

Rattleskin



PTA

everychild.one voice.



Poway Unified School District

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Principal's Message

Dear Midland Families,

Happy New Year and welcome back! By the time you read this newsletter, most decorations will have been put away from the holidays, and everyone will be focused on what comes next in this new year. There are no words that could accurately express how truly grateful we are to all of our families who contributed to Midland's Holiday Food & Gift Card Drive. Our students demonstrated remarkable school and community spirit when they reached out to help others in need. A special thank you goes out to our school counselor, Traci Acers; our bilingual parent liaison, Marly Ramos; the Church of Rancho Bernardo; and to one of our very involved parents, Deanna Beeson, for making sure that more than twenty-five Midland families received the help they needed to experience a joyful holiday season.

The winter months provide us with a period of time when we can focus on learning without many calendar interruptions. Everyone was excited to return from break, rested and healthy, and all of our Rattlers demonstrated their readiness and motivation to get back into the learning mode. To be honest, we were off and running the moment the first bell rang!

One important aspect of schooling is the development of good study habits. These skills are equally valuable for students when completing work at home or in school. By reinforcing these routines in both environments, we believe our students' academic success will improve. Some beneficial study habits include:

- Assigning a "settling down" time that is scheduled and consistent
- Including 5-10 minute "breathers" or "mini-breaks" when children are working on a lengthy task or project that requires concentration and effort
- Creating a "distraction-free" study space that is equipped with good lighting and necessary study tools (pencils, pens, rulers, scissors, etc.)

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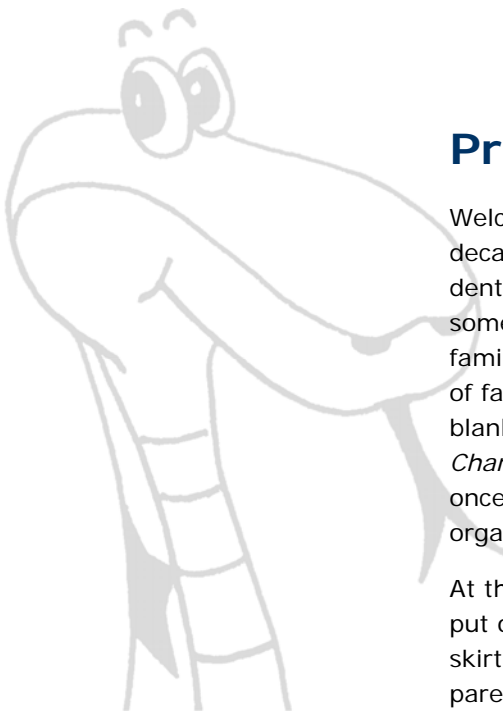
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**No school on
Monday, Jan. 18**

Dates to Remember:

1/18	Martin Luther King Day - NO SCHOOL
1/21	Midland Fundraiser at Panda Express
1/29	Sock Hop MPR 6:30-8:30pm
2/1-2/26	Read-A-Thon
2/8-2/12	Book Fair
2/9	Donuts with Dad
2/10	Muffins with Mom
2/11	Story Night / PTA Mtg 6:00-7:30pm



President's Message

Welcome back to school and to our new decade! Happy New Year! Midland students will be having fun this month at some great activities for kids and their families! Movie Night brought out lots of family fun with friends, pillows, and blankets to watch *Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs*. I would like to, once again, thank the Pratt Family for organizing all this fun!

At the end of the month, it is time to put on your best team jacket or poodle skirt, slick back your hair and be prepared to have an awesome good time! The Sock Hop will be held on January 29th from 6:30-8:30 PM in the MPR. Make sure to leave room for delicious root beer floats when you take a break from all the excitement!

Midland's Community Concerns team did a fantastic job of helping to make the holidays a bit brighter for a few of our families. The Adopt-A-Family program collected useful gifts. Our Midland families donated gift cards as well as canned food items. I would like to send a heartfelt thanks to Deanna Beeson, Mrs. Acers, the Church

of Rancho Bernardo, and all the Midland families for their donations to this wonderful program.

