



# The Penngrove Connection

Penngrove School ♦ 365 Adobe Rd ♦ 707-778-4755  
www.penngroveelementary.org

Notes from the Principal

April 6, 2011

## **IMPORTANT DATES....**

**Tomorrow night –**  
*Outdoor Education  
meeting for fifth grade  
parents 6:30*

**April 11<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> STAR**  
*testing for grades 2-6*

**April 12<sup>th</sup> Sixth graders-**  
*Board Report on  
Penngrove School 6:00*

**April 20<sup>th</sup> Kenilworth**  
*Junior High School Open  
House 6:30 – 8:00*

**April 22<sup>nd</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>**  
*Furlough Days*

**April 27<sup>th</sup> Promotion**  
*Meeting for 6<sup>th</sup> grade  
parents 7:00*

**May 4<sup>th</sup> Ramp Rats**  
*Assembly 9:00*

**May 5<sup>th</sup> Volunteer Tea in**  
*library 2:45 – 3:45*

**May 9<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> Sixth Grade**  
*to Outdoor Education  
Camp*

**May 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Book Fair**

**May 11<sup>th</sup> Petaluma Junior**  
*High School Open House  
5:00 BBQ 6:15  
Classrooms open*

**May 15<sup>th</sup> Community**  
*Service hours due for  
5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders*

One of the favorite parts of my job is to watch students as they go about their daily routines. Lately I have been watching students coming to school in the morning and leaving in the afternoon. It is interesting to watch the students who walk independently carrying their belongings with purpose and poise and also the students who lag behind a parent who is usually carrying the backpack and giving directions to a reluctant child.

I watch students who walk to the classroom door, hang up their pack, remove their homework and walk into class with assurance and then I see students who stand idly by as a parent hangs their backpack, retrieves their homework, gives a series of reminders, and walks the child through the door.

It is so easy as a parent to do everything for your child. It's quick, fool-proof and efficient...but when we do it all, children have no need to do things for themselves. What happens over time? What message does the child receive? As educators, we see the results every day. In every class we can point to students who have responsibilities whether it is feeding pets, cleaning their room or making their own lunch. We can also point to students who wait to be told everything because they don't have daily opportunities to make choices, problem solve and be responsible.

As parents we have to remind ourselves daily that we are stealing an opportunity from our children when we do something for them that they can do themselves. Don't we want to send a message that he or she is an independent, capable "can do" person? Think what message we can send when we expect our child to make decisions, be responsible and problem solve. The message comes through loud and clear: You can do it!

In April we will have a **shelter in classroom drill**. As adults we know that there are emergency situations that could arise that would make this necessary. Students will be told that we will be practicing in case there is something in the air that makes being outside unsafe. Students will remain in their classroom with blinds closed until an all clear is announced. We practice fire and earthquake drills on a regular basis but after recent events realized we should also practice this type of drill.

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Two of our **sixth graders**, Isabella Sessi and Elliot Aguilar-Maldonado will report to the School Board on April 12<sup>th</sup>. This is an annual event in which two of our sixth graders report on Penngrove School happenings.

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There is an important meeting for all **sixth grade parents** on April 27<sup>th</sup>. Plans will be shared and committees formed for promotion activities. Come and learn how you can support the sixth grade class as they move on to junior high school and the next chapter in their young lives.

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Outdoor Education meeting for **fifth grade parents** will be held tomorrow night in the library. This is the meeting in which fundraising is discussed and plans are developed to lower the cost of camp!

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**Open House** dates are springing up all around. Mark your calendars now for our very own which will be held on May 17<sup>th</sup>. We will have a Pasta Feed which will begin at 5:00 and then our classrooms will be open from 6:30 to 7:30. In addition our two junior high schools will host their respective Open Houses on May 11<sup>th</sup> (PJH) at 6:15 and on April 20<sup>th</sup> (KJH) at 6:30.

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**Screen-Free Week is almost here!** On April 18-24, children, families, schools, and communities around the country will turn off entertainment screen media (TV, video games, computer games, apps, etc.) and turn on life. It's a chance to unplug and read, play, daydream, create, explore nature, and spend more time with family and friends. Since 1996, millions of children and their families have participated in Screen-Free Week (formerly TV-Turnoff). Each year, thousands of parents, teachers, PTA members, librarians, scoutmasters, and clergy organize Screen-Free Weeks in their communities.

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Now that the weather is warming up, it is important to remember that we all ask all students to **dress appropriately** for school. What does this mean? Please no shorts higher than the length of arms hanging by your side and no off-the-shoulder shirts or bra straps showing. Tank tops should have a wide strap, please no pencil thin straps. The best measure is just to ask is my child dressed for a day of learning?

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Second – sixth grade will be testing next week and **snacks** are always appreciated. Even a box of graham crackers can help make a hungry brain work better! If you can donate to your child's class, we would love it!