

PALO ALTO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

*Report
to the
Community
2007-2008*



**Fairmeadow
Elementary
School**

**School Description
& Mission Statement**

Our Mission: Fairmeadow School will develop and support an educational environment that respects diversity and creativity, challenging students to achieve their full potential.

Fairmeadow School, one of twelve elementary schools in the Palo Alto Unified School District, embodies a diverse group of students with varied needs and backgrounds. Currently, 379 Kindergarten through 5th grade students receive their education at Fairmeadow, including 8 students enrolled in the on-campus nationally recognized Jackson Hearing Center. Most hearing-impaired children attending the JHC program spend part of their instructional time mainstreamed into regular classes. The school serves families from a wide range of socio-economic backgrounds. The ethnic/racial makeup of the student body is 8% African-American, 42% Asian, 26% Caucasian, 13% Hispanic, 9% Asian Indian, and 2% Pacific Islander.

Forty-five students receive English language development instruction: 67% of these students are enrolled in the K-3 grades. Collectively, our students come from families representing 16 different languages.

The school motto, Learning is a Team Sport, exemplifies the educational philosophy that directs Fairmeadow's child-centered environment. Our school features a team approach to learning. Fairmeadow staff members implement a balanced educational program that encourages children to grow as individuals, but enables them to assume responsibility for their role within a group. The children, the teachers, support staff, parents, and the community all contribute to the team effort of supporting learning.

School Safety Plan

Fairmeadow School rules are based on respect for ourselves and others, personal safety, and responsible behavior. Guidelines are provided to students and parents in the Parent Handbook. Teachers review rules the first week and throughout the year. At the first assembly of the school year the principal reviews behavior and safety standards.

Several activities contribute to school and playground safety. The fifth grade Fairmeadow Safety Patrol helps younger children move from their classes to the bus stop, daycare program or crossing nearby streets. Fifth grade students also assist kindergarten, first, and second graders

Student demographics, testing and accountability data, class size, staffing and financial information are available in the state-mandated School Accountability Report Cards. These may be found on the PAUSD Web site: <http://www.pausd.org/community/about/sar.shtml> or obtained at your school. Similar information, current and historical, about individual schools and school districts is also available on the California Department of Education Web site: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/>.

at lunchtime. Third grade children participate in a bicycle safety program presented by the Palo Alto Fire Department. Our playground structures, noon sports, and various multi-aged activities provide students with a variety of choices during lunch break.

Earthquake preparedness is a priority. We have a well thought out disaster plan and store of emergency equipment and supplies, hold regular earthquake and fire drills, and discuss with students what they should do in the event of an emergency. Teachers receive regular training in First Aid and CPR.

The School Safety Plan. For the 2007-2008 school year, the four areas of focus and objectives were as follows:

- *Personal experiences of students and staff:*
Continue to implement the character program that utilizes children's literature to focus attention on specific character traits.
- *Physical environment:*
To install an intermediate play structure to replace the "blue" structure that was removed for B4E portables.
- *School social environment:*
To expand the activities available to students during lunch and recess.
- *School climate:*
To decorate new library and/or MP wall with student art displays.

School Programs & Practices That Promote a Positive Learning Environment

Our motto, Learning is a Team Sport, permeates the school environment at Fairmeadow. Parents, grandparents, community members, middle and high school students, business partners, the staff, and the students all comprise the Fairmeadow Team. The entire team works together to enhance and support teaching and learning. Teachers provide a rich learning environment for both students and parents. Parents support teachers by sharing their expertise in the classroom and for staff training. Together, we create a supportive, safe learning environment for our children.

We enhance our positive learning environment by teaching children to celebrate each other's differences, to solve problems, and to listen respectfully to others. We regularly involve children in multi-age group learning. Bi-Monthly morning assemblies, hosted by "buddy" classes, create a sense of unity and support. We recognize children from each class during the morning assemblies with a "Firebird" certificate and special pencil. We also use assemblies to model school rules, traditions, and our appreciation for cultural diversity.

