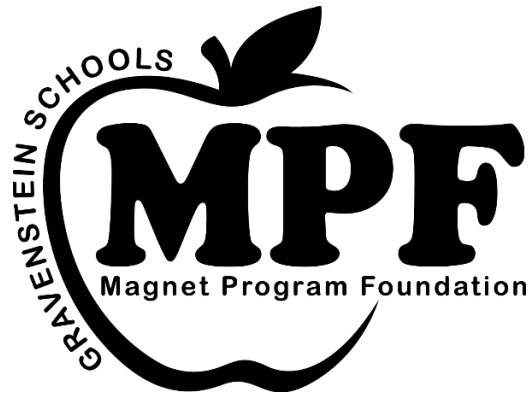


Wondering what's happening with MPF? Here's the latest on our budget, volunteer opportunities and other exciting news from the program.



## MPF News & Updates

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### President's Message: It's Crunch Time!

By Jim Barrios, MPF Board President



Welcome back to another great year of the ENRICH! program.

As you may have heard last year was a difficult year in terms of donations. It required the Board to re-assess the budget and to give a hard look at every field trip and enrichment element to determine which ones are considered essential to the ENRICH! experience and which ones might be considered for reduction. Simply put, the ENRICH! program cannot afford more years similar to what we experienced last year.

One great thing about our magnet program is we want to continue to be self-sufficient through your tax-deductible donations. We do not ask families to sell cookies or gift wrap to their neighbors or to purchase event tickets to fund ENRICH! We survive ONLY through donations. We do not receive grants or local, state, or federal funding of any sort.

I know that financial situations vary from family to family. That is a fact. I know firsthand what it means to be laid off from work and what it means to figure out how you can make the ends meet. I simply ask that you do what you can if you cannot afford the suggested monthly donation. Please join us and donate today.

The good news is that we are off to a pretty good start on donations and commitments. The graphics below illustrate where we are in our efforts of raising the 2015-16 budget of \$355,000. The meter on the left illustrates the funds that have been committed (promised), while the graphic on the right shows the funds we have received. Now, it really counts! If you have not sent in your Commitment Form, consider doing it NOW during our classroom Hoodie Contest ([details below](#)). The first class with the 100% of commitment forms turned in will be rewarded with FREE fleece jackets sporting a special logo for the entire class!

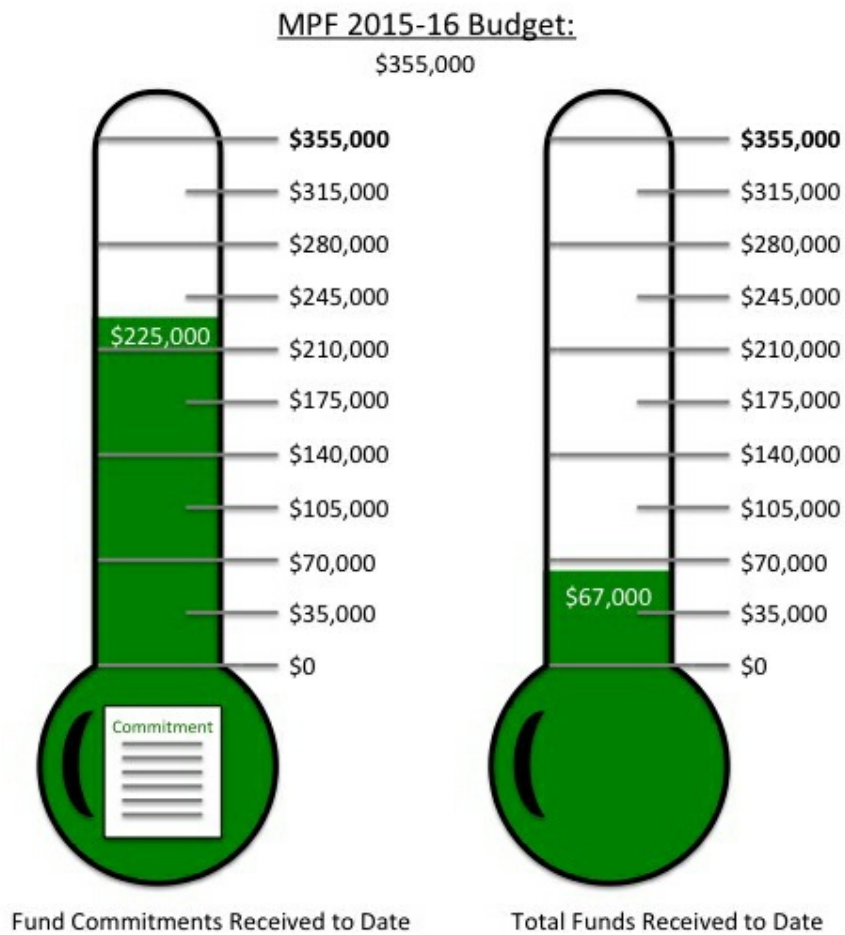
A huge thank you to everyone who has sent in their Donation Commitment Forms. Your prompt return of these forms gives your Board a financial snapshot of the anticipated revenue for the year. Most importantly, it allows us to plan ahead and to make an informed decision as to if we can grow the ENRICH! program, maintain the current budget for another year, or if we need to consider trimming elements of the programs in order to remain financially viable.

