

Paw Prints

The PTA Newsletter for Sundance Elementary School

Volume 2

Issue 1

September, 2009

Principal's Corner...

Dear Parents,

Last year one of Sundance's previous teachers told me that the community and staff is like a family, and now after being here for less than two months, it is clear to me that I have joined a caring and professional learning community where the focus on student learning is in the forefront of everyone's mind. The warm welcome and enthusiastic support I have received from the office and custodial staffs, the PTA, Foundation, parents who have stopped by, and now the teaching and support staff have made me feel at home. I am proud to be part of the Sundance team and vow to do all I can to support student achievement as we work together to make this a joyful place for our children to learn and grow.

Several new staff members have joined our team as well. **Brenda Bourda** is teaching third grade, **Meghan Crowley** has a primary autism class, **Kim Gutierrez** is teaching a critical skills class, and **Sabriya Pedretti** is teaching fourth grade. Our school psychologist is **Michelle Klock**.

My personal motto is "Work hard. Be kind." I believe these are four of the most important words to carry each of us successfully through life. I will be talking to the students and staff about this motto all the time so you may hear it at home as well. As we work together for our children, let's make this Sundance's best year ever!

Wendy Smith-Rogers
Principal

PTA President's Corner...

Hello Wildcats!

We in the PTA would like to welcome you back to a new and improved Sundance Elementary School. The fence is gone and the dust has settled and summer is over. **Now is the time to get involved in the education and enrichment of our children and the individuals who teach them.** Our membership drive is underway and we are asking you to join us. We already have many events planned and many more to come. We have added some Family Nights, brought back our Magic Night and have a new and improved Music and Choir program this year. All this is possible through your Sundance PTA membership, donations and a small amount of your participation. **Your minimum \$10 donation pays for your membership and offers an opportunity to help our school through our Sundance PTA.** Every adult with a connection to you is eligible including parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and even your neighbors can join the Sundance PTA. See you all at Back-to-School Night. Let's make this year our best ever!

Mark Crabtree
PTA President

DATES TO REMEMBER

- 9/3 Back-to-School Night
5:30—6:00—"All About Sundance" in the MP Room
6:00-6:45—ASD, PEPP, K-2nd; 6:45-7:30—3rd—5th
- 9/7 NO SCHOOL—Holiday
- 9/9 5th grade Science Club starts
- 9/10 PTA Board Meeting
- 9/11 Sundance T-shirt orders due
- 9/14 Twin Trails Foundation Mtg.
- 9/17 Wildcat Choir begins
PTA Assoc. Meeting @ 5:30
Fiesta! Family Night @ 6 pm

Volunteer Opportunities

- **PTA Programs**— Shelly Langley or Jill McMahon
shelly@cloudbreakchurch.com
jillopera@aol.com
- **Running Club**—Julie Leonard at jleonard1@san.rr.com

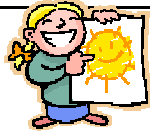
Paw Prints Newsletter
Sundance Elementary School
8944 Twin Trails Drive
San Diego, CA 92129
(858) 484-2950
powayusd.com/PUSDSDSES/

Attendance Hotline:
(858) 538-9574
Wendy Smith-Rogers, Principal
Mark Crabtree, PTA President
Mike Fillat, President/CEO
"Twin Trails Foundation"
Aimee Mabe, Paw Prints Editor

Sundance Happenings...

From the Memory Vault...

While it's customary to welcome you to the beginning of the academic year, I urge you to preserve the old before you embrace the new! As the Sundance Historian, I can't help but remind caregivers that very important moments have been captured in those pictures, papers and projects from the previous years, and that they deserve your immediate attention. Here are a few quick tips for preserving school memories from, and for, your Wildcats: **Classy Snapshots**: Check with your classroom Room Parent about how they would like to collect photographs taken throughout the school year. There are many ways to upload and share your campus pictures without exposing the environment to the chemicals and paper of printed pics. Check for free and passcode-protected online galleries.



Brilliant Bins: Designate a bin with a tight-fitting lid as the School Memories Box to contain each year's paper and electronic projects, mascot t-shirt, jog-a-thon medal, and special principal pencils. Choose a size that will allow for several years' worth of memories or use stacking bins with just one year per box.

