

Foothills Focus



Foothills School provides a vibrant learning community where students develop personal, academic, and social responsibility – leading to a lifetime of discovery.

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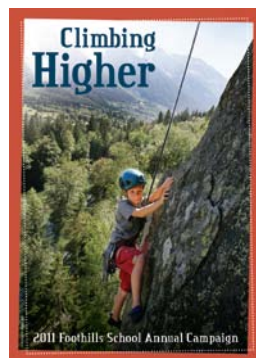
Foothills Climbing Higher Annual Campaign is Moving Us Up the Mountain!

By Milt Gillespie and Hollis Brookover, Parents & Campaign Co-chairs

The tricky part of any big mountain climb is the last 1,000 feet or so. Your legs are lead. Your head is exploding and your breathing is ragged. And there it is in front of you – the never-changing summit. How much longer? And then, like a leaf lifted by a sudden burst of wind, the top is right there and your body and brain illuminate. The greatest feeling is the first five minutes on top. Then you start worrying about how the heck you're going to get down, and where is the bathroom on this god-forsaken rock anyway?

The campaign for Foothills School is nearly to the top! We have received pledges/contributions from more than 60% of the community – teachers, staff, and parents. **Our big goal this year is 100% participation and our faculty and staff are already there!** Parental participation in fund-raising is important to the school for many reasons, especially as we seek grants from foundations to expand the educational opportunities for our kids.

If you have not already, please consider making a pledge/contribution now to



help us achieve our goal! Participation is the key. Every dollar counts, whatever the amount! If the timing isn't right for you to write a check today, several different payment options are available which defer or spread out the cash flow until the end of 2011. Here are the faculty and parent participation levels by class:

- ELs: 42%**
- Primary: 61%**
- Juniors: 77%**
- Intermediates: 69%**
- Seniors: 63%**
- Nines: 71%**
- Faculty/Staff: 100%**

The Table Rock Climb was a resounding success! Talk about participation! Last Friday, 103 of our kids and 50+ teachers and parents climbed to the top of Table Rock to show their support for Foothills School (we even made the evening news!). The pledges students collected will add

\$5,000+ to the Climbing Higher receipts. Thank you to our fabulous Table Rock Climb Leader, Coree Carver! "It was amazing to see the students' response to this community-building event. They all showed incredible tenacity to reach their goals for sponsorships, class participation and climb completion. I couldn't be prouder of our kids and the families who support them," Carver said. "If our kids can do, it so should we!"

Remember, the Annual Campaign provides funding for teachers' salaries, and special programs and school overhead not covered by tuition. We need everyone to pull the rope. Please join with us and participate now!

"It has been a pleasure serving Foothills in our role as Expedition Leaders for this campaign. We are so fortunate and proud to be part of this community. In the course of the campaign, we have enjoyed the opportunity to expand our friendships and have really appreciated the unique and wonderful contributions made by so many parents, teachers and staff to the effort. We would climb with the Foothills community any day! **Thank you!**

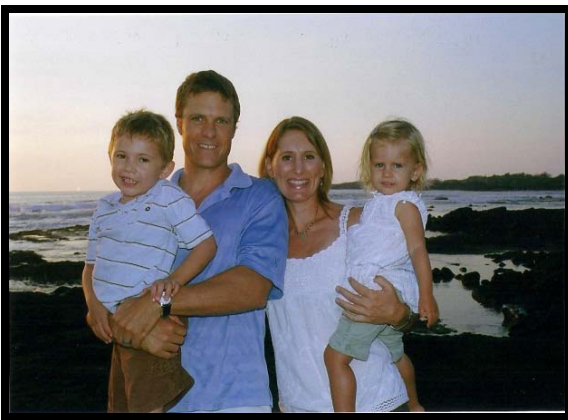
Happenings at Foothills School – Don't Miss 'Em!

