

**From:** Foothill High School <foothillnews@me.com>  
**Subject:** Talon Talk: February 1, 2010  
**Date:** January 31, 2010 5:45:17 PM PST  
**To:** foothillnews@me.com  
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## Talon Talk

# Foothill High School Newsletter

John Dwyer, principal

February 1, 2010  
Office Phone 461-6600  
Attendance Line 461-6686

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### Friday Forum for Parents

The school district's impending \$8 million in budget cuts will be at the top of the discussion list for this month's Friday Forum for parents. Next year's class schedules and other topics will also be discussed.

Friday Forums are a great, informal way to hear what's going on at Foothill while you also share your thoughts and ideas about how to improve our school.

The forums are hosted by Principal John Dwyer and the three vice principals. The morning get-togethers start with a brief update from Mr. Dwyer before the floor is opened for parent feedback.

This month's Friday Forum will be [Feb. 19](#) at 9 a.m. in room C-6, just east of the library. Forums last about an hour.

Thank you to the [AABC parent group](#) for providing light snacks and coffee.

### Mock SAT & ACT Exams

Foothill students having a tough time deciding between which college entrance exam is best for them are in luck.

## Quick Calendar

**Feb. 1** -- Grad Night & senior events meeting, 7 p.m., library

**Feb. 2** -- Freshman scheduling night, 6-8:15 p.m., MPR & small gym

**Feb. 2** -- Senior schedules due

**Feb. 3** -- Junior schedules due

**Feb. 3** -- School site council meeting, 3:30 p.m., room C-6

**Feb. 4** -- Sophomore schedules due

**Feb. 5** -- [Band boosters Crab Feed](#), 6 p.m., Veterans Memorial Building

**Feb. 6** -- WISER club garage sale, 7 a.m. to noon, Foothill campus

**Feb. 8** -- Athletic boosters meeting, 7 p.m., room C-6

**Feb. 9** -- AVID info meeting, 7 p.m., MPR  
**Feb. 15** -- **No school.** Lincoln's birthday.

**Feb. 16** -- Freshman honors English exam, 3:45 p.m., meet at front office

**Feb. 19** -- Friday Forum for parents, 9 a.m., room C-6

**Feb. 22** -- **No school.** Presidents Day holiday.

## Quick Links

Foothill's [AABC](#) booster group is hosting a combination practice test on [Saturday, Feb. 6](#) from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Foothill High. A minimal fee of \$20 per student will be charged. All funds go to the AABC, which directly benefits Foothill students. [Kaplan](#), the private firm running the workshop, is donating its services for this event.

Students will take portions of both the SAT and ACT during this workshop, set in a test-like environment and held under timed conditions. Students will get a comprehensive analysis of their test performance, detailing individual strengths and weaknesses, at a brief follow-up seminar on Monday, Feb. 8 from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. Students are encouraged to attend with their parents.

This workshop will help students identify the specific skills they should work on before taking actual exams.

Please drop by Foothill's counseling office to sign up for this one-time event. The deadline to register is [Thursday, Feb. 4](#).

## Scheduling Info for 2010-11 School Year

Students were given scheduling information and forms last week. The completed and signed forms are due this week.

- Senior forms are due [Feb. 2](#) to English teachers.
- Junior forms are due [Feb. 3](#) to history teachers.
- Sophomore forms are due [Feb. 4](#) to history teachers.

Forms are due based on the student's grade level for the 2010-11 school year.

[Feb. 1](#) -- Makeup scheduling info given and forms handed out to students who missed the regular sessions. Students will be notified when and where to report.

[Feb. 2](#) -- Scheduling night for parents of incoming freshmen (current 8th-graders). Please come based on the first letter of the student's last name.

- A-I -- 6 p.m. to 7 p.m., MPR
- J-L -- 7:15 p.m. to 8:15 p.m., MPR
- M-S -- 6 p.m. to 7 p.m., small gym
- T-Z -- 7:15 p.m. to 8:15 p.m., small gym

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**Feb. 3** -- Makeup scheduling for incoming freshman from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. at either Hart or Pleasanton middle school.

Due to budget constraints, we will not be able to accept schedule changes after forms have been submitted.

**NOTE:** *There will not be information nights for parents of current Foothill students. Please read the materials your students bring home and contact counselors with any questions.*

### Incoming Freshman Honors English Testing

Current 8th-graders who want to challenge themselves in freshman English can take a test to see if they qualify for the academically rigorous freshman honors English.

Foothill will hold freshman honors English testing on **Tuesday, Feb. 16** from 3:45 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Foothill High School. The makeup exam will be given **Feb. 24** at 3:45 p.m. at Foothill in room C-6.

Students should check in outside the front office for their testing location. Bring a No. 2 pencil.

