

Notes from the Principal

May 4, 2011

IMPORTANT DATES....

May 4th Ramp Rats
Assembly 9:00

May 5th Author Visit for
grades 1 and 2

May 5th Volunteer Tea in
library 2:45 – 3:45

May 9th – 13th Sixth Grade
to Outdoor Education
Camp

May 10th – 12th Book Fair

May 11th Petaluma Junior
High School Open House
5:00 BBQ 6:15
Classrooms open

May 15th Community
Service hours due for
5th and 6th graders

May 17th Open House
7:00 Pasta Feed 5:30

With our summer break only four weeks away, it is important to remember that we hope every one of our students reads or is read to over our break. You will receive a summer reading log which can be turned in when school resumes in July.

A book on my bookshelf entitled, “How To Make Your Child A Reader For Life” emphasizes the 3 R’s – Read with your child daily, provide Reading materials in your home and Rule the media (put limits on TV and computer time.)

Other ideas in the book include:

- Use the local public libraries. Both Rohnert Park and Petaluma have well stocked libraries with children’s librarians who are a great resource for reading ideas.
- Use boredom. The proper reply is “So, find yourself something to do.” while you continue reading, writing or working away on some project. Don’t rush out to rent a video or schedule a play date. Maybe your child will decide to read or write or draw!
- Plug into interests. Is your child a sports fanatic or interested in animals? This may be a key to finding books that are interesting.
- Allow your child to have a flashlight near their bed. This is great for safety reasons and don’t we all remember snuggling under the covers reading a book? What is the harm in a bit more reading and a bit less sleep especially in the summer months?
- Gift your child with books. Show them that you value books so include one at Christmas or Hanukkah, for their birthdays and also nestled in Easter baskets.
- You are essential in making your child a reader. We appreciate your efforts!

If you are the parent of a fifth or sixth grader and they are still looking for community service hours, consider the **River Clean Up Day**. It is this Saturday, May 7th from 9-2. Volunteers should report to the Petaluma Marina on Baywood Drive. Boots and gloves are recommended.

There are two parent openings on the **Site Council** for next year. It is a two year commitment and the council meets once per month after school. The Site Council oversees our SIP budget and discusses curricular and instructional information. Please call the office if you would like more information and/ or are interested.

Emiri Nomura, one of our sixth graders, has a fabulous idea for her **Community Service** project this year. Here is a message from her: As many of you know, there was a tsunami and an earthquake in Japan last month. That's why, I am asking you to draw or write an easy cheerful letter to the children of Japan. Most of them haven't learned English yet so a drawing, picture, or postcard in bright pleasant colors should be fine. Please write one and if you do, please give it to the office or Emiri Nomura in 6th grade in room 16 by May 13. I will send it to the organization that will bring your letters to the children in school that was in the area of the disaster in eastern Japan! Thank you!!

Wow! A special thank you to **Oliver's Market** for supporting escrip. We earned \$1,344.58 from them in 2010 and so appreciate their generosity.

Two very important events are upcoming. One is our **Volunteer Tea** which is tomorrow afternoon in the library. It runs from 2:45 – 3:45 and there will be goodies and drinks and an opportunity to chat with other adults. Childcare is provided on the K yard for our students so please come if you possibly can make it. Penngrove School is so fortunate to have a strong parent community that supports us in many ways. We see evidence of this support on a daily basis and this is our opportunity to say thank you!

The other key event is our **Back to School** night on May 17th. Classrooms will be open from 7:00 to 8:00 and the fifth grade students will be sponsoring a Pasta Feed to fundraise for their outdoor education. An order form for the Pasta Feed is attached.

From the library.....

We are winding down in the library...the library will close on Friday, May 13th. All books are due by May 13th. The book fair will take place on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of next week. It's buy one, get one free! It will be open at lunch and after school, not before school. Hope to see you there! The second annual **book re-shelving party** will take place on Thursday, May 19th, at 8:30 a.m. This is a great way to see if you would like to volunteer in the library. We will be putting the books back in order for next year. There are lots of fun jobs to do in the library!

If you have been volunteering in the library this year then you know how much fun we have in here. You are invited to the volunteer tea tomorrow @ 2:45 in the library. Please come and be honored for all you do.

You may have heard.....we are working on teaching a universal dance routine to the entire school! The intention is to further promote a sense of community and cohesiveness amongst all the grades, and also encourage physical activity and fun. We have an opportunity for media coverage if we get the entire school involved, and this will help support ongoing efforts to bring positive exposure to our school. We will be practicing the routine two times every Monday, Tuesday, and Friday morning on the blacktop after the bell rings. We would love to have parents join in, but no spectators please. It's a great way to jump-start the day and get our students in the mood to learn.

Music Concert News Flash!

The fifth and sixth grade music students at Penngrove are looking forward to performing their music selections at the upcoming 2011 Spring Music Concert. The school community, parents and family members are invited to attend this special event. The concert is in Penngrove's Multi Purpose Room, at 7:00pm, on Friday, May 20. We look forward to seeing you there.

Date: Friday, May 20

Time: 7:00pm Performers arrive at 6:40

Place: Penngrove Multipurpose Room

Diane Baines, Sandra LaRusso, and Luanne Rice
Elementary Music Specialists

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