

2016
MARCH

explorer NEWS

principal's message Dr. Joseph Backman

Fabulous Foothill Parents,

Great things are happening at Foothill! Here is a brief update on several of our endeavors.

STUDENTS:

- Foothill sent 20 students on to the district science fair this year. Of those 20, 12 will move on to the state level and three received honorable mention. The school with the next highest number of students moving on to the state level had 8 students.
- On the national AMC 8 mathematics test, Foothill had 11 students recognized for their excellent scores. That is quite an impressive showing on a nationally competitive test!

STEAM:

- Last month, we submitted our application to receive the STEM designated from the Utah STEM Action Center. We will find out in April if we receive this prestigious designation.
- All of our teachers are using STEAM to enhance and deepen the learning of students. For teacher observations, I have been fortunate to see many phenomenal STEAM lessons from kindergarten to 6th grade and in all of the classrooms in the school, including our small-group autism classes. It is exciting to see the engagement, problem solving, and deeper learning of our students in all of our classrooms.
- We have created a Makers Cart with all kinds of STEAM materials for teachers to use in their classrooms as their students create, design, and engineer.

TECHNOLOGY:

- The majority of our teachers took a 2-day training that was hosted at Foothill from UEN (Utah Education Network) entitled, "Teaching and Learning with iPads." Lots of great learning occurred.
- The district recently installed 17 new wireless access points and updated the other access points to the newest and best wireless network available.
- We hired a technology aide for three hours a day to support our teachers in the integration of technology in their classrooms.

CLASS SIZES:

- Thanks to our Epic Technology grant we received this year, we will be able to allocate more funding to reducing class sizes. Recently, our School Community Council allocated a significant portion of our Trust Land funds for this purpose. We are committed to do all we can to keep our class sizes as low as possible at Foothill.

Thank you for all of your support to Foothill. There is no way we could do the great things at our school without our wonderful PTA and parent support. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Dr. Backman (Dr. B.)

Be Kind. Be Optimistic. Learn. Work Hard. And Live Life to the Fullest!

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out of the loop?

subscribe to the newsletter:
oremfoothillpta@gmail.com

like us on Facebook!
www.facebook.com/FoothillPTA

www.foothill.alpineschools.org
www.foothillpta.org

Dr. B.'s Readers

Grades 1-3

The Secrets of Droon: Journey
to the Volcano Palace (Bk 2)

By Robert T. Abbott

Grades 4-6

Frindle

By Andrew Clements

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
29 Early Out	1	2	3	4
7 No School	8 Classic Skate Night 5:30-8:30	9 PTA Meeting 1pm	10	11
14 Early Out March Madness Battle of the Books	15 March Madness Battle of the Books	16 March Madness Battle of the Books	17 March Madness Battle of the Books Brandon Mull Assembly	18 March Madness Battle of the Books
21 Early Out	22 Republican Caucus 5pm	23 SCC Meeting 11 am	24	25 Newsletter Items Due
28 Early Out Kindergarten Registration	29 Kindergarten Registration	30 Kindergarten Registration	31 Kindergarten Registration	1

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Rick Rothaug	Mar. 08
Shannon Hyatt	Mar. 10
Kylie Simpson	Mar. 15
Taina Reece	Mar. 15
Joe Backman	Mar. 19

EXTRA THIS MONTH:

- Mar. 12 District Knowledge Bowl
Grades 5-6
- Mar. 19 District Knowledge Bowl
Grades 3-4
- Mar. 26 District Battle of the Books

NEXT MONTH:

- April 4-8 Spring Break
- April 13 PTA Meeting 1 p.m.
- April 25th History Fair
- April 30th Yearbook Photo
Submission Deadline

president's message
Lisa Oliver

Recently I have been approached by many teachers and have received a number of thank you notes. They have expressed their gratitude and have asked me to pass the message to the parents for the many donations of time, gifts and money you have made to them personally and to the school. In addition to all of the "upgrades" and technology provided by the EPIC Fundraiser this year, the PTA gave grants to each teacher and provided a PE specialist for the year. Volunteers teach weekly art lessons in every classroom, and daily we have PTA members who exchange books for the take home reading library, and so much more.

As we honored our Teachers in February this year, it seems like the timing was just right to give our teachers a "pat on the back" and let them know how much we appreciate them. The teachers were so grateful for the wonderful week your students gave them in celebrating their efforts. We need to give a huge thank you to Jenny Hellewell and her committee for spoiling our teachers last week with lunch, gifts, treats, and a "spa." We love our Teachers and can never do too much to show them how much we appreciate them.