Have you noticed how much easier it is to drop off your child(ren) in the mornings? It is all thanks to the Safety Team and their efforts each and every morning, rain or shine, directing car and foot traffic to ensure safe passage! Well done!

Finally, all those little Box Tops have come in really handy! We received money this month thanks to all the clipping and saving. Alisa Mendenhall gets a big "thank you" for helping Midland earn extra money, since she tallies all of these Box Tops and sends them in. Thank you!

February begins our annual Read-A-Thon (Feb. 1-26) and Book Fair (Feb. 8-12). I wonder what Ms. Lerner will be planning for the Read-A-Thon grand prize?!

Susan Spoto
sspoto@cox.net
486-7873

Let's Go Green!



Tired of too many paper fliers cluttering your child's backpack? Please join us in creating the Eco / Green Team for Midland School! We would like the help of talented folks who can steer our school forward as we begin the journey towards **going paperless** and becoming eco-friendly.

If you are interested in joining the team, please contact Susan Spoto at sspoto@cox.net or call 486-7873.

A special "Thanks" goes out to:

- All **Midland families** who donated money to their child's "**Teacher Budget**" that will be used to purchase school supplies for the classroom
- The **PTA** for hosting the annual **Holiday Boutique** that gave our students an opportunity to purchase holiday gifts for their families and friends
- To **Ms. Ruth, Ms. Connelly, Mrs. Wood, Mrs. Esparza, Mrs. Acers, Mrs. Farrell, and Ms. Coe** for carrying out our **Title 1/ELAC Math Night**
- **Mrs. Penny Ranftle** and the Poway Unified School District Educational Foundation for making it possible for our 5th graders to culminate their **BizTown** curriculum with a hands-on field trip to this extraordinary place!
- To the **PTA**, particularly **Annette and Jeff Hoffard**, for "pulling off" another very successful, delicious, **Pancake Breakfast/Craft Fair**

Principal's Message

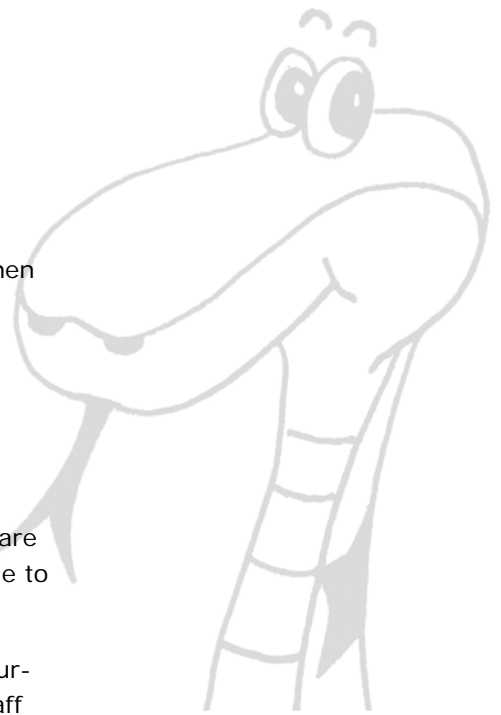
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- Writing and posting lists to track assignments that can be checked off when completed
- Making flashcards and using them to repeatedly practice and learn math facts, spelling words, and test information
- Teaching students from an early age to be responsible for knowing what needs to be done and when it is due
- Staying "engaged" with your children to let them know you believe they are doing important work, you care about their success, and you are available to assist them if they need help as they work independently

With the holidays past and New Year's resolutions made, let us all recommit ourselves to excellence in education in 2010! To achieve this high mark, every staff member and family must strive to assist our Rattlers in advancing their strengths and working to improve any/all areas of need. There is no doubt that 2010 will be a benchmark year at Midland Elementary School. Seeing everyone come back from break refreshed, reenergized, and ready to go is an outstanding way to begin the New Year!

Warmly,

Julie Lerner



The # 1 2010 New Year's Resolution Is...

I WILL GET TO SCHOOL ON TIME EVERY DAY!

