

## *And the band played on ...*

A few years ago, the CUSD ended elementary instrumental music within the Chico schools. This situation led to the demise of bands at the junior high schools, and therefore, threatens to end the band programs at the high schools. Next year, Pleasant Valley High School will not have a band unless at least 35 student musicians enroll. Many parents, CUSD alumni, and other community members have sought to remedy the situation, but without budgetary support from the CUSD Board of Education, no solution has been found – until now.



Even though it is only a partial solution to a large problem, the beginning of the restoration of the instrumental music classes in the CUSD has been made at Bidwell Junior High School. In recent years, the Board of the BJHS Foundation has made the restoration of music a priority and has found a way to begin teaching students to play band instruments once again. The BJHSF Board became aware of an existing after-school program at Bidwell that is properly funded (unlike regular music classes). With the cooperation of Bidwell staff, arrangements have been made for PV (and formerly Bidwell) band instructor, Dan Holmes, to teach instrumental music after close of the regular school day. Interested Bidwell and McManus students meet with Mr. Holmes on a regular basis for beginning band class.

In addition to the obvious advantages of having band music available to Bidwell and McManus students, it is hoped that sufficient numbers of eighth-grade musicians will be available by next fall to keep the PV band going with at least 35 members.

***Here's where we need your help!*** The Bidwell band has a few instruments left but needs more. Many of the existing instruments need repair, and the BJHSF Board has made a grant of \$200 for this purpose. If you would like to help by donating a used band instrument or a cash donation, please contact John at [bjfoundation@comcast.net](mailto:bjfoundation@comcast.net).

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### **CONTACT US! MAILING AND DONATION ADDRESS:**

Bidwell Junior High School Foundation  
2376 North Avenue, Chico, CA 95926



**Correctly name the former Bidwell teachers by sending an e-mail to [bjfoundation@comcast.net](mailto:bjfoundation@comcast.net) and win a FREE lifetime subscription to the FOB newsletter!**



# FRIENDS OF BIDWELL

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## *2012 Foundation Year In Review*

The Board had another good year of making grants to Bidwell classrooms and educational programs – the most enjoyable part of our job. The total amount of 2012 grants was \$3526. Here is a sample of those grants and the requesting teacher:

**Rita Dane** – Classroom library books from the Bluford Series, Pendragon Series, and Scorpion Series. **Analisa Hansen** – 1) AR Reading Books for classroom library – all reading levels included. 2) Twenty thesauri for writing lessons. 3) DVDs on The Elements of Fiction & Poetry. **Fran Hogan** - Intervention supplies, dividers, folders, binders, etc. for students who cannot afford them. **Bill Battaglia** - Unit binders from the DBQ project. These units use documents (primary sources) to “engage all students in high level critical thinking activities”. Common Core Standards are introduced, to encourage more writing in history classes. **Angela Ravetz** – Rewards for most improved student at end of year. Many students in the six Tutorials with failing grades have improved. **Martha Newton** - Bus tickets for students who live up to 3 miles from the school and do not qualify for other transportation services. **Liesl Jones** – The huge demand for borrowing books in the Bidwell library has resulted in many unfilled requests. The Foundation grant has purchased 150 copies of the most popular series. **Fran Hogan** - Copier for Power Hour Room.

Full credit for making those grants possible goes to our donors, the Friends of Bidwell. During our annual fund-raising efforts in August and September, the *Annie B's Fund Drive*, we received \$4,145. That amount includes a total of \$1,600 in matching funds from individual Board members, and a 9% matching grant from the North Valley Community Foundation. The *Annie B's Fund Drive* is sponsored by the NVCF, our parent organization. The NVCF maintains our accounts and provides the tax deductible number for our Donors. The Foundation received \$700 from FOBs in addition to donations received during the *Annie Bs Fund Drive*, for a 2012 total of \$4,845. Of this amount, \$1,439 was directed to the John Schulz Memorial Endowment.

## *The John Schulz Memorial Endowment*

The John Schulz Memorial Endowment was established in 2007 with a \$2,000 grant from the BJHS Foundation Board. It now totals over \$15,000!

John was a decades-long Bidwell teacher, well-loved and highly-respected. The Endowment is a long-term project, for the purpose of establishing a permanent source of funding for the Foundation and its grants to Bidwell. The Board intends to grow the Fund to a level which will permit the annual use of earned investment income, without reducing the principal capital value.

The Endowment grows in three ways: donations from Friends of Bidwell directed specifically for the Endowment, optional annual grants from the Foundation General Fund, and investment income. In 2012, the Endowment earned 6.94% in investment income. These three sources of growth have combined to push the Endowment value to over \$15,000.

## *In Remembrance . . .*

We note here the passing of several longtime Friends of Bidwell, and with gratitude for their service, place their names on the Bidwell Roll of Honor. **Barry Albert:** Bidwell parent and CUSD administrator. **Jan Cory:** Wife of Bidwell teacher and Board member, Dick Cory. **Don Lillibridge:** CSUC professor and husband of the late Bidwell counselor, Florence. **Emma Roney:** Bidwell counselor who was instrumental in the establishment of the Nord Elementary Charter School. **Donna Scott:** Bidwell teacher. **Ruby Soderstrom:** Bidwell and CUSD school nurse and Bidwell parent. We will miss them and remember them for their good lives and their service to Bidwell and the