Many thanks for your continued support and investment in our children's future.

- jim

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## Fundraising Snapshot



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### Win your kid a sweet fleece!

### Turn in your commitment form!

This year, we will be having a friendly competition among classes! Have you turned in your 2015-16 Commitment Form for MPF donations? The first class to receive 100% of their families' commitment forms turned in, will receive a hoodie - the teacher will also receive a hoodie!



Last years winners:

The contest began last Monday, will end on October 16th and hoodies will be awarded by November 6th. Please note that although MPF encourages all ENRICH! parents to donate financially with monthly contributions to help cover the costs of the amazing programs offered by ENRICH!, this contest is not a fund raising exercise, but an attempt to encourage every ENRICH! family to complete and return their commitment form.

Need a Commitment Form?

<http://files.ctctcdn.com/25d5b20b001/6eecd288-fafc-4703-8ab2-8679bc1a8ec9.pdf>

Need a Credit Card Authorization Form?

<http://files.ctctcdn.com/25d5b20b001/437bcbcf-87e6-4853-b372-88fbe130ec90.pdf>

How to turn in your forms?

Forms can be mailed to:

MPF

c/o Alice Christensen

P.O. Box 750036

Petaluma, CA 94975

Or email your form to Alice Christesen at [mpfalice@gmail.com](mailto:mpfalice@gmail.com).

Keep an eye out, as your ENRICH! social coordinator will be sending you weekly updates!

Thank you for your time and support!

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## Volunteer Opportunities



### Board Members Needed:

The primary purpose of the Board is to facilitate communication between all members of the MPF community and to provide consultation and feedback to the administration on key MPF-funded program elements including enrichment elements and field trips. The Board also provides oversight in collecting and allocating monthly donations and managing an annual budget. These funds provide the means for special field trips, enhanced access to arts and music, and Enrichment programs.

Monthly meetings which are held on the third Wednesday of each month (September through May) at Gravenstein School from 6:00-7:30 p.m. Your input and ideas are always welcomed and appreciated. Even if you aren't on the board parents are always welcome at MPF Board meetings and can forward questions and comments to [mpfcontacts@gmail.com](mailto:mpfcontacts@gmail.com).

### 7th Grade Social Coordinators Needed:

Our 7th grade classes need Social Coordinators. Social Coordinators help the build community on campus and in classes. Without the engagement of our families our program will struggle.

What does a Social Coordinator do, you ask?

- Be the community building "point person" for your child's class, similar to a room parent.
- Organize two socials per year (perhaps one in the fall and one in the spring) for your class outside of class time in the evening or weekends for kids and parents (pre-dance party, bowling, ice skating, picnic, movie night etc...).

- Coordinate teacher appreciation recognition from class (cards, lunch, flowers from the garden).
- Welcome new class members and their families. (For any new families that join your class after the school year has started).
- Coordinate families to bring meals or help with rides when there is a new baby or crisis.
- Attend a fun Social Coordinator meeting every 8-10 weeks.
- Use e-mail to communicate upcoming MPF events to parents and kids and help recruit volunteers for school events as needed.

If you'd like to help build the MPF community contact Tracy D'Ambrosi at [TDAmbrosi@rjo.com](mailto:TDAmbrosi@rjo.com).

