



Amador Valley Express

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December 1, 2011

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Amador Valley High School
1155 Santa Rita Road
Pleasanton, CA
94566
Principal - Mr. Jim

Check the calendar in each Amador Express. New dates will be added frequently.



Calendar

- December 2: Amador Friends of Music Fundraiser at Fiesta Taco
- December 3: SAT Testing
- December 5-16: Toys for Tots Drive
- December 9: Marching Band Winter Awards
- December 8: Holiday Bazaar 3:10-7pm, MPR
- December 13: Donations of gift cards for needy Amador families deadline for pre-Winter Holidays disbursement
- December 19: Choir and Orchestra Concert
- December 20: Band Concert
- December 23: Minimum Day -- **This is a new addition to the district calendar!**
- December 26-January 6: Winter Break -- no school
- January 20: Second Quarter Ends
- March 28: Third Quarter Ends
- June 8: Fourth Quarter Ends

Minimum Days Announced

Two Minimum days have been added to the school calendar for High School students: **December 23rd and March 9th.**



Hansen

Main Office
925-461-6100
Attendance
925-461-6186
Counseling
925-461-6120

[Pleasanton Unified School District](#)

Join Our Mailing List!

Quick Links...



Amador Valley High School PTSA. Click on the PTA logo above for PTSA related activities and past newsletters.



Amador Athletic Boosters. Click on the Boosters logo above for information related to Amador Athletics.



[Amador Valley High School Marching Band and Musical Programs.](#)
[Click on the picture](#)

Minimum Day bell schedule will be as follows:

1 st Period	7:16 - 7:56 a.m.
2 nd Period	8:00 - 8:40 a.m.
3 rd Period	8:46 - 9:26 a.m.
4 th Period	9:32 - 10:12 a.m.
Brunch	10:12 - 10:22 a.m.
5 th Period	10:27 - 11:07 a.m.
6 th Period	11:13 - 11:53 a.m.
7 th Period	11:59 - 12:39 p.m.

Crisis & Caring - Help For The Holidays

The holidays are right around the corner. Once again, we'd like to help our Amador students who may not be so fortunate this time of year.

For the December holidays, if you would like to help out, please purchase a gift card for groceries or clothing and hand it to one of the Amador front office ladies by **Tuesday, December 13**. We accept gift cards of any amount; last year, amounts typically ranged between \$10 and \$25.

Gift cards from any store are appreciated, but grocery stores are requested for the Thanksgiving season. Target, Walmart, and grocery stores are best for the winter holidays because they offer the most options (food, clothing, and toiletries). Safeway is also great because of the convenient location to Amador. Please no gift cards to restaurants. Also, tax-deductible receipts for your donations are available from the front desk staff.

Amador counselors will distribute gifts confidentially throughout the month. If you have any questions, please contact Tamra Girvan, PTSA Crisis and Caring chairperson, at 462-0775 or tamragirvan@comcast.net.

[above for detailed information about each group.](#)



AVHS Daily Bulletin
Click on the bulletin board for more school activities.



[Scholarship Bulletin](#)



[Senior Parents Website](#)
[click here!](#)



Pleasanton Unified School District Newsletter (E-Connect).
Click on the PUSD logo above to sign up for the PUSD Newsletter

Any leftover gift cards are used throughout the year for families in need. Thank you for continuing to help our Amador families!

Amador FOM Restaurant Fundraiser

On Friday, December 2, Fiesta Taco will donate 15% of their total sales for the day to Amador Friends of Music from 10 AM to 11 PM. Print off your coupon and bring it with you. Please help us recognize and thank these businesses for supporting our program.
WWW.AMADORMUSIC.ORG



[Click here for the coupon](#)

Holiday Bazaar

Amador Holiday Bazaar December 8th from 3:10 to 7:00. MPR



Amador's Art Club is hosting the school's first-ever Holiday Bazaar on December 8th. This is a great chance to begin your holiday shopping. The event is organized much like the school's Fall Pigskin Roast. In addition to the Art Club groups like Amador Football, Amador Cheer, PMS Cheer, Interact Club, Environmental Club, Catering, DECA, Journalism, and Ceramics will be selling holiday gifts, cookies, ornaments, and Amador spirit wear. You'll also have the opportunity to get your caricature drawn, take a picture with Santa, or paint your own ornament. We hope to see you there!

