

Call of the Wildcat

Pomerado
Elementary School



A California Distinguished School
January 2009
Volume XIX, Issue 5

Principal's Message, Lisa Danzer

Happy New Year to all! This is the time of year when many of us set new goals and make resolutions. As you speak with your children about new beginnings and goal setting I recommend discussing school goals. All of our teachers have worked with their classes on both classroom goals and individualized goals for growth in math, reading, or writing. Research shows that students who set and work towards their own personal goals make greater academic gains and enjoy taking ownership of their education.

As we begin a New Year, calendars can capture children's language. If your child is a beginning reader here is an idea you may want to try. Buy a calendar you can leave in your child's room. The calendar needs to have spaces large enough to write on each day. Sometime during the day (bedtime is suggested) ask your child what was her favorite part of the day. Then print the comments in the square for that date. This is done daily with comments like, "Today I made cookies with mommy," or "I played tag with my friends." There are several good reasons for doing this.

1. You and your child are focusing on something special each day in the child's life.
2. You are putting those special thoughts into written words. This can create excitement and relevance regarding the written word.
3. You and your child will have a wonderful source of interesting material for nighttime reading – one's own calendar.

Later in the year you and your child will enjoy remembering all the exciting events chronicled in the calendar. Older children can write in their own special events and experiences and begin organizing their busy schedules by including sports practices, scout meetings, and more.

I hope to see you on campus in 2009.

Construction Update

Construction continues on campus as we enter the New Year! Phase 1 is scheduled for completion mid-January with rooms 1-4 and 21-24 returning to their newly renovated classrooms. Once Phase 1 is complete, then Phase 2 will move out to the portables for approximately eight weeks. Phase 2 classes include rooms 5-12. Letters will be sent home to families of students in these classes with exact dates once they are determined.

Thanks again to everyone for your patience and flexibility.

Upcoming Events

Jan 5	Classes Resume
Jan 7	8am Wildcat Wednesday
Jan 8	Rocket into Reading 2:15pm
Jan 9	PTA Association Meeting 1:15pm Library College Day
Jan 16	1 st Grade Parents to Lunch 12:05pm
Jan 19	No School Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Jan 20	No School Professional Growth Day
Jan 23	Kindergarten Parents to lunch 11:00am Foundation Meeting 1:30pm LRC
Jan 27	Site Council 2:45pm Rm. 14
Jan 28	Spotlight Assembly K-2, 8:15am Grade 1 to Perform
Jan 30	Ident-A-Kid Day Reflections Ceremony 6:00pm MPR
Feb 6	PTA Meeting 1:15pm Library

PTA
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This Newsletter is Prepared by:
Pomerado Elementary PTA
Palomar Council, Ninth District

PTA NEWS

PTA President's Message, Rosie Bell

Welcome to 2009 from your PTA! The time has sure flown since the beginning of the school year! I would like to thank all of you who participated in our Caring Coins program and the Student Council's Food Drive in December. You helped to make the holidays happier for families in need from our community.

As you write your New Year's resolutions, I encourage you to resolve to be more involved in your child's education. Your child will only benefit from your time and efforts! It is never too late to become a member of PTA. Membership forms are available in the office. You can also contact your child's teacher for opportunities to volunteer in the classroom, or join your child at a school activity. And PTA is always looking for volunteers to help run our many programs!

PTA's traditional Father/Daughter Dance, usually scheduled in January, will not occur due to construction. Please look for Family Movie Night at Ultra Star Cinemas in March!



Parent New Year Resolutions

- Reinforce or remind your child that school is very important and that you expect she/he will do her/his best.
- Help your child set New Year's Resolutions or goals for improving his/her school performance... like bringing a math grade up or doing all homework on time.
- Make a new schedule for after-school activities. Include adequate time for homework.
- Restock your child's study area with the necessary school supplies.
- Help your child clean out his/her backpack and school notebook. Sort and file old papers.
- Reset limits on TV.
- Revive family reading time.
- Reestablish a reasonable school-night bedtime.
- Get your child back into the habit of getting ready the night before for school. Set out clothes, pack lunch, get papers signed, and put the backpack by the front door.
- If you have questions or concerns, call your child's teacher or guidance counselor.

Recycling Programs Continue

Now that construction is fully underway, you will notice some other new additions to our campus: recycling bins. The black bins are strategically placed around the school to collect plastic bottles and aluminum cans. There is also a green bin in front of the office for recycling plastic bags. These recyclable materials will be converted to cash to help The Foundation purchase new playground balls and other equipment. Please join us in recycling by encouraging your children to use the bins for their empty water bottles. Teach them not to throw trash and food into the bins, and to always recap their bottles or empty them completely. The program is entirely volunteer-run, and every little bit helps. Look for an exciting contest in the new year: create a recycling mascot, and the winning submission will become the official mascot of the program!