## Needed: Reports from the Field(trips)

- Do you volunteer in the classroom?
- Do you chaperone class field trips?
- Do you love the experiences your child has access to in the MPF program?

The MPF Newsletter is looking for dispatches from the field. Help share the great things our teachers and kids are doing with the other MPF parents at Gravenstein and Hillcrest schools.

How it works: After an enrichment class or field trip send a paragraph or two describing the activity, with a photograph or two to us for inclusion in the newsletter to [bethcraven@yahoo.com](mailto:bethcraven@yahoo.com). Please include a caption for images sent and names of children pictured. Photographs are not required but really bring the entry to life so are greatly appreciated.

Thanks for you help in strengthening the MPF community.

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## Reports from the Field(trip): Guide Dogs for the Blind

Mrs. Basque's Second Grade ENRICH! class headed down to San Rafael for a morning field trip to Guide Dogs for the Blind. We arrived at the campus to find beautiful gardens and pathways with Golden Retrievers and Labradors being walked around by volunteer dog walkers. This is the leading guide dog school serving the U.S. and Canada. The children saw a video about a blind man whose life changed when he received a guide dog. We saw a couple of people who were learning to train their future guide dog with life size models. We were given a tour of the immaculate kennels and dog playgrounds where the canine residents live, play and learn to be dogs for the blind. From viewing veterinary facilities, to dog grooming rooms, to a live web cam showing a lab who just gave birth with all her pups nestled around her, our students got a real life look at an organization that does good for the world. What an inspiring trip for our 2nd graders!



Amanda Dawson, parent

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## Will your company match your donation?

Company matching donations are an excellent way to maximize contributions to MPF. In fact, depending on the company, employer-matching gifts can double or even triple the original donor's gift.



What is a company matching donation?

A company matching donation, or matching gift, is when a person makes a donation to a non-profit organization and their employer donates an additional amount, often equal or greater than the employee's donation.

How do I know if my employer matches my donation?

To find out if your company does matching gifts your Human Resources department for specific information on whether they have a matching program and how to request a matching donation.

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## Why I give to the MPF:

When we moved to California over 2 years ago, we figured it would be a challenge to find the kind of school that was equivalent to our Connecticut elementary school. Good friends steered us towards the Gravenstein Union District and its ENRICH! program. Our kids have flourished and excelled in this academic and arts-focused environment. The teachers that both kids have had have been outstanding in their devotion and sound teaching methods. To have our daughter in 4th grade go from being an average math student with average enthusiasm, to being in the advanced math program eager to handle any numerical challenge that comes her way, is a testament to her teacher. The curriculum is lively and varied with history being brought to life by exciting field trips. For a child to experience in present day camping by a river and panning for gold is to give them a virtual history lesson. The students and results speak for themselves. We are thrilled to be a part of this school community!

The Dawsons, 2nd & 6th Grade parents

Visit the MPF  
Website

## Supporting MPF is Easier Than Ever!

Each family's donation is essential for funding the enrichment classes, social events, and field trips that make up our ENRICH! program. To help make donating as easy as possible, Drop-Off boxes are in both school offices for your monthly donations. No stamps needed, just drop off your monthly donation in a sealed envelope. Boxes will be emptied on an approximately weekly basis allowing timely processing of checks. Please do not leave cash.



You can also make your monthly donation to MPF by credit or debit card. Simply fill out the form at [http://gravenstein-mpf.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/MPF\\_Credit\\_Card\\_Form.pdf](http://gravenstein-mpf.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/MPF_Credit_Card_Form.pdf) and mail it to the address below. Then, your credit/debit card will automatically be charged each month at the pledge rate you have set.

MPF  
c/o Alice Christensen  
P.O. Box 750036

Petaluma, CA 94975

Please note that all major credit/debit cards are accepted, with the exception of American Express. If you have any questions about the status of your Donation Commitment Form, contact Alice Christensen at [mpfalice@gmail.com](mailto:mpfalice@gmail.com).

Thanks for taking the time to read about our amazing ENRICH! program. As always, feel free to contact us with any questions.

Sincerely,

The MPF Newsletter Team  
(Jim Barrios and Beth Craven)

Gravenstein Magnet Parent Foundation | [mpfcontacts@gmail.com](mailto:mpfcontacts@gmail.com) | <http://gravenstein-mpf.org>