AVHS Students Win Grants!

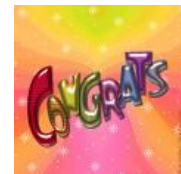
Congratulations to the following students who won PPIE Student Grants:

Hanying Mo, for Pleasanton Math Circle, \$100.00

Support for materials and supplies for club encouraging problem-solving skills in students interested in math.

Rachael Pann, for AVTV News, \$250.00

Funding to purchase a video camcorder to tape school information to be broadcast on newly created, student produced AVTV News





If you do not have the Adobe® Reader® application, to open and view many documents contained in this Newsletter, please download it free from Adobe's Web site by clicking the Adobe Reader logo above.



Zangle Connection--
[Parents Click Here!](#)
[Students Click Here!](#)

Need help with your Zangle Account?
[Click here!](#)



Lunch Accounts
 -- Add money to your Students' lunch account - [click here!](#)

Volunteer Clearance Forms
 -- New form needed each school year.

show.

Edward Wang, for Purple Ink Literary Magazine, \$250.00

Funding to provide support to produce and print school literary magazine.

Awesome!

College Bound Students

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION, OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT REQUESTS, COLLEGE REPRESENTATIVE VISITS, FINANCIAL AID, and SCHOLARSHIPS info [Click here.](#)



Scholarship information

To have a copy of the Scholarship bulletin sent directly to you to access the online documents and websites, send an email to amadorvalleyscholarships@comcast.net. From this listing you can access the website of the organization sponsoring the scholarship. In addition, by clicking on alpha-numeric code of the scholarship listed in the bulletin, you will be redirected to the document for that scholarship. You no longer need to go into the counseling office to request the forms.

If you would like to continue to go through the counseling office, you will need to complete the form on the bulletin board in the counseling office. List the scholarship name and code. Be sure to put down your 2nd period class (if PE is the 2nd period class, fill in the 3rd period class.) Submit the form in the appropriate envelope. Your request will be filled within 3 days.

[Click here for the latest Scholarship Bulletin -- with due dates and eligibility requirements.](#)

Autumn Amador Arts Exhibition

Amador Valley High School Art Club is holding an Arts Exhibition at Nonni's Bistro, 425 Main Street during the months of November and December.



[See this flyer for details](#)

Pleasanton Partnerships in

[Click here!](#)

PTSA Member Perks



PTA/PTSA Members Get Discounts With Local Businesses

The Pleasanton PTA Council is joining with local businesses for PTA Shops Ptown. The program is an opportunity to support local businesses using your PTA membership. Just show your PTA card to receive discounts from participating downtown merchants. By buying in Pleasanton, not only are you helping the local economy, you are helping our town protect important city services. For example, by spending \$100 with a locally-owned business, \$68 stays here in town. With a retail chain, \$43 of that same \$100 stays in the area. For more information, click on the box above.

Need Help?

[Student Support Line](#)



The anonymous Student Support Tipline will be

Education Foundation News

PPIE Launches the PPIE Giving Fund 2012-2013!!

Pleasanton schools can no longer count on state funding for some important programs. The PPIE Giving Fund 2012-2013 has been launched and will be an annual fundraising drive to help support Pleasanton schools and classrooms with programs needed to remain competitive in California as well as globally. The programs at risk of being eliminated in 2012-2013 include Literacy & Student Support programs (class sizes reading intervention, library services, additional sections, as well as programs for high achievers and at risk students), Science & Technology, Counseling and Physical Education.



PLEASANTON
PARTNERSHIPS
in EDUCATION
FOUNDATION

The PPIE Giving Fund 2012-2013 is suggesting a donation of **\$150 per student by January 31, 2012**. Donations made to PPIE prior to the August walk through registration were for the 2011-2012 school year.

