

# Terrapin Talk

## Turtleback ♥ PTA Newsletter

Volume 9, Issue 14

January 11, 2008

### Principal's Message

*By Celeste Campbell, Ed.D.*

I hope you have a chance to join us on campus sometime soon. We're nearing the end of our current round of up-grades. Of course, if Prop C passes on February 5, Turtleback will experience even more intensive renovations.

For the time being, the kids are excited to be playing on our improved playgrounds. We're still waiting for new sand for one area and a volleyball court, but otherwise, the play areas are good to go (and much safer). We've also repaired the potholes on the running track.

We have a cool new tricycle track on the kindergarten playground to go along with our very fancy trikes (purchased with your PTA dues). While all our kindergartners and typically developing preschoolers enjoy the tricycle experience, our Autism Spectrum Disorder preschools have especially benefited.

We're making great progress on our up-grades of the Turtleback Student Connection Center, which served as our counseling center after the wildfires. The Bishop Center for Adult Learning is due one more shipment of furniture and then we'll begin stocking it with resources for teachers and parents alike. Both the Connection Center and Bishop Center have been supported by PTA dues and fundraisers as well.

The most exciting instruction-related improvement we're celebrating has been the installation of LCD projectors, larger screens, and amplification systems in EVERY classroom. Teachers can now project anything from their computer, cable

TV, VCR or DVD on a huge screen and the new sound system is state-of-the-art. Our fabulous computer technician, Doug Burrows, is hard at work coaching our staff in how to maximize the educational opportunities for our kiddos using this awesome technology.

On the more cosmetic side, you may notice some red-framed Character Counts slogans hanging from the ceilings of our hallways. Thanks are due to a whole team of folks who made these signs a reality, but special thanks to parent Rob Chohan for donating the printing costs, to committee chairs Michaelle Stamp and Meredith Virgilio, and to Adam Carlin and his dad for mounting the signs over winter break. Also, our wonderfully talented parent volunteer, Barbara Costes, is about halfway through painting Character Counts pillar murals. We are so blessed.

### Heartfelt Thanks from a Turtleback Family

*By Michelle, Quentin & Sean Tiberia*

We would like to say thank you from the bottom of our hearts for all your kindness and generosity during this most difficult time. Although we lost our home in the fire, we were blessed with so much warmth and kindness from so many caring people in the community. We thank you and wish you all a Happy New Year!

### Character Counts!

#### Pillar

☺ Responsibility

### DATES TO REMEMBER:

- |         |   |
|---------|---|
| 1/18    | Student Spirit Day - Music Day                      |
| 1/21    | Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - NO SCHOOL             |
| 1/22    | School is in Session                                |
| 1/22    | PUSD Board Meeting                                  |
| 1/25    | Student Store                                       |
| 1/28    | 4 <sup>th</sup> Grade Singing Classes Begin         |
| 1/29-30 | 4 <sup>th</sup> Graders Field Trips to Adobe Rancho |
| 1/31    | Parent Workshop                                     |
| 2/1     | Friday Flag (please join us at 8:15 am)             |
| 2/1 & 4 | Class Photos  |
| 2/5     | Election Day  |
| 2/7     | Kindergarten Parent Night                           |
| 2/8     | Ancestor Story Day                                  |
| 2/8     | Student Store                                       |
| 2/11    | PUSD Board Meeting                                  |
| 2/12    | English Learners Parent Meeting                     |
| 2/18-22 | NO SCHOOL   |
| 2/28    | PTA Association Meeting                             |
| 2/28    | Family Sing Along Night with Buck Howdy             |
| 2/29    | 2 <sup>nd</sup> reporting period Ends               |

### REMINDER:

**NO SCHOOL MON., JANUARY 21  
MARTIN LUTHER KING JR DAY  
PRESCHOOL AND ESS CLOSED**



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## It's Variety Show Time

That's right Terrapins...it is time to show your stuff once again! Previews for this year's Talent/Variety Show will be held on February 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> in the Multipurpose Room. Watch *Terrapin Talk* next week for sign up forms. You'll need to have your forms completed and turned into your teachers by Friday, January 25<sup>th</sup>.

