



## February Events

- **Fitness Friday**
- **Volunteer Happy Hour**
- **Art Night**  
All on Fri. Feb. 5
  
- **Legislative Committee**  
Mon. Feb. 8
- **Dads' Club Mtg.**  
Tues. Feb. 9
- **Band of Angels Play**  
Thurs. Feb. 11
- **Presidents' Week**  
**Recess - NO SCHOOL**  
Feb. 15-19

## Contents

School Site Council	1
Haiti	1
Art Night	1
Room 9's Musical Play	1
Upcoming Events	2
Bulletin Board	2
Spotlight	3
Student Poetry	3
Volunteer of the Month	3
Recognizing MLK's Birthday	4
Save the Dates	4

## School Site Council Revealed!

"Oh, you're on the school site council - what exactly *is* that?"

This is a question I often hear, as one of the parents on the Site Council. Here's my short answer: It's a body created by California statute that includes the principal, teachers and parents. We have two jobs:

- 1) spend the money that comes to the school for physical site improvements, and
- 2) develop plans and programs to improve the academic performance of all students.

Some of the Site Council's projects are obvious - the bright blue metal tables and benches that were installed on the school campus last year, for example. You've probably attended one of our programs: **Family Math Night** and **Multi-Cultural Night** in October, and **Parent Education Night** in November. Or perhaps your child attends the **Read Naturally Program** or the **Math Homework Club** - these are programs funded primarily by the Site Council.

Less obvious is the planning work the Site Council does. Each year, the Site Council must develop and approve a very large document called the **Single Plan for Student Achievement**. The goals in the plan are based on analysis of test scores, input from the principal, teachers and school advisory

## Help For Haiti

A Spare Change Drive is underway to help earthquake victims. Students and parents can find jars to make deposits in all classrooms.



Buy a T-shirt (see image above) for \$12 or \$15, and all profits will be added to the Spare Change Drive. Check the Thursday Packet for details. T-Shirt Sales end Fri., Feb. 12.

All donations will be sent to the **What If Foundation**, a local organization that has been helping children in Port Au Prince since 2000. [www.whatiffoundation.org](http://www.whatiffoundation.org).

If you want to help out, contact Tre Curran, [yazooca@earthlink.net](mailto:yazooca@earthlink.net).

by Janet Diehl, SCC Chairperson



Students sing on Multi-Cultural Night

committees, and the results of a survey sent to parents in the spring.

Parents currently serving on the Site Council include: J.J. Bodell, Janet Diehl, Carolyn Day Flowers, Meg Shean, Carmen Trifilleti and Matt Wayne. Teachers/staff include: Anne Forrest, Rob John, Bea Lieberman, Janet McKnight, Christine Riedell and Judy Sanders. Members are elected by the community group that they represent (parents elect parents, teachers elect teachers).

Two parent seats will be open next fall, and we will hold an election in April. If you're considering running, you may want to drop in on a meeting to see whether it suits your interests. We have three more meetings scheduled this school year: **March 10, April 28 and May 26, 6:30 to 8 p.m. in the staff room**. Parents are welcome to attend any part of the meeting. No child-care is provided. For more information, write me at [janetdiehl@sbcglobal.net](mailto:janetdiehl@sbcglobal.net).

## Don't Miss Art Night

Friday, Feb. 5, 6:30-8:30pm, MPR  
Free Fun for the Whole Family!

Feathers, googly eyes, beads, and lots of familiar and new crafts for everyone to get busy and make stuff! Help is welcome, contact Cathy Wagner [cathywag@gmail.com](mailto:cathywag@gmail.com).

## Room 9 Play & Musical

Thursday, Feb. 11, 7pm, MPR

Ms. McKnight's second grade class will perform *A Band of Angels*, a historic play about the founding of the Fiske University Jubilee Singers from the 1880s. The show is free for all and donations for Haiti relief will be encouraged. Come see the show!

*The illiterate of the 21st century will not be those who cannot read and write, but those who cannot learn, unlearn, and relearn.*

-Alvin Toffler

## FEBRUARY 2010 EVENT CALENDAR

FRI. Feb. 5

Fitness Friday, Morning Walk to School!

Art Night, 6:30-8:30pm, Free, MPR

Volunteer Happy Hour, 6:30pm, The Arlington Cafe

MON. Feb. 8 Legislative Committee Mtg., 6:45pm, The Arlington Cafe

TUES. Feb. 9 Dads' Club Mtg., 7pm, MPR

THURS. Feb. 11 *Band of Angels* Musical by Room 9, Free, 7pm, MPR

Feb. 15-19 Presidents' Week - NO SCHOOL

## BULLETIN BOARD

### Volunteer Happy Hour

Friday, Feb. 5, 6:30-7:30pm  
@ The Arlington Cafe

The PTA would like to celebrate our volunteers and encourage volunteerism at our school! If you currently volunteer your time at Hilltop School, have ever volunteered in the past, or are interested in volunteering in the future, come to Volunteer Happy Hour!