Think about your donation like this:

- PPIE Education Foundation for Pleasanton students - \$15 /student /month
- Daily dose of caffeine \$30+ /month
- Fall activities/sports - \$50-60 /month
- Monthly dinner out - \$60 /month
- Filling up the gas tank - \$100 /month
- Preschool - Minimum \$150 /month (or could say average \$300 /month)
- Private School - \$1000+ /month
- Quality education...priceless**

** All donations are 100% voluntary and are 100% tax deductible!

Please visit www.ppie.org for additional information on the campaign including the FAQ page, online donation, monthly payments, and more. You can be a part of Pleasanton's path forward to remain a leading school district in California. As a community we can make this happen!

[Please see this letter from Superintendent Parvin Ahmadi](#)

Energize for the Prize

Alameda County/ Stop Waste is promoting energy



monitored throughout the school year. Call or text 417-5199.

Quick Help



2-1-1 is a free, non-emergency, confidential, 3-digit phone number and service that provides easy access to housing information, and critical health and human services.

2-1-1 operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week with multi-lingual capabilities.

For more information, [click here](#)

Pedestrian Safety Tips



[Click here!](#)

Go PUSD!



[Positively Pleasanton Schools](#)

District Info

efficiency upgrades to homeowners now through May 2012. They are offering up to \$7000 in rebates. The City of Pleasanton has also kicked in additional savings. For every home in Pleasanton that has the energy assessment done (\$99, although there is a rebate to reimburse you) and then signs a contract to have all or a portion of the recommended work done, **PPIE will get \$100**. This will all go towards the Giving Fund!! The city within Alameda County that has the most contracts will then earn an additional \$5000!! If all 15 schools get just 20 homeowners to do some energy upgrades.....we earn \$30,000 to the Giving Fund! Not to mention the chance at the added \$5K! More details to follow soon!

Vote for AVHS to win a Grant from Clorox!

Vote to win a grant from Clorox to upgrade our language lab -- you can vote every day! <http://www.powerabrightfuture.com/gallery/search-gal/> Click on the link and you can vote via email or text.

Our World Language program includes Spanish, French, Japanese, German and American Sign Language classes. Each year we serve approximately 1,700 students in their development of language skills. Our program is growing and we enjoy providing the most effective instructional methods. In addition to our education within the classroom, we enhance our students' opportunity to hear and speak the languages they are learning by using our Language Lab. The lab allows students to hear authentic material and respond to the teacher, or to one another. Unfortunately, our lab is in a terrible state. It was last updated in September of 1995. The equipment is so out of date that there are no longer replacement parts available. The entire lab needs an overhaul. In a multicultural society, our World Language program is more important than ever and we do not want outdated technology to hold us back.

How this Grant will Help:

It will allow students to both hear and speak the language. The Audio-lingual approach is a more recent approach to second language instruction that is heavily rooted in behavioral psychology. As its name suggests, this approach emphasizes listening and speaking simultaneously while keeping students actively on task. In addition, our lab must also be updated beyond the needs of spoken/verbal languages. We have a growing American Sign Language (ASL) program. ASL is not a verbal language. For our ASL program to continue to receive University of California accreditation, the school must have a way to record and play videos of the students. When we update our lab, we will be installing a computer at each station. In doing this, we will have the opportunity to Skype students at other

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schools, or even other countries, to speak the learned language. This adds to the potential value of our new Language Lab.

Open Food Pantry

Amador Valley student body donated 1300 food items to help feed the families that come to the Food Pantry at Valley Bible Church. As one mom with 2 teen boys, who had lost her job said, "I didn't know how I was going to feed my family. Thank you." Thanks for your generosity in feeding those in need.



Valley Bible Church
7106 Johnson Drive, Pleasanton 94588
(next to Club Sport on Bus Route 3)

Thursdays from 6:30 to 8:00pm. Come by to pick up food for your family. Offered free from Valley Bible Church.