Back-to-Emergency Preparedness: An important September theme in our area is emergency preparedness. Consider your children's school memories, as well as your own, as vital records to be securely stored. Allow your child to choose a few school memory items to be kept in a fireproof safe, safe-deposit box, or offsite at a relative's home in case of fire or other damage at home.

An Ode to Photographs: Use the O.D.E. method for your school photographs, projects and artwork... **O**.rganize – **D**.igitize – **E**.njoy! Once the pictures and documents are marked with an archive-safe pen, have them scanned by a local media transfer company or scan them at home so that they can be transferred onto disc or drive. As well as keeping the memories safe, you can create beautiful hardcover photo books and photo gifts online, share the pictures via e-mail, blog, or web gallery, and keep them close-at-hand and ready-to-print for those All About Me posters and Autobiography reports!

Keep in touch with the past & the hold the future in sight!
Brandi Mitchell, PTA Historian

CALLING ALL DADS!



Are you a dad looking for a way to get more involved in your child's life? The Dad's Club at Sundance Elementary would love to help get all dads involved in their children's education and more involved in their lives through fun events and volunteering. Please stop by the Dads Club Booth at Back-to-School Night for more info or attend our kick-off meeting at the Deli Stop in the Von's Shopping Center, September 15th at 7:00pm. If you'd like more information, email Dan Brenner at dadsclub@brentech-inc.com.

Dan Brenner, Dad's Club Chairman

FREE Family Fun Night!

Join us for a night of **FREE** entertainment and crafts for the whole family! **It's a Fiesta in the MP Room from 6:00—7:30 pm on Thursday, September 17.** Enjoy traditional dances and colorful costumes of Mexico with La Fiesta Danzantes. Artists from the San Diego Guild of Puppetry will be there to show the kids how to make their very own butterfly puppets.

Everyone A Reader

The **Everyone a Reader program** will kick-off its 2nd year during the month of September. **We are looking for new tutors like you!** Everyone a Reader is a program designed and overseen by the San Diego County Office of Education and has proven to be a highly successful and positive way of supporting children in the process of learning to read. Tutors will work one-on-one for 15 minutes, each once a week with their group of 3 - 4 students to develop confidence and fluency in reading. **This is a great opportunity not only for parents, but also for grandparents, college students, and other members of the community who would like to have a direct impact on children by giving the gift of reading.** Training is provided. Please contact Ann Linn at amlinn@yahoo.com for more information.



Ann Linn, "Everyone A Reader" Chairperson

Ten things you should know about Mrs. Rogers...

- 1. She LOVES being a principal.** Sundance is the third school where she has served as principal.
- She lives with her husband, two Golden Retrievers, and Spencer, and two Maine Coon cats, Winston and Nora. Andy and Spencer come to school from time to time, but stay in the office unless there is a special occasion.
- She has two stepchildren, Patricia & Neal, who are grown.
- Drew is her grandson who will be 2 on Halloween.
- Mr. Rogers works as the Assistant Director of Transportation in the Poway School District. He also serves as the "Energy Czar" - the one who reminds all of us to save energy.
- Her favorite food is popcorn.
- Mr. and Mrs. Rogers live on orchard property where they planted almost 500 tangerine trees. The dogs love to help Mr. and Mrs. Rogers when they are picking the fruit. They enjoy eating a few pieces of tangerine!
- Taking a long walk on the weekends with Andy and Spencer is one of her favorite things to do. She also enjoys to read, shop for bargains, and be an artist.
- Watching TV doesn't happen at the Rogers' house, but they rent movies and TV series from Netflix and watch them for a good laugh.
- On the weekends in the summer she plays pool volleyball with her neighbors in the back yard.



All About Sundance!

Come one, come all! It's time for ALL ABOUT SUNDANCE! On Thursday, September 3rd, it is Back-to-School Night and your big opportunity to find out about the fantastic events planned not only for your child, but also for the whole family. Please plan on showing up at 5:30 if your child is PEPP through 2nd grade and 6:15 if your child is 3rd through 5th grade. We'll have lots of information and chances for you to join in the fun! See you there!