



The Compass

Del Sur Elementary PTA Newsletter

A Message from Principal Doug Johnson

Greetings Del Sur Explorers! During the month of April, our campus is focusing on the character theme of **"Trustworthiness"**. As you might recall, we have previously focused on the traits of responsibility, citizenship, caring, fairness, and respect. These character traits form what we call **"The Explorer Way"**, which sums up what we want our students to think about every day here at Del Sur. We appreciate parent efforts in promoting these traits as it provides a positive learning climate on campus. We have seen positive results from these discussions in terms of student behavior.

I hope that many of you are planning on attending our Foundation sponsored **"Explorer 5K Run and Kids Expedition Mile"** which is scheduled for Saturday, June 6th. See the registration form in this edition of The Compass. This is a very important fundraising event for our school. The funds earned support many academic endeavors that directly benefit every child at Del Sur. We will use the funds to purchase curriculum support computerized programs and also to support art instruction on our site. The Foundation will meet Thursday, April 2nd at 6:00 pm in the library. **We are looking for volunteers to help with this venture.** In financially difficult times, it is important that we acquire additional funds to support the needs of our students. Thanks in advance for supporting this event.

Currently, our classrooms are preparing for this year's **California Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) Program**. The STAR program requires all school districts throughout the state to annually use the same standardized tests to assess the achievement of students in the areas of reading, mathematics, and language arts. Our students will be taking the assessments during the weeks of **April 20 to May 1**. The California Content Standards Tests are administered to all students in grades 2 to 11. They are designed to measure achievement of the California State Academic Standards. All students are evaluated in language arts and mathematics. All fifth grade students also take a California Standards Science test specifically aligned with their current course of study.

During the next few weeks, teachers will be reviewing concepts and skills during the year to refresh students and activate prior learning. Parents can help their students prepare for these tests. Please visit the pusdparentguide.com site. In this website, there are some free programs that students can use to review concepts in English/Language Arts, math, science, and social studies.

Absenteeism during the test period can create problems for some students. Those who miss testing sessions with their regular class will be given make-up sessions in supervised small group settings. **However, most students prefer to take the test along with their classmates.** The STAR yields individual score reports for each student that will be mailed home in August. Parents have the right to exempt their child from all or any portion of the test. If you prefer that your child **not** participate in the STAR program, please send a written notice addressed to Mr. Johnson before the first day of testing. Please include your child's name and grade. The request must bear a signature of the parent/guardian.

At Del Sur, we feel that our students are well prepared to do quite well on these assessments. Thank you in advance for getting your children in bed early on the evenings before testing and also making sure that they have a good breakfast as well. Thanks for your continued support of all of our endeavors.

See You on Campus,

Doug Johnson

Please see last page for April event calendar.

Greetings from Del Sur PTA President Marla Vandling

Happy April! We had a great turnout at our First Annual PTA Elections. Thank you all for attending.

I would like to introduce you to your 2009-2010 PTA Board:

President: Merry Woodruff
VP Programs: Marla Vandling
VP Membership: Maria Donovan
VP Volunteers: Linda Stahl
Secretary: Sara McCartin
Treasurer: Erin Miller
Auditor: Elisabeth Thijssen
Historian: Tanya Gabriella

The PTA is very excited to continue to support our amazing school and encourage you to volunteer to help! There are many committees forming for next year so please contact myself at: marlavandling1@yahoo.com to help!

Please continue to read the weekly Compass Pointe email newsletters and check out our amazing website: www.delsurpta.com to learn what the PTA is doing!

Thank you,

Marla Vandling



Amazing Earth Week Events Begin Fri., April 17th

Volunteers Needed! Contact Courtney Campbell at courtneyacampbell@yahoo.com/

EMPTY CARDBOARD TOILET PAPER/PAPER TOWEL ROLLS NEEDED!

On Friday, April 17th, we are planning to have an Earth Week Kick-Off Celebration at lunch. The children will have several different Earth Week-theme activity stations to participate in. One of the activities is making a craft from recycled materials. We are requesting donations of empty cardboard toilet paper/paper towel rolls. Please drop them off in the "Treasure Chest" in the school lobby by April 15th. Please note that the Scholastic Book Fair will be open during Lunch on this day. If you would like to help with this event, we would really appreciate it! Please contact Pam Howell (pambhowell@yahoo.com) or Courtney Campbell (courtneyacampbell@yahoo.com) to volunteer (see needs on next page).