These events are to celebrate our many school volunteers, relax with fellow parents and let the weekend begin! This month we are celebrating **Barbara Wansick**. See page 3 for more about our Volunteer of the Month. **Bring the kids! The Arlington is a family friendly place!**

### Parents Wanted

For the 2010-2011 school year, the PTA, KEF, Dads' Club and School Site Council will all be looking for new parents to step up and contribute their energy to the all-volunteer boards that lead these very important groups.

If you would like to be more involved, this is the time to attend meetings and begin speaking to current board members about how you can join them!

So much happens at, and for, our school thanks to parent volunteers. You too can contribute, and the rewards are invaluable!

### Kenvue Editor Wanted

The *Kenvue* Editor is looking for another parent (or parents) who is interested in learning the drill to take over as editor next year!

The *Kenvue* has been a great experience for me to get to know the students, staff and other parents who are involved at Hilltop. The time spent on each issue varies from 6-10 hours per issue. I would love to share some of the responsibilities for the next few issues and hand it over after June. Please contact me, Kim Paige, either by email [kimpaige@earthlink.net](mailto:kimpaige@earthlink.net) or at home 558-3126.

### NEW! PTA Legislative Committee

Monday, February 8, 6:45pm  
@ The Arlington Cafe

Childcare provided

If you are concerned about the state budget cuts and what it means for your child's education, come and learn about how the PTA supports advocacy with the PTA Legislative Committee. The guest speaker is Nancy Vandell, California State PTA Education Advocate!

The Legislative Committee was recently formed to:

- circulate updates on state and county funding issues;
- publicize school board meetings;
- educate the Hilltop Community about school funding and what we can do;
- join with other school communities to contact local and state leaders; and,
- organize participation in related events, such as **Advocacy Day on Wednesday, Feb. 17!** Take action and join a bus trip to Sacramento! Register: [www.signmeup.com/67766](http://www.signmeup.com/67766).

Questions about this new committee may be emailed to Anna Watkins Porter [annawatkins@msn.com](mailto:annawatkins@msn.com), Ellen Hartigan-O'Connor [ellen@hilltop-pta-legislative.org](mailto:ellen@hilltop-pta-legislative.org), or the Yahoo Group [khlegislativecommittee-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:khlegislativecommittee-subscribe@yahoogroups.com).

Twitter: @hilltop\_pta\_leg

Website: <http://hilltop-pta-legislative.org>.

The Legislative Committee meets every second Monday of the month at The Arlington at 6:45pm.

### Berkeley Opera @ECHS

Hilltop parent and alumnae Mark Streshinsky recently became the Artistic Director for the Berkeley Opera. The 2010 season begins in February with *Don Giovanni*, "a modern take on Mozart's classic masterpiece."

In April, fifth-grader Isabella Mercurio will perform in *The Tender Land*, by Aaron Copeland, "a coming of age tale of rural America by a quintessentially American composer."

A summer performance of *The Legend of the Ring*, "Wagner's epic saga told in one evening," will include the lovely voice of Streshinsky's wife, Marie, and a likely performance by his son and Hilltop fifth-grader, Evan.

The Berkeley Opera will be producing performances in a beautiful new venue, the **El Cerrito Performing Arts Theater** at El Cerrito High School, 540 Ashbury Avenue.

In March, the Berkeley Opera holds an **Annual Gala** fundraiser. For more information about the Gala or performances, go to [www.berkeleyopera.org](http://www.berkeleyopera.org).

### Kensington Cares

Kensington Cares was created to facilitate aid to Kensington Hilltop families, faculty and staff in a time of illness, transition or crisis. Kensington Cares' mission is to support the family while they return to their prior functioning level and to provide resources in a safe and confidential manner.

If you find your family needing some help, **Beth Thomsen** is the chair for Kensington Cares. Beth coordinates "On Call" volunteers to help in emergency situations. Sign ups for the "On Call" list are outside the office, or you can email Beth, [jthomsen@aol.com](mailto:jthomsen@aol.com).

## SPOTLIGHT: Christine Riedell

New to our faculty this year in Room 11 is **Christine Riedell**, teaching first grade. Ms. Riedell has taught in our district since 1997.

A California native, Ms. Riedell grew up in Whittier, and spent her college years in Los Angeles at USC, receiving a BA in English. She moved to San Francisco to study photography and printmaking at SFSU, where she earned an MA.

Photography has been a constant passion for Ms. Riedell. She has taught photography at Bay Area colleges, art centers and workshops since 1982. Her award-winning photographic work led her to travel extensively throughout the American West, and more recently to parks, gardens and waterways in various French locales. Her photos have been displayed in over 50 national exhibitions, juried shows, galleries



and museums. Her work has earned many awards, including two California Arts Council grants and the James D. Phelan Art Award. She is represented by the SF MOMA Artists Gallery. You can view some of her work at [www.christineriedell.com](http://www.christineriedell.com).