2011 Spring Performance is May 4!



It's time to spring into Broadway as we near Spring Performance time! The students are excited to put on a great show – their own Broadway extravaganza – which will take the audience on a tour down the Great White Way. Sixteen different shows will be represented! Dancing, singing, acting, costumes, and simple fun are in store for the audience! *This year's performance is on Wednesday, May 4, at the Special Events Center (SPEC) on the BSU campus; tickets are \$5 for adults and children over 10 years old, and will be available at the door.* The show will start promptly at 6:00 p.m. and students are to be there no later than 5:30 p.m. (Parent note: students may show up at 5 p.m. if they would like to have professional stage make-up for the evening.) Please come support the entire Foothills School community at a fun and beautiful evening of entertainment!

Foothills School Welcomes Melissa Murar, Bookkeeper



We are pleased to announce the addition of new Administrative Team Member, Melissa Murar, our new Bookkeeper. Melissa grew up in Hailey, Idaho, and received a B.A. in Psychology from the University of Washington and an Accounting degree from Boise State University. Her professional experience includes human resources, accounting, and payroll administration. She has served as a supervisor for the Idaho Head Start program in Sun Valley and is ready to return to a school environment to serve families and students! Melissa and her family recently relocated to Boise after four years in Hawaii, where she operated her own accounting firm. She is glad to be back home in Idaho and spends time out of the office with her two young children, running, skiing, reading and traveling. Welcome to Foothills, Melissa!

Foothills School of Arts & Sciences 2nd
Annual Carnival/Garage Sale
Coming Soon!

**June 4 is the date for this
great family event!**

Things you can do to be involved!

- ◆ Donate items to the sale! Drop them off any day at the school or arrange to have large items picked up by contacting Anna Tapia at anna@tapiafamilycatering.com or 208.860.6861
- ◆ Sign up to volunteer – we need game tenders, ticket sellers, rummage sales folks and lots more help!
- ◆ Help us spread the word- this is a community event and we're inviting all of Boise to attend.

Bring your family out for some old-fashioned fun!!!



Bake Sale to Help Send Parker to World Deaf Swimming Championship

Katherine Parker, Foothills alumnae, is headed to the World Deaf Swimming Championships in Portugal this summer and needs your help.

On Friday, May 5 from 3 to 4 p.m. Katherine will host a fundraising bake sale on the sidewalk outside of Foothills School after school.

There will be lots of goodies for sale including: Truffles, cupcakes, cookies, small log-cakes, strawberry cheesecake, key-lime pound cake, and more! Prices will range from .50 - \$4.00. This is a great cause for a wonderful opportunity for another Fabulous Foothills Alumni!

News from the Classes

Early Learners Ready for Spring Performance

The Early Learner classroom has been a bustling hive of activity lately. The students have continued with their preparations for Spring Performance, further developing their choreography while working with dancer Leah Clark to create good- and bad-guy movements. They have also been fine-tuning costume details, making fairy crowns, choosing instruments to play during the performance, adding finishing touches to the fairy tree, and rehearsing their parts.

Other happenings in the class include two large jigsaw puzzles that the children created by drawing on boards and then having the puzzle pieces cut. One puzzle is of an active volcano and the other is all the favorite animals of the class. Last week wheat grass seeds were planted and the children have been carefully monitoring their growth. Each child planted their seeds in an eggshell and will take them home and can sample their wheat grass in a few more days.



Primaries Become Scientists

What does it mean to be a scientist? The Primary students are busy making discoveries about plants through a scientist's lens, beginning with journaling like one. Students began their study by asking questions about plants: Zach asked, "Where do seeds come from?" Alma asked, "Do plants only grow on our planet?" And Katherine asked, "Where do plants get their water?" As the students explore these questions, they will be journaling like a scientist and this means making predictions, writing and drawing observations, making sketches and, most important, asking more questions. The students started the scientific journaling process by dissecting a bean seed and identifying its parts: seed coat, food and embryo. This, of course, led to more questions written in their journals. Students also identified how seeds move, making close observations

to sort and classify the seeds. Planting a variety of seeds, watching the development of plants, seed dispersal, water transportation and plant usage will be some of the areas covered as we explore the wonderful world of plants.