Hop On 'The Walking School Bus' on Wednesday, April 22nd

Break out those walking shoes, bikes, scooters and strollers! Del Sur Explorers will celebrate Earth Week by encouraging all students to walk to school, forming a "walking school bus." Not only is it fun to walk with our friends, families and neighbors; it is also good for your health and our planet. Each car not driven reduces the amount of pollution in the air.

We would like for students to exit from their neighborhoods (either at Haaland Glen, Bristol Ridge, Reagan Glen, or Fairbanks) and turn directly onto Paseo Del Sur so we may walk as one large group to the school. Please stay on the same side of the road (the side opposite of school), and cross **ONLY** at the crosswalk in front of the school. Students from Avaron, The Gables, and the Santa Fe Valley neighborhoods are asked to exit and follow Camino Del Sur, crossing **ONLY** at Casey Glen. Beginning at 7:50, we will have several volunteers stationed throughout the course to keep everyone safe; just follow the path markers!

For our students who are unable to walk, we encourage carpooling! If you wish to ride your bikes, skates, or scooters, please remember your **HELMETS** and other protective gear. **It's the LAW!!** In the event of rain, we will postpone our walk to another day. If you would like to volunteer to assist in the walk, please contact Pam Howell at 858-759-6898 or pambhowell@yahoo.com

****The only footprint we want to leave behind will be one from our tennis shoe!****



Earth Week Zero Trash Lunch Day is Thursday, April 23rd

Did you know? More than 20 percent of the food Americans buy gets thrown away. That adds up to 48 million tons of food that is thrown away in the United States each year! As part of the Earth Week activities, the PTA encourages participation in Zero Trash Lunch Day. Together we can make a difference!

The goal is for all students to focus on packing a "no-waste" lunch on this particular day (and hopefully everyday going forward). We will compare the trash collected on Zero Trash Lunch Day to the amount of trash normally collected to emphasize what a big impact we can have on the environment if we all work together to reduce the amount of trash being thrown into our landfills. We can't wait to share the results with our students, which we know will be significant if we all participate!

Tips for packing a "no-waste" lunch:

- 1) Buy food items in bulk and divide them into portioned-sized reusable containers
- 2) Use a reusable lunch box or bag, and pack all of your lunch in reusable containers---not Ziplock bags
- 3) Include a cloth napkin (but don't forget to bring it home so you can wash it and use it again)
- 4) Take only as much food as you will eat
- 5) If you have more than you can eat, share with a friend or save it for an after-school snack



Family Game Night is Thursday, April 23rd from 6 to 7:30 pm in Multipurpose Room

Apples to Apples? Yahtzee? Chutes and Ladders perhaps? Bring your family and your favorite board game to Family Game Night in celebration of Turn Off the TV week. Play a round of Monopoly with your best friends and then swap to play their favorite game. Join us for a fun, electronics-free night of play on Thursday, April 23rd.

To continue the Turn Off the TV theme, the Scholastic Book Fair will also be open during Family Game Night. Come pick out a book to entertain and fascinate this week and buy an extra from your teacher's wish list.

Earth Week Family Lunch and Tree Planting Ceremony on Friday, April 24th

Please join us on Friday, April 24, for a Family Lunch and special Earth Week Tree Planting Ceremony. During our Tree Planting Ceremony from 12:30-12:45pm, a plaque created by the winner of the "Earth Week – Green Generation" Contest (see separate article – deadline April 3rd) will be placed on a newly planted tree. Our hope is this will become an annual event and that our "grove" will grow over the coming years. In addition, the winner of the 5th grade "Earth Week" poetry contest will read his/her poem and Principal Johnson will say a few words in honor of the event. The Scholastic Book Fair will be open during lunch this day so please drop by to stock up on some wonderful books while helping to expand our school library. Special thanks to Terra Firma who has graciously donated a large tree for this special event.



Earth Week Event Schedule

Friday Flag 4/17

Earth Week Kick-Off, Activity Stations at Lunch

Monday 4/20

Distribute Bracelets (prizes for wearing them each day), Recycling/Respecting the Earth Assembly at 1:00 from SD Office of Educ.

Tuesday 4/21

SDGE Presentation on Saving Electricity, Guided Walk in Open Space – closed toe shoes mandatory, parent/guardians must accompany, water/fruit to be provided.

