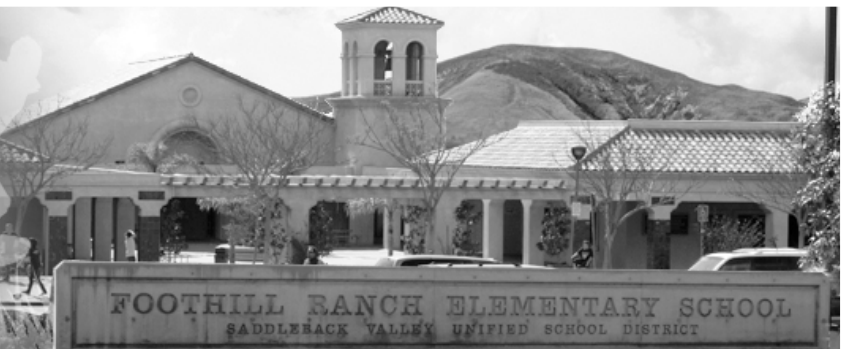


FOOTHILL RANCH **KIDS** FOUNDATION



www.FoothillRanchKids.com

26741 Portola Parkway, Suite 1E153, Foothill Ranch, CA 92610

April 2010



3rd Annual Teacher Silent Auction

@ the Food Court
next to Regal Theater
in Foothill Ranch

**Thursday, April 22nd
4:00-7:30 PM**
Auctions close at 7:30

A percentage of all
food sales will be
donated to FRKF all
evening.

Juice It Up!

Bring \$4 for a healthy
after school treat on
Wednesdays
and support FRKF!
(Weather permitting)

Join Our Teachers and Support the 3rd Annual Silent Auction!

On **Thursday, April 22**, the Foothill Ranch Kids Foundation will hold our **3rd Annual Teacher Silent Auction** at the Food Court next to the Regal Theater in Foothill Ranch. The auction will begin at 4:00 and close at 7:30. The food court is donating a percentage of their sales to our school throughout the evening. If you have other events that evening, please make sure your family swings by the Food Court for dinner or frozen yogurt to support our school! In addition, many of the auction items are "Buy It Now" class events that you can purchase anytime after 4:00. So you do not have to wait until the Silent Auction closes at 7:30 to participate.

The funds raised at this event will first go towards hiring a librarian

during the 2010-11 school year. Last year the Silent Auction netted \$20,000 because parents and teachers united to reach this goal! We need to rally again so we can keep our library open despite the loss of state funding. On many campuses in SVUSD this year, the library is simply closed and books may not be checked out. Union restrictions do not allow schools in our district to operate libraries with volunteers only. Our goal is make sure our library is open 5 days a week so we can serve our 1,300 students. If we raise more money, we will meet with our principal and PTA to decide how we can save the next priority on our campus.

Thank you for making the Silent Auction a priority on your calendar!

Teachers To Serve Golden Spoon And Juice It Up at the Silent Auction!

Back by popular demand, our Bobcat teachers will be serving frozen yogurt at Golden Spoon and smoothies at Juice It Up on Thursday, April 22nd at the Silent

Auction from 4:00-9:00 PM! Ask your teacher what time they are working. Be sure to come see their funny hats and support their enthusiastic participation!

State Budget Crisis and FRKF's Role

By Kimberly Johnson - PTA Legislation Chairperson & FRKF Board Member

I recently attended a two-day Orange County PTA trip to Sacramento to meet with legislators, the Governor's staff, and education policy specialists to advocate on issues in public education. It's hard to summarize the volume of information we learned in such a short amount of time. The bottom line is that our state is bankrupt, the Prop 98 funding formula does not protect our schools, funding reform is a hot topic on both sides of the aisle, and increasing "local control" or flexibility in how we can spend our state funding is necessary for survival. For a more thorough report, please come to the next PTA meeting on Tuesday, April 12th at 7 PM in the MPR.

After hearing dismal reports on education funding and other school district horror stories, we came to believe that NOW more than ever, Saddleback Valley Unified School District (SVUSD) schools must rely on private funds to bridge the gap. SVUSD has lost more than 17% of our state funding in the last 4 years. All SVUSD employees are currently negotiating significant pay cuts to help us balance our budget. Contrary to popular belief, the money we have lost will not likely be restored when the economy begins to rebound. On this advocacy trip it was widely reported that it will probably be 10 years or more before our district will be given the funding we once received. Reform is necessary and probable in the long term. But in the meantime, parents, teachers, and staff must make the sacrifices to keep our school running well.

Private Foundations and PTAs are the only volunteer organizations stepping up to band-aid programs and keep schools operating under these dire circumstances. A dramatic shift in priorities is occurring across California as these organizations move from principally providing supplemental or extra-curricular support to now paying for basic classroom supplies and academic programs cut from the state budget. Here at Foothill Ranch Elementary, we are fortunate to have both an active PTA and the Foothill Ranch Kids Foundation. Further, we have parents, staff, and teachers who truly care about our campus and students. Even in comparison to many other schools in Orange County, it is clear that FRE has resources and support that other schools only dream of obtaining. It's unfortunate that this recession is creating a larger economic gap between schools. I certainly have come to a greater appreciation for the team we have at Foothill.

Recently parents were asked to participate in a survey on spending priorities for 2010-11 school year. Items listed were computer lab technicians, librarians, a campus supervisor, and our science lab program. We are still analyzing the survey results as we partner with PTA to plan our budgets. Spending decisions will be made once we know how much money we have raised this Spring. Some of you have noted other Foundations are aiming to pay for instructional aides to help reduce the teacher to student ratios that are rising. To the extent that we have the funds to pay for our current priorities next year, the FRKF would like to be able to consider other unique ways to help students academically. But in order to tackle these growing challenges, we will need more money and additional participation from parents.

So the time has come for us to creatively think in new ways about how we can support public education with our talents, volunteer time, and our finances. We are encouraging all parents and grandparents to consider how you might share your time or expertise on our campus. When we work together we can achieve so much more. It's vital that our PTA and the FRKF have an increase in active participation from parents as well.

Finally, would you also please consider making a donation to FRKF this Spring? Perhaps your family or company would consider becoming one of our major donors by donating a \$1,000 or \$5,000? We are in the process of applying for a Matching Grant that we hope to be able to offer before the end of our school year. Every little bit helps, even donations of \$50. In comparison to the high monthly cost of private schools, we are hopeful that families will choose to invest in Foothill Ranch Elementary School so we can continue a tradition of academic excellence despite the state of public education funding. It is true that public education is increasingly becoming "privately supported" public education.

Thank you for coming to the Teacher Silent Auction on Thursday, April 22nd! Come celebrate our school and teachers with this fun family night at the Food Court! **Together, we can make a difference!**