

# CALL OF THE WILDCAT

Pomerado  
Elementary School



A California Distinguished School  
April 2008  
Volume XVII, Issue 8

## Principal's Message, Lisa Danzer

Pomerado is celebrating Teacher Appreciation Week from March 31st to April 4th. I encourage all students and families to take the time to acknowledge their dedicated teachers with a kind word or special note this week letting them know they are appreciated.

The week of April 21st is National PTA's "Turn Off the TV Week." I challenge you and your family to participate this year. "Turn Off the TV Week" is an opportunity to spend more quality time together in the evenings engaging in a variety of fun activities. We encourage families to come together to read, exercise, play board games, and talk. The PTA will be teaching children about alternatives to television and discussing the benefits of these activities. Research supports limiting television viewing increases academic achievement.

Spring is the time of growth, flowers, sunshine...and the STAR test otherwise known as the Standardized Testing and Reporting assessment. Pomerado students in grades two through five will take the test. Our STAR testing is scheduled to take place April 21-May 2, usually between 8:15 and 11:30 AM. **Please do not plan vacations or appointments during this testing time.**

This test will cover Language Arts and Mathematics for all students. Fifth graders also take a Science portion. The test is administered by the classroom teachers and scored by the state. The test results become part of your child's cumulative record that follows the student through high school. The teachers provide practice for the students in test-taking skills and teach the grade level standards covered in the test all year long.

The most important factor for successful test-taking is the attitude of the students, parents, and school staff. If the child knows that the adults in their lives consider taking the test and doing their best really important, their effort becomes sharper and more focused. Please note that your child needs plenty of rest and breakfast at all times and especially during testing. Please make sure your student is at school on time. Teachers will be posting "testing" signs on classroom doors to eliminate interruptions.

Enjoy your spring break April 7-11. I hope to see you on campus this month.

### Look No Further for Fun and Educational Computer Games!

Students can access **FUN GAMES** from the Pomerado Elementary website. Students can use these games to practice their academic skills (especially before the upcoming STAR tests for Grades 2-5).

Visit: [WWW.POWAYUSD.COM/PUSDPOES](http://WWW.POWAYUSD.COM/PUSDPOES), click on "Games", and from there you can link to the Language Arts, Math and Kindergarten game/practice pages.

**Have Fun!**



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**March 31-April 4**

### Teacher Appreciation Week

- April 2** 8am Wildcat  
Wednesday
- April 3** Rocket into Reading  
2:15pm
- April 4** PTA Meeting 1:15pm  
Library

**Wear Fun Run T-shirts Today**

**April 7-11**

### No School Spring Break

- April 15** ELL Meeting  
8:15am MPR
- April 16** Jump Rope for Heart  
(during lunch time)
- April 17** Foundation Meeting  
6:30pm Library
- April 18** Sports Dress Up Day  
2nd Grade Parents to  
Lunch 11:50am

**April 21-25**

### Turn Off TV Week

**April 21-May 2**  
**STAR Testing**

- April 28** Literacy Assembly with  
Magician Brock  
Edwards MPR  
10:30am (K and 1) and  
1:15pm (2/3/4/5)
- May 16** Brock Edwards'  
Magic Extravaganza  
Family Show 7pm MPR  
(Ticket Order Form to  
come home late April)

**PTA**

everychild.one voice.®

**PTA NOTICE:** Copies of letters to our State Legislators, regarding the proposed budget cuts to education, were sent home in March for your review and signature. Please turn them into your child's teacher or the school office, and we will mail them. If you have already sent yours in...Thank You!

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

## PTA NEWS

### PTA President's Message, Rosie Bell

It was fun to see so many of you at our Mother/Son Event last month! Thanks to those parent volunteers who made it happen! Also, congratulations to our Pomerado Foundation and all their volunteers on a successful "Fun Run." This wonderful event gets kids to be physical in a fun venue while supporting technology and our school's running club. Everyone ends up a winner, especially our school!

A big thank you to those parents who are stepping forward to assist in PTA programs next year. We still need a few more willing parents who can commit to help with PTA events. A little effort can go a long way in benefiting your child and our school!

In honor of our upcoming Teacher Appreciation Week, I want to thank the very fine staff we have at Pomerado for all they do. As families, we are fortunate to be teamed with such caring, dedicated adults who work to make our children the best they can be. I have the opportunity to spend quite a bit of time on our campus and see firsthand the efforts made on behalf of our kids. From office staff, custodial staff, teachers, aides, specialists, counselors, and yard duties, I see a group of people who truly make a positive difference everyday in the lives of our children. I hope your family and your child take a few moments to express your personal thanks to those who really do make a difference at Pomerado.