Wednesday 4/22

Walk/Bike to School Day, Green Generation Pledges Due For Display

Thursday 4/23

Zero Lunch Trash Day, Family Board Game Night, Scholastic Book Fair "Oscar Night"

Friday 4/24

Family Lunch with Tree Planting Event, Scholastic Book Fair Open at Lunch

Volunteer Needs: 5 parents to monitor activity stations on 4/17 at Lunch; 4 parents at cross-walks for Walk/Bike to School Day – hand out water and fruit and monitor safety

Buy Your Inaugural Del Sur Elementary Yearbook

The Explorer Way is now on sale! Our theme is "Making History Together." The yearbook committee is working hard to build a book that encompasses the special events and memories of your children, their friendships, teachers, and family fun of this first and opening year at Del Sur Elementary!

The yearbook will include 40 **color** pages of: student portraits (including preschool), group photos, theme days and candids in the classrooms. It will also feature the opening of our school, and the dedication, along with the wonderful programs designed for our students by the PTA, including:

- Music
- Reflections
- Red Ribbon Week
- Family Nights (including our 50's Sock Hop)
- Running Club
- 5th Grade Band, etc.

The yearbook committee will be hosting our first 5th grade signing party! This will take place at the end of May.

The yearbook is on sale for \$20. **We have a limited supply and they will be given on a first come, first served basis!** Please reserve your copy now, by sending in your order form (online at www.delsurpta.com) and giving it to your teacher or the front office. Thank you!

Book Fair April 17th to 24th Will Support DSES Library. Pls Help!

Lights, Camera, Read! Del Sur's very first Book Fair is just around the corner. We will transform our library into a bookstore where books of all levels and types will be available to purchase. The Book Fair is a great opportunity to fill up our library and classrooms shelves with much needed titles. Our goal is to sell 500 books.

The Book Fair will run from Friday, April 17 to Friday, April 24. Please see the link on the PTA website for times and specifics. Be sure to come by sometime during the week, before and after school, and at lunch. We'll be open during the "Family Game Night" as well, Thursday, April 23rd.

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please contact Lori Martin at newfmmy@yahoo.com. A schedule will be sent home with your child announcing when their class will be coming through the Fair. Ready? Set? READ!

Volunteering:

Need lunch and afternoon help. 2-3 people needed for Family Night. Help needed for break-down. Please contact Lori Martin at 858-442-7558.

Book Fair WeekSchedule:

Wednesday 4/15

Materials dropped off. Set -up in Library @ 11:00am.

Thursday 4/16

Finalize Book Fair set-up. Teacher's Wish List 1:15pm

Friday 4/17

First day of Book Fair. Classes to visit from 9am – 11am and 1pm to 2pm in ½ hour intervals. Open during lunch.

Monday 4/20

Book Fair open 7:30am to 9am. Classes to visit from 9am – noon in ½ hour intervals. Open during lunch. Open 2:25pm to 4pm.

Tuesday 4/21

Breakfast and Books. Book Fair open 7:30am to 9am, to include coffee and muffins for families. Open during lunch. Open 2:25pm to 4pm.

Wednesday 4/22

Book Fair open 7:30am to 9am. Open during lunch. Open 2:25pm to 4pm.

Thursday 4/23

Book Fair open 7:30am to 9am. Open 12 pm to 2pm. Family Night open 6pm to 8:30pm during Game Night.

Friday 4/24

Book Fair open 7:30am to 9am. Open during lunch. Open 2:25pm to 4pm. Break down Book Fair after 4pm.

Thank You for Registering Your Ralph's Card for Del Sur Elem.

Ralphs contributed **\$614** to the DSE PTA for the most recent quarter which means that we have received a total of **\$988** from Ralph's so far this school year!

Thank you so much to the 39 families that have signed up for the Ralphs Community Contribution Program. This is an 85% increase in enrollment over last quarter!



Just think how much we could earn for our Programs if even more families sign-up!

All you need to do is go the www.ralphs.com, register (if it's your first time at the site), enter your Ralphs Club Card number, and make sure to add Del Sur Elementary PTA (number 90949) to your Club Card account. If you do not have a Ralph's Club Card, you can sign-up for one at any Ralphs Store.

To confirm you are signed-up for the Program, just check out the bottom of your receipt each time you shop at Ralphs – you will see that DSE PTA as your organization of choice for contributions.

