

## Notes from the Principal

January 12, 2011!

### IMPORTANT DATES....

January 17<sup>th</sup> Martin  
Luther King **Holiday**

January 18<sup>th</sup> **Golf**  
class begins after  
school

January 20<sup>th</sup> **PTA**  
7:00

January 21<sup>st</sup> **Chess**  
for Kids begins after  
school

January 25<sup>th</sup> **Site**  
**Council** 3:15

January 28<sup>th</sup> **Skate**  
**Night** 5:30 – 7:30

February 4<sup>th</sup> **Talent**  
**Show**

You may have noticed that the Petaluma School District is now piloting a **standards-based report card** for all elementary students. This report card is an exciting step for our school and district as we work towards making sure all students are successful at meeting grade-level standards. At Penngrove School, kindergarten, first, second, fourth and fifth grade teachers will be using the standards-based report card during this pilot year. Next year all teachers will be using the standards-based report card. Because this is a pilot year, teachers are suggesting changes which will be reflected in the final version of the card.

Standards describe what a student should know and be able to do at each grade level in all subjects. This report card is designed to give you more and better information about how your child is progressing. The report card will tell you if your child is (3) meeting the grade-level standards; (2) approaching the standards; or (1) below— meaning your child has not met the standards. It will also indicate the standards that have not yet been taught. The report card also provides information on your child's work habits. At the start of the year, it would be considered typical for a child to receive mostly 2's and some 3's, as they have not yet been exposed to the majority of the standards.

The standards-based report card is helpful in many ways. First, it helps to make sure there is more consistency of expectations from teacher to teacher. It helps teachers and students focus on the standards from the very beginning of the school year, giving students the opportunity to get help earlier if they are not making adequate progress. Finally, and perhaps most importantly, you will know exactly how your child is doing based on the standards. You will learn which big ideas and concepts your child has learned and also what work still needs to be done to make sure your child is ready for the next grade level.

The standardization of a district report card will also ensure that students who move within the district will be evaluated using the same measures. This information will transfer more easily and transitions between schools should be simpler and hopefully closer to seamless.

Please feel free to ask questions about your child's progress at any time during the year. We welcome the opportunity to clarify any information that has been shared.

Fifth and sixth grade students will be invited to apply for **student leadership** for the spring. Applications will be accepted until January 27<sup>th</sup>. The new team will be announced on Friday, the 28<sup>th</sup>. Students who have not served previously are encouraged to apply.

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Don't forget that our **annual art show** will happen in February again this year. More information will be coming home later in the month. With this cold weather, you may find time to spend on planning and designing some projects with your children. Be creative and have fun!

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We have a former student who is now working toward his **Eagle Scout award**. He is interested in rebuilding the **fence** around our garden. If you have seen it lately, you are aware that this is a very welcome project for us. He is currently attempting to raise **funds** for his project. I know he would appreciate any monetary help available. If this seems like something you could support, please make out a check to Penngrove School and we will make sure he has access to the money for materials.

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It is that time again! Please let the office know if you have a child who will be starting **kindergarten** in July. We do not keep track of sibling ages so even if your children are on campus frequently, please confirm with the office that they will be starting at our school. Also if you will be leaving our school at the end of the year, please let us know as well. We maintain a list of families who want to attend our school and we try to be realistic when we communicate the possibility of openings. Accurate enrollment numbers help !

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Important!! If you are on an **interdistrict transfer**, please do the transfer this month. The boards traditionally approve as they are submitted, so the earlier they are completed, the earlier the process can begin. This is for continuing students as well as incoming kindergarten students.

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We are having an issue with students arriving too late in the morning for **breakfast**. We are now closing the cafeteria at 8:25. Students have been notified of this so if your child is expecting breakfast at school, please make sure they arrive by 8:15.

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A great big thank you to our PTA for bringing **Lawrence Hall of Science** to our campus this week. The assemblies for each grade level were entertaining, educational and engaging. Thank you to Samantha Bolinger for arranging these assemblies as well.

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After **School Golf@ Penngrove** begins on January 18<sup>th</sup>. TGA Golf teaches golf and so much more; improved coordination, motor skills, and etiquette. Classes will be held in the multi-purpose room on Tuesdays from 3:00 – 4:00. The cost is \$149 for 8 classes. **Chess for Kids** will begin a series of classes on Friday, January 21<sup>st</sup> for grades 1-3. This class is \$60 per student and runs for 6 weeks in our library.

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