

# CALL OF THE WILDCAT

Pomerado  
Elementary School



A California Distinguished School  
February 2009  
Volume XIX, Issue 6

## Principal's Message, Lisa Danzer

As we settle into a new year, establishing good work habits for students becomes essential for continued school success. As the newness of the school year wears off homework may become more of a struggle for families. In addition for ensuring that your children get plenty of sleep and arrive at school on time, parents need to help students establish good study skills. These skills are important whether you are in kindergarten, fifth grade, or college. Study skills are learned through practice, just as students learn to read, write, and do math. As the amount of homework and new material increases through the grades, study skills begin to play an even greater role in a child's school success.

Here are some specific suggestions that you can do to help your child develop better study skills.

1. Establish a daily schedule for studying. Allow for playtime and frequent breaks.
2. Provide a quiet place for your child to study where few interruptions will occur.
3. Provide reference materials for effective studying. These should include a dictionary, thesaurus, computer access, etc.
4. Provide assistance when necessary. Be available to answer questions or explain an assignment.
5. Make sure that your child is the one completing the assignment, not you.
6. Make study time important for the entire family.

The effort that is made now to assist your child with developing good study habits can result in increased learning and a more successful student. Lastly, if homework is causing excessive stress or taking an unreasonable amount of time please talk with your child's teacher. Our intent is to promote good study habits for learning, not add family stress.

Please remember that school will be closed from February 16-20 for the President's Holidays and District Recess. I hope you and your family enjoy the break. Don't forget to spend some of the extra time reading!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- |                  |                                                                                                      |
|------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Feb 4</b>     | 8am Wildcat<br>Wednesday<br><br>1pm GATE Mtg.                                                        |
| <b>Feb 5</b>     | Rocket into Reading<br>2:15pm                                                                        |
| <b>Feb 6</b>     | 5th Grade Parents to<br>Lunch 12:50pm<br><br>PTA Assoc. Meeting<br>1:15pm Library<br><br>College Day |
| <b>Feb 16-20</b> | <b>No School<br/>District Recess</b>                                                                 |
| <b>Feb 27</b>    | Grade 4 Parents to<br>Lunch 12:30pm<br><br>Foundation Meeting<br>1:15pm Library                      |
| <b>Mar 6</b>     | Progress Notices<br>Sent Home                                                                        |
| <b>Mar 11</b>    | Foundation Fun Run                                                                                   |
| <b>Mar 19</b>    | Family Movie Night<br>Ultrastar Theatre                                                              |

## Order Your Yearbook For Only \$20

Order forms are available in the office.  
Turn in orders to the office with cash, or  
a check payable to Pomerado PTA.  
Online ordering is available at Jostens.com.



**The Yearbook is a great way to remember all the  
fun moments from the 2008-2009 school year.  
(There is a limited supply of yearbooks...place your order this month!)**



*Show your love this Valentine's Day  
by adding a "Love Note" to your child's yearbook.  
A special love note flyer will be sent home soon.*



Visit the School Website at  
[www.powayusd.com/pusdpoes](http://www.powayusd.com/pusdpoes)  
for more school information.

**PTA**

*everychild.one voice.*

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

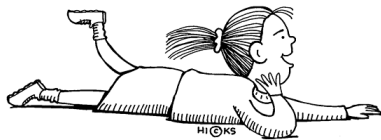
## PTA ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PTA Membership Update

Thank you to all the parents, teachers and staff that joined PTA for this school year. We currently have 213 members. PTA membership shows our students the value we place on making their school experience the best it can be. Thank you specifically to Patti Hime for coordinating the PTA membership effort this year. We are still accepting members for this year until the end of February. Membership is \$8 per individual, and payment can be dropped off in the office.

### Got Photos?

PTA's Yearbook Staff is looking for student photos to add to the yearbook. Pictures may include field trips, class parties, etc. CDs with photos can be dropped off in the school office. Please label the CD with parent name, student name and grade level.



### PTA Reflections Program Update

Congratulations to second grader Nathaniel Davis who submitted his *theme idea* for the 2010-2011 Reflections Program. California State PTA chooses five theme suggestions to forward to National PTA, which does the final selection for upcoming Reflection Program themes. Nathaniel's theme suggestion was:

***"The World Through My Eyes".***

We at Pomerado are very proud of Nathaniel's accomplishment!

### Caring Coins a Success

PTA's December Caring Coins program was a great success with over \$400 collected! PTA purchased gift cards for Pomerado families in need. Our children learned a valuable lesson about caring (a pillar of character) by participating. Thank you to the students and families for their continued support of this special program.



### PTA President's Message, Rosie Bell

#### ***PUSD Budget Update...What Can We Do?***

You have no doubt heard in the news and read in the newspapers of the financial difficulties that our state is experiencing. As the economic condition of our country and state deteriorates, PUSD has begun to plan for another year of reduced funding. The Governor's recent budget proposal calls for additional cuts of \$350 per student over what was cut last year. This amounts to another \$11 million in cuts for our school district (last year's cuts totaled about \$10 million). The very sad reality is that the school district will not be able to make these additional cuts without increasing class size and reducing staff. Please read more about this from Superintendent Don Phillips at: [www.powayusd.com/budget/](http://www.powayusd.com/budget/)

What can we as parents do? Right now, I am serving on the Superintendent's Budget Advisory Committee. The role of the committee is to advise the district about budget priorities and assist in communications. I am awaiting an action plan from the State PTA for advocacy, but I anticipate that we will need to place pressure on our elected representative to pass a budget quickly, and to provide flexible spending options for the school district. Right now, school districts are limited in the manner in which they spend certain funds. For instance, school districts must adopt and purchase new textbooks on a schedule outlined by law. Suspending the adoption cycle for a few years could save a few teachers' jobs. I will do my best to keep you informed of any developments. In the meantime, remember that if you have any questions you may contact me by e-mail: [momof2athome@yahoo.com](mailto:momof2athome@yahoo.com) or through the school office.

