

Why is this Jog-a-thon important? Doesn't Phoebe have plenty of money?

Phoebe Hearst does not receive the same amount in Title I funds that other SCUSD district schools receive. Funding from the district is barely enough to cover the school's operational expenses. Any "extras" (art, campus work, garden, library, teacher support, tech upgrades, funding for field trips) comes from money that we fundraise as a school.

Last year PTO operated on a regular budget – unaware that COVID-19 was right around the corner. With the cancellation of our Spring fundraiser, we ended the year with a deficit of \$15,000. We do not expect to have a Spring fundraising "Event" this year due to safety and social distancing requirements. As such, we hope to meet our fundraising goals with one fundraiser – Jog-a-thon!

What will the Art Program look like this year?

This year has been like no other. The focus at the beginning of the school year was on figuring out regular schedules for the teachers and students. Art lessons will be starting soon! Our fabulous art teacher, Miss Jane, is currently working with teachers to schedule art lessons starting in late October and November. The PTO wants to be ready to support the lessons virtually for now with the possibility of returning to in person instruction in the future.

What else will Jog-a-thon donations be used for?

Instead of holding many small fundraising events, Phoebe Hearst holds one or two large events during the school year. With the uncertainty of the regular Spring fundraiser, the focus is on raising all of the funds needed for the year through the Jog-a-thon. In addition to fully funding the Art Program, the PTO funds support other school needs every year. The PTO provides



each teacher with an amount of funds for student enrichment. Phoebe's garden and outdoor projects are also funded by the PTO. This has included the construction of 20 picnic tables, seating areas, landscaping, vegetable garden, fruit trees, composting stations and a chicken coop. The garden has become a regular teaching tool and we look forward to the day the kids return to campus and get to dig in the dirt again. Phoebe's teachers have been hard at work creating new outdoor learning spaces for when the students return to campus. The PTO funds are used to support the school

library, technology needs, and social events such as the kinder welcome parade. There are also one time, often unexpected expenses that need funding during the school year. These have included new PE equipment, replacing a broken laminating machine for the teachers, and repairing the school's well loved mascot costume. As we discovered last year, we don't always know what will happen during the course of the school year. The funds raised from the Jog-a-thon will be used to support Phoebe Hearst in facing challenges that arise, and continuing to bring exemplary programs to the students.

If you have any additional questions, please feel free to reach out to the Jog-a-thon team at phjogathon@gmail.com.

Thank you so much for your support!

