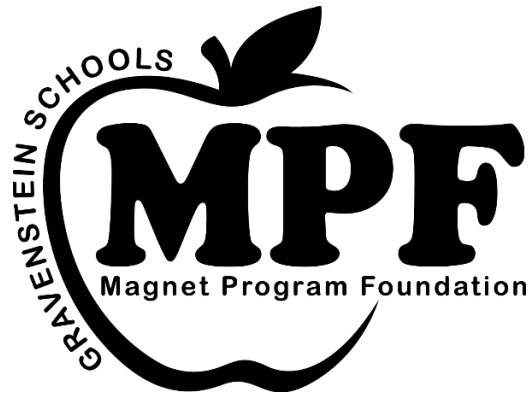


Wondering what's happening with MPF? Here's the latest on our budget, volunteer opportunities and other exciting news from the program.



MPF News & Updates

President's Message: They Say It's True, So It Must Be!

By Jim Barrios, MPF Board President



Did ya' ever hear about the Hessel Hobgoblin? The word around the campfire is that ol' farmer Bill went out to the pasture to fetch a couple of pumpkins for Halloween back in 1935. He never was seen again! They said the Hessel Hobgoblin swooped him up and carried him away. All that was found was his hat. And if "they" said it happened, well. . . then it must be true because "they" said it was!

It seems to me that this is usually the time of year when "they" also share colorful tales of ENRICH! program changes, teachers moving, educational doom and gloom and my favorite. . . the hundreds of thousands of dollars that the ENRICH! program has tucked away in some account that only Superintendent Linda LaMarre, JFK, The Pope, Nancy Reagan, and Colonel Sanders know about! Hillcrest Principal David Fichera can also access the hidden funds, but only on Tuesdays when it is overcast and the equator is aligned with the longitudinal side of The Bermuda Triangle.

And it's all true because that's what "they" said. Honest!

"They" do get around. "They" said Y2K was going to throw us back into the Paleozoic Era in terms of technology. Remember that? Or how about when "they" said the Killer Bees would be in the Bay Area by 2012? Swarms of them! We would have to seal ourselves inside our homes or risk attack by angry swarms of thousands of these venomous varmints.

It is important to remember that while we like to listen to what "they" have to say, it is far more important to notice what "they" do not say. **"They" don't remind you that your MPF Board is a transparent body of parents who volunteer their time to be involved in providing guidance on the collection and allocation of ENRICH! program funds. "They" don't tell**

you that MPF annual budgets are available for the asking. "They" certainly won't tell you about how your MPF Board works tirelessly in concert with school administrators to make informed decisions regarding budget planning and how to determine the best means of maintaining the integrity and core values of the ENRICH! program. It is much easier if "they" just tell you that the 6th, 7th, and 8th grade field trips have been eliminated and that Spanish will be replaced next year with the dialect of Mesopotamian 2nd Dynasty.

If you want the real deal, the non-GMO, hormone-free version of what "they" have to say, join us for a Board meeting on the 3rd Wednesday of the month. Just don't be disappointed when you hear that ENRICH! will succeed because some great parents and administrators have chosen to do the right thing and make decisions in the best interests of this outstanding program. At least that's what "they" say.

