



Terrapin Talk



Volume 9, Issue 20

Turtleback ♥ PTA Newsletter

March 14, 2008

Principal's Message

By Celeste Campbell, Ed.D.

Throughout the month of March, our school will be breathing life into this month's character pillar: caring. At last week's Friday Flag assembly, your students were introduced to the Pennies for Peace Project. Information is available at (www.penniesforpeace.org). This project was born from the unsuccessful K2 summiting experience of Greg Mortenson in 1993. As he descended from the second tallest mountain in the world, he stumbled into the small mountain village of Korphe, Pakistan. During his recovery from multiple injuries and altitude sickness, he realized the children of this remote village had no school whatsoever and he has dedicated the past 2 dozen years to building over 65 schools throughout Pakistan and Afghanistan. His journey is chronicled in his best selling book Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Promote Peace...One School at a Time.

In addition to sharing Mr. Mortenson's story and humanitarian work, your students learned about our own Mrs. Anita Bhakta's experiences teaching in a village very near Korphe. I have encouraged our teachers to consider jumping on board this service project and have also shared curricular activity options (geography and math especially) with them. While we did not even touch on the political issues related to the current war on terror in Afghanistan and parts of Pakistan during the assembly, I know you adults will appreciate that the best hope for a peaceful world lies in the education of all the world's children and that literacy, for both girls

and boys, provides better economic opportunities for the children of Pakistan and Afghanistan and neutralizes the power of extremists and terrorists.

If your family elects to participate in this project (we will be collecting pennies throughout the month of March), I hope you will take the opportunity to educate yourself further about Greg Mortenson's important work and discuss the moral, social, and political issues with your children, as you see fit, related to your families belief systems. More information can be found at www.threecupsoftea.com or The Central Asian Institute's website at www.ikat.org.

In April we will conduct a similar fundraiser/service project to raise money for schools in Africa and we've done other projects for Hurricane Katrina survivors, not to mention the support you and your children generated for our neighbors in Westwood following the recent fires.

Please Return Census Form ASAP

Student census and directory permission slip forms were due back to school on March 14, but if you haven't turned your's in, we still need this critical information from you. An accurate accounting of which students are returning to Turtleback drives our staffing plan. Extra forms are available in the front office. Thank you!



Character Counts!

Pillar

☺Caring

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- | | |
|----------|---|
| 3/19 | 6:30-8:30 pm Parenting Workshop "Help Your Child Develop Interpersonal Skills" |
| 3/20 | 6:00-7:30 Family Fitness Night
2 nd Grade Field trip to the Zoo |
| 3/21 | Pajama Dress Up day
1:15-3:00 "Sensory Strategies that Work" |
| 3/26 | 6:30-8:30 pm Parenting Workshop "Help Your Child Develop Systemic Skills"
6:30 Bernardo Hts. MS Family Orientation Night |
| 3/27 | 6:00 pm GATE Parent Night |
| 3/28 | 8:30 am Variety Show Assembly
6:00 pm Variety Show |
| 4/1 | Book Fair Begins
Crazy Hair Day |
| 4/2 | Donuts with Dads
Book Fair Continues |
| 4/3 | OPEN HOUSE
PTA Association Mtg
Book Fair Ends |
| 4/7-4/11 | Spring Break - NO SCHOOL |
| 4/11 | ESS & Pre-School Closed |

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Jog-A-Thon Appreciation

By Jo-Ellen Weber PTA Vice President

It was great seeing all of the parent runners and volunteers at the Jog-A-Thon today. This is one of my favorite events as it is not only one of our biggest fundraisers, but also promotes fitness. Congratulations to all of the Terrapins that met their goal today!!! Its hard work running all those laps, but it's a lot of fun too. Thank you to Margie Meggers for providing us with such an energetic atmosphere. Thank you also to all the room parents and teachers. We wouldn't be able to do it without you.

Budget Update

By Dr. Celeste Campbell, Principal

We are hearing from Sacramento that parent letters to our local legislators are making a difference. The legislators are being deluged by correspondence from some districts, but not from Poway so far. The proposed budget cuts for education will cut so deeply in all school districts in California, that it could take a decade to recover, if then. My children and your's don't have 10 years to wait. They deserve a first class education NOW.

As our Superintendent and School Board Members search for the least disruptive ways to cut \$15.5 million dollars from the PUSD budget, the first proposal includes raising class sizes and decreasing sections offered. This could result in upwards of 180 teachers losing their jobs, not to mention the reduced quality of education your children will receive in overcrowded classes.

If you have not already done so, I strongly encourage you to visit the California PTA's website (even if you aren't a member) and download, complete, and mail or fax the form letters to your local legislators. The

legislator's names and addresses are easy to find on the 9th District PTA website (www.ninthdistrictpta.org). It is simply unacceptable that California, with the 8th largest economy in the world, will digress to 48th in per pupil spending in the United States. Your voice truly does make a difference.

Family Fitness Night March 20

You don't want to miss our 3rd annual Family Fitness Night on March 20th from 6:00-7:30 pm. Come and join us for a fun time during which we will play as families and learn how fitness is important for everyone. You'll want to wear comfy clothes and shoes. Hope you can join us!

Talent/Variety Show Premieres March 28th

By Lydia Bretschneider



This year's Talent/Variety Show on March 28th will be a tribute to the musical "Hairspray". There will be morning and evening shows this year as follows:

All School Assembly (families welcome)

8:30-9:30am Act One

9:45-10:45m Act Two

Evening Performance (free admission)

6:30-9:00pm

All performers should arrive at school in costume for both the morning and evening shows. For the morning show, students should report to their class by 8:10 to check in then go directly to the MPR. For the evening show, all performers should report to the MPR in costume at 5:45 pm.

The kids have worked really hard again this year to produce a fantastic show so please join us and cheer on our talented Terrapins!



Drop Off & Pick Up Reminders



In order to keep all our kiddos safe, we respectfully remind you to:

- Drive slowly through the horseshoe, parking lot and down Maturin and Turtleback Roads
- Follow the instructions of our student safety patrol officers, Mr. House, and parent volunteers who are directing the flow of traffic
- Please do not leave your car unattended if you pause in the horseshoe to drop off or pick up your child
- Do not bypass the horseshoe drop off line to pull up to the red curb in front of the flagpole or multi-purpose room. If you use the inner "express lane," you are expected to park in a marked parking spot and not along the red curb.

Thank you for your cooperation!

"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 his or her 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.

Staying Healthy

We have found ourselves in the heart of the cold and flu season. To limit the spread of germs, please keep your child home until they are 24 hours free of fever or vomiting. Thank you.

