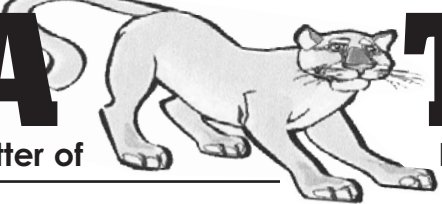


# PUMA TRACKS

The PTA Newsletter of Rolling Hills Elementary School



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## President's letter: Help us make Rolling Hills a better place

*The search is on for a few parents who want to make a difference at Rolling Hills Elementary.*

Every year at this time, PTAs all over the nation begin recruiting volunteers for the next school year. At Rolling Hills, we elected our Nominations Committee at our Association meeting on February 16. The Nominations Committee will assemble a slate of candidates for 10 officer positions. We will use *Puma Tracks* to announce the slate at least 30 days prior to the April 27 Association meeting, at which dues-paying PTA members will elect the officers.

We will elect a president; treasurer; secretary; vice-presidents of programs, membership, ways & means and community programs; financial secretary; auditor and historian. In addition, the Nominations Committee — and the rest of us on this year's Board — are seeking volunteers for a number of positions that are appointed by the PTA president. All of these positions are important; while they involve differing levels of time commitment, each provides an excellent opportunity to get involved with our school.

If you are interested in one of the Board positions or would like more information, please contact one of the Nomination Committee members, either Karen Arvin ([kisharvin@san.rr.com](mailto:kisharvin@san.rr.com)), Karen Keefer ([Karenkeefe@hotmail.com](mailto:Karenkeefe@hotmail.com)) or Kim Stadler ([stadlerfamily@earthlink.net](mailto:stadlerfamily@earthlink.net)).

Together, the elected and appointed positions comprise the Rolling Hills PTA Board. The Board establishes policies and recommends to the Association priorities for how the PTA will raise funds, spend them and otherwise use its resources to improve our school. At Rolling Hills, the PTA makes possible programs and services that the school would not otherwise enjoy. We sponsor fun, family-oriented events such as the Halloween Party, Renaissance Faire and Star-Gazing Party. We coordinate the Student Talent Show, Red Ribbon Week and Reflections program. We produce *Puma Tracks*, the school yearbook and family directory; promote Character Counts; and put on Staff Appreciation Day. We provide volunteers for school activities. We also raise funds that we invest in such programs and services as school assemblies, student awards, transportation for field trips, the Reading Olympics, mini-grants for teachers, the Community Liaison position, the Learning Resource Center and the student chorus.

As a board member, you help to make decisions that have a direct impact on your child's life. You stay well-informed about what's going on in the Rolling Hills community. You provide a voice for all children. You make a difference.

— Mark Stadler, Rolling Hills PTA President

## Come see the artists of Rolling Hills

Come see our kids' imaginations and talents on display at the first Rolling Hills Elementary art exhibit March 30 at 6 p.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room. The exhibit will display our students' success learning the ropes of creation and artistic expression from the Arts Attack curriculum. The program is taught by trained artist Sondra Newton, the art instructor sponsored by volunteer work of the Rolling Hills Foundation and through your generosity with our annual fund-raisers, the wildly successful Casino Night (this year May 20 at the Doubletree; stay tuned) and the Fun Run.

Because of all this parental pitching in, we are the only school in the 33,000-student Poway Unified School District to restore art, music and physical education for every student. These educational staples have been lost to budget cuts statewide, but educational researchers show how vital they are to learning. While research shows measurable increases in test scores for students learning art and music, the bigger motivation for the Foundation is: *Let's let our kids have fun, too!*

So come see your kids shine. On exhibit will be all classes participating in the Arts Attack program. Check with your child's teacher to ensure they are in the show. Take some of their art farther by immortalizing it on a mug, t-shirt, greeting cards or other items that you can order March 30. The exhibit is free for all children and a \$5 donation for adults. All proceeds go into art, music and physical education programs.

## PIP grant help students adjust to school

*"You are what you are today because of the choices you made yesterday."*

— Stephen Covey

Great news! Rolling Hills is one of the Poway Unified School District elementary schools that received a grant for the Primary Interaction Program (PIP), which helps children in kindergarten through third grade learn empathy, impulse control, anger management and problem solving skills.

Children work in groups of three or four with carefully selected paraprofessionals under close professional supervision. Students will be selected by teachers or can join the program at their parents' request.

We also will teach the "Second Step" program as whole class lessons starting at the third grade level. A separate component of the program provides time to teach problem-solving skills on the playground.

We will begin putting this program into effect in a few weeks. I'm excited about this fabulous opportunity to support our students in learning valuable life skills.