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

- jim

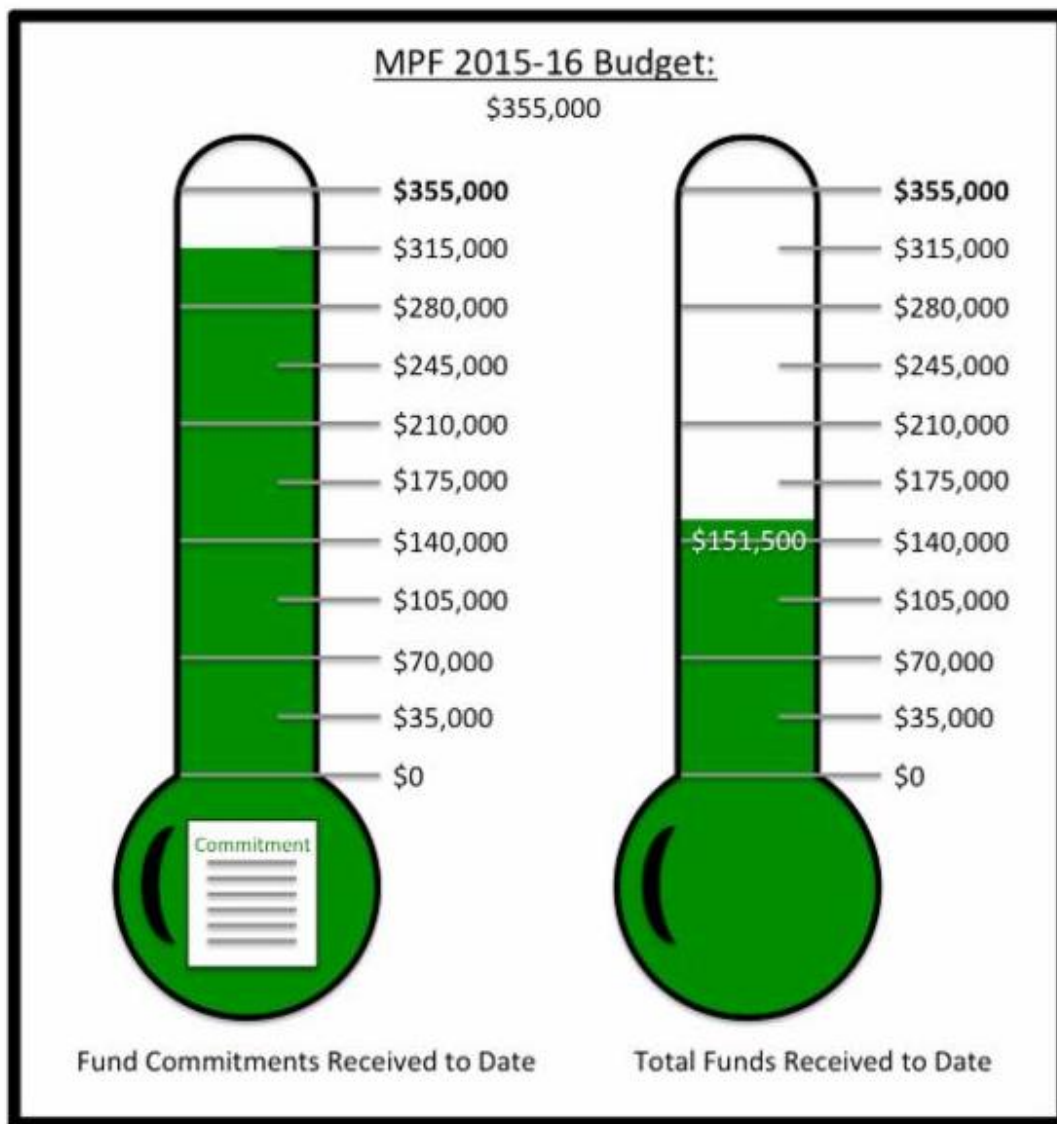
Need a tax write-off? Remember your donations to MPF are deductible.

The holidays are upon us and the new year is just around the corner. Take advantage of the end of the year and make your donation today! The benefits our program provides our children

are immeasurable but the tax benefits are quantifiable. If you have missed a donation don't worry. You can always make that donation now, and if you get it done before the end of the year, you can claim it on your taxes.



Fundraising Snapshot



So who's sporting a new fleece? Who's got ice cream on their face?

The contest was a great success. We now have 67% of families turning in commitment forms. These forms are crucial to planning our budget this year and next. If you haven't turned in your form yet please see below for details on how to send it in.



This year's winners:
Mrs. Crandall's class

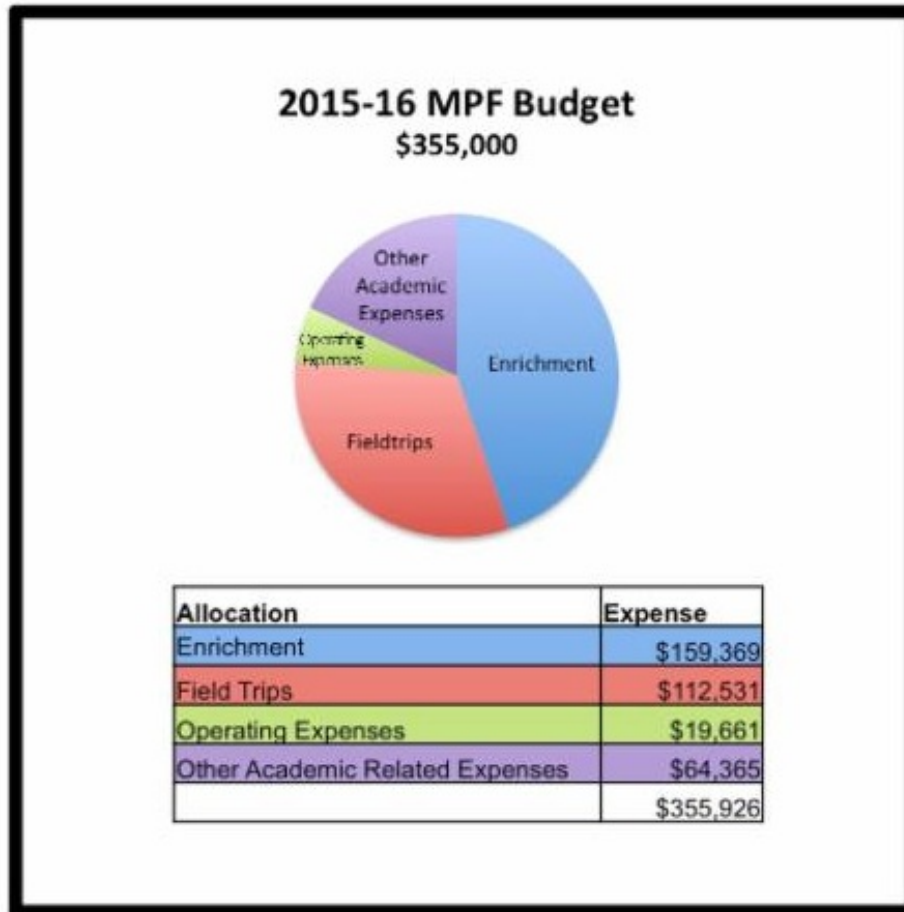
AND THE WINNERS ARE...Mrs. Crandall's class! The class won with 100% donation forms turned in. Ms. Hanchey's class came in a strong second place with 95% and Mrs. Basque's class came in third place with 85%.