### Go Crabbing in Downtown Pleasanton

It's not too late to get tickets for the best darned culinary event in the region -- the Foothill band's annual Crab Feed on **Friday, Feb. 5** at the Veterans Memorial Building, 301 Main St. in beautiful downtown Pleasanton.

Crabbing has never been easier. Just shell out a few bucks for your meal, then come enjoy fresh Dungeness crab, cocktails and even pasta at this shellfish extravaganza.

A mere \$45 per person or \$85 per couple will get you all-

Two Foothill students have been named semifinalists in the Intel Science Talent Search.

Click [here to read the full article](#) on the Foothill web site.

The art of Foothill junior Aristotle Vlacos is on display in a Livermore gallery. Click [here for more info](#).

### **Cop Corner**

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This month's Cop Corner addresses the issue of expensive electronics popular with students and how to keep those items safe.

Click [here for the full Cop Corner article](#) on the Foothill web site.

### **Save the Date**

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Mark your calendars now so that you don't miss these upcoming events hosted by the

you-can eat crab, pasta, salad and bread. You can also buy a table of 10 for only \$400.

No-host cocktails (bring money for drinks) and the silent auction start at 6 p.m. Dinner is served at 7:15 p.m., followed by the exciting live auction. The evening's entertainment will be provided by Foothill's award-winning jazz band.

This spectacular and delectable evening is one of the band's major fundraisers, not to mention one of the most exciting evenings of the year. You won't want to miss this fun event!

Please [click here for more details and the ticket order form](#). Seating is limited, so get your tickets before they're sold out!

### **Foothill Hosts German Exchange Students**

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Please give a warm welcome to German exchange students Anja Bade, Anna Dietrich, Lisa Goersch, Lisa Hake, Robert Heinz, Juliane Krystossek, Felix Kuffel, Alba Majak-Roschka, Johanna Luise Metz, Marie Musič, Phuong Anh Nguyen, Laura Rosa, Eva Steinhausen, Anna-Christin Tostmann and Janice Windisch and their teacher chaperones Heike Domaske and Axel Pohle.

The students and teachers are from Foothill's partner school in Germany, Johann-Herder-Gymnasium in Halle an der Saale.

The 15 students and two teachers are part of the German-American Partnership Program (GAPP). Foothill has taken part in the exchange program since 1992, making it one of the first American schools to have an exchange with a school in former East Germany.

events hosted by the Foothill Athletic Boosters club.

**March 13** -- Poker Night.

**March 27 & 28** -- Spring meat sale.

More details to come!

### **Sports Physicals**

Discount sports physicals will be offered **Feb. 3** at a local physicians' office.

Click [here for details](#) on the Foothill web site.

### **Wrestling Fundraiser**

Foothill's wrestling team pulled in an incredible \$1,553.48 from the January e-waste recycling event.

Thanks to everyone who supported this event by dropping off e-waste or making cash donations.

Foothill students spent three weeks in Halle this past summer, attending school and taking very interesting field trips. Now, we are returning the favor.

Our guests will be here until Feb. 10. They will attend classes, give presentations on various aspects of German life and culture, and participate in several field trips and activities in and around the Bay Area to become acquainted with our local American culture.

Foothill German students who are hosting are Olivia Andrus, Brian Chang, Ingrid Cuffe, Cody Ellgas, Jonathan Harold, Emily Hubbard, Linett Rasmussen, Annika Ragsdale, Andreas Rodriguez, Dean Rosenberg, Maddie Saxton, Harrison Tan, Lynn Tun, Scott Wheaton and Monica Wiseman. Foothill teachers hosting the teacher chaperones are Heather Fleming and Valerie Rossman.

Please welcome our guests to our Foothill community and help make their stay in Pleasanton a memorable one.

### **Senior News**

#### **Mid-Year Reports**

Seniors who need mid-year reports, typically requested by private and out-of-state colleges, should see Mrs. Willy in the counseling office as soon as possible. Bring a stamped, self-addressed envelope for each college and \$2 per request.

#### **Grad Night Meeting**

This month's Grad Night and senior events meeting will be held **Monday, Feb. 1** at 7 p.m. in the Foothill library. Everyone chairing a senior event is encouraged to attend and provide an update on your event. Please include current plans for your event, any funding or fundraising you may need, plans for publicity or other issues that should be addressed.

#### **Gift Card Donations Needed**

We need lots and lots of gift cards to use as student prizes on Grad Night. We're looking for gift cards ranging from \$10 to \$25 for popular student hangouts, such as Starbucks, Jamba Juice, In-n-Out, Target, Walmart, nail salons and more.

Gift card donations may be dropped in the Grad Night box

in the front office. Be sure to write the amount on the gift card. Include your contact information if you'd like a tax receipt for your donation.

Don't let those unused gift cards go to waste. Donate them to support Foothill's safe and sober Grad Night celebration.