Last month the Spelling Bee was a huge success (look for winners in the newsletter). This month Battle of the Books and Knowledge Bowl are coming up ...watch for the results. Our 3-6 grade kids have been working really hard! What bright and wonderful kids we are surrounded by!

Once again, thank you for the time, resources, and energy you donate to the school!

Technology Update

I wish you could all have the opportunity to sit down with Dr. Backman and hear all of the little details that are in the works as Foothill pilots the new technology in the classrooms. The teachers are excited, the District is excited and our administration has caught a vision that is going to help our students take learning and applying that learning to a new level. I've been quite passionate about helping make a difference in the way we are educating our children – we no longer need to be turning out factory workers who simply need basic knowledge, rote memorization and set skills – that is the education system of the past. Today we need innovators, creative thinkers, collaborators and students who are learning and applying that knowledge to real world issues.

At Foothill, the changes happening are not just about using the computers, tablets, iPads, etc... as a replacement for pencil and paper. The inspiration behind these implementations are about 21st century learning. Combined with up to date technology, committed teachers, exciting relevant lessons, and hands on learning in every subject we are starting something much bigger than I could have imagined. If you would like to hear more about all of the amazing things happening at the school, please come to our next PTA Meeting. Everyone is invited and together we are helping make Foothill a true 21st Century STEAM School.

THE news

YEARBOOK TIME!

It is almost time to order yearbooks. If you would like your pictures included in the yearbook, please submit them to oremfoothillpta@gmail.com no later than April 30th, 2016.

VAL-O-GRAMS

A huge THANK YOU to all of the Foothill families for their generosity during Val-O-Grams. We raised over 400 dollars to help the Syrian refugees. Student Council really appreciates all of your support!!

BOOK FAIR

Thanks to everyone who supported the library by purchasing books at the GROOVY Book Fair. A big thanks to all of the volunteers who helped run the fair.

We had more than \$8,000 in sales! The school received \$2000 in profit that went towards our library. Thank you for donating books to our classrooms as well!

We hope you are enjoying your new books!

CLASSIC SKATE NIGHT

Come one, come all! Be a part of the Foothill Family!
TUESDAY, March 8th, from 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.

BRANDON MULL ASSEMBLY

As part of March Madness for Battle of the Books, Brandon Mull will be in an assembly for the students on March 17th at 1:30 p.m.



VOLUNTEERS

On **Monday March 21st**, the PTA will be providing support for the teachers and would like *ALL ART volunteers to come do art from 1:30-2:30* so the teachers can get some technology training in conjunction with the donation purchases we will be making. Please work with your teacher to arrange this. Thank you!

MARCH MADNESS

IS ALMOST HERE!!

March 14th-18th

There will be battles and an assembly for the final 4 teams. We can't wait to see what our kids can do. More details will be coming. Happy Reading!

Email: foothillpta@gmail.com to help with battles

MORE news

NOMINATE A TEACHER, ADMINISTRATOR, VOLUNTEER OR SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER!

SEE PAGES 7-9 FOR INSTRUCTIONS
ON NOMINATING AS WELL AS A
NOMINATION
FORM.

• WANTED •

*Nominations for
The 2016
Huntsman
Awards
for Excellence
in
Education
2016*

**ELEVEN WINNERS
will receive a
\$10,000 AWARD**

Nominate your favorite public school teacher,
administrator, volunteer or special education teacher.
Visit huntsmanneducationawards.com for more
information and to download the nomination form.

Due date for nomination forms is
Friday, March 25, 2016.

Join us for a free public screening of the documentary:

"Most Likely to Succeed"

This film was shown in 2015 at the Sundance Film Festival and
is spreading across the nation. It presents ideas for changing a
system invented 122 years ago for America's schools.



Thursday, **March 17, 2016**

SCERA Center for the Arts, 745 S. State Orem, Utah
7:00 - 9:00 pm

Free public tickets available at EventBrite.com
For more information go to: mltsfilm.org

EDUCATION DOCUMENTARY

SEE FLYER TO THE LEFT. GET YOUR
TICKETS FOR FREE AT EVENTBRITE.
COM

THERE WILL BE A PANEL
DISCUSSION, FOLLOWING THE FILM,
TO DISCUSS WHAT WE CAN DO
TO IMPROVE EDUCATION IN OUR
DISTRICT.

MORE news

Thank you to all who practiced and participated in the Spelling Bee! We had 45 participants in the school wide Spelling Bee. We spelled approximately 125 words correctly! Our spellers made it through about 21 rounds of competition and spelled words like mazel tov, vituperative, susurraton, and aeriferous!

