



Amador Valley Express

Edited and Distributed by the Amador Valley PTSA
December 15, 2011

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

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



Calendar

- December 15: Special PTSA Meeting -- discussing drug sniffing canines, 7pm, MPR
- 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

Principal's Message

Dear Parents,

On behalf of the teachers, staff and students of Amador Valley High School, I would like to wish you a Wonderful Holiday Season! We have so much to be thankful for here at the Home of the Don. We have amazing students, a hardworking staff, and supportive parents who all work together to make a difference! I want to thank our parent groups for all that they do throughout the years in support of our students and programs. Without them we wouldn't be the school

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 above for detailed

that we are!

I want to thank all of our hardworking parent leaders especially PTSA president, Lisa Campbell, Athletic Booster president, Sally Parsons, and Amador Friends of Music president, Steve Kirch, for what they and their teams do for Amador without expecting anything in return. Their unselfish dedication to our students and staff is very much appreciated.

I am so grateful to in a place where people care about one another and work hard together for the sake of our students. Thanks for your support and generosity. I wish you all the best in the New Year!

Sincerely,

Jim Hansen, Principal
Amador Valley High School
1155 Santa Rita Road
Pleasanton, CA 94566
(925)461-6150
Fax: (925) 461-6133
jimhansen@pleasanton.k12.ca.us

Special PTSA Meeting Tonight

A special PTSA General Meeting will take place on **December 15th** at 7:00 pm in the Multi-Purpose Room. The district is exploring the idea of using canines trained to locate drugs on a periodic basis in the school parking lots and would like to get parent input. This would ensure student safety and deter students from bringing drugs on campus.

Minimum Days Announced

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



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.

[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

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.

PPIE Foundation Giving Fund

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I am pleased to support the PPIE Foundation's Giving Fund 2012-2013 effort and wanted to pass along additional information for you in support of this initiative as well.

What is the PPIE Giving Fund 2012-2013 and how is this different than CORE?

- The PPIE education foundation is proactively raising funds to support valued programs at risk of being cut each school year rather than reacting to budget cuts each spring.
- The scope of programs and services being supported for HIGH schools through the PPIE Giving Fund 2012-2013 are as follows. The CORE initiative will no longer be occurring.
 - Literacy/Student Support (Additional Sections)
 - Science and Technology (Technology)
 - Health and Well Being (Counselors)

I gave a donation to my school's parent club, do I need to give to PPIE as well?

YES - both efforts are critical to provide a solid education to our children. PPIE's Giving Fund will support the district's **broader goals to ensure district wide equity** yet meet unique needs of each school site. PPIE has and will continue to fund district wide programs and staff, such as teachers, specialists, library and technology aides. The parent clubs (PTA/PFC/AABC/etc) raise money for school specific expenses such as equipment, teaching supplies & support, computers & technology. PPIE



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.
[Click here!](#)

works in partnership with each school site and it is important and necessary to support both organizations.

How does PUSD's foundation request compare to other high achieving districts?

* PPIE is requesting a donation of only **\$150** per student to support programs and services that will likely be eliminated in 2012-2013.

* Surrounding Bay Area education foundations request an **average of \$570** per student. For example:

- Pleasanton - \$150
- Walnut Creek- \$300
- San Ramon- \$350
- Livermore - \$365
- Orinda- \$575
- Los Gatos - \$600
- Palo Alto- \$650
- Moraga - \$750
- San Carlos - \$750
- Lafayette- \$800
- Los Altos - \$1000

Public Education should be free, why am I being asked to donate to pay for programs and services?

Yes - public education should be and is free. Unfortunately public financing alone can no longer provide the high quality education we expect or are used to here in Pleasanton.

Donations are 100% voluntary and tax deductible and you can donate on-line directly or via monthly installments (\$15/month/student). To donate by check, [click here for the donation form.](#) For credit card, PayPal; or to make monthly payments, please visit www.ppie.org

Questions? Visit www.ppie.org, or please contact [Toni Hume](#) or contact Debi Covello / PPIE at mail@ppie.org

Sincerely,

Jim Hansen, Principal
 Amador Valley High School

Resolving Concerns or Complaints

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?

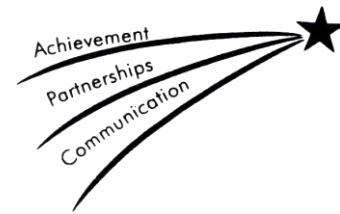
Student Support Line



The anonymous Student Support Tipline will be monitored throughout the school year. Call or

The Pleasanton Unified School District has a process and policy related to the handling of concerns and complaints. Often concerns or complaints are the result of an unintentional miscommunication or a lack of needed information. That is why it is very important to first discuss concerns directly with the teacher or staff member in order to share information, problem solve, and attempt to resolve the concern together. In most cases, the concern can be resolved and, if needed, a plan of action can be developed together.

For your information, here are some reminders concerning the steps to follow should a more serious concern arise.



- Every effort should be made to resolve concerns at the earliest possible stage. If the concern regards a staff member, parents are asked to contact the staff member as soon as possible in order to meet and attempt to resolve the concern with the staff member personally.
- If the concern remains unresolved after discussing it directly with the staff member, parents may contact a school site administrator for further assistance in resolving the concern. In many cases, the school administrator will facilitate and participate in a meeting with the parent(s) and the staff member in order to discuss and attempt to resolve the concern.
- If these steps do not resolve the concern to your satisfaction, the district has a formal complaint process that can be initiated. Complaint forms are available in the school office and also in the district's Human Resources Department.