Juniors Introduced to Idaho History

"Who were the first people in Idaho?" "What did a fur trapper carry in his bag?" "How does a calf wiener work?" "What chores would you have to do if you were a kid on the Oregon Trail?" "Who got rich off the gold rush?" These are a few of the questions asked and answered as Juniors have explored Idaho's history. Drawing on a wealth of resources at the Idaho Historical Museum and parent expertise, Juniors have learned about Native Americans, fur trappers, the Oregon Trail, the gold rush, Idaho industries and the role conservation plays in Idaho's past, present, and future. Upcoming lessons include studies on government, a tour of the State Capitol building and a hands-on ranching lesson. Many thanks to our talented and knowledgeable parents – Ellen Morfit, Jen Stevens and Justin Hayes – for their excellent guest teaching, plus a big shout-out to the dynamic Kurt Zwolfer, our main man at the Idaho Historical Museum!





Intermediates Entrenched in the Tug of the Civil War

As students submitted current understandings ranging from the broad: “This war had to do with the slavery issues in our country” – to the specific: “John Wilkes-Booth was hurt while trying to escape after assassinating President Lincoln.” They also posed questions: “If slaves fought, when the battles were over, were they freed?” and “Who started the war – abolitionists, supporters of slavery, slaves, or combinations of these?” Our own Education Director, Sue Wolfe, began a book discussion seminar centered on the novel Charley Skedaddle, in which the students are still engaged. Students are extending their skills at summary writing, developing character analysis, and leading discussions – all while building a background about a period during the war. An interactive game featuring two of the economic components of the War – railroads and cotton – is coming up. Students are also learning about non-fiction text features as a skill to develop while researching their topics for the class culminating project: a Civil War Survey Book. Check in at the end of May for a peek at these books at the front desk.

Senior Spring Trip: “Bonding in the Biomass”

The Seniors recently returned from an amazing Spring Trip. They perused Powell’s in Portland, danced with the Quileute Tribal School in La Push, and hiked through massive old growth forests in the Olympic National Park. It was a perfect opportunity to study the ecological system they studied in science. Olympic National Park has the most biomass in the entire world: 500 tons per acre! (For perspective: a tropical rain forest has 300 tons per acre.) Fresh snowfall welcomed them their first morning at Lake Crescent at Olympic Park Institute. Undeterred by the rain and cold, the Seniors hiked for hours through mud and moss to observe gorgeous waterfalls, record their observations in waterproof journals, and search for banana slugs. On the final night around a campfire, the Seniors shared memorable trip moments and then spontaneously joined in a heartfelt group hug – a special kind of bonding that happens on Spring Trip.



Nines Engage in Authentic Research Efforts

The Nines have recently completed a major assignment that began back in October 2010, involving several trips to the library at Boise State University, Boise City Library, and several bookstores. In all, more than a dozen books and journals were checked-out on topics ranging from human rights to guide of modern clothing. Here is a short synopsis of the independent research projects conducted by our most senior students:

- **Madeleine** examined the issue of human rights over the past and created ceramic face masks to depict these moments (see the photo to the left!).
- **Lily** explored the History of Fashion, including historical and cultural changes in fashion, and how some of these are imbedded in what we see today.
- **Carly** looked at the History of Ballooning, from its invention to its use during war.
- **Camille** explored the History of Silent Movies (the title says it all and

popcorn was provided)!

- **Naomi** took on a more serious subject: “What Makes Evil People Evil?” She compared and contrasted the lives of Adolf Hitler and King Leopold of Belgium.
- **Melanie** painted a historical scene based on her examination of several history books on the Lewis and Clark Expedition.
- **Jenna** looked at the Great Depression and compared it to today’s recession.

These incredible young women did a great job researching the subjects they chose to study and the result was very impressive, and helped them develop independent research skills they will use for the rest of their lives.

Changing the Educational Paradigm

by Susan Wolfe, Director of Education



“Not only is the world changing, but so are our kids,” began the Peter Cobb presentation to Foothills parents entitled, **5 Strategies for Parenting in the Digital Age**. Peter, a well-respected authority on 21st Century Education, encouraged parents to put technology in a perspective that provides balance and care for all dimensions of their children’s learning and growth, and do so as essential partners with schools. Listed below are five strategies for parents that Peter recommended in order to move children from consumers of education to active participants in the process.

