

Sunset Ridge Elementary School

340 Inverness Drive • Pacifica, California 94044

(650) 738-6687 • (650) 355-4042 (fax)

Pacifica School District • www.pacificasd.org

Nurtured Minds ★ Bright Futures



Ellie Cundiff, Principal
Stacy Wayne, Vice Principal

March 12, 2010

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

Wednesday, March 17	Assembly: <i>The Best Me</i>
Thursday, March 18	DELAC Meeting 6:00 Open House, 6:30
March 22-March 26	Spring Conferences, 1:30 Dismissal All Week
Wednesday, March 24	Book of the Month Assembly
Friday, March 26	IBL Band Tour, 10:30 a.m.
March 29- April 2	5 th Grade Outdoor Ed Trip
April 4- April 9	Spring Break, NO SCHOOL

Principal's Message

March is the month when people celebrate literacy across the United States. On Friday, March 5th, Sunset Ridge celebrated literacy by having community volunteers and special author, Marsha Arnold, read and discuss good literature with all the classrooms. We'd like to thank the Pacifica School Volunteers for organizing 50 plus volunteers that read to the students, and we'd like to thank the PTA for sponsoring our guest author and providing breakfast and lunch to our readers.

Sunset Ridge has always had a focus on literacy and this year is no exception. This year we have held two Reading is Fundamental events for our 4th graders; in February, the PTA hosted the Family Reading Event; with Mrs. Lyttle's support, we participated in the Six Flags Reading Challenge; and we have encouraged students to read nightly by having our Super Readers Awards at the Book of the Month assemblies. This month we will be collecting books for the Pacifica School Volunteers' Book Sale that happens on April 17th. We are also looking for volunteers to work at the book sale. If you're interested, please contact the office at 738-6687, the PTA at sunsetridgepta@pacificasd.org or 738-6687 ext. 105, or Pacifica School Volunteers at 355-9432. Please continue to support our efforts in promoting literacy by volunteering at school or at the book sale event and by reading to your child every day.

-Ellie Cundiff, Principal

CLASSROOM INTERRUPTIONS:

It is our intent to continue to minimize classroom interruptions during the school day. It is extremely difficult to get messages to students and have students leave class early. This should only be done in an emergency. Please try to make plans with your child at home before school. In another effort to minimize classroom interruptions, we will not call into classrooms to inform students of forgotten lunches, lunch money, etc. Students can stop at our office reception window to see if something has been delivered to the school for them. It is also extremely important for you to make doctors' appointments after school hours. When students are called out of class early, they are missing important instructional time and it interrupts the entire class. Please be considerate of the classroom and do not pick your students up early to avoid traffic in the parking lot or to start your weekend early. Every minute the students spend with their teacher is important.

Donations for the Peninsula Humane Society



Girl Scouts Troop # 31846 will be conducting a blanket and pet toy drive for the PHS. Please leave new items for prospective pets in the collection box in the Sunset Ridge lobby, outside of the PTA room. Donations will be accepted through March 24th. For more information or for donation ideas, please visit the website at www.pen.humanesociety.org

A Young Artist

Third grader Vladimir Ibarra received a pleasant surprise last week when he learned that a patron of the arts who saw his piece on display at the Sanchez Art Center was interested in purchasing it. In her letter, the patron wrote that when she first saw Vladimir's artwork, she "was immediately moved by its liveliness and sense of pure joy." We would like to extend our thanks to art teacher Alexandra Ostroff and our congratulations to Vladimir. We are extremely proud of you!



Read Aloud Day

Our annual Read Aloud Day was a tremendous success, with over fifty members of the community volunteering their time to read to our students. Among the distinguished guest readers last Friday were Assemblymember Jerry Hill, Pacifica Mayor Pro Tem Mary Ann Nihart, and Pacifica School Board Member Eileen Manning-Villar, all pictured here with Ms. Cundiff.



Math and Science Connection

➡ Encourage the love of math by "talking up" math or speaking positively about it to your child. Convey the message that math is fun and that we use it in daily life. Have your child estimate how many people are in line at the post office or figure out the total of several items at the grocery store. Be sure to mention the math skills being used ("Good job with your addition!"). Play games like Yahtzee or Monopoly and read books about math, such as *Equal Shmequal* by Virginia Kroll or *Counting on Frank* by Rod Clement.

➡ Shiny Penny Math Experiment: Give your child a pile of dull pennies, a paper cup, lemon juice, and a paper towel. Have them put the penny in the cup and cover it with lemon juice. After 5 minutes, take the penny out and dry it with the paper towel. The penny will be much brighter because pennies are made from copper, which is naturally shiny. As the copper mixes with oxygen over time, it loses its shine. The chemical reaction, called oxidation, creates an oxide, which can be removed with the acid in the lemon juice, leaving the penny looking brand new.

Healthy Kids

All of us have heard the news about the increase in childhood obesity and the related risk factors that were traditionally seen only in adults. In an attempt to encourage our children to make healthy choices and get plenty of activities, our students have been participating in a Healthy Kids Challenge. Students have been provided cards to keep track of their eating and physical activities for two weeks. If they turn in the cards each week to the office, their name will be put into a drawing for some wonderful prizes.

We would like to take this time to remind everyone about providing your children with healthy snacks at school. Please do not send your child to school with chips and other junk food items. We would also like to remind everyone that we are not having "birthday parties" in the classroom due to the impact on instructional time. Please speak with your child's teacher for other ways to acknowledge a birthday, such as donating a special book to the class on your child's behalf.



5th Annual Globe at Night Campaign

Globe at Night is an annual 2-week campaign from March 3rd through March 16th designed to address light pollution. You are invited to measure and record the brightness of the night sky and to submit the results online with the date, time, and location. A few weeks later, the organizers will release a map of light pollution levels worldwide. Join volunteers from all over the world to help address an environmental issue on the local level. For more information and to learn the five easy steps to participate, please visit the website at www.globeatnight.org.