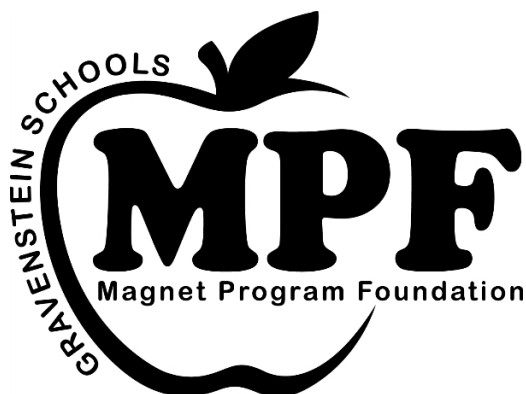


Wondering what's happening with MPF? Here's the latest on our budget, volunteer opportunities and other exciting news from the program.



MPF News & Updates

President's Message: What Does All This Volunteering Mean?

By Jim Barrios, MPF Board President



What a great year! I have absolutely nothing but praise and sincere gratitude for all of you who have volunteered in the classrooms and on the Magnet Program Foundation (MPF) Board this year. Thank you! Thank You! Thank You!

As we begin to wind down the academic year and get ready to transition to the lower gears of summer, I took a minute to think about everything this year's MPF Board achieved and whether or not any of it really mattered. I mean it's not like we, the rank and file parents, choose the curriculum or set school policy. All we really do is volunteer time in the collection and dispersion of MPF donations and we put in some time in our children's classrooms to help out during field trips and classroom events.

Well, I came full circle to asking myself if all this volunteering even had an impact on my kids. Did they give a hoot if their mom or dad (or both!) volunteered in the classroom or took some time to join the MPF or Gravenstein School Foundation (GSF) Boards? So, I put the question to my son Zach and a couple other families' children who have reaped the benefits of ENRICH! Here are their responses.

- jim

The Importance of Parent Involvement: A Graduate's Perspective

As a college freshman, majoring in environmental engineering, this past year has marked a myriad

of firsts in my life. First time living on my own, first time dealing with terrifying college science and math courses, first time away from my core friend group, and, God help me, my first time completely deprived of my mom's cooking for an extended period of time.

Recently, I returned home during winter break and enjoyed some quality time with my best friends I had met years ago in ENRICH! Besides my mom's amazing cooking, I found it comforting to be able to spend time with my family. It occurred to me over winter break that, in college, I haven't been able to experience the daily parental involvement that encompassed all of my schooling through ENRICH! and high school.

Honestly, parental involvement through my scholastic journey has been a huge factor in my adolescent growth. From field-trip chaperoning to the simple donations of baked goods and classroom supplies, my parents' involvement created a positive environment that kept me actively involved in the academic and social realms of my education. Looking back, my family had a huge influence on my education because they volunteered and got involved with things. I can truly vouch today that their selfless involvement had a surprisingly huge impact on my educational direction. A little time out of their day shaped a better tomorrow for me. And for that, I will be forever grateful to them.

Zach Vangrin
Freshman, University of California at Riverside

The Importance of Parent Involvement: A Student's Perspective

The number one thing that all children should have is education and this can help them progress further on in life. 80% of this progress is having parents who care about their child's education and are involved with everything to make sure their children will be successful later on in life. There is a big difference if you compare parents who are involved to parents who aren't involved. Their children will be saying "I wish my parents were more involved and would have helped me in school." Another big part of being an involved parent is giving love and support. A child needs to know their parents love them and by being involved they know their parents care what will happen to them later on in life. I know that my parents are involved, I know that they do their very best for me and my family. I know I will be successful in life because of them.



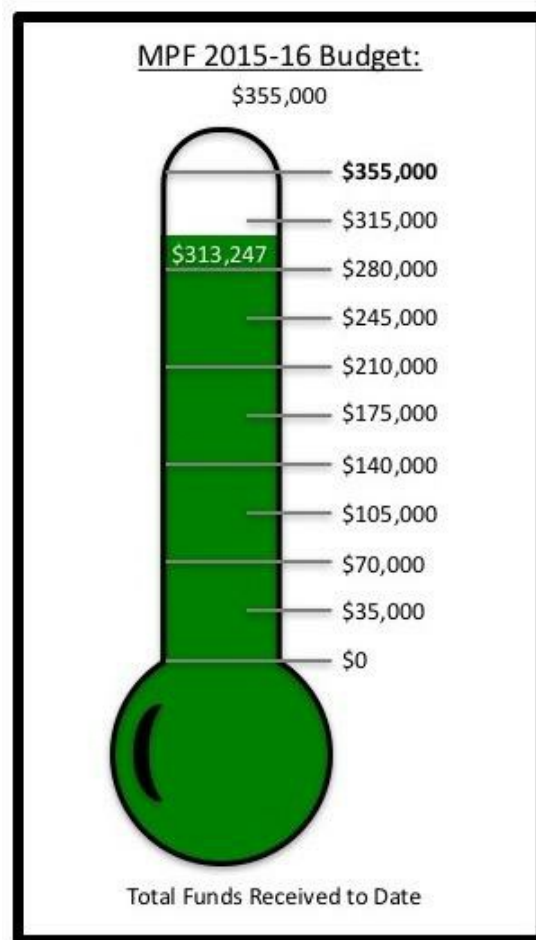
-Valentina Virji, graduating 8th grade MPF student, Mr. Shore's class

Fundraising Snapshot

Keep those donations coming! You can see we are on track to make our budget for the 2015-16 school year. You can also see we need your June donations. Our budget is created on a 10 month plan. While our students only attend a week in June we still have payments due to our fantastic enrichment teachers and to reimburse the school district for our fantastic field trips like Fort Ross

and the Shakespeare Festival in Ashland, Oregon.