College and Career Center News

COLLEGE & CAREER CENTER NEWS:

Open Monday ~ Friday, 9am - 1pm

College Visits: Sign-ups at Career Center (no sign-ups cancels visit)

US Army Reserves Presentation Dec 20th ~ 5th Period Find out about educational opportunities through Army Reserves and more!

ULCA Scholarship Info Visit: hear from a former Amador student about the scholarship process at UCLA
Wednesday, December 21st ~ Lunch



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

Disclaimer:

Sign up on Career Center window (no sign-ups cancels visit)
Attend a Sleepover at UC Irvine: Two sessions available for a one night stay over and day of shadowing a student! *Only \$25!* Sessions start in January. Download an application at housing.uci.edu/sop/ today!

Scholarships & Grants: Asian Pacific Fund scholarship deadline March 15, 2012 (open to all ethnicities); General information is available

Is Your Future On Time? Come by for your academic planning checklist ~ Freshmen, Sophomores, Juniors & Seniors

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

SAT Prep Course

Outsmart the SAT

with Catalyst's SAT Bootcamp at
Amador Valley High School!

Don't have time for weekly prep classes?

Taking too long to get your mock scores?

In just one weekend, get every strategy you need!

DATE: Saturday, January 21st & Sunday, January 22nd • 9am – 1pm

COST: Just \$165 for the entire weekend course & prep materials.

This event is a fundraiser for the AVHS PTSA.

To enroll, visit www.CatalystPrep.com & click on Bootcamp Sign-Up.
For more information, email info@CatalystPrep.com or call **800.235.0056**.

[Click here for more information](#)

SCHEDULING FOR NEXT YEAR'S CLASSES - Save these dates!

It's that time again to select courses for next school year!

Scheduling Calender:

Pleasanton Unified does not necessarily endorse or sponsor the content of any written or electronic material displayed or provided. This information is provided for your convenience. Parents/guardians are responsible for determining the potential merits of such providers.

Wednesday, Jan. 18 6-9pm Incoming 9th grade scheduling information night

Thursday, Jan. 26 6-9pm To be 10-12th grades Scheduling Workshops Night

Tuesday, Jan. 31 6-9pm To be 10-12th grades Scheduling Workshops Night

Tuesday, Jan. 24-Sunday, Feb. 5 Course selections for next year may be made on student zangle

Thursday, Feb. 23 7PM theatre College Information Night for Juniors

Letters will be sent home with more information about these nights soon.

PTA Reflections Art Program

This year twenty-five Amador students participated in the National PTA Reflections Program sponsored by AVHS PTSA. This year's theme "Diversity Means..." was expressed uniquely by each participant and the art was really amazing, as well as diverse!



PTA REFLECTIONS
40 Years of Achievement in the Arts

After judging was completed in November, seventeen entries were selected to advance to the Pleasanton PTA Council level and were honored at a Dec. 13th ceremony held at the Firehouse Art Center. Representing Amador Valley High School at the Pleasanton PTA Level were:

Matthew Aubel, Amy Tilson-Lumetta, Naiomi Chinchard in the Musical Composition category; Christine Xu, Ke Zhao, DaEun Kim, Arany Uthayakumar for Literature; Annaamalai Palani and Marie McCoy-Thompson for Film Production; Anuja Joshi, Sakshi Agarwal, Troy Maxoutopoulis in the Photography category; and Dahsohi Im, Rachel Kim, Yuchao Xie for Visual Arts.

Congrats to the following five Amador students whose art entries were selected to represent Pleasanton PTA Council at the Alameda County District level and will be honored in January:

Amy Tilson-Lumetta's for her musical composition, "Indefinable"
Arany Uthayakumar for her literature entry, "Melting Pot"
Marie McCoy-Thompson for her Film Production, "A Message to Afghan Children"
Anuja Joshi for her photography entry, "Diversity in Green"
Yuchao Xie for her Visual Arts entry, "Uniting the World"

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.

Amador Valley High School



[See this flyer for details](#)

Energize for the Prize

Alameda County/ Stop Waste is promoting energy 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!



Stanford's Challenge Success Student Survey Results and Information Evening

Monday, January 30, 2012, Amador Theater from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.



Earlier this year the community of Amador, asked the students to participate in a student survey to help us learn about our students' social, emotional, and physical well-being, their educational goals, and their views on the academic climate and expectations at their school and at home. 1,982 students chose to participate in the survey. Save the date and join Amador's Challenge Success team to hear the results from the Stanford's Challenge Success Survey and what steps we can take.

Shmoop!

Students, please be aware that through the Pleasanton Library we have access to Shmoop which helps students with access to AP Prep, CAHSEE prep and SAT Prep resources. This is a newer resource that is expanding all the time and should be very valuable to our students. Here's the link:

<http://www.shmoop.com/signup/pleasanton>.

Students only need their Pleasanton Library card. If they don't have a card, they can pick up an application from us in the AVHS library.

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

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!

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

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