

UPCOMING EVENTS



January 20
PTA Meeting
7:00 P.M., Library

January 21
Chess for Kids
Library, 2:40 P.M.

January 25
Site Council
Library, 3:15 P.M.

January 28
Skate Night
5:30 P.M., Cal Skate

February 2
*Yearbook orders and
cover contest entries due*
Office

February 4
*Penngrove Idol Talent
Show*
7:00 P.M., Kenilworth Jr.
High

February 10
PTA Meeting
7:00 P.M., Library

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Recently, PTA took a moment to ask our Principal, Mrs. Larsen, and a few Penngrove teachers questions about the importance of parent participation at school and in the classroom. Here's what we heard:

PTA: In your experience what are some of the most important qualities in a PTA board member?

Mrs. Larsen: I think the most important quality is the ability to work collaboratively with others and to be open to ideas that may be new or different.

PTA: Can you please highlight some of the PTA projects over the years that have helped the school?

Mrs. Larsen: The biggest impact has been on classroom grants for teachers. This allows teachers to buy supplies and extras for their classroom. They have also sponsored assemblies, field trips, and even purchased the whiteboard on the corner!

PTA: Given the state budget crisis how important is PTA funding to Penngrove?

Mrs. Larsen: Our funding picture is cloudy

right now as it will depend on citizens extending taxes that are due to expire. We will have significant cuts if the taxes are not extended. PTA funding has become necessary not for extras but for every day supplies for our classroom teachers.

PTA: If a parent wanted to help with PTA but was unsure about it, what advice would you give him or her?

Mrs. Larsen: Attend some meetings and then talk to current and past board members. Ask questions and observe folks in action.

Ms. Johnson, Ms. Sartori Ms. Stevens and Ms. Maloney also took a moment to answer some of our questions:

PTA: What would your class be like without parent volunteers?

Ms. Johnson and Ms. Sartori: Oh, that's a scary thought! There aren't enough words to describe the appreciation I feel for my parent volunteers. They help my class

See Q&A, page 2

BRIEFS

PTA Special Guest

Meeting on Thursday, 7P.M.

The PTA welcomes Penngrove's school counselor, Han Wingate, to tomorrow's meeting to discuss the anti-bullying program and what parents can do about bullying at home. Join us and learn more about helping our children and our school.

Cover this!

Yearbook cover contest

Yearbook pre-orders are coming home today. Be sure to reserve your copy! **Order forms are due Wednesday, February 2.** Also, show off your artistic



Beanstalk Giant Success: Before Winter break, Ms. Rochelle's class put on the wonderful play, *Jack And The Beanstalk*. The class as a whole was very excited to share the musical with the audience of families and students. The class wishes to say a huge "thank you" to LV Flowers, who donated roses for each student, and a lovely bouquet for Ms. Rochelle.

flair by entering the **Second annual yearbook cover contest**. The theme for the cover is simple: *Our school!* Draw a cover related to your favorite school activ-

ity or favorite location on campus. The contest winner will receive a free yearbook and some colorful pens for autographs! Entries due: **Wednesday February 2nd.**

Q&A

Continued from page 1

run smoothly. They give me the opportunity to teach an additional center and give a huge amount of support to all the students.

Ms. Maloney: Without parent volunteers my class would be lacking art work on the walls, spelling homework handouts, parties and field trips. The Art Docent program along with the parent volunteers who staff it provide rich, engaging and thoughtful art lessons that grab and keep the students interest. Room parents organize and facilitate class parties. Parent volunteers drive on field trips, which helps to make field trips affordable. Parent volunteers enrich the classroom experi-

ence for all children.

Ms. Stevens: My class would be much more unorganized [without parent volunteers] because I wouldn't have the time to put in to the planning and organization. [They] are the support to help give my students even more.

PTA: How has PTA funding helped you in your classroom?

Ms. Sartori and Ms. Johnson: I've been able to purchase materials that really add to the educational experience I try to give the children. It's allowed me the freedom to be creative in providing the best possible learning materials.

Ms. Maloney: [PTA funding] supplements field trips and other classroom events.

Ms. Stevens: PTA funds have gone to help every student in my classroom. I used part of the money to help purchase a computer that is used everyday for my math lessons. [It] has also helped gather art supplies, games, everyday school supplies, class pictures, and much more.

PTA: If parents want to help their children's classrooms what are some important ways?

Ms. Johnson and Ms. Sartori: You can read with the kids, run a center, or just be there to help answer questions while they work independently. Making copies and preparing upcoming assignments are always easy and don't necessarily need to be done in the classroom.

Talent Road Show

New venue for Show

Talent Show is **Friday, February 4th at 7 P.M.**

This year's talent show will be held at Kenilworth Junior High's Multi-purpose room, 800 Reising Road, Petaluma.

Run, Don't Walk

Put on your track shoes

Girls on the Run returns **March 7 through May 22** on Wednesdays and Fridays. It is open to

Third through Fifth grade girls. Danielle Wagoner, Coach, is looking for volunteers for Asst.Coach, Team Mom, etc. For more information, please contact her at 707-242-3210, wagonertail@aol.com. ■

I have parents who work and can't volunteer in the classroom. [They] take Prep Work home and complete it at their leisure.

Ms. Maloney: An important way for parents to help their child is to read with and to them in the evening. Have conversations with your child about their day and about what is going on in the classroom and at school [and] read the Weekly Bulletin. And don't park in the upper parking lot (ha ha).

Ms. Stevens: Volunteering in the classroom, driving and chaperoning on field trips, correcting work at home, or offering to teach about a specialized topic are all extremely helpful for the class. Students really enjoy seeing their parents as part of the class. ■