#### ***Good News Here at Pomerado***

On a positive note, congratulations to all our Reflections participants who were honored January 30th. All PTA events that benefit our children never could happen without lots of volunteer help behind the scenes. So I would like to thank all the wonderful parents and teachers who work together to make great events for our kids at Pomerado. Remember that Running Club is every Tuesday and Thursday at recess, and encourage your child to participate for better fitness and fun. You can also continue to drop off your coins in the Caring Coins box at the office to support families in need. Finally, don't forget to recycle your cans, bottles and plastic grocery bags in the appropriate containers in front of the office.

## SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Counselor's Message, Victoria Cull, MA MS Sibling Loyalty NOT Sibling Rivalry

While small doses of sibling rivalry are surely normal, let's start the new year focusing on the unique and wonderful bond that is often present between siblings.



As parents, here are some tips on how we can encourage a warm life-long friendship between our children:

- Spend quality one-on-one time with each child individually to make sure each little "bucket" is full.
- Encourage the whole family to value each child's unique personality.
- Celebrate each other's successes and lend support during tough times.
- Do not allow one child to excessively dominate another. Encourage healthy conflict resolution skills.
- Teach children how to respect each other's boundaries, and at the same time, encourage *sharing and empathy*.
- Instill a "We're in this together." attitude in your family.
- Encourage your children to do small unexpected favors for each other.
- Model healthy relationships between you and your siblings.

Here at school, it's heart-warming to see an older brother or sister place a protective arm around his/her younger sibling's shoulder on the way to the parking lot or to see them bend down and help with a heavy backpack. It gives me hope for the future and an assurance that we're all going to be okay.

### CHARACTER COUNTS!

#### Trait of the Month: FAIRNESS

Talk with your child about the importance of being fair with people. Make sure he/she knows that it is important to you, and that it will lead to stronger friendships.

Remember that you are a powerful role model for your child. If you treat people fairly, that is what your child will learn from you.

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)

### Referrals for GATE Testing due Feb 23 for Test on March 28th

PUSD is accepting referrals for students in grades 2-5 for Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) evaluation. The last GATE tests for this school year is on March 28th. If you believe that your child may require GATE services, please go to the school office for more information and to complete a parent questionnaire. More information can be found at the PUSD website:

[www.powayusd.com/teaching/learning/gate](http://www.powayusd.com/teaching/learning/gate)



**THANK YOU FOR DRIVING SAFELY!**

**Q  
&  
A**

### **Q:** How is the school remodel progressing?

**A:** Our theme for the year is "Building a Better Tomorrow for our Students and Community." Phase 1 encompassing rooms 1-4 and 21-24, as well as the kindergarten playground, was completed in late January. These classes have moved back into their beautiful "new" classrooms. Phase 2 classes (Rooms 5-12) have moved into the temporary classrooms at the back of our main playing field until mid-March.

Please know that our main focus is safety and learning as we undergo construction. There have been a few inconveniences with temporary loss of water service, phones, and heating but our contingency plans are working. Thank you again for your flexibility and patience. The projected timeline for each phase continues to be approximately eight weeks with final project completion in summer of 2009.


**We all look forward to opening school in the fall with a completely renovated facility.**



# FEBRUARY 2009



## Character Trait of the Month: FAIRNESS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4 Wildcat Wednesday 8am Playground  1pm GATE Meeting Room 18	5 Rocket Into Reading 2:15pm	6 5th Grade Parents to Lunch 12:50pm  College Day  PTA Association Meeting 1:15pm Library	7
8  Please Keep Collecting <b>Box Tops</b> for Fifth Grade!	9	10	11	12	13	14
<b>No Classes – District Recess</b>						
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 Title 1 and ELL Meeting 1pm MPR	26	27 4th Grade Parents to Lunch 12:30pm  Foundation Meeting 1:15pm Library	28

**Pomerado Elementary School  
Poway Unified School District**

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Poway, CA 92064  
**Principal:** Lisa Danzer

**Newsletter Editor:** Lisa Othmer  
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**IMPORTANT NUMBERS**

**School Office 748-1320**

**Absences 679-2604**

**ESS 679-8646**

**Preschool 486-9170**

**2008-2009 PTA Board**

**President** – Rosie Bell  
**Secretary** – Angel Ryan  
**Treasurer** – Lisa Othmer  
**V.P. Membership** – Patti Hime  
**V.P. Ways&Means** – Michele Brindle  
**V.P. Programs** – Ningrit Flud  
**Parliamentarian** – Shaby Tolo  
**Auditor** – Tracee Ellis  
**Historian** – Lori Romero  
**Teacher Rep.** – Karen Risher

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