This is a difficult financial time for our school, district and state. Budget cuts will make educating our students a more challenging task. You can make a difference by writing to your representatives at the State level. Please visit the 9th District PTA website at [www.ninthdistrictpta.org](http://www.ninthdistrictpta.org) for information and form letters.

### Upcoming May Events

**May 19th-22nd**

**Buy One, Get One Free Book Fair**

**May 21st**

**Muffins with Mom 7:30am**

**May 22nd**

**Chalk Art Festival and Open House**

### "A Star Spangled Celebration" is coming to Pomerado!

Our annual carnival will be held on May 30th from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00pm on the playground. Look forward to game booths, food and fun! Wear your red, white and blue to celebrate with us. Watch for information to come home regarding ticket pre-sale. The City of Poway Parks and Recreation will be on site again this year with free activities and crafts! **This is a really fun event to help with.** If you are able to volunteer to help with set up, ticket selling, do a shift at a booth or take down please turn your name into the office, contact Karen Akagi or Jamie Garcia directly, or send an email to [pomeradonews@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pomeradonews@sbcglobal.net). Your responsible middle school or high school child is welcome to volunteer, and we hope they will!



**Turn Off the TV Week is April 21st-25th**

**For More Info Visit:  
[www.tvturnoff.org](http://www.tvturnoff.org)**

**Thank you to the parents that donated supplies for the Mother Son Night and to all our volunteers.**



**Thank you also to the following businesses for donating supplies and refreshments for the event.**

**Evergreen Nursery  
Henry's Marketplace  
Sparkletts Water Company  
Starbucks Coffee  
The Home Depot**

**Q  
&  
A**

**Q:** What can I do to help the school as it faces budget cuts?

**A:** Continue to read school flyers and newsletters that come home with your child for the latest news regarding the budget cuts. Our PTA periodically sends out emails. If you would like to be added to the email distribution list, please send your email address to [pomeradonews@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pomeradonews@sbcglobal.net). As always, the best line of communication for parents regarding school issues is your child's teacher.

Here are some specific ways you can help:

- **Ask if you can restock the classroom with any needed school supplies.**
- **Ask if you can help with an upcoming event (Chalk Art or Carnival for example).**
- **Ask if the teacher needs help during class time. If you can't help during the day, see if you can help by doing a project for the teacher from home.**

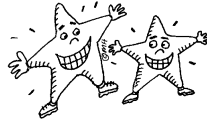
These are all great ideas for Teacher Appreciation Week too!

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Kindergarten Registration Starts May 5th

Kindergarten registration for the 2008-2009 school year will begin on May 5th at Pomerado. All required paperwork must be completed and submitted before a child is eligible for admittance. If you have any questions, please come to the school office.

### STAR Testing for Grades 2-5 April 21st-May 2nd



#### Eight Ways to Be a Test-Taking STAR

1. Get plenty of sleep the night before the test.
2. Eat a healthy breakfast and wear clothes that are comfortable.
3. Pay close attention to test directions.
4. Answer the easy questions first.
5. Read every answer before you choose one.
6. If you're not sure of the answer, rule out the choices that you know are wrong. Then pick the best answer that is left.
7. If you have time, check over your answers before you turn in the test.
8. If you start to feel stressed, take some deep breaths to relax.

### College in My Future

Representative teachers from each grade level attended a recent training focused on preparing students for college in their future called "Strategies for Making Good Elementary Schools Great." Our staff believes that all students deserve the opportunity to be prepared to go to college. Each child at Pomerado is capable of meeting academic standards in reading, math, and language...no excuses! We are beginning to share a unified college message through symbolism including classroom adoption of a college and displaying university flags. All teachers K-5 will expose students to grade level appropriate college vocabulary. We hope you will continue the college conversation at home as you begin to see evidence of our new focus at school. Further information will be coming home as our program develops.

## FIFTH GRADE BOOSTERS

### Continue To Bring in Your BoxTops

Fifth Grade Boosters are continuing to collect BoxTops. Please bring them to the container located in the office.