- **Be Fully Present** – Let the agenda go. When answering the phone, texting, or thinking about what you have to do tomorrow is more important than being present with your children, they get the message that being with them and really knowing them is not very important to you. They grow up quickly, so don’t miss the opportunity!
- **Get Your Children Outdoors and Let Them Play** – As children, we had the freedom to roam in nature, to play all day without adult supervision, and to make our own game rules. Most children today are overscheduled with sports activities and the fear of “Stranger Danger” has kept children from exploring nature. We cannot lose the capacity for wonder. Get children outside without the thought of winning.
- **From Facebook to Face Time** – We live in a country of great privilege. Service Learning gives children an opportunity to appreciate the great lives that many of them lead. Helping others empowers children and develops an understanding that they are needed to make a better world. If families set up a mandatory two hours of service learning – in which every member of the family participates! – every week, they would never have to worry about their child building character.
- **Join the Digital Revolution** – It is critically important that parents keep up with technology so they can teach their children to be savvy consumers of technology. Properly used, technology helps students acquire the skills they need to survive in a complex, knowledge-based global economy.
- **Parents Need to Be Informed Learners of Educational Shift** – Our kids aren’t living in the same world we grew up in. As Thomas L. Friedman author of *The World is Flat: A Brief History of the 21st Century*, states: “...globalization has now shifted into warp drive...” and our educational system must adapt as “...lighting-swift advances in technology and communications put people all over the world in touch as never before.”



Our Foothills community needs to envision what the future world looks like for our students and what skills they need to master. While the faculty and staff are working with this issue every day, having informed parents is vital as we envision how Foothills educates its students in preparation for their future. Peter Cobb’s presentation is only the first in many parent education sessions we expect to offer, and we hope you will take the time to become partners in our process by attending these opportunities.

Faculty Change for 2011-12



We’re sad to announce that Jessica McGinnis, a teaching team member on our Junior Team, is facing health-related issues and, upon the advice of her doctors and advisors, has recently decided to not return to her teaching duties next year. We’re glad she’s taking care of herself, but will miss her on our faculty team!

BUT...we’re especially happy to announce that Jess will remain connected to the school! We are working on a number of different opportunities that include how Jess can be supportive as our school moves more significantly to project-based learning opportunities. On a day-to-day basis, Jess' contributions will be truly missed, as will her camaraderie and companionship. Our best wishes and prayers go with her and her family, and we look forward to her good health and continued involvement with our great kids and parents.

Parents can look for our final faculty assignments for 2011-12 to be issued in the June 2011 FOOHILLS FOCUS.

SUMMER OPPORTUNITIES APLENTY...and there's many more!



Change your child's life today: enroll them in Youth Camp at Y Camp Horsethief Reservoir! The camp is located at Horse-thief Reservoir just east of Cascade, Idaho. They operate on more than 400 acres of pristine wilderness, nestled in a valley between beautiful mountains. Here are some features of the opportunity:

- During their week-long stay, campers sleep in same-gender cabins of 10 (or fewer) campers with 2 counselors.
- Cabin groups have no more than a one-year age difference.
- Bunkmate requests for campers less than a year apart in age will be accommodated as possible.
- All camps are co-ed.
- The camp has a registered nurse or EMT on staff every week to dispense all medications and manage any medical concerns.
- Registration for all camps remains open until the camp is full; waiting lists are established for full camps.
- Financial assistance is available for all YMCA programs.

For more info call (208)344-5502 or email: ycamp@ymcatvidaho.org

Boise State University once again offers a range of summer camp programs for youth ages 5 and up. Camps address a variety of interests including sports, arts and academics, and include day camps and residential programs. Visit the Boise State website for a full roster of offerings (<http://news.boisestate.edu/update/2011/03/14/theres-something-for-everyone-at-boise-state-summer-camps/>). Here are just a couple to consider:



May 10-13: Bronco Competitive Swimmers' Camp. For boys and girls ages 7-17; 6:30 p.m. \$60 for all four days or \$15 per day (drop in). This clinic will concentrate on competitive swimming techniques in all four strokes, including drills, individual stroke feedback, and starts and turns. Swimmers will have the opportunity to be videotaped underwater in their choice of stroke. Camp size is limited to 30 participants. Campers must have their own medical insurance. Registration ends May 5. For more information, call Justin Brosseau at (208) 426-1703 or e-mail justinbrosseau@boisestate.edu.