Class size is 22 students per class for fourth and fifth grades. Kindergarten, first, second, and third grades have been reduced to 20 students or fewer per class.

Fairmeadow Elementary School

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Palo Alto, CA 94306
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Jackson Hearing Center: (650) 856-0855
www.fairmeadow.pausd.org

Principal Judith Barranti
School Secretary Mary Ann Norton
Typist Clerks Mary Ann Kretschmar
Custodians Josef Musil
Ignacio Canaveral

Certificated Staff

K Honore Lau
K Sara McNinch
K Ginny Russell
1 Robin Kozina-Carlson
1 Heidi Maier
1 Laura Javerbaum
2 Patty Clendenin
2 Susan Hoff
2 Penny Sanders-Jones
3 Kristi Newell
3 Emmie Poling
Laura Johnson
3 Cheryl Tsuruda
Karen Easton
4 Chris Easton
4 Kathy Luchini
Laura Johnson
4 Allison Mui
5 Mindy Dodsworth
5 Bethany Cassidy
5 Lindsay Vanderbeek

Support Staff

SDC Jackson Hearing Barbara Carlson
SDC Jackson Hearing Charmon Ashby
SDC Jackson Hearing Donna Glinternick
Library Media Teacher Sara Gilman
Speech/Language Triona Gogarty
Resource Specialists Tib Hotson
Carol Beaumont
Psychologist Mary Sue Budrow
Science Margaret Fisher
English Language Dev. Jennifer Godshall
Reading Specialist Katherine Scott

Site Council Chairperson

Patty Clendenin

PTA President

Nancy Smith

Opportunities for Parental Involvement

Parent and community volunteers join the Fairmeadow teaching team to assure that all children receive support for learning. Most classrooms use volunteers for a variety of support and instructional tasks. Youth Community Service students from the middle schools assist in many classrooms. Native language volunteers assist our non-English speaking students in learning the English language. Parents and volunteers help with producing the school and classroom newspapers, and planning and teaching the bicycle safety program. Other volunteers developed and help maintain Fairmeadow's disaster plan. Parents help run our Gym Lab program for all kindergartens. Other parents drive on field trips, support the Math Lab program in 2nd grade, volunteer in the library and science lab, and make presentations in classrooms. The many thousands of hours of volunteer support help create the positive school atmosphere we enjoy at Fairmeadow.

An active Parent Teacher Association (PTA) supports Fairmeadow in a wide range of classroom, schoolwide and fund-raising activities. The PTA's annual sponsorship of activities and programs includes: Welcome Back Picnic, Art Instruction, Pancake Breakfast, Scrip Sales, Spring Auction, Book Fairs, Harvest Festival with a Haunted House, Staff Appreciation Luncheons, Spring Auction, Science Lab, Assemblies, and Classroom Aides.

Nine parents, including the PTA president, join nine staff members on the School Site Council and take an active role in school planning, goal setting, budget development, and assessment of our programs.

For information on opportunities for parent involvement at Fairmeadow please contact the office staff, Mary Ann Norton or Mary Ann Kretchmar, at 856-0845.

School Instruction & Leadership

Fairmeadow's instructional program, based on what we know about children's developmental levels, provides a rich learning environment through school activities that encourage student cooperation and participation. Students are challenged to reach their full potential as academic learners in a caring, nurturing setting. We feature a highly integrated curriculum with strong components of cultural pluralism and good citizenship. The team concept permeates the school environment, from upper grade classes buddying with lower grades to mentor assistance provided new teachers.

Our teaching staff is dedicated to developing the whole child through literature, sports, the arts, mathematics, and social and natural sciences.

