



# Terrapin Talk

Turtleback/PTA Newsletter

15855 Turtleback Rd. San Diego, CA 92127 ♥ 858-673-5514 ♥ 24 Hour Hotline 858-673-3967

Volume 8 Issue 1

August

## Principal's Message

Welcome Turtleback Families, You are holding in your hands the first issue of Turtleback Elementary School's weekly newsletter. I sure would appreciate it if you would read this and future issues carefully so we can better work together to make your child's school experience as successful as possible.

We welcome all our new and returning families to the land of the Terrapin. If you are new to our school community, I assure you that you will not find a friendlier school anywhere. Please don't hesitate to approach me or any of our wonderful office staff members with any questions or concerns. We are here to help you and your child!!

If you are a returning Terrapin, you will notice many changes around campus. In just a month, your child will enjoy three completely re-vamped playgrounds. Within the classrooms, we've received all new computers and we're in the process of installing ceiling-mounted LCD projectors and voice amplification systems in every room. Our teachers are over the moon about the potential of this new technology to improve student learning.

Keep your eye on this newsletter for information about the grand opening of the Bishop Center for Adult Learning and the Student Connection Center...

With much anticipation,

**Dr. Celeste Campbell**  
Principal

## PTA President's Message

The Turtleback PTA is looking forward to a great year. We have some wonderful new events in store for your kids including a family game night, Bingo night and an outdoor movie night. I hope you'll join the whole community for Turtleback's signature event, the Harvest Festival. In the spring, you won't want to miss our second largest fundraiser, the Jog-A-Thon.

We've dramatically expanded our offering of spirit wear items which now include t-shirts, sweatshirts, car decals, coin purses and binder pouches.

I hope you will join our team of dedicated volunteers. We provide many services to the school, both inside the classroom and around campus. Please contact me for more information about how you can get involved.

Of course we want you all to join our PTA so we can continue to support all the amazing programs going on at Turtleback. Please complete and return the attached PTA membership envelope.

Thanks for your commitment to our children,

**Sandy Buccat**  
PTA President  
rbuccat2@san.rr.com

## DATES TO REMEMBER

- 8/20 ESS & Pre-School
- & 21 Closed
- 8/22 First Day of School
- 8/24 Early Dismissal 12:50
- 8/30 School Pictures  
(Pre-school & Gr. 3-5)
- 8/31 School Pictures  
(Pre-school & Gr. K-2)
- 9/3 Labor Day - No School
- 9/6 Back to School Night
  - 5:45 K-2 Classroom Presentations
  - 6:40 PTA Meeting
  - 7:15 3-5 Classroom Presentations
- 9/7 Friday Flag
- 9/11 Playground Partners Begins
- 9/28 Professional Growth Day...No School  
ESS & Pre-School  
Closed

**REPORT STUDENT  
ABSENCES BY  
CALLING OUR  
ABSENCE HOT LINE  
858 673-3967**

15855 Turtleback Rd, San Diego CA 92127 ♥ Office: 858-673-5514

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## Arrival:

Students should report directly to the classroom by 8:10 on the first day of school. On this first day teachers will be in their rooms by 7:50 to greet students. Parents are invited to gather at the front of the school for juice/coffee and donuts after you have dropped your child off at their classrooms.

After the first day, playground supervision will begin at 7:50, fifteen (15) minutes before the start of school each day. Students in grades 1-5 arriving at school should walk to the back playground by entering through the gate by ESS or the gates at the front of the school and walking around the outside of the building through the side gates (the right side gate is between the kindergarten building and room 3, and the left is between the MPR and room 14).

Kindergarteners and PEPPers should proceed to the kindergarten playground between 7:50 & 8:05.

Students SHOULD NOT arrive at school before 7:50, as there will be no adult supervision. Students will line-up on the playground in an assigned area at 8:05, when the tardy bell rings and school begins promptly at 8:10. Students are expected to be in their seats ready to learn at that time. Students arriving after the 8:10 bell need to come to the office for a late slip before going to class.

## Dismissal:

At dismissal time (2:30 for grades 1-5 and 11:30 for kindergartners, parents should meet their children by the flagpole in front of school or another designated area off campus. Parents should NOT meet their children inside the school hallways or by their classroom, as it is a distraction to the learning environment. Please be respectful of student learning time.

Parents driving students to school should adhere to the parking lot procedures and drop students off in the horseshoe area. Please be aware that **THERE IS NO PARKING IN THE HORSESHOE AREA AT ANYTIME.** This includes getting out of your car to open doors for your children. Kindergarten parents should park on the street or in the parking lot if you are walking your child to class. Cars left unattended in the horseshoe and red zones may be ticketed.

## Time Banking - Every Friday:

Turtleback will continue its weekly time banking with an early (12:50) dismissal each Friday for grades 1-5, beginning August 24. Time Banking allows our teachers time for professional growth and grade level planning. An ESS day care package is available for Friday afternoons only. Please contact Merry Dawn Szybowski at (858) 673-3659 for information.