June 7-25: Summer Youth Sports Program. Ages 5-14 for swimming and gymnastics, 8-14 for all other activities. Various times from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. \$55 per activity (\$65 for rock climbing). Basketball, bowling, gymnastics, multi-sport (floor hockey, lacrosse, soccer, flag football, Frisbee), racquetball, rock climbing (held in the Student Recreation Center), strength and conditioning, swimming, team building, tennis and water games. Register online beginning April 26. For more information, call (208) 426-4270 or visit <http://kinesiology.boisestate.edu/>.



Join the Boise Rock School for a summer filled with awesome Camps!

Boise Rock School is dedicated to making the youth of our valley more creative, impassioned and talented – in turn making our community a better place to live. Give them a shout if you'd like to get signed up for their after school program and camps! Contact them at info@boiserockschool.com or call Ryan at 208-484-9117.

Climb this Summer with Urban Ascent!

Urban Ascent's summer camps are designed to teach kids climbing skills with an emphasis on fun and safety. Skills learned include: rock climbing technique, knots, belaying, and communication. Throughout the week kids will be climbing, slack-lining, playing games, and smiling a lot. For more information call Steve at 208-363-7325, or email: @urbanascent.com



Strategic Planning at Foothills Readies for May Parent Roundtables

As we have communicated several times this year, a community committee has been working throughout the year with data and information to make strong choices to secure the future of Foothills School and assure that our program will truly be a 21st century education model.

In May, we will be scheduling three parent roundtable meetings, facilitated by volunteer parents **Tracy Hitchcock, Isaac Squyres, and Vicky Swerdloff**, to share with parents the outcomes of the strategic planning process and develop feedback for the process as we continue to move forward. Your contributions to this process are very important, so watch your emails and the website for information on these coming events.



Foothills School Alumni Update

Lough Headed to the BIG APPLE!

Foothills alum Dana Lough graduated a year ahead of schedule last year from Boise High School with a 3.9 GPA. She attended Foothills for five years in those critical Middle School years – from 4th to 8th grade, and then attended North Junior High and Boise High School. She was accepted to New York University (NYU), where she plans to attend college in the Fall 2011. Over the past few years, Dana has been actively involved in the Boise community; she was a student

representative for the Obama Campaign, and worked for the Humane Society, her family’s Synagogue, and the Idaho Food Bank. During her “gap year,” Dana is interning at the Idaho Human Rights Education Center and volunteering at Easter Seals Goodwill Working Solutions, where she teaches an English class to refugees three times a week and helps them find placement in jobs. She’s also recently traveled to Israel and Jordan to learn more about her family’s cultural heritage. Dana is a dedicated and giving community leader and an amazing student--we wish her all the best at NYU!

Alumni Statistics Tell the Story of Foothills’ Educational Success

Last year, a sub-committee of the Board of Trustees compiled and analyzed data about alumni students to showcase the amazing success of our alumni after they leave Foothills. This information was based on 45 alumni interviews that our Admissions Director and alumni contact, Katy Young, has had with Foothills alumni during one-hour interviews. Here are some of their findings:

Alumni who went to college straight out of high school – **96%** • Average high school GPA – **3.76** • Average percentile achieved on ACT/SAT – **88%** • Alumni who took AP (Advanced Placement) classes in high school – **87%** • Alumni who took five or more AP classes in high school – **45%** • Alumni who give back to the community through volunteer work – **62%** • Alumni participating in high school arts programs – **60%** • Alumni participating in high school sports programs – **64%** • Alumni who achieved awards for academic excellence in high school – **51%**

Beyond these reported measures, **one truly exceptional finding stands out. Through the interviews, 100% of the students said they learned to think independently at Foothills School.** As we continue to focus on the future and the need for 21st century education, one of the very core skills being touted by virtually all futurists is the necessity of children to learn to think independently and problem-solve effectively. This is an area in which Foothills’ alumni, quite simply, excel!

