



Terrapin Talk



Volume 9, Issue 18

Turtleback ♥ PTA Newsletter

February 29, 2008

Principal's Message

By Celeste Campbell, Ed.D.

Make a Difference. Take a Stand!

Please join our school community on Friday, March 7 at 8:15 am in the Multipurpose Room for our Friday Flag assembly. Our first graders will be sharing with us what the character pillar "caring" means to them. We'll also be kicking off a campaign to raise money to provide community-based education and literacy programs, especially for girls, in remote mountain regions of Central Asia. Our "Pennies for Peace" campaign is based on the work of mountaineer and author Greg Mortenson. Mr. Mortenson wrote the bestselling book, Three Cups of Tea. I read it over break and highly recommend it! More information on the book and service project is available at www.penniesforpeace.org. We're hoping to really breathe life into this endeavor by raising our students' awareness of life along the Afghani/Pakistan border beyond just having the students contribute their pennies. Let me know if you'd like to join our ad hoc steering committee.

I'd also like to appeal to your sense of political activism and ask that you make your voice heard regarding Governor Schwarzenegger's proposed reduction to education funding. As I mentioned in a recent automated phone call to you all, I became very alarmed when I realized the governor's proposed cuts translate into \$800 less for each student in the state. Should the proposed cuts be enacted, California will drop to 48th in the

country in per pupil spending. While we will do everything possible to buffer our core academic programs from these severe budget cuts, instructional and intervention programs are likely to be impacted to at least some degree, to say nothing of the enrichment programs we've built up over the years.

So what can you do? Visit the San Diego County PTA's website, click on the link to locate your state representatives, and download the pre-written letters for your legislators then fax or mail them as soon as possible. The website is www.NinthDistrictPTA.org. It only took me five minutes to find the letters, fill in my information, and drop them in the mail.

Kindergarten Orientation & Enrollment for 2008-2009

Kindergarten Orientation will be April 30, 2008 at 3:00 pm in the Multipurpose Room. We encourage all parents of an incoming kindergarten student to attend this very important pre-kindergarten enrollment meeting. We will share with you kindergarten readiness information and the enrollment process.

Kindergarten/PEPP Enrollment will be May 6, 2008 from 8:30 - 11:30 am in the Multipurpose Room. Information on enrollment and what will be needed for a student to enroll is attached to this newsletter. Please read through what will be required for enrollment and start to put your documents in order so you will be ready on May 6. **Enrollment**

Character Counts!

Pillar

☺ Caring

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- | | |
|------|---|
| 3/4 | 4 th Grade Writing Assessment |
| 3/4 | 3:30-5:00 pm School Site Council Mtg |
| 3/5 | 6:30-8:30 pm Parenting Workshop |
| 3/6 | 6:30-8:00 pm Oak Valley MS Transition Night |
| 3/7 | 8:15 am Friday Flag in Multipurpose Room |
| 3/7 | Progress Notices Go Home |
| 3/9 | Daylight Savings Time |
| 3/10 | PUSD Board Meeting |
| 3/12 | 6:30-8:30 pm Parenting Workshop |
| 3/13 | 8:30-11:30 Kindergarten Parent Night |
| 3/13 | 7:00 pm PTA Exec Board Mtg. |
| 3/13 | 8:15 pm Dad's Club Gathering |
| 3/14 | 8:30-11:30 am JOG-A-THON |

paperwork will be available online after the April 30 orientation meeting.

Please share this information with your neighbors who may have a first kindergartener entering school next year.

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Preschool Registration

On March 12 from 12:00-2:00 in the Multipurpose Room you can register your incoming preschooler for our $\frac{1}{2}$ day parent participation program. Registration for the full day preschool class will take place on March 12 from 4:00-6:00 in room EB-13. For registration requirements refer to <http://powayusd.com/teaching/sss/preschool/registration.htm>

PEPP Information Night

If your child will turn 5 years old between June 1 and December 2, you might want to learn more about our PEPP Kindergarten class, an alternative to our traditional one-year kindergarten program. In our 2-year PEPP kindergarten program, students get the benefit of an extra year to develop important social and emotional skills which are essential for school success. A PEPP Information Night will be held on Thursday, April 17 from 6-7 pm at Sundance Elementary School.

4th Grade California Standards Writing Test Approaching

Please note that all California 4th graders will be taking an important writing assessment on Tuesday, March 4. This testing program and the more extensive testing that will take place in late April provide important information about your child's academic achievement individually and provide critical program information for our school and district. We appreciate your support making sure your 4th grader is well rested and fed on the morning of March 4. Thank you.

Spaces Available in Highly Recommended Parent Workshop

DeAnn House, a much sought after parenting coach, is teaching a work-

shop right here at Turtleback entitled, "Developing Capable Young People" on Wednesday evenings through March 26 from 6:30-8:30 pm in our library. This interactive workshop based on the best selling book, Raising Self-Reliant Children in a Self-Indulgent World will give you tools to increase your child's character, responsibility, communication and resiliency. Each session can be attended independently (meaning you don't have to sign up for the entire series) and the cost is \$20 per participant per class. Please register with DeAnn at 619-303-9626 or capableparenting.cox.net.

Spring Food Drive

It might surprise you to know that many of our Poway Unified School District families struggle to provide three healthy meals a day for their children. In an effort to address this challenge, we will be accepting food donations all next week (March 3-7). We especially need: canned goods, peanut butter, rice, pasta, spaghetti sauce, and cereal. We'll be collecting donations in the front office and at the morning horseshoe drop off all week. Thank you.

Oak Valley Middle School Transition Meetings

If you are the parent of a 5th grader, you should mark your calendar for Thursday, March 6. From 6:30-8:00, Oak Valley teachers and students will share information about OVMS's vision, curriculum and programs in the Turtleback Multipurpose Room. If you are unable to attend the March 6 event, the same message will be delivered at Monterey Ridge on March 4 and Stone Ranch on March 5.

"Sensory Strategies That Work" Workshop for Parents and Teachers

Do you have a child who has trouble focusing or is wiggly to the point that their constant movement interferes

with their learning? You are cordially invited to join Turtleback's staff for a hands-on workshop on Friday, March 21 from 1:15-3:00 in the TBK library. Occupational Therapist Betsy Slavik and Special Education Teacher Julie Goodwin will be facilitating this very practical learning opportunity.

Math Olympiad Super Stars

Five Terrapins earned perfect scores on their 4th Math Olympiad Contest: Brandon, Carolyn, Kion, Angela and Nathan. Way to go!!

Fifth Grade Parents

Are you already thinking about next year? Oak Valley Middle School PTSA needs you! Many members of their Executive Board are "graduating" with their students to high school. The OVMS PTSA needs to fill positions including president, secretary and treasurer. For more information please contact Kendra Dasteel @ kdasteel@yahoo.com or 922-3385.

Pictures Needed Now for Yearbook

Please e-mail photos to tbkyearbook@yahoo.com as soon as possible. The deadline for photos is March 31st. The more photos that are submitted, the better the yearbook will be. Hard copies and CD-ROMs are also accepted.

Best Moms Essay Contest for 4th & 5th Graders

Time Warner Cable is sponsoring an essay contest for 4th and 5th graders through March 15. Prizes include a laptop computer and school supply gift cards for the winning students' teachers. See www.twcsd.com for more information.