### **Scholarships**

Seniors should check the Foothill web site regularly for up-to-date scholarship information. Scholarship info is posted in the counseling section of the web site. Look for the counseling link on the left side of the home page, and then click on "Scholarship Information." Click [here to go directly to the scholarship page](#).

Special thanks to parent volunteer Maureen Kyer and our counseling staff for working so diligently to make sure students have the latest scholarship news.

### **Grad Night Tickets On Sale Now**

Get your Grad Night tickets now while prices are low!

Tickets for Grad Night '10 are \$170 each. The price includes admission to the party, all activity fees and bus transportation (required) to and from City Beach in Fremont. The ticket also covers the cost of the senior pool party and picnic at the end of the school year.

The hike in ticket prices, up to \$185, has been delayed until April 15. Scholarships are available through Mrs. Shanker in the counseling office.

Click [here for the Foothill web site page with Grad Night info and details](#). Scroll to the bottom to find the three forms that must be filled out before seniors can buy tickets.

Questions? Contact Patty Haykin at 998-0056 or [phaykin@aol.com](mailto:phaykin@aol.com).

### **Laws of Life Essay Contest Underway**

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Students are encouraged to take part in Foothill's 6th annual Laws of Life essay contest, which culminates in the 20 top essay writers being awarded cash prizes.

Students were given essay information last week in their English classes. The purpose of the contest is to get

students to focus on the positive character traits touted by the school and community.

Students who write the top 20 essays, as determined by an expansive panel of community judges, will be awarded cash prizes. Another 20 honorable mentions will be recognized. There will be five winners and honorable mentions per grade level.

The deadline to turn in essays is [Friday, Feb. 12](#). Students should see their English teachers if they need more info or have questions.

The Laws of Life awards celebration will be held March 5.

### **Garage Sale for Third-World Education**

Foothill's chapter of the [WISER](#) club will host a fundraising garage sale on [Saturday, Feb. 6](#) from 7 a.m. to noon on the Foothill campus.

WISER stands for the Women's Institute for Secondary Education and Research. The non-profit group is working to build the first girls' boarding school and research center in Muhuru Bay, Kenya. The group is affiliated in the United States with Duke University.

Please drop by the garage sale to get some great deals and to support Foothill's WISER club.

For more info, please contact club president Nneoma Elendu at [wiser.fhs@gmail.com](mailto:wiser.fhs@gmail.com).

### **Band Notes**

#### **[Foothill to Host Championship Contest](#)**

Foothill will host the Northern California Band Association's Winterguard and Percussion Championships on [Saturday, March 27](#). Mark your calendars to attend this entertaining event.

The championships will feature middle and high school groups from all over Northern California, presenting dazzling displays all day long. The event will start at 8 a.m. and could run until at least 10 p.m.

Tickets are only \$10 per person. Food and souvenirs will be

sold at the event, the marching band's second biggest fundraiser of the year.

### **Seniors: Get Volunteer Time at Band Event**

Seniors who need to rack up community service hours are invited to work at the Winterguard and Percussion Championships. There are many jobs available with flexible hours. If you'd like to help, please contact Sandi Newton at [Sandinewton@hotmail.com](mailto:Sandinewton@hotmail.com).

### **Save Bucks with Coupon Book**

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Save big bucks at local restaurants and businesses with Gift Checks coupon books offered by the AABC\*.

The coupon books cost a mere \$10 each and are chockful of fabulous coupons from local businesses. These books pay for themselves with only one or two purchases.

Here are some of the great offers:

- Dublin Regal & Livermore Cinemas -- movie tickets for only \$7 each (cheaper than Costco)
- Vic's All-Star Kitchen -- buy one menu item, get one free
- Girasole Grill -- buy one meal, get one free
- Gene's Fine Foods -- \$3 off a \$10 deli purchase
- Mahalo Grille -- \$20 off a dinner
- Casa Madrid -- \$10 off two meals
- Dublin Auto Wash -- \$2 off
- And much more!

There are nearly 100 coupons in this mighty little book. You'll save money while supporting the school. Foothill gets \$5 of each \$10 purchase.

For more info or to buy a book, contact Jill Thomas at [jilldthomas@comcast.net](mailto:jilldthomas@comcast.net) or 216-6423.

*\*The [Academics & Activities Booster Club](#) is a parent group that raises money to fund supplemental supplies and programs for the school.*

Deadlines for Talon Talk article submissions are the 10th and 22nd of each month. Please include all pertinent info -- who, what, where, when, why and, if applicable, how much does it cost.

Talon Talk is a twice monthly online publication brought to you the 1st and 15th of each month by the Foothill Activities & Academics Booster Club in cooperation with school administration.

Go Falcons!

Zoe Francis  
Talon Talk editor

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