For more information call Kim Chew 925-426-2492

From the PTSA Wellness Committee: Flu Facts

10 - # of feet the bacteria travel after a sneeze/cough when not covered



760,000 - # of opportunities students and teachers have to transmit bacteria to each other during the average school day

403 - # of recorded pertussis cases in Alameda County in 2010

137 - # of recorded pertussis cases in Alameda County so far this year

1 - Minor action you can take to majorly help prevent the spread of illness-causing bacteria - COVER YOUR COUGH!

As with technology and medicine, advances in cough and sneeze-covering protocol have vastly improved how we prevent the spread of disease. All you have to do is cough into your sleeve! No more nasty tissue in the pocket, no more dirty, sticky hands...just cough into your sleeve. Click [here](#) to watch a short video about sleeve-coughing.

Another sure-fire way to help prevent the spread of disease is proper hand-washing. We've heard 20 seconds is the optimal hand-

washing time or to sing the alphabet but if you're not doing it right, even an hour under the faucet won't help. Click [here](#) for more hand-washing facts and to learn the most effective means of hand-washing straight from the CDC.

Preventing the spread of disease is vital to keeping our kids and community healthy; keeping our bodies from getting sick in the first place is even better. Good nutrition, exercise, and good [sleep](#) habits are all basic components of keeping a body healthy.

Until next time, here's to coughing into your sleeve!

Cross Country News

The Dons wrapped up a very successful post-season. On the first Saturday of break, we competed in the Division 1 race at the NCS Finals, held at Hayward High School. Both teams finished in second place, qualifying for the state championships. It was the first time since at least 1980 and possibly ever, that both the boys and the girls have qualified for the state championships. For the boys, junior Jacob Schlachte earned top 10 honors finishing in 9th place, running the 3 mile course in a time of 15:57. For the girls, senior Kelly Parsons finished in 8th in a time of 18:42 and junior Jena Pianin was the individual champion, running a school record time of 17:41. Along the way, the lady Dons team set a school record for their combined time.



In the state meet race, the boys team of Jacob Schlachte, Kevin Huey, Conner McKinnon, Connor McCarthy, Blane Infald, Peter Schlachte, and Dan Arthur finished in 20th place in Division 1 (the largest schools in CA). Jacob led the way on the 3.1 mile course finishing in 16:42. The girls team of Jena Pianin, Kelly Parsons, Katie Girvan, Paige Lommerin, Maddie Quinn, Nina Razavi, and Stephanie Duret returned with a 14th place finish in the Division 1 race. Highlighting the performance was Jena Pianin's 5th place finish in a time of 18:03. Her finish is the highest place that an Amador athlete of either gender has ever finished in the state cross country meet.

If you have any of these students in your classes, or know who they are and see them around, please congratulate them on a job well done.

Become a "Permanent Fixture" at Amador! Here's How:

Want to be a part of Amador's traditions for "eternity" and help fund important student and teacher programs at the same time? Here's your chance! It's called the Brick Fundraising Program from PTSA, and it's easy and inexpensive.

For \$60, you can imprint a brick with your family name, and/or your student(s)' name(s) and class, and it will be installed on the brick walkway just outside the Activities Desk (on the south side of Amador's main office). You can also add a logo that reflects your family's and/or your students' best times at Amador, such as a sports or music logo. Seventy-five percent of the proceeds go toward funding student and teacher grants, Crisis & Caring needs, technology, library, Amador's graduation ceremony, or other essentially needed items and programs. Just [click here](#) to obtain the Bricks form. [Click here](#) and [click here](#) to see lists of available logos. Follow the instructions on the form to turn in your Brick request, and become a permanent part of Amador's foundation!



What Matters Most to Parents and Families

New PTA survey shows funding, a complete curriculum, and health and safety are top concerns



[Read highlights from the survey findings.](#)

Adequate funding for education is the most important policy issue that parents and families want the state to address, according to a recent survey conducted by the California State PTA.

The survey showed that 98.6 percent of respondents think adequate state funding is important or extremely important.

The survey measured the importance PTA volunteers place on 33 different legislative and policy issues related to PTA's major focus areas: education, health, safety and parent involvement.