Preview assignments will be posted in the February 1<sup>st</sup> *Terrapin Talk* and an announcement will be sent to your teachers. You must attend each scheduled rehearsal in order to participate in the show so plan accordingly. So, practice, practice, practice and we'll see you at Previews!

*Schedule (all times are approximate):*

**Previews**--February 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> (acts to attend on the day assigned) 2:30-4:30 pm

**Rehearsal**--Feb 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> (acts to attend on the day assigned) 2:30-4:30 pm

**Rehearsal**--March 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> (acts to attend on the day assigned) 2:30-4:30 pm

**Rehearsal**--March 19<sup>th</sup> (All acts) 2:30 - 5:00 pm

**Dress Rehearsal**--March 27<sup>th</sup> (All acts) 2:30 - 5:00 pm

**Shows Times**--March 28<sup>th</sup> (morning & evening) times to be announced.

If you have any questions, please call Lydia Bretschneider at (858) 395-2282 or email at [lcrios@hotmail.com](mailto:lcrios@hotmail.com).

## Math Olympiad Contest Results

Recently many of our 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders completed their second contest of the year. Angela, Shannon, Aiku and Richard all scored in the 98<sup>th</sup> percentile for all 5<sup>th</sup> graders. Six of our 11 fourth graders scored

in the 95<sup>th</sup> percentile for all 4<sup>th</sup> graders.

Combining results from the first and second contests, our leaders thus far (with 8 of 10 correct) are Shannon, Aiku and Richard, but six students are only one point behind these front runners. Congratulations to our hard working kiddos, their parents and especially their dedicated coach, Dr. Cliff Matsuda!

## Integrating Music Back into the Curriculum

Thanks to a grant received from the state of California, Turtleback has been able to hire a wonderful singing instructor named Jeff Lee to work with our 1<sup>st</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup> graders. Our 5<sup>th</sup> graders already have the opportunity to explore band and orchestral music with the fabulous Joanne Hernandez. Beginning next fall, part of the aforementioned state grant money will assist students with instrument rental who aren't able to take advantage of this wonderful learning opportunity due to financial hardship. We have also earmarked some of this grant money to expand our music and art appreciation programs at all grade levels.

## Earthquake Drill Went Smoothly

On December 14, over 600 students, staff members and parents were efficiently evacuated to our back field after practicing the duck, cover and hold posture they are trained to assume in the event of an earthquake. While the students were kept calmly occupied out on the field, our trained search and locate teams donned hard hats and successfully found and evacuated "planted" injured students.

Additionally, our first aide, command center, and parent/student reunification teams all had the opportunity to practice their responsibilities. We dis-

covered a few procedures we will slightly refine, but all-and-all, I am quite confident that we are prepared to take good care of our Terrapins should an earthquake occur during school hours. The entire drill took just over 30 minutes to complete. This is amazing!

In addition to multiple earthquake drills, we also regularly practice for intruder events (full lock down drills) and conduct monthly fire drills.

As a reminder, should an event occur which necessitates that you pick up your child from school following an evacuation, please report to the back steps off Maturin with some form of photo identification and we will reunite you with your child as soon as we account for everyone on campus.

## GATE Testing Window

The application window for the next GATE (Gifted and Talented Education) test is February 4 - March 28. Please see the district website ([www.powayusd.com/teaching/learning/gate/](http://www.powayusd.com/teaching/learning/gate/)) for additional information.

## Vision & Hearing Screening

District nurses held screenings today for Grades K-5. A special thank you to our PTA volunteers: Sandy Buccat, Jo Ellen Weber, Claudia Deney and Jane McGuire. Your help was greatly appreciated.

### **Current Fundraisers**

- Plastic Bags
- Box Tops for Education
- eScrip and Ralphs Community Contributions

**ABSENCE HOTLINE**  
**(858) 673-3967**