PTA Association Meeting

Please mark your calendars for PTA's Association meeting on January 9th at 1:15pm in the library. This is for all members of PTA and others interested in our school. Important business will be conducted and your attendance is needed.

"WOW" Reflections Ceremony

For the 2008-2009 PTA Reflections program, we received 96 student entries. 24 student entries to the Palomar Council PTA for further consideration. Below is a breakdown of the entries submitted:

- 16 Visual Arts
- 3 Photography
- 3 Literature
- 1 Music
- 1 Film

Participating students, along with their parents, are invited to attend a very special evening honoring our 96 Pomerado artists for their creative contribution. Please mark your calendars for Friday, January 30, 2009.

SCHOOL NEWS

Counselor's Message, Victoria Cull, MA MS

Happy New Year! Let's start 2009 on a positive note!



Martin Seligman, author of The Optimistic Child, has done a long term study that shows that learning the skills of optimism not only reduces the risk of depression in children but also boosts school performance, improves physical health, and provides children with the self-reliance they need as they approach the teenage years and later adulthood.

To encourage optimistic thinking in your child:

- When your child faces a challenging new task, help her break it down into small steps, starting with a step your child can handle easily.
- Praise your child's efforts, not just results.
- Encourage! Don't criticize.
- Use the final minutes before bedtime as a time for encouragement and positive thoughts.
- Send your child off to school in the morning with the message that he is strong and capable.

Most important: Be a positive thinker yourself!

Keep collecting box tops!



You can choose to make a difference for our school in nearly every aisle of your grocery store. Clip **Box Tops** from hundreds of your favorite brands and send them to school. Our Fifth Grade Boosters will be using the funds raised to make this an extra special last year of elementary school for the Fifth Graders!

Yearbook Photographers!! WE NEED YOU!!

We are looking for good photos of students at ANY Pomerado event, such as Field Trips, Class Parties, Dress-up days, as well as everyday activities. Please place photos on a CD and bring them to the noon duty box in our school office. In January we will assign pages to those of you who are interested!! Be part of the memory making here at our school! Please contact Tara Appling at school for further details.

Visit School Website

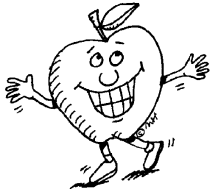
For All the Latest School News

Have you visited our school website lately? It contains more detailed information on school news, groups and events than we could ever fit in this newsletter. It is updated frequently, so you can stay informed about the latest school activities. Want to know what is for lunch...check out the "Cafeteria News". Can't find a teacher's email address...you can find it on the website. We also have parenting and homework resources on the Links Page. So bookmark the schools website and check it often for the latest school news.

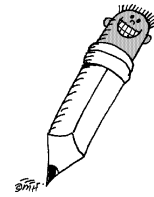
www.powayusd.com/pusdpoes

PARENT RESOURCE GUIDES HELP PARENTS UNDERSTAND GRADE LEVEL REQUIREMENTS AND CORRESPOND TO THE ELEMENTARY PROGRESS REPORT CARD

The Parent Resource Guides were created to correspond to the new Elementary Progress Reports. For each grade level standard there are links that will provide instruction and practice opportunities for students. For more information, please see the Parent Resource website at: <http://www.pusdparentguide.com/>



JANUARY 2009



Character Trait of the Month: RESPONSIBILITY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
No Classes – Winter Break						
4	5 Classes Resume WELCOME BACK!!	6	7 Wildcat Wednesday 8am Playground	8 Rocket Into Reading 2:15pm	9 PTA Association Meeting 1:15pm Library College Day	10
11	12	13	14	15	16 1st Grade Parents to Lunch 12:05pm	17
18	19 No School Martin Luther King Jr. Day	20 No School Professional Growth Day	21	22	23 Kindergarten Parents to lunch 11:00am Foundation Meeting 1:15pm LRC	24
25	26	27 Site Council 2:45pm Rm 14 Grade 2 Natural History Museum	28 Spotlight Assembly 8:15am MPR 1st Grade Performs	29 Grade 2 Natural History Museum	30 Ident-A-Kid Day PTA Reflections Ceremony 6pm MPR	31

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Absences 679-2604

ESS 679-8646

Preschool 486-9170

2008-2009 PTA Board

President – Rosie Bell
Secretary – Angel Ryan
Treasurer – Lisa Othmer
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V.P. Ways&Means – Michele Brindle
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