

Happy Valley Celebrates 50 Years

By Cathy Tyson



Current Principal Wendy Patterson and past Principal Carol Blackburn are surrounded by past and present teachers, administrators, and Parent Club members

Bright sunshine and “Rock Around the Clock” greeted carnival goers at the recent Happy Valley Elementary School 50th Anniversary Party. Past, present and future Parent Club Presidents greeted the crowd of special guests along with current pupils and parents in 50’s inspired attire. It was warm hugs all around for many of the honored teachers and principals from yesteryear. Parents Club organizers sponsored a special reunion reception next door at the Sammann’s garden after the public festivities to give past teachers a chance to visit and

catch up, over 75 guests came to enjoy the reunion.

“It’s a magical place for children and teachers and parents,” said past teacher Kent Peterman. Wendy Patterson who is starting her sixth year as principal said, “it’s an amazing special place, deeply rooted in the community.”

It’s such a special place that Anthony and Shayna Giorgianni, along with their three children, recently moved from a different area of Lafayette to be within the Happy Valley school boundary.

Older Happy Valley graduates may remember principal



(1974 – 1978) Bob Lilley who made a special trip up from Palm Springs. Carol Blackburn, principal for over 25 years (1978 – 2002) came from Alameda. Even the second superintendent, Francis Ebbert made the trip, he served from 1962 – 1972.

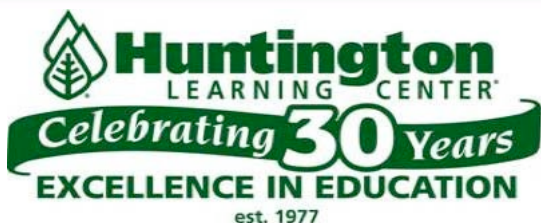
Karla McQuain, current Parents Club President and Amy Ruegg, past Happy Valley student herself, now with a daughter at the school, and a number of other parent volunteers worked hard to make the day happen.

Jan Broad, current third grade teacher, summed up the warm feelings for the school, “this is my first job, and I’m going to retire here.”

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