Students participate in literature-based Language Arts and Social Studies programs focusing on the writing process and critical thinking and balanced with instruction in phonics and grammar. "Pathways to Literacy" guides the instructional program in every grade with a specific goal that all children will read at grade level or above by the end of third grade. Our writing program uses the Six Traits™ writing strategies to develop writing skills from kindergarten through 5th grade. Teachers and students keep a variety of journals and portfolios of work in progress. The library program is central to the core

studies, and operates on a flexible schedule to meet the needs of each classroom.

In mathematics, our teachers provide students with a program based on projects, investigations, and meaningful application of math in everyday situations.

Palo Alto schools' core Science curriculum focuses primarily on the area of Earth Sciences. All science units provide children with in-depth, hands-on experiences in order to develop a strong conceptual understanding of how the world around them works. The K-5 comprehensive health curriculum includes The Great Body Shop and Here's Looking at You 2000. The Science lab at Fairmeadow supports classroom science activities and provides students with the opportunities to apply the scientific method and critical thinking skills. Hands-on activities, manipulatives, speakers, field trips, and writing projects all help to enhance the classroom science experience. Students through all the grades are invited to prepare projects for the annual Science Fair.

Experiences in art, music, health, and physical education round out every child's educational program. SPECTRA Art teachers provide basic art instruction to some classes and the PTA funds additional art for those classes not receiving district funded art instruction. District music instruction is complemented by opportunities to perform

in various holiday and theatrical productions. The PTA sponsors musical and educational assemblies for our students. Physical education is an important part of the Fairmeadow experience, which comprises PE classes, Presidential and National Physical Fitness Tests, Gym Lab, and a springtime Field Day.

Students are encouraged to be reflective thinkers and problem-solvers, and to demonstrate strong oral and written communication skills. Each classroom program promotes a course of study that works to integrate technology with language arts, science, history/social science, and mathematics. The staff guides and coaches students to develop their own academic goals as lifelong learners and to formulate strategies to reach those goals.

The Fairmeadow staff includes a principal, 18 classroom teachers, one teacher for hearing impaired students, two special education classroom teachers, an English Language Development teacher, and a Speech/Language Specialist. Part-time staff includes two resource teachers, a librarian, and two psychologists. A science specialist teaches lab science to 1st-5th grade classrooms. Part-time

instructional aides support classroom teachers for one hour per day, and full time aides support special education staff and Jackson Hearing Center staff. District physical education and music instructors provide weekly classroom lessons. SPECTRA teachers provide classroom art instruction for students K-5.

Fairmeadow also has a part-time reading specialist to its support staff and students. The reading specialist meets primarily with 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grade students, individually or in small groups.

The Fairmeadow staff spends three days per year working on staff development activities and curriculum development addressing our school and district goals. The staff also participates in workshops and courses during the summer, after school, and on release time.

The principal, Dr. Judith Barranti, has served at Fairmeadow for two years. The principal actively involves members of the school community in the school decision-making process through the Site Council, PTA, and staff leadership meetings.

Meeting Student's Special Needs

Schoolwide Programs

- Classroom Aides provide assistance to the teacher and students in every classroom.
- Teachers provide tutorial and homework assistance as part of a Homework Club.
- A part-time Reading Specialist works with small groups of students needing extra help to develop their literacy skills.
- Club House group sessions, with a counseling intern, focus on building self-esteem, group cohesion, and cooperation.
- The district Gifted and Talented Education teacher assists teachers, parents and children in designing independent and small group activities.
- Adult and student volunteers from the community assist teachers and students in every classroom.
- *English Language Development:* An ELD teacher provides individual and group assistance to students not fluent in English. Language tutors provide in class assistance to students in their native language as they work to learn English.
- *Student Study Team:* Classroom teachers and parents, assisted by the principal and support staff, work together to discuss teaching strategies and interventions for children having difficulty succeeding in school.
- *Special Education:*
 - Resource teachers provide individual, group, and classroom assistance.
 - A speech/language teacher contributes individual and small group assistance.
 - A psychologist furnishes testing, consultation, and limited clinical assistance.
 - The Jackson Hearing Program provides instruction and service for children who are hearing impaired.