— Jackie Cardinale, School Counselor

## Students recognized for penmanship

Twenty-six Rolling Hills students were recognized by the school and their teachers for their neat handwriting in January. Each student received a Golden Quill award for his or her effort. Congratulations to: Nick A. and NaVia T. (Cupples); Franky G. and Conner R. (Gray); Angelo A. and Madeline E. (Lawless); Jordan H. and Sydney W. (Lopez); Dashawn C. and Savannah M. (Herman); Darius C. and Richard N. (Kajita); Zoe D., Tyler Q. and Hannah R. (When); Ryan H. (Golden); Alexis C. (Stahler); Nico B. and Noah S. (Watson); Meg B. and Brett E. (Coates); Natalie P. (Young); Lucia A. and Abbey L. (Mallory); Jaira R. and Christine S. (Sturhann).

## Come visit Rolling Hills PTA's website

The Rolling Hills PTA has a new website created by volunteer, Phil Tracy, with facts about activities and programs, answers to questions frequently asked about the PTA and contact information. Find it at: <http://www.rollinghillspta.org/>.

The FAQ offers answers to such questions as "Why should I join?" "How do I join?" "Who can join?" "What if I want to do more than pay dues?" "Why all the fundraisers?" and "How can I make my voice heard?" It also features the favorite PTA-related quote of a certain PTA president: "Let us have no more croaking as to what cannot be done; let us see what can be done, and above all see that it is done." The quote is from Alice McLellan Birney, one of the redoubtable women who help to found the organization that evolved into the PTA. Visit the PTA website and comment.

## Top runners for January

Congratulations to the top runners from the January Run Club:

Fifth grade: Martin D. (Wustoff); fourth grade: Michael M. (Sturhann); third grade: Meg B. (Coates); second grade: a tie between Chase S. (Lawless), Evan C. (Lawless) and Nick G. (Gray); first grade: Greyson J. (Tebbetts).

## Pre-order yearbook in March

PTA Yearbook Chairpersons Karen Keefer and Julia Eaton and their helpers in the classrooms are putting together *the* book of the year — the 2005-06 Rolling Hills Yearbook. They will take orders for the yearbook in March — *and only in March*. Yes, the only way to get copies of the yearbook is to purchase them in advance, for \$17 apiece. The PTA will not print additional copies beyond those that are ordered. And the time for orders ends March 31.

So avoid disappointment in June by keeping an eye out for the yearbook order sheet going home in the students' information packets on every Friday in March. It contains all the information needed to order one or more yearbook. Yearbooks will be distributed by classroom at the end of the school year.

## Deployed Kids Groups meet at Miramar

Children who have a parent in the military who is either deployed out of the area, going to be deployed within six weeks or has returned within the past six weeks may wish to check out the Deployed Kids Groups that began meeting this month at the MCAS Miramar Youth and Teen Center, next to the Medical Clinic/Pharmacy.

The groups, which meet on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month, offer kids a chance to hang out, chat and do activities with others sharing the experience of deployment. The group for children ages 8-10 meets from 3:30-4:15 p.m. and the group for children ages 11-13 meets from 4:30-5:30 p.m.

While these are not therapy groups, they are being facilitated by Patti Tastad, a licensed marriage and family therapist and credentialed school counselor who is very experienced working with children in these age groups and was a deployed kid herself. For more information, please call Mimi Brooker, key volunteer program coordinator/trainer at MCAS Miramar, at 577-1322 or email her at [mimi.brooker@usmc.mil](mailto:mimi.brooker@usmc.mil).

## Your school newsletter needs you!

*Puma Tracks*, the newsletter published by the PTA on behalf of Rolling Hills, is seeking folks to write articles for upcoming issues.

There are plenty of interesting people, programs and projects at our campus that would make great subjects for articles. We just need people to write those articles.

If you can help, or know someone who might be able to help, please contact Mark Stadler, the PTA's president, at either 672-1481 or [rhptaprez@earthlink.net](mailto:rhptaprez@earthlink.net).

## Classes vie in great box top competition

Box Tops for Education competition is on! Clip your box tops and return them to school by February 27. So far, we have raised \$539, which is more than halfway to the goal of raising \$1,000 to purchase new books for the Learning Resource Center. Three classes that bring in the most box tops get their choice of a Popsicle or ice cream sandwich party.

Another way to help Rolling Hills reach and even surpass this goal is to join the Box Tops for Education Booster Club at [boxtops4education.com](http://boxtops4education.com). Signing up takes only a few minutes and offers many rewards. You will be eligible to see our school's box top earnings, get chances to win "Bonus BT" for Rolling Hills, print coupons and more.

For more information, please contact Virginia Gaters at 672-5628.

### PUMA TRACKS

*"Total school communication"*

#### Rolling Hills Elementary School

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Affiliated with Palomar Council, 9th District, CCPTS,  
California PTA, National PTA