Spelling Bee School Winners

	1 st Place	2 nd Place	3 rd Place
School Winners	Analise Dean	Ryan Benson	Cash Grow

Spelling Bee Classroom Winners

2nd Grade:

Pearson: Hadley Tobler

Denning: Lucy Tierney

Rodas: Josh Harris

3rd Grade:

Marsh: Boston Magness, Carter Wolsey, Shea Johnson

Gurr: Grace Bahr, Cash Grow, Olivia Jensen

Moore: Kalia Olayan, Wynter Hendricks, Abby Egbert

Crabb: Mia Morgan, Andie Dayton, Indigo Pryor

4th Grade:

Judd: Jacob Bauer, Michelle Meyers, Ellie Whitney

Mendenhall: Ava De St Jeor, Mckay Nelson, McCall Thaxton

Tingey: Anna Davis, Zander Sakr, Nick Pickering

Mineer: Alex Jimenez, Britton Black, Maddie Wright

5th Grade:

Crockett: Savannah Harding, Ryan Benson, Marie Noel

Longmore: Kye Larsen, Mercy Thomas, Leah Thomas

Siebach: Zain Sakr, Carson Beaslin, TJ Beaslin

6th Grade:

Hyatt: Spencer Sanderson, Zach Wells, Daniel Craddock

Paonessa: Jodie Bethel, Matthew Bartlett, Meg Duncan

Wakamatsu: Julia Collings, Emma Webb, Analise Dean

Mason: Emma Lee, Meili Haggard, Ellie Hill





MORE

news

NURSING NEWS

This winter there has been a fairly large number of students slipping on ice and snow and injuring their heads.

A head injury is any physical harm to the scalp, skull, or brain.

Head injuries are very common and usually are not serious. They can be EXTERNAL or INTERNAL.

EXTERNAL head injuries are injuries to the scalp. These injuries often look serious because the scalp has many blood vessels that can bleed, sometimes causing a big lump or "goose egg" that can take days or weeks to disappear.

Applying an ice pack or instant cold pack wrapped in a washcloth or towel to the injured area for up to 20 minutes every 3-4 hours for the first 1-2 days can help ease swelling.

INTERNAL head injuries may involve the skull, blood vessels inside the skull, or the brain itself.

A CONCUSSION is a type of internal head injury. In a concussion, a person temporarily loses brain function. Someone may have a concussion even when there's no obvious wound or unconsciousness. After a concussion, the brain needs time to heal. Recovery will depend on how long the symptoms last. It's very important to wait until all symptoms have ended before resuming normal activities.

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS CAN PREVENT HEAD INJURIES!

Please remind your children to not run across any area that has snow or ice. Also, please make sure your children wear boots or shoes with good traction to help prevent slipping on snow and ice.

Both children and adults should wear helmets, safety gear, and seatbelts whenever appropriate!

Kim Lowe, RN, School Nurse

SAVE THE DATE!!!

Foothill Art Gala - May 12th from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Submissions to the April Newsletter are due by **March 25th.**

Send submissions to oremfoothillpta@gmail.com with NEWSLETTER as the subject.

Nomination Instructions

Schools and/or public citizens are invited to nominate individuals in any of the four categories: teacher, administrator, volunteer, or special education teacher. Single nominations only – teaching/volunteer team nomination will not be accepted. Incomplete, excessive, or duplicate applications will be disqualified. Previous winners are not eligible. Nominations cannot be made by immediate family or by self. All applicants must use the approved nomination form. Any modified forms will result in disqualification. **The Huntsman Awards Committee highly recommends people whose nominees do not win in a given year to re-submit.** All public schools and districts throughout Utah that are funded by state taxes are invited to participate. If you have any questions, please call The Huntsman Awards for Excellence in Education at 801-584-5799.

- **TEACHER:** This category is open to any full-time, certified Utah public school teacher (elementary, middle school, high school) whose major responsibility is the direct instruction of students and who has completed a minimum of five years teaching experience with satisfactory evaluations.
- **ADMINISTRATOR:** This category is open to the nomination of any on-site, practicing principal, or counselor of a public elementary, middle or high school, who has completed a minimum of five years of service as an administrator with satisfactory evaluations.
- **VOLUNTEER:** Any volunteer who has direct involvement with children in the classroom of a public school without pay on a regular basis for at least two full years may be nominated in this category. (Example: Retired individuals who dedicate their time, talents, and skills to further enhance students' learning experience.)
- **SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER:** Nominations are open to any full-time, certified, Utah public school teacher who has worked exclusively in a self-contained special education classroom in an elementary, junior high, or high school, for a minimum of five years with satisfactory evaluations.

Please complete Sections 1, 2, and 3 of the nomination form.