"While talk in Sacramento and Washington, D.C., often centers on

the reform of the week, our members have spoken loudly and clearly: Schools need adequate funding so every child has a complete educational program," said Carol Kocivar, President of the California State PTA. "Parents and family members know that what matters most is what happens on the ground in our schools and in our children's classrooms every day. Nine out of every 10 say adequate funding is extremely important. That was by far the highest response for any single issue in our survey."

[Continued ...](#)

Yes, We're on Facebook

Here's something you'll really "Like"! If you haven't yet become a member of the Amador PTSA's Facebook group, do so today. Just search for "Amador Valley High School PTSA" and our page will pop up. (Or, click here:



<https://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=189908542628>). Our page is "open," which means anyone can join. You can view photos of our events and members in action, and once a member, you will receive regular up-to-the-minute updates on PTSA events and other important issues. What's not to like?

PTSA Open Volunteer Opportunities

Fundraising Committee Chair and Co-Chair: Vet out and coordinate fundraising opportunities in support of the PTSA.

Environmental Education Co-Chair: Work with Environmental Club and Leadership to promote and educate environmentally safe behavior and programs..

Contact [Lisa Campbell, PTSA President](#) if you are interested in any of these open positions.

F.I.S.H. Club Fundraiser

Dear Students and Teachers of Amador Valley High School,
The 2011-2012 Amador Valley F.I.S.H. Club (Friends Interested in Serving Him) is proud to announce its partnership with Cold Stone Creamery® for this year's Holiday Ice Cream Pie Fundraiser. We need your help! For every ice cream pie sold, Cold Stone Creamery® Pleasanton will donate \$5.00 to F.I.S.H. Club. These funds will help our club; 1) reach out to the community and help our brothers and sisters in need, 2) impact children and families in other countries through service events such as, "Feed My Starving Children" at Crosswinds Church in Dublin, and finally 3) help our school

community at Amador Valley High School. Ordering a pie is easy as 1-2-3, so here's what you need to do:

1) ORDER - Call (925.600.9177) -OR- visit the store (349 Main Street #130) and place your order

2) PRINT - [Print this flier](#) to bring with you when you pick up the ice cream pie. (You must have this flier in order for your pie to go towards the F.I.S.H. Club donation).

3) PICK-UP - You can pick up your pies from November 16th- November 23rd (Thanksgiving) and December 21st-December 23rd (Christmas)

The AVHS F.I.S.H. Club thanks you for your support whether or not you are able to help us at this time. We understand that these are financially difficult times, and that's why we want to raise money to support those in need.

Gene's Fine Foods Contest

Gene's Fine Foods would like to give you an update of the current scores for our competition. The current points for each participating school are:

1. Amador Boosters	4292	In the running for \$1,000
2. Foothill Boosters	3796	In the running for \$500
3. Walnut Grove	3433	In the running for \$250
4. Vintage Hills	2095	
5. Amador F.O.M.	2049	
6. Donlon	1581	
7. Harvest Park Library	1365	
8. Foothill Band	1025	
9. Alisal	846	
10. Lydiksen	765	
11. Valley Christian	583	
12. Hart	458	
13. Hearst	452	
14. Village	436	
15. Valley View	250	
16. Fairlands	225	
17. P.M.S.	160	
18. Carden West	132	

19. Quarry Lane	111
20. Sunol Glen	83
21. St. Michael	35

There is still time to make a difference for your school. This competition will continue through January 31, 2012.

Gene's family is looking forward to supporting our town's families.

Student Support Line

The anonymous Student Support Tipline will be monitored throughout the school year. Call or text 417-5199.

This newsletter is produced and paid for by AVHS PTSA for the benefit of all our AVHS community members. Although we make every effort to provide you with the most accurate and complete information, please be aware that some mistakes can happen. We combine information from different sources as they may be pertinent to you while they may not have any association with the PTSA organization.

Beth Limesand
Editor of The Amador Valley Express

email: avexpress@comcast.net

web: <http://www.amadorvalleyptsa.org>

The Deadline for article submission to the Amador Valley Express is one week prior to the send date. The Amador Valley Express will be e-mailed out on the 1st and 15th of each month. All articles must be e-mailed to avexpress@comcast.net

[Forward email](#)



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