We know that Foothills families want to know how students do after they leave Foothills and we will continue to share updates on how and what they’re doing. If you know any alumni students who want to share an update or story, please have them contact Katy Young at kyoung@foothillsschool.org.



Foothills Fabulous Faculty: Justin Brune

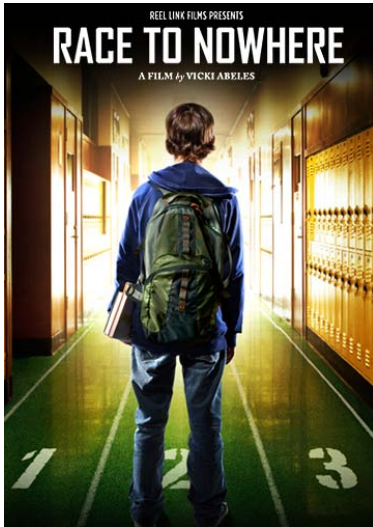
There are many exceptional leaders at Foothills School, and one of them is Primary teacher Justin Brune. Justin was born and raised in a small rural town near Hazelton, Idaho, and graduated from Valley High School in 1992. His early days were spent working on the family farm which, among other things, supplied barley to Coors brewing. After graduating from high school, Justin headed to Pocatello to pursue his dreams of becoming a teacher. Justin had been inspired during high school while working as a role model/tutor for elementary school students. After graduating from Idaho State University with a degree in

Elementary Education, Justin moved to Southern California and got a job teaching 3rd grade. Justin moved back to Boise and taught at Good Shepherd School for 10 years, and also taught snowboarding at Bogus Basin.

Justin has been teaching at Foothills School for four years, and is very involved in moving Foothills School in a positive direction through his work with the Strategic Planning Committee. Justin was also recently accepted into the National Writing Project.

When Justin isn’t teaching, you might find him at the skate park. Justin has been skateboarding for the past 12 years and actually skates to work every day. You also might see Justin riding around on his Harley Davidson. Justin has two children – Luca and Jax – and is very excited for Luca to make the transition from the Early Learners to the Primaries next year.

We are very fortunate to have the dedicated and talented teachers here at Foothills School, and Justin Brune is just that!



Foothills School Bringing “Race to Nowhere” to Boise

Foothills School of Arts and Sciences, in collaboration with the BSU Counselor Education Honor Society, is proud to be bringing the documentary film *Race to Nowhere* to Boise! *Race to Nowhere* is a call to mobilize families, educators, and policy makers to challenge current assumptions on how to best prepare the youth of America to become healthy, bright, contributing and leading citizens.

In a grassroots sensation already feeding a groundswell for change, hundreds of theaters, schools and organizations nationwide are hosting community screenings during a six-month campaign to screen the film nationwide. “Tens of thousands of people are coming together, using the film as the centerpiece for raising awareness, radically changing the national dialogue on education and galvanizing change,” states the press release from Reel Link Films.

Now our community can play a part in this nationwide discussion! Immediately following the film, the floor will be opened up for dialogue and we are especially excited to be putting together a panel of experts in the community to join in this conversation, with Head of School, Shawn Shepherd, serving as facilitator. Please plan to be a part of Idaho’s only screening of this film and help us spread the word about this incredible opportunity.

Event Details:

When: Sunday, May 22 at 1:00 p.m.

Where: Boise State University Special Events Center (SPEC)

Tickets: Tickets are available online at www.rtnfoothillssas.eventbrite.com for \$10; if any seats remain available the day of the show, tickets may be purchased at the door for \$15.