You must also attach **TWO** supporting pages explaining why you believe the nominee deserves this award. Please give specific examples of unique contributions the nominee has made and how he/she exemplifies excellence by having a direct impact on the lives and education of public school children. Explain the nominee's experience within the professional field and what he/she is doing to enhance student academic achievement. Please include comments from supervisors, peers, parents, and students, and provide pertinent details about the school and classroom structure, including the number of students enrolled.

These two pages should be typed (8.5" x 11", single sided, Times New Roman font size 12, 1" margins, and staple) to the nomination form.

Please do not submit any pictures or newspaper articles. Binders, covers, or folders will not be accepted.

Nominations will be accepted in our office until 5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 25, 2016.

Eleven winners will be selected to receive this Award in recognition of outstanding contributions to our public school system and receive \$10,000 each, donated by Jon M. Huntsman and family.

Awards are given to two teachers and one administrator from elementary, middle and high schools, one volunteer, and one special education teacher.

Winners will be announced approximately sixty days later.

Nomination Checklist

Please use this checklist to make sure your nomination is complete. INCOMPLETE, EXCESSIVE, OR DUPLICATE NOMINATIONS WILL BE DISQUALIFIED.

- 1. Have you filled in all the information in Section 1, 2 and 3 of the Nomination Form with all required signatures?
- 2. Have you given all detailed explanation in your supporting documents of why your nominee deserves this Award? (No more than two pages typed). Have you included details of specific incidents that show how your nominee has influenced the lives of public school students?
- 3. Have you stapled all supporting documents to the nomination form?
Please Note: Any extra pages in addition to the two page maximum will be discarded. Binders, covers or folders will not be accepted. Do not include pictures or newspaper articles.
- 4. Return this nomination to:
The Huntsman Awards for Excellence in Education
500 Huntsman Way
Salt Lake City, UT 84108
jodi_russell@huntsman.com
Fax: (801) 584-5701

**NOMINATIONS ARE DUE IN OUR OFFICE BY 5:00 P.M. FRIDAY, MARCH 25, 2016.
FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE YOU MAY SUBMIT THIS FORM BY
EMAIL, MAIL, FAX, OR DELIVERY IN PERSON.**

PROCEDURAL INFORMATION

Any citizen of the State of Utah may make nominations for the Huntsman Awards for Excellence in Education. When nominations arrive, they will be reviewed for completeness. The Board of Judges will make their decisions as to the winners using only these nominations. In case of a tie, the Chairperson's vote will be the deciding vote. All decisions will be made without regard to race, national origin, gender or age. The decision of the Board of Judges shall be final. The Huntsman Awards for Excellence in Education reserves the right to use the information provided in these nominations in the Awards presentation and associated publicity. For further information, write or call the Huntsman Awards for Excellence in Education, 500 Huntsman Way, Salt Lake City, Utah 84108; (801)584-5799.

MATERIALS SUBMITTED WILL NOT BE RETURNED.

PLEASE TYPE

Section 1

Category of Nomination (check one): Teacher Administrator Volunteer Special Education Teacher

Section 2

Nominee's Name _____

Current Title/Position & Subject Taught (if applicable) _____

Total Years of Experience _____ Years of Experience in Current Position _____

Institution _____ School District _____

Institution Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

School Secretary _____ Secretary's Phone _____

Nominee's Supervisor _____ Supervisor's Phone (work) _____

Section 3

In addition to the nominating person, please include **all six** endorsements representing more than one sector of education (i.e., teachers, administrators, parents, students, etc.) who have a direct knowledge of the nominee's activities and achievements.* Please state if any person listed below is a relative of the nominee (no immediate family). Any incomplete information will result in disqualification.

Nominating Person

Name _____

Title/Position _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Signature _____

Your relationship to the nominee:

- Teacher/Staff/Administrator
- Parent of Student
- Current or Former Student
- Other _____

3. Endorsement

Name _____

Title/Position _____

Phone _____

Signature _____

4. Endorsement

Name _____

Title/Position _____

Phone _____

Signature _____

1. Endorsement

Name _____

Title/Position _____

Phone _____

Signature _____

5. Endorsement

Name _____

Title/Position _____

Phone _____

Signature _____

2. Endorsement

Name _____

Title/Position _____

Phone _____

Signature _____

6. Endorsement

Name _____

Title/Position _____

Phone _____

Signature _____

How did you hear about the Huntsman Awards for Excellence in Education? Newspaper Internet Past Recipient
 School P.T.A. School District Community Council Other _____
(please specify)

***Your signature indicates your endorsement of this nomination and your willingness to be interviewed by phone, if necessary.**

FOOTHILL ELEMENTARY
921 North 1240 East
Orem, Utah 84097