### Fifth Grade Student Store Now Open



After School on Fridays  
Near the Lunch Tables

## PARENT'S CORNER

### CHARACTER COUNTS!

#### Trait of the Month: CARING

#### Ways to Show Your Child You Care

(from the Children's Health System)

- Use plenty of positive words with your child. Nurture her self-esteem and self-confidence by praising a job well done, and show interest in what she is saying.
- Respond promptly and lovingly to your child's physical and emotional needs and remove put-downs from your parenting vocabulary.
- Make an extra effort to set a good example at home and in public. Use words like "I'm sorry," "please," and "thank you."
- When your child is angry, argumentative or in a bad mood, give him a hug, cuddle, pat, secret sign or other gesture of affection he favors.
- Use non-violent forms of discipline. Parents should begin instituting both rewards and restrictions many years before adolescence to prevent trouble during the teenage years. Once youngsters reach adolescence, allowing them to break important rules constantly without being disciplined only encourages more rule violations.

CHARACTER COUNTS! and the Six Pillars of Character are service marks of the CHARACTER COUNTS! Coalition, a project of the Josephson Institute of Ethics. [www.charactercounts.org](http://www.charactercounts.org)

### Counselor's Message, Victoria Cull, MA MS Random Acts of Kindness

(excerpts from the RAK foundation pamphlet)

I expect to pass through life but once. If therefore, there be any kindness I can show, or any good thing I can do to any fellow being, let me do it now, and not defer or neglect it, as I shall not pass this way again. William Penn



*Simple Definitions that Kids Understand:*

Random Acts of Kindness: A kind act is "random" when it is unexpected and done for no reason and without expecting anything in return. When we do a random act of kindness we give for the sake of giving; we act simply out of the goodness that is within us.

The Chain of Kindness: When you do something kind for someone, that person feels so good about what you did, that he or she does something kind for someone else, and the kindness becomes a chain reaction, moving from one person to the next. Daphne Rose Kingma, author of the book Random Acts of Kindness, says: "Random Acts of Kindness are those sweet or lovely things we do for no reason except that, momentarily, the best of our humanity has sprung into full bloom."

So this month try this:

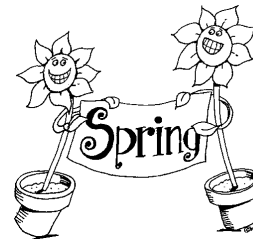
- + Give an old woman the bouquet of red carnations you had meant to take home to your own dinner table.
- + Give your lunch or Starbucks coffee to the homeless person on the corner.
- + Anonymously put coins in someone else's parking meter.

*Do the best of what your human soul invites you to do.*



# APRIL 2008

Character Trait of the Month: Caring



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>March 31</b> <b>Teacher Appreciation Week</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 8am Wildcat Wednesday on Playground  Fun Run Prizes Distributed	<b>3</b> Rocket Into Reading 2:15pm  Fun Run Prizes Distributed	<b>4</b> PTA Meeting 1:15pm Library  Wear Your Fun Run T-shirt to School.	<b>5</b>
	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>No Classes - Spring Break</b>						
<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> ELL Meeting 8:15am MPR	<b>16</b> Jump Rope for Heart at Lunches	<b>17</b> Foundation Meeting 6:30pm Library	<b>18</b> Sports Dress Up Day 2nd Grade Parents to Lunch 11:50 AM	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> <b>STAR TESTING</b> <b>April 21 Through May 2</b>	<b>21</b> <b>Turn Off the TV Week</b>  <b>STAR Testing</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Brock Edwards' Literacy Assembly MPR 10:30am K/1 1:15pm 2/3/4/5 <b>STAR Testing</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>May 1</b> Spring GATE Test	<b>May 2</b> PTA Meeting 1:15pm Library	<b>May 3</b>
	<b>STAR Testing</b>	<b>STAR Testing</b>	<b>STAR Testing</b>	<b>STAR Testing</b>	<b>STAR Testing</b>	

**Pomerado Elementary School**  
**Poway Unified School District**  
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## IMPORTANT NUMBERS

**School Office 748-1320**

**Absences 679-2604**

**ESS 679-8646**

**Preschool 486-9170**

## **2007-2008 PTA Board**

**President** – Rosie Bell

**Secretary** – Lori Romero

**Treasurer** – Patti Hime

**V.P. Membership** – Trinity Opstad

**V.P. Ways&Means** – Michele Brindle

**V.P. Programs** – Lisa Othmer

**Parliamentarian** – Lesa Benham

**Auditor** – Tracee Ellis

**Historian** – Yomila Cruz

**Teacher Rep.** – Karen Risher

**NEWSLETTER NOW AVAILABLE ON-LINE AT THE SCHOOL WEBSITE**  
[www.powayusd.com/pusdpoes](http://www.powayusd.com/pusdpoes)