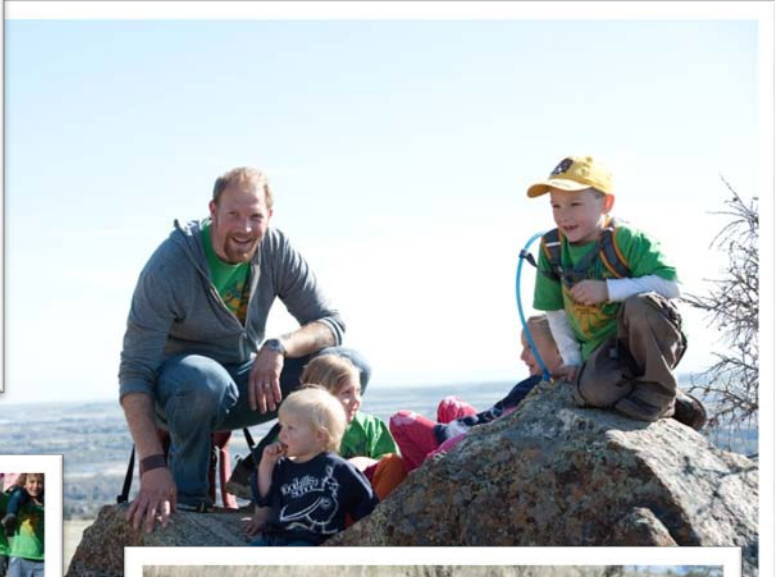
Pan Can Super Hero
Purple is the Color of Hope

Foothills Student Lily Zimmer Recognized with 2011 Mayor’s Award

Senior student Lily Zimmer was recognized as one of the Treasure Valley’s outstanding Middle School students at this year’s Mayor’s Award last week – largely for the incredible program she’s run to fight pancreatic cancer. Lily’s aunt was recently diagnosed with pancreatic cancer; to support her aunt in her fight against this disease, Lily created the website: pancansuperhero.org. In creating this website, Lily’s goals were to raise awareness of the disease and raise \$1,000 for the Pancreatic Cancer Alliance. To raise money, Lily has been selling pancreatic cancer awareness bracelets and homemade baked goods. She has also made presentations to her class and school and elicited the help and support of friends, classmates, and family. Lily’s dedication and love for her aunt literally changed the course of her aunt’s treatment and gave her the motivation to renew her personal fight with the disease. This project not only demonstrates Lily’s care, compassion, and kindness but also the drive, dedication, perseverance and can-do attitude of this amazing 13-year-old girl. Lily currently plays competitive soccer, is learning to play the guitar, and is involved in her church youth group at St John’s. In the recent past, she volunteered at the Corpus Christi House, and enjoys dance, piano and competitive swimming. ***Congratulations, Lily, on a well-deserved community recognition!***

The First Annual Table Rock Climb Great Fun!

Photos by Gretchen Nishitani, Foothills Parent



More than 150 Foothills community members participated in the inaugural climb and raised more than \$5,000 to contribute to the Annual Fund Campaign. We've heard the call, and this great event is going to be a Foothills tradition!

FOOTHILLS MAY CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 	2	3	4 <i>Spring Performance @ 6:00 @ BSU SPEC Center</i>	5	6 First CHOICE Class	7
8 Intermediate Spring Trip May 8-12 Oregon Coast 	9 Junior Spring Trip May 9-12 Albion, ID	10	11	12	13 No School for Junior & Intermediate Classes Only Second CHOICE Class	14
15	16	17 Executive Committee Meeting @ 12:00 pm	18	19 Finance Committee Meeting @ 12:00 pm Senior/Nines Theater Performance 6:00-8:00 pm	20 Third CHOICE Class	21 
22 "Race To Nowhere" Showing @ 1:00 p.m. @ BSU SPEC Center	23	24 Primary Spring Trip May 24-26 Cascade, ID Board of Trustees @ 4:00pm	25	26	27 No School for Primary Class Fourth CHOICE Class	28
29	30	31	June 1	June 2	June 3 Fifth CHOICE Class	June 4 Annual Garage Sale/School Carnival from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Coming Soon...	June 9 EL Last Day of School	June 10 K-9 th Last Day of School	June 17 Student Evaluations Issued and last day of faculty contracts for 2010-11	June 30 Last day of regular office hours at Foothills School for Summer		

As the school year winds down, it is especially important that we all remember and celebrate our school's four community behavioral expectations:

Be Responsible • Be Respectful • Do Your Best • Contribute to Community