Although we strive for our Rattlers to begin their day in a stress-free way, we have been struggling to get all of our students to school on time. In fact, we saw an increase in the number of tardies during the last few weeks of December, prior to Winter Break. We realize the rainy weather had something to do with this; however, when you know it is going to take a few extra minutes to get to school, please try to leave the house a little earlier.

IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT EVERY DAY BEGINS ON TIME!

Please remember that the morning bell rings at 7:55 AM. Students are expected to be in line on the blacktop (1st – 5th) or in their morning line-up classroom (Kindergarten) when this bell rings, so by the time the clock strikes 8:00 AM every Rattler will be in their classroom ready to go. Please be sure to get your child to school on time so the educational day can begin in the right way.

Bop 'Til You Drop!



Put on your poodle skirts and grease back your hair. Join us for a blast from the past at the **Midland Sock Hop on Friday, January 29 from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM in the MPR.**

Stay tuned - more details will be coming home soon.

Midland Educational Foundation News

The MEF has been hard at work raising as much money as possible to help the students of Midland. We're almost halfway to our goal of \$15,000! Thanks to your participation in our events and your generous donations, the MEF has been able to contribute to the school's supply fund, which was drastically reduced due to budget cuts. In addition, funds have been set aside for a family Science and/or Music night for the children. One of our goals is to raise enough funds to add to the school's computer lab. Long term, raising enough funds could provide our school with a computer lab aide. So keep eating popsicles on Fridays, participating in the restaurant nights and donating to our fund!. Any donation, big or small, helps!

Who doesn't like a delicious treat and a night out with friends? Don't forget about our **Midland Reunion Des-**

sert Night and Auction on Saturday, March

27. Anyone interested in donating items should contact Colleen Pratt at cepratt@cox.net or 513-9182. Ideas include: beauty services, personal training, sports tickets/equipment, theater tickets, legal services. Let your imaginations run wild and let's see what we can come up with! If you have friends whose kids no longer attend, pass the word on to them to join us. Let's pass that \$15,000 goal. Look for more information coming soon. (Also, if you have any pictures from past Midland events, let me know. We're working on a DVD to show that night.)

Colleen Pratt
President
Midland Educational Foundation
cepratt@cox.net

**Mmmm...grab some Orange Chicken and help Midland School on Thursday, January 21.
Don't forget to clip out and take the coupon below.**

Raise Money for Midland Educational Foundation!

Date: Thursday, 01-21-2010

Time: 12.00PM - 8:00 PM

Location: 13624 Poway Rd #110, Poway, CA 92064

Present this flyer from 12.00PM - 8:00 PM and **20% of your purchase will be donated** to Midland Educational Foundation.

Panda Express
13624 Poway Rd # 110
858-679-9498

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(giving)



Counseling Corner

What's Inside That Backpack?

by Traci Acers, Counselor

Inside your child's backpack is a wealth of information. By staying abreast of what is happening in your child's world, you are creating an environment in which your child feels valued and supported.

Many parents feel uneasy sorting through their child's backpack. Some feel that it is an invasion of privacy to review the contents, or that they are depriving their child of the opportunity to gain independence. Consider this a teaching experience that models behavior you will soon expect your child to perform on his/her own. In grades K-3, parents take the lead when looking at the contents. In grades 4 and 5, parents can expect their child to review what was sent home and present the contents to the parent. Remember, you are setting good habits that lead to academic success.

Organize the backpack

Begin by organizing your child's backpack **with** him/her. Help make a plan for routinely cleaning out old papers and trash. Create a folder for homework. Label one side of the folder homework and the other side completed homework. This will facilitate your child in gaining organizational skills which are important for school success.

Review Graded Assignments

Review graded assignments. When your child does well, encourage that behavior rather than praise. Encouragement is different from praise because it teaches self-evaluation. "**You worked very hard** to get that A, or **you put a great deal of effort** into that," is **encouragement**. "**I'm so proud of you** for getting that A," is **praise**.

If your child receives a low mark on an assignment, think of this as a teachable moment. Focus on solutions instead of focusing on the problem. When we focus on the solution, children become motivated. "What can you do differently next time that might help you be more successful?" "Last week, you earned an A on your multiplication tables; how did you manage to do that?" Using successes to find solutions, helps maintain a positive climate that will lead to changes in behavior. Your child will make the connection between studying and high marks without being lectured or punished.

