

Notes from the Principal

November 10, 2010

IMPORTANT DATES....

Canned Food Drive
continues until the 19th
of this month

Tonight! Dine Out at
Caprara's Pizza – see
info on back

November 11th
Veteran's Day Holiday
Parade in downtown
Petaluma with
Penngrove cub scouts
participating

November 18th
6:00 GATE Parents
meeting in staff room

7:00 PTA in library

November 22nd – 26th
Furlough Days and
Thanksgiving Holiday

At one of our recent assemblies, our student leadership team presented a skit about the importance of “filling each other’s bucket”. This idea is based on a book entitled, “Have You Filled a Bucket Today?” The premise is that all of us have an invisible bucket that we carry with us on a daily basis. The bucket has only one purpose, which is to hold good thoughts and good feelings about ourselves. This book was written to teach students how to be bucket fillers. We want our students to think about what they might do or say to fill someone else’s bucket. It might be saying something nice to someone. It might be helping someone with a task. It may be as simple as giving someone a smile! Each of us has a choice to be a bucket filler by being kind and caring or a bucket dipper by being hurtful or selfish.

Recently I received a letter from one of our parents. Her family had not had a good week and had in fact had a death in their family. On the way home from the funeral, her daughter, one of our kindergarteners mentioned that her “Grandma was a bucket filler”. She went on to explain that her Grandma was a bucket filler because “she loved me and gave us nice things and made us feel special”.

Some of our classrooms have paper buckets for each student to be filled by others. Our library has a bulletin board with a huge bucket and examples of students being bucket fillers. So if your child talks about being a bucket filler or a bucket dipper, you now know where the idea originated. You can help support this effort at home by demonstrating to your child how to be a bucket filler. Imagine what a better place the world would be if all of us were bucket fillers on a daily basis!

At our Wednesday assembly this week, we will have the unveiling of our new retractable **screen**. This was paid for by the Penngrove Social Fireman who gave us a generous donation of \$2000. They will be coming to the assembly on the 17th so we can thank them in person.

If you have a chance tomorrow, you may want to attend the **Veteran's Day Parade** in downtown Petaluma. There will be a contingent of Penngrove cub scouts marching in the parade which begins at 1:00.

Today at our assembly, the students were told of a plan we have to create a mural using **bottle cap art**. This is an idea that Michele Vachini brought forward in which a mural is created using just plastic caps. The caps can be from water bottles, Gatorade, peanut butter jars, condiment jars, liquid detergents and many other bottles. Please help us by rinsing your clean plastic lids and saving them. We are going to collect them through spring break and then Michele will spearhead the creation of a mural using all of our saved caps. We hope to have it completed by Earth Day (April 22nd). Classrooms will have containers for caps beginning this week. If you would like to see how cool the finished product may look, log on to www.artgrange.com.

Our annual **canned food** drive is happening now! The classroom with the most items donated will win a popcorn party and most importantly know they made a difference in our community. Please send items that are canned or in boxes. We find that glass items can be tricky when leadership students are in charge of classroom pick-up.

Mark your calendars for two meetings next week. We will have our November PTA meeting on Thursday at 7:00 in the library. Our current **PTA** board will be finishing up their terms this year. Come and watch them in action and see if perhaps you would like to throw your hat in the ring for next year's board. This is a great way to get involved in our school community and not as scary as it sounds.

The very same night we will have a meeting for parents of students who have been identified as **gifted**. This identification happens in spring of third grade. Come to this meeting and hear ideas on how you can support your child as they move through the grade levels at our school. This meeting will be held at 6:00 in the staffroom

If you are dropping off cans for camp on Friday morning, PLEASE **do not** include **glass**. We do not make money off glass and more importantly, our volunteer who picks up the bags and drops them off has to separate out all the glass.

Tonight is a **Dine Out** at Caprara's Pizza here in Penngrove. With no school tomorrow, it is a perfect evening to have a pizza and benefit our school. The event runs from 5- 9 and includes take-out or dine-in meals.

Please note that we have a **Veteran's Day holiday** on Thursday, November 11th but we do have school on Friday, the 12th. In addition, because of budget cuts, we have furlough days during the week of **Thanksgiving** so we have the entire week from November 22nd through 26th off from school.