In a surprise turn around Mr. Shore's 8th grade class won the last minute award for the most forms

turned in during the last week of the contest, totaling 52% for the class. They will receive an ice cream party for their scrambling efforts.

Understanding Our Finances

Ever wonder where the money you donate goes? Here's a simple break down of how your donations fund the program. To learn more come to the next board meeting on Jan. 20th.



Reports from the Field(trips):

These are just a few of the field trips funded by MPF during 1st trimester

Westminster Woods - 6th Grade

Mrs. Latham's 6th grade class took its annual trip to Westminster Woods on Sept. 28th. The day provided warm weather for students to challenge themselves and develop their team building and problem solving skills. Many of the students challenged themselves further than they expected on the ropes courses and

zip lines. A few came back to the same challenge again and again until they had the nerve to complete the course. Others zipped through the courses without a worry. Students worked in small and large groups to solve puzzles and mental challenges as a team. As always Westminster Woods provided life skills lessons while playing in the beautiful redwoods.



Museum of the American Indian - 4th Grade

In October the 4th Grade classes visited the Museum of the American Indian in Novato. Students learned about the historical belief systems and lives of the local Coast Miwok and other California tribes. Our wonderful guide, Alicia Retes, shared her personal baskets going back many generations, as well as songs and games. Students learned to creep silently like deer hunters through the leaf litter under the oaks and a giant California Bay tree, how to gather edible nuts from the forest floor and to use a hand drill to make abalone currency for trading. The trip truly brought the California history they have been studying in the classroom to life with sights, smells and activities.



Oakland Zoo - 3rd Grade

The Enrich 3rd graders took an all day field trip to the Oakland Zoo on November 20th. Students started off in the zoo classroom where they learned about habitats and adaptations. Next, they took what they learned in the classroom and applied it to their observations of the zoo animals. The focus was on animals in the rainforest and the savannah, and the kids made notes of their observations as they explored the zoo. Students were very fortunate and excited to see a baby baboon that was less than a week old. This fieldtrip tied in perfectly with the animal reports that they have been working on this trimester. - - Michelle Baumann



Building Community

MPF Social Coordinators organize socials for their grade levels to help build the MPF community. As with sports and extra curricular activities it takes a community to make exceptional experiences happen.



Third Grade Families Strike Out!

The third grade fall social took place in November on an early release day. Families headed over to Double Decker Lanes in Rohnert Park for an afternoon of bowling. The social was a huge success with 50 bowlers and 75 people in attendance! Some parents were heard saying that this is the first time they have made it bowling with their kids. We all had a great time and are so thankful for the MPF program that allows socials to happen. Our classes are stronger for the connections made at these events. - - Michelle Baumann

MPF Enrich! in now on Facebook!

Always on Facebook? Well now we are too. Like "[Gravenstein Union Schools MPF Enrich](#)" to keep up on all the latest activities and events. This is also a great way to get reminders about Enrich functions and board meetings.



Is Arts Education Really Worth The Investment?

Researchers at Michigan State University think so.

Did you know Nobel prize winning scientists are 2.85 times more likely than the average scientist to have an artistic or crafty hobby? New findings from the university reveal that creative thought processes enhance scientific innovation. To learn more visit this article: [The Correlation Between Arts & Crafts & a Nobel Prize](#).

Your investment in your child's arts education may pay off in ways you never imagined.



Your Financial Support Is As Important As Ever.



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.

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 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.

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 | <http://gravenstein-mpf.org>