Review School/Home Communication

Read the *Rattleskin* and other letters from Midland Staff. Research shows that children do better in school when parents talk often with teachers and become involved in the school. By reviewing newsletters, you will remain informed on upcoming dates of school functions as well as obtain information on volunteer opportunities.

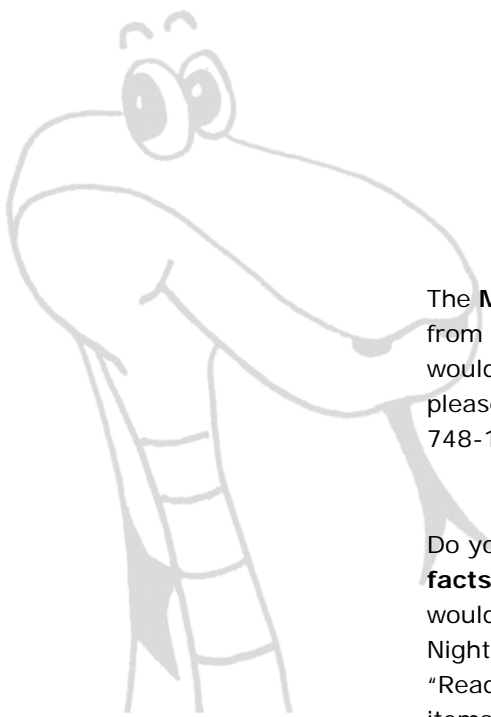
Read Your Way Around the World



Come join in all the fun! Midland's **Scholastic Book Fair** is coming on **February 8th to 12th**. Look for fun family events - **Donuts with Dad** on Tuesday, February 9th and **Muffins with Mom** on Wednesday, February 10th. Your child will also have the opportunity to visit the Book Fair during the week with his/her class.

The highlight of the week is **Story Night** on Thursday, February 11th from 6:00-7:30 PM. The theme is "Read-Around-the World", featuring crafts and stories from different countries. A PTA meeting will also be held during Story Night.

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer to help, please contact Maryanne Dickson at mdickson12@cox.net or 748-1259.



The **Midland Book Fair** will be held from **February 8 through 12**. If you would like to help with this fun event, please contact Maryanne Dickson at 748-1259 or mdickson12@cox.net.

Do you have any **souvenirs or artifacts from other countries**? We would like to display them at Story Night on February 11th? The theme is "Read-Around-the World". Drop off any items you would like to contribute in the front office as soon as possible. Please label whatever you bring in with your name. Call Jeannie Alford at 486-5398 for more information.

It is hard to believe, but our **Annual Midland Carnival** is coming on Friday, May 21. We currently need a person to be in charge of games. Your duties include: setting up the games, scheduling volunteers, supervising games during the night, checking prize supplies, and taking down and putting away the games. If you are interested or need more information, please call Jeannie Alford at 486-5398.

Have any pictures of great Midland moments? We are collecting pictures for the **2009/2010 Midland Yearbook**. You can give your pictures to your child's teacher. Questions? See Janet Homan in ESS.

Take the Read-A-Thon Challenge



The Read-A-Thon begins Feb. 1 and will end on Feb. 26. If our students read 400,000 pages, we will turn Ms. Lerner into a hot dog and spray her with silly string!

Rocky on the Road with the Fitness Club



Like the rest of us, Rocky Rattler took some time off to celebrate the holidays. He is now back up and moving! Since we've last checked in, he has traveled 250 miles, has left the University of Utah, and has nearly made it to Colorado State University. Let's hope this cold weather doesn't slow him down too much! We'll keep you posted on his progress, and remember, it's your miles that send him on his way - so keep moving!

RATTLESKIN - MIDLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTA NEWSLETTER

Midland Elementary School

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Midland Elementary School PTA - 2009 / 2010

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2nd VP Membership: Randi O'Reilly 3rd VP Ways & Means: Bea Graytok
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