## Safety Guidelines:

In order to maintain a safe campus for your child, all gates to the campus will be closed and/or locked during school hours. If you need to come on campus when the gates are closed, please sign in at the front office and put on a visitor's badge. All visitors and volunteers need to enter campus during the school hours through the office.

When traveling to and from school it is important for students and adults to follow traffic and pedestrian rules. Safety Patrol students will be present to help students cross Turtleback Road and Maturin Road.

If you plan to use the horseshoe portion of the front parking lot to drop off your child in the morning, students should be ready with all their belongings to exit the car when an adult helper opens their door. Parents should stay behind the steering wheel so we can keep traffic moving quickly and safely. If your family needs more time to say good bye or gather all your school stuff, please park your car on the street or in the parking lot and walk your child in.

You can also use the parking lot or horseshoe at dismissal time, but please note that both fill early (especially on Fridays and rainy days) and the parking lot will be closed from 2:30-2:45 to keep it safe for pedestrians.



## Bicycle Riding:

Students in grades 3, 4, and 5 may ride their bike to school *if there is a Bicycle Permit form on file in the office signed by the parent.* This permit must be renewed every year and can be picked up in the school office. Helmets must always be worn.

Roller blading (including shoes with built-in wheels) and skateboarding are not allowed on campus at anytime. Students are also not allowed to ride "Razor Scooters" to and from school.



## Parent Communication:

We believe strongly in keeping parents up to date on school and community activities. Every Friday the youngest child from each household will bring home a "YO-PACK" (Youngest Only Pack" that contains Turtleback's weekly newsletter *Terrapin Talk* and other important information regarding our school and community. Please read *Terrapin Talk* each week, as it will provide you with information on upcoming school and PTA events as well as answers to questions you may have.

## Visitors And Volunteers:

Board Policy 4.415 prohibits the presence of volunteers on campus (this includes any helpers in the classroom, library, workroom and office) until they have completed a Megan's Law background check, signed the Code of Conduct and have turned into the office documentation of a current cleared TB Skin Test. A TB Skin Test schedule is provided in this registration packet. If you need a TB Skin Test, you **MUST** obtain a volunteer verification form from the office prior to receiving your TB Test. There will be no charge for the TB Skin Test. All visitors and cleared volunteers must report to the office, sign in, and wear a badge/nametag while on campus.

Please remember that you may NOT volunteer at Turtleback until you have been issued a badge.



## Attendance:

It is important that you keep us informed regarding the reason your child is not in school. Therefore, when your child is absent, we request that you call the 24-Hour Absence Hotline 673-3967, to inform us whether your child is ill or absent for other reasons. If your child will be absent from school due to anything other than illness, please contact the school office in advance regarding homework and/or a study contract.

## School Lunch:

Hot lunches are available for \$2.00 including milk. For children who choose to bring lunch from home milk (\$.50) and juice (\$.60) may be purchased from the cafeteria. Kindergarten students will need to bring their own snacks and drinks unless they attend ESS.

If your child is allergic to milk, juice may be substituted if you have submitted a doctor's note to the food service personnel and the school health attendant.

You may pay in advance for your child's lunch by sending cash or a check payable to PUSD Food Service to the office. Lunch envelopes are available in the office. You may also deposit money with a credit card at [www.myLunchMoney.com](http://www.myLunchMoney.com) using your students full ID # (must have a "1" in front of the student number). If your child was on the Free or Reduced Lunch Program last year and/or needs to be on it this year, you must submit a 2007-08 application to Food Services by September 30. Applications are included in this packet. For your convenience you will be able to pre-pay for lunches by the front gates before school on Wednesday, August 22.

## Change in Contact or Emergency Info:

Please come into the office and fill out a student change notice if your address, phone or emergency numbers have changed. You must provide two new proofs of residency if your address changes. It is very important that we have accurate information in case of an emergency.

## Medication:

Students who are required to take medication during school hours may be assisted by school personnel if the school receives a Medication Authorization form filled out by the physician and the parent detailing the instructions for administering the medication. This form may be picked up at the school office. For safety reasons, only adults may bring medication to school. Please do not send it to school with your child.

Sunscreen, cough drops, lip balm and vasoline, etc, must have a note from the parent on file and will also be monitored by the school personnel.





# Turtleback Calendar

## August/September 2007



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
19	20 ESS & Pre-school Closed	21 ESS & Pre-school Closed	22 First Day of School	23	24 Every Friday is Early Dismissal Friday Hours: 8:10-12:50	25
26	27 Behavior Assemblies	28 Behavior Assemblies	29	30 Picture Day Pre-school & Grades 3-5	31 Picture Day Pre-school & Grades K-2	1
2	3 No School Labor Day	4	5	6 Back to School Night/PTA Association Meeting	7 Friday Flag Gift Wrap Sales Begin	8
9	10 7:00 PM School Board Meeting	11 Playground Partners Begins	12 All School Assembly "Widen the Circle"	13	14	15
16	17 Bus Evacuation Drill	18 School Picture Make up Day	19	20 Student Council Speeches	21 Student Council Election Results Gift Wrap Sales End	22
23	24	25	26	27	28 Professional Growth Day— No School for Students ESS & Pre- school Closed	29

