

Notes from the Principal

December 1, 2010

IMPORTANT DATES....

December 4th Golden
Bell **Luncheon** in
San Francisco

December 9th **PTA**
meeting at 7:00

December 10th Music
Concert (5th and 6th
graders performing)
1:40

December 20th –
January 3rd Winter
Break

School **resumes** on
Tuesday, the 4th of
January

January 17th Martin
Luther King **Holiday**

January 20th **PTA**
7:00

February 4th **Talent**
Show

This year we are introducing a program called Caring School Community, which is designed to help children feel connected to school by building a sense of caring and community. Studies show that children who feel connected to school tend to do better academically over time and may be less likely to engage in problem behaviors.

Caring School Community is a program that includes regular class meetings in which teachers and students discuss how they can make the class a place that feels caring and safe for everyone. Some classes are also utilizing a buddy program so that children develop a special friendship with an older or younger “buddy”.

Our Wednesday assembly was originally started for similar reasons. We wanted students to build a sense of community by seeing, on a weekly basis, their peers of all ages being recognized. Even kindergarten students can benefit from seeing the older students and can look forward to the day when they are eligible for student leadership and other activities.

Recess Renaissance, our playground program, was also developed to build a sense of inclusion for all of our students. Organized activities and the presence of additional adults during our lunch recess has made a difference. The opportunity to develop social skills with support has made a change for many of our students.

We remain committed to building a sense of community for all. Yesterday we had a special assembly for our 4th – 6th graders to review our commitment to having a safe campus. Han Wingate, our guidance counselor talked to the students about how we can all help stop bullying. Being a bystander and watching someone being mean to another student is not an option. Even though it takes courage, it is important for all of us to step forward and say, “That’s being mean” when we hear or see someone being excluded or put down in any way.

You can assist us in our efforts by talking to your children. Remind them that it is important to refuse to be bullied or to let someone be a bully. Friends stick up for friends when they feel safe and when they don’t, they tell an adult. Also remind your children that tattling is *trying* to get someone in trouble and reporting is *trying* to keep someone safe. Working together we can continue our quest to keep Penngrove School a safe place for all of our students.

Penngrove School Drama Club and sixth grade students will soon be rehearsing for our next play, "Little Shop of Horrors." This presentation is a remake of the musical and will include lip-synching and dancing. Three of the main roles are the dancing girls. Mr. Zeidler and Ms. Rochelle will be holding open auditions for the roles. Girls in third through sixth are encouraged to audition. Experience with dance and performing is helpful. If your daughter is interested, practice a 1-2 minute dance to your favorite song. Be prepared to audition on Thursday, December 16th between 3:00 and 4:15. Please bring a CD of your music.

Have you worn your blue lately? Just a reminder that Wednesday is our spirit day so remind your children to wear their **Penngrove blue**. At the assembly it is an amazing sight to see a sea of blue.

Remember to give us your photos! Samantha Bolinger, our yearbook editor is looking for a variety of pictures for our **yearbook**. She is willing to take them in any form, digital or just an actual picture. Please drop them off in the office or email her at samanthabolinger@yahoo.com

The Penngrove Social Fireman are holding a **toy drive**. The bin for the toys is in the office and will be there until the 13th of December. Please consider dropping off a new toy (unwrapped) if you can possibly help out. Your generous donations of canned goods ensured a happy holiday for our community. We collected 2,749 cans!

Are you missing **sweaters or sweatshirts**? We have a growing collection so encourage your children to take a look in the metal container across from the multipurpose room. We will once again donate over winter break.

On Friday, December 10th at 1:40 our **fifth and sixth grade music** students will perform in the multipurpose room. This promises to be an engaging and entertaining addition to the holiday season and also provides an incentive to our younger students who are part of the audience.

Looking ahead to February....Our annual **talent show** will be held in early February so now is the time for students to begin thinking about a talent they would like to show. With our cold and rainy season upon us, this is a great season to spend time practicing your talent!