Making our budget means we won't have to consider program changes because of funds shortfalls. Please keep up the good work. You can find information on submitting your donation at the bottom of the newsletter.



Reports from the Field(trips):

The MPF field trip schedule has moved into high gear. These are just a few of the field trips and activities funded by MPF in February & March.

4th Graders Find Golden History

Ms. Kindred, who is filling in for Mrs. Hillier, got an introduction to one of Gravenstein's favorite field trips: the Gold Rush. She and an intrepid group of parents took the students back in time to experience early California state history. Their first stop was the Sutter Fort Historic Park. Students explored the fort and learned while completing a "History Hunt".

After eating lunch in the picnic area in Old Town Sacramento students visited the Old Sacramento Schoolhouse Museum where they learned what it was like to be a student in the late 1800's. They learned how children got to school, what they studied, and what was expected of them - manners and chores instead of homework! They also learned it was a privilege to attend school.

The last stop was the Historic Sacramento Museum. There were tales of John Sutter, James Marshall and Sam Brannan during the California Gold Rush. Students were able to glimpse into a working print shop and the life of a miner. The favorite activity of the day was panning for gold and garnets. Students experienced how easy it was to get gold fever.

This fantastic field trip was made possible by your generous donations to MPF and by the parents who volunteered to drive. Unfortunately the class was unable to do the overnight portion of the trip with Mrs. Brown's class because they were unable to find enough male chaperones for camping.



3rd Graders Hit it Out of the Park

Spring means baseball season! The 3rd grade Enrich! classrooms went on their annual Readers Reward field trip to an Oakland A's ball game. It was opening week of baseball and we could not have asked for better ball park weather. These kids came prepared, they had homemade signs and were dressed in yellow and green. We sat down just as the first pitch crossed the plate. After lunch was eaten the kids passed around the yummy snacks they brought from home to share. Popcorn, peanuts, cookies, rice krispie treats and so much more. I could over hear the adults explaining the scoreboard and rules of the game to many interested kids. I had the pleasure of sitting next to Avery Adiego and every time the digital banner said 'Make Noise', she was sure to make some!! The highlight of the trip for many kids was seeing their faces on the TV scoreboard. Matthew Koenig was selected to participate in a math quiz that was shown on the scoreboard. All the students were super excited for him and cheered really loud when he won a Ross gift certificate. The A's did not win the game but the students had a great adventure! Thank you to the teachers for organizing the event and the many parent chaperons who helped make the day run smoothly.

- Tracie Koenig, 3rd Grade Parent



Correction:

The lovely article on the Hillcrest Performing Arts showcase was written by Mr. David Fichera. His name was inadvertently left of the article. Thank you Mr. Fichera for the article and all the handwork you put into the administration of the Enrich! Program.

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 exceptions experiences happen.

WE LOVE OUR TEACHERS! Smiles Abound during Teacher Appreciation Week.

Do we love our teachers or what?! Our class social coordinators joined with volunteers from GSF to show the love for our teachers. If you'd like to participate more actively in the MPF community please consider volunteering to be a social coordinator for the upcoming 2016-17 school year.





Fun Times Ahead!

Help celebrate and build our fantastic program at these upcoming events.

- May 15th - Incoming Kindergarten Social: Help introduce new families to our program.

10am-noon, Gravenstein Elementary Playground

- May 21st - MPF ENRICH Pool Party

Ives Pool, 7400 Willow St

Sebastopol, CA 954723:15pm-6pm.

Please join us for our annual end of school year pool party!

- Last names A-M please bring an appetizer to share.
- Last names N-Z please bring dessert to share.
- MPF will provide drinks.
- Please note, this is not a school-sponsored event. Children need to be accompanied by an adult. Chaperones are not provided. Please look for your invitation in your email and RSVP soon!

To volunteer contact Tracy D'Ambrosi at TDAmbrosi@rjo.com or Cara Miles at cara.miles@sonic.net.

Parent Testimonial

We came to Gravenstein School and the MPF program with our daughter, Joy, when she was in third grade. We were looking for a program that would bring exciting new challenges, and we were so lucky to find such a welcoming school and group of engaged and involved parents. The teachers have all been fantastic and highly motivational to the students. The extra hour of instruction has allowed a depth of exploration which simply isn't available in a "typical" school day. Field trips have been tied into the curriculum and work to captivate everyone's interest, bringing the instruction alive.

- Guy & Annette Riessen, parents of Joy, Mrs. Latham's 6th grade class

Final Board Meeting - Be part of the new board

Our final board meeting of the school year will be May 18th at 6pm. We will be discussing wrapping up our budget and preparing for next year's budget. We will also be holding elections for the 2016-17 MPF board. While "elections" may sound intimidating they are anything but. Like most volunteer groups we struggle to find members. The "election" process is a formality we must go through. Everyone is welcome to join as a board member. All current board members must be nominated to continue on the board for the next year as well. If you have questions please contact MPF President, Jim Barrios at barriosjames@aol.com

We hope you can join us at Gravenstein Elementary on Wednesday, May 18th at 6pm

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.



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.

Please also consider looking into your company's donation matching program. 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. 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.

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)