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PPIE funding Outdoor Ed buses

Nonprofit partnering with Black Tie Transportation to bring Pleasanton elementary students to camps



Valley View Elementary School parents bid farewell to their students on their way to Loma Mar for PUSD's Outdoor Education program. (Photo courtesy of PPIE)

by Erika Alvero / Pleasanton Weekly

Last week, Valley View Elementary students kicked off Pleasanton Unified's annual Outdoor Education tradition by heading out to a camp in Loma Mar -- this time on buses funded completely by the Pleasanton Partnerships in Education (PPIE) Foundation.

The nonprofit, which supports Pleasanton schools through year-round fundraising efforts, will be providing round-trip bus transportation for all nine PUSD elementary schools' treks to the outdoors, thereby lowering overall camp costs for participating families. The donation is provided in partnership with Black Tie Transportation, which is offering PPIE discounted bus services.

"Of all the things PPIE funds at elementary schools, Outdoor Ed bus transportation receives the greatest

applause from parents," PPIE executive director Steve McCoy-Thompson said. "It has tangible impact on their children and we are happy to provide this support, which comes from our great parent and corporate donors."

PPIE has budgeted about \$36,000 for the bus transportation, McCoy-Thompson said.

Valley View students departed Tuesday for the Exploring New Horizons camp in Loma Mar, where they will learn about the environment and biology in a natural setting. Elementary students at other schools will follow suit in participating in Outdoor Education programs throughout the year.

"Our Valley View students are super excited to embark on this once in a lifetime adventure with their classmates," said Soraya Villaseñor, principal at Valley View. "They will share memorable new experiences. We are so thankful to PPIE and Black Tie for their generosity in providing transportation to Outdoor Ed."

Added Bill Wheeler, president of Black Tie Transportation and a PPIE board member, "We're happy to support Pleasanton families and to help their children have this very special experience. We're also proud to partner with PPIE to serve the Pleasanton community."