Contact courtneyacampbell@yahoo.com for more information.

Extra Special Thanks to These PTA Supporters

Families Enrolled in Ralph's Program Staples Terra Firma Newly Elected 2009-2010 PTA Board

Printer Cartridge/Toner Recycling Earns Green for DSES PTA

Be green while raising money for the Del Sur PTA! We have raised **\$90** so far this year recycling your inkjet cartridges, laser/toner cartridges, cell phones, iPods, and laptops. Please continue to support our PTA programs by dropping off your recyclable items in the "treasure chest" on the PTA display in the school foyer. Thank you for your continued support! Please contact Courtney Campbell with any questions.

"The ultimate test of man's conscience may be his willingness to sacrifice something today for future generations whose words of thanks will not be heard."

— **Gaylord Nelson**

former governor of Wisconsin, co-founder of Earth Day



Counselor's Corner from Mardi Johnson

Test Taking Tips: It's That Time of Year Again

Teachers and kids are starting to sharpen their #2 pencils in anticipation of standardized tests this month. Your child's teacher has already been teaching some test-taking strategies this year. Below are some tips for you to use at home that can help your child perform his/her best. Standardized tests will be starting the week of April 20th. Talk with your student's teacher about the specific schedule for his/her class.

- Help your child get to school on time since testing often starts right away.
- Make sure that your child eats a good breakfast (not too heavy or it may cause sleepiness). Food is brainpower and it will keep your child's tummy from rumbling during the test.
- Help your child get to bed early and get a good night's sleep.
- Have your child dress comfortably in layers so that he/she can take clothes off or put them on, depending on the temperature of the room.
- Pack your student a light nutritious snack.

It's natural for kids to get nervous before a big test. Try these tips if your child seems overly worried:

- Explain that test scores are looked at along with many other pieces of information in determining his/her achievement level. This may be a big test, but it is still just *one* test!
- If your child is a very nervous test-taker, have her do deep breathing exercises before the test. She can take a deep breath and count to ten. Have her take shorter breaths in between passages or sections of the test -- counting to three only.
- Tell your child that the test will have some difficult questions on it. All of the questions are not supposed to be easy. Explain that she may not be able to answer all of the questions, and that's expected. All she can do is try her best, and that's okay!

Citizenship: What's a Parent to Do? Ways to Model Good Citizenship

- Vote! Talk about the process of voting with family.
- List community responsibilities and privileges. Work on the responsibilities together.
- Help and participate as we emphasize the character trait of Citizenship at school.
- In conversation, use such citizenship-related words as *rights, obligation, duty, community, selflessness, law* and *government*.
- Develop a list of long-term civic goals as a family. Do something each month to work toward accomplishing a goal.
- Participate in community service projects by helping to clean the park or beach, giving blood, or donating to the food drive.
- Select a family service project to help someone in your community. Adopt a pet!
- Participate in local celebrations and school events!
- Display your child's drawings of significant places in your community. Have a "showing" for family (and even friends and neighbors).
- Protect the environment. Recycle, reuse, and renew. Discuss the costs to the planet if we don't start now!

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April Highlights

Mondays Wear Spirit Wear

Fridays Wear College Colors

Thurs., April 2, 6 pm Foundation Meeting &
Principal's Coffee

Sat., April 4, 10:30 am - 6 pm

San Diego Science Festival

@ Balboa Park

Mon., April 6 to Fri., April 10

Spring Break

Fri., April 17, 8:30 am

Friday Flag

Mon., April 20 to Fri., May 1

STAR Testing: Grades 2 to 5

Book Fair is Fri., April 17th to Fri., April 24th

Earth Week/Turn Off TV Week is 4/17 to 4/24

Wed., April 22nd

Walk/Ride to School Day

Thurs., April 23

Zero Trash Lunch Day

Thurs., April 23, 6 to 7:30 pm

Family Board Game Night

Fri., April 24th

Earth Week Family Lunch & Tree Planting Ceremony

Helping Our Neighbors:

Willow Grove Educational Foundation Rummage Sale

Saturday, May 2nd

8:30 to 11:30 am

Willow Grove parking lot

For questions, please contact Sandra Herman at sandra.herman@gmail.com

Del Sur Elementary School PTA
Every Child. One Voice.
CCPTA/9th PTA District
Palomar Council

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