of year, our College Access Committee is gearing up for hard work during the college application season. Our essay reader program is getting underway to give students feedback on their college essays.

Finally, we are partnering with DHS admin and other community groups to restore and revitalize the Thong Hy Huynh memorial garden on campus. Our goal is to have the space beautiful and functional by next spring.

Emerson Junior High School: Emerson had a strong kick off to its school year. Although we have been down PTA volunteers, the existing officers were able to organize and run events for the beginning of the school year including: an amazing teacher welcome breakfast, otter pops for kids, and a back to school night table. We have a strong hospitality team that puts so much effort and care into making things special for our staff and teachers.

- We are in need of a Vice President this year and a Membership officer for next year. Our VP had to step into the President's role to keep our PTA thriving.

- Our first two PTA meetings went great which all the officers led. Department leads are doing short presentations at each meeting to inform parents about what's happening in the classrooms. This is a great way for parents to learn more, connect with and support students and teachers (Great idea Mr. Dufresne!).

- We were also able to approve several teacher grant requests to help with classroom needs.

- We are very grateful for the leadership of our administrators: Principal Mike Dufresne, Vice Principal Leigh Choate and Administrative Secretary Deziree Sutliff are a great team. They run Emerson with so much thought and care for the students, parents and teachers, and are always supportive of PTA.

Harper Junior High School: Harper has gotten off to a great start with fundraising, and being able to fulfill our teacher grant requests. Each fall after our fundraising drive, we have teachers submit grant requests and we go through and fulfill what we can with the money we have. We are pleased to say the Harper community stepped up and we were able to fulfill all grant requests. We enjoyed a wonderful in-person back to school night and are looking forward to an in-person Halloween dance on October 28th put on by the WEB teachers and supported with food by the Harper PTO and community.

Holmes Junior High School: Holmes is off to a good start. Other than our hospitality co-chairs, we have an all new board (and still a few open positions). Our hospitality did a great job with the teacher luncheon the day before the 1st day of school. And we got a full slate of volunteers and lots of donations of snacks and drinks for our Fall school dance last Friday. We are working to increase engagement in order to increase membership, meeting attendance, board membership and ultimately, of course, maximize support for our school. We are open to ideas and suggestions!

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Birch Lane Elementary: Birch Lane welcomed students and families back to school with a fun picnic the evening before school started. We had a busy Scarecrow Breakfast for the Birch Lane community with tons of breakfast items and several scarecrows. Our direct donation drive is at about 50% of our goal, but our spending is right on track. We have an enthusiastic garden committee this year, and they've been busy bringing the grounds and gardens back to life with frequent cleanup parties.

Cesar Chavez Elementary: Cesar Chavez welcoming current and past students and community members to campus on Saturday, October 1 for a Homecoming event to celebrate the opening of the MPR. We had about 500 people on campus to tour the new MPR and enjoy music from alums and to catch up with past students, staff, parents, and teachers. We're holding one of our signature events - Dia de Muertos on November 2, which happily falls on the same day it's celebrated in Mexico. This is a cultural and education celebration focused on themes of life, gratitude, and connections with loved ones.

Fairfield Elementary: We had a PTA sponsored bagels and coffee after school drop off on the first day of school and our annual ice cream social on August 25th. Our annual cooking day is coming up on November 17th and the Fairfield Feast is November 18th. , In September we had Back to School night and our first in person meeting, Weekly Friday Morning Parent Coffee, and Parent's Night Out at Mr. Defty's.

Korematsu Elementary: Korematsu is hosting our Spooktacular Movie and Trick-or-Treating night on Friday, Oct. 28 (first time in 3 years!!). Additionally, our fall running club has been underway for 1st-3rd graders twice a week after school. We have about 100 kids signed up! We will be hosting our first annual jog-a-thon on Nov 2.

Montgomery Elementary: At MME we had a great Welcome Back Fiesta at the end of August that included merch sales, Kona Ice fundraiser, an amazing balloon arch photo drop and some informational tables for some of our PTA programs. We have had 2 successful hybrid in person/zoom PTA meetings. We had our annual fun run at the beginning of October with rainbow arches and lots of bubbles. And now we are planning our first movie night since covid, our fall book fair and supporting our teacher's/staff during conference week in November.

North Davis Elementary: No update.

Patwin Elementary: We had the Fall Festival at the end of September and are currently doing our unFundraiser. In November, we'll have the Book Club and will provide snacks/treats to the teachers for conference week.

Pioneer Elementary: Through September, we ran our Kick-Off Fundraising Campaign, but as it stands we have raised far less than what was originally expected. On the other hand, sales of our Pioneer Pridewear for this year have exceeded expectations and we have run out of most sizes.

Our Fall Festival this month was a great success! We chose to offer all activities free to the community and had Hotdogger, Kona Ice, and a bake sale for food purchases. We are looking forward to our "groovy" auction on Nov. 5th and, of course, our Book Fair and activities for conference week.

Willett Elementary: Our focus this year is on building community. We hosted a vibrant Paperless Parade that resulted in over 100 new PTA members. Room parent coordinators are encouraging social events among classes and across grade levels, and one of our parent volunteers organized activities for students and families in conjunction with the district's MPR ribbon cutting ceremony at our site. We just hosted our annual Dinner and Auction this past Saturday and are looking forward to our Book Fair in November. Upcoming events are in the works; we've been soliciting feedback from teachers and parents about what they'd like to see happen next at Willett, and we're eager to learn from, connect with, and support our friends at other schools as well.