Ms. Riedell has some interesting family history. Her Haggard ancestors were among the first 300 families to settle in Texas in 1821.

Thoroughly enjoying life, Ms. Riedell says "every day has been incredible!" That being said, she loves all animals and all colors.

Ms. Riedell is pleased to be teaching at Kensington Hilltop School, saying "I've never been happier." We are so fortunate to have a talent like hers on campus! Be sure to check out her photography website.

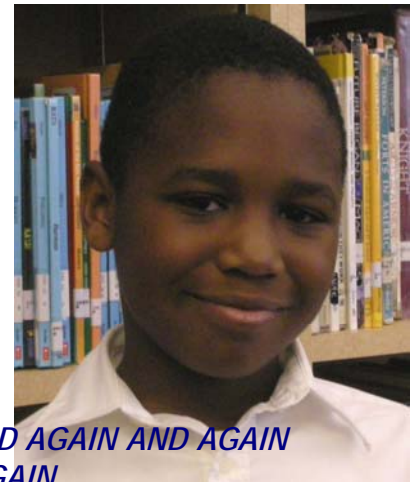
## SPOTLIGHT: Student Poetry

### *MY FRIEND*

By Darien, Room 14

Ms. Goldbeck & Ms. Bergerud's 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Class

*IF YOU WERE MY FRIEND YOU WOULD PLAY WITH ME AGAIN  
IF YOU WERE MY FRIEND YOU WOULD WALK WITH ME AGAIN  
IF YOU WERE MY FRIEND YOU WOULD SAY HI TO ME AGAIN  
IF YOU WERE MY FRIEND YOU WOULD TALK TO ME AGAIN  
IF YOU WERE MY FRIEND YOU WOULD STOP YELLING AT ME AGAIN AND AGAIN AND AGAIN  
IF YOU WERE MY FRIEND YOU WOULD SAY "THAT IS A NICE SHIRT" AGAIN  
IF YOU WERE MY FRIEND STOP SAYING THAT STUFF ALREADY  
AREN'T YOU GLAD TO BE MY FRIEND?*



## February Volunteer of the Month



February's Volunteer of the Month is **Barbara Wansick**. Daughter **Victoria** is in Ms. Buginas' fourth grade class. Her sons have moved on: **Austin** is in 7<sup>th</sup> grade at Portola, and **Marcus** is in 10<sup>th</sup> grade at El Cerrito High. Husband **John** was more active in the Dads' Club when the boys were little. In the 11 years that Barbara has been a parent at Hilltop, Barbara has accumulated an extensive list of volunteer work: various room parent positions, Art Night, field trips, yard duty, art class, you name it, Barbara has probably done it. For the Garden Party, she has chaired solicitations for 4 years, and has been making mosaic projects for the silent auction for six years. In addition to volunteering at the Scholastic Book Fairs, Barbara has been the Book Fair Coordinator for the last 3 years. You may know Barbara from the front office, where she fills in for the administrative staff when needed.

**Join us on Friday, February 5, at 6:30pm at The Arlington to celebrate volunteerism at our school with the Wansicks!**



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**The Sky's the Limit!**

We're on the Web!  
[www.kensingtonhilltop.org](http://www.kensingtonhilltop.org)  
[www.wccusd.k12.ca.us/kensington](http://www.wccusd.k12.ca.us/kensington)

**Save the Dates!**

**MARCH**

- 4 - PTA General Meeting
- 5 - Fitness Friday Walk to School
- 9 - Dads' Club & KEF Mtgs.
- 10 - School Site Council Mtg.

**APRIL**

- 2 - Fitness Friday Walk to School
- 13 - Dads' Club & KEF Mtgs.
- 5 - 9 - Spring Recess - NO SCHOOL
- 28 - School Site Council Mtg.

**KENVUE**

Editor: Kim Paige

*Kenvue is the newspaper of the Kensington Hilltop Elementary School PTA. Submissions are welcome from parents, staff, and students. Please send your contributions to [kimpaige@earthlink.net](mailto:kimpaige@earthlink.net) ten days prior to the first of the month, or leave them in the Kenvue mailbox at the school office (if leaving in mailbox, please provide contact info).*

You can find archived PDF documents of *Kenvue* online at [www.hilltopschool.org](http://www.hilltopschool.org) in the School News and Information >more section.

**Happy Birthday Dr. King**

On the birthday of Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., Friday, January 15, Mrs. McKnight's second grade class recited to both lunch groups in the MPR the famous "I Have a Dream" speech. Dr. King delivered this 1,651 word landmark address to 250,000 people in front of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., on August 28, 1963. Thank you Mrs. McKnight and Room 9 for an inspiring performance!



Dajon Davison (above) concluded Dr. King's speech, saying: "And when this happens, when we allow freedom to ring, when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual, "Free at last! free at last! thank God Almighty, we are free at last!"



After the speech was read, the students turned around revealing letters on their backs which read "Happy Birthday Dr. King."