November/December PTA/PTO Activities Summary

SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL/JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

DHS-The year continues well. We're at the end of the college application season, and our College Essay Reader program attracted many volunteers and saw extensive use by students. We have wrapped up our PIE grants for the year, and are working to distribute separate department grants. The Hospitality Committee did an excellent job of assembling cookie boxes for teachers and staff to take with them on the Winter holiday. They continue to stock the staff lounge and are planning on organizing snacks at department meetings on a rotating basis. DHS held two very successful dances during this period, the Friday Night Festival and the Winter Ball, both of which PTA coordinated volunteers and snack donations for. Our restoration of the Thong Hy Huynh memorial garden continues well. Irrigation to the planter has been restored and plants have been planted. We are about to begin fundraising for donations to replace the benches and restore more of the infrastructure of the memorial. Finally, the DHS PTA nominating committee is beginning the work of selecting next year's PTA executive board.

Harper: - We wrapped up fulfilling teacher grants in November. In December, Harper PTO collaborated with Harper staff to support our adopt-a-family program where families adopt a family to support with gifts/needs/groceries at the holiday time.

Holmes: Launched our annual "Unfundraiser" event in November; teacher appreciation with cookies and cocoa prior to winter break

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Birch Lane: In November, we had a successful Fun Run and raised more money than expected. The garden program put on a wreath sale in December and sold premade wreaths and DIY kits. We're getting ready to put on Science Night and Ready, Set, Read. In Nov/Dec, MPAC has purchased Montessori materials for teachers and staff. This spring,

MPAC is helping to send 5 teachers to a Montessori conference in Boston in March; other teachers are attending virtually. MPAC is planning a direct donation drive the week of Valentine's Day, a pizza dinner fundraiser during conference week in March, and a make-a-plate fundraiser after spring break.

Cesar Chavez: We held our annual Dia de Muertos celebration on November 2nd; this is a community-building activity. The first week of December we held our read-a-thon, which is a fundraiser.

Fairfield: PTA supported the annual Fairfield feast (pre-Thanksgiving feast at school prepared by the children) and the Winter Music Performance (music program funded by PTA). Coming up in the next few months we have the next phase of our music program, school t-shirts featuring art by each student, a field trip to Mondavi, and some other activities.

Korematsu: We hosted our first annual jog-a-thon in early November. This fundraiser was wildly successful. We provided pot-luck lunches to all teachers and staff every day during Conference Week. Our PTO-funded choir caroled around campus one morning in December. We organized a donation drive to help provide holiday meals to families at our school who are in great need.

Montgomery: - In November we had our fall Book Fair and appreciated our teacher's during conference week with various food offerings in the break room. We also had our first Movie Night since Covid and it was well attended and enjoyed by many of our families. In December we made small holiday gift baskets for all of our staff.

Patwin: Book Fair, Unfundraiser

Pioneer: - It's been a busy fall/winter at Pioneer! We kicked off November with our "Groovy" Auction fundraiser. It was an amazing experience to bring back such a fun social event for our community and we raised well over our projected goal! Our first-time organizers were so excited, they are already planning for next year's festivities. Conference week was busy, but went amazingly well. We were able to provide catered and potluck style lunches for all of our teachers and staff every day of the week to thank them for all of their hard work. Our fall Book Fair was circus-themed and an incredible success! Our library was transformed into a circus tent, and now we are running a "grant"-type program for teachers and the library to purchase much needed books and supplies with our stash of Scholastic Dollars. In December, our Garden program ran their annual rosemary wreath fundraiser. Unfortunately, poor weather cancelled our day of hands-on wreath making and activities for the community, but the children were still able to make wreaths in class. For January, we are running our 3rd annual Read-A-Thon. This year, we were able to partner with our library to further encourage reading with a whole school read. Books were provided to all students (one for K-3 and one for 4-6) with a farm related theme. There have been activities, videos, and more to get students to read along with the school and engage in conversations about the material. We were even able to have a Zoom author event with one of the book authors. In our final week of this fundraiser, we are nearing our ambitious goal of \$20,000 and coming together as a community. Now, we are gearing up for our Family Science Night community event on 2/2. We are partnering with Explorit (and of course plenty of parent volunteers) to bring interesting, hands-on STEM activities to our community

Willett: November and December events included Friday coffees that bring families together with teachers and staff; a scarf contest for students who bike or walk to school; our November book fair; and a new chocolate fundraiser. We purchased supplies for our reading room and microscopes for our science teachers, and room parents led holiday appreciation for teachers. We welcomed new coordinators for our school garden program, and our garden was awarded two grants by the Davis Farm to School Advisory Committee. We also welcomed a new yearbook coordinator. This week, there will be a chorus concert; upcoming events include a new PTA-sponsored community event, a celebration of the Lunar New Year that invites students to learn about the importance of the Lunar New Year across different cultures while enjoying performances by the Davis Chinese Orchestra and professional lion dancers, craft-making, snacks, and a selfie photo station with costumes. Finally, we approved our revised Bylaws and elected a Nominating Committee who will put together a slate of officers for our March elections.