

UPCOMING EVENTS



November 18
GATE Parents Meeting
6 P.M., Staff Room

November 18
PTA Meeting
7 P.M., Library

November 18th
Canned Food Drive Ends

November 22 — 26
*Teacher furlough and
Thanksgiving vacation*

November 29
*School begins, normal
release times*

December 3
Skate Night
Cal Skate, Rohnert Park

December 9
PTA Meeting
7 P.M., Library

**December 20 —
January 3**
Winter Break

Friends of Penngrove PTA PANTHER PRESS

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PTA UPDATE:

What's Done, What's to Come



Since July there has been 75 days of school — we have 105 to go! At the first PTA meeting we passed the following goals for this year. We keep it simple: raise money for our kids' classrooms and help create a positive environment at school.

making our goal of \$500 grants for each class this year. It is the school-wide support from *YOU* that makes the difference.

Remember, the money we raise stays at Penngrove and in your child's class. Because of your support and the success of our endeavors year-to-date, we hope to release the first \$100 of every teacher grant at the next PTA meeting. Happy Holidays to our staff!

P.S. PTA is also looking forward to creating an exciting spring fundraiser — watch for details in January.

See **Goals**, page 2

1) Increase PTA memberships to 275

Currently Penngrove has 253 PTA memberships. With about 298 families at Penngrove we have excellent support for our kids. With 22 more memberships we will make our goal for this year. Anyone can join Penngrove PTA: friends ... relatives. Special thanks go out to our 253 supporters thus far this year!

2) Increase teacher classroom grants to \$500

Last year PTA was able to give each classroom a grant of \$450. This fall, the Innisbrook fundraiser brought in over \$7,000; the Halloween Carnival brought in over \$1,000; and the last Dine & Donate at Caprara's pizza brought in over \$200. So, we are well on our way to

HOW MUCH TIME DO YOU REALLY HAVE WITH YOUR CHILD?



Don't Blink: In your child's long life, the only time you have them in your home under your influence and guidance *is during those first 18 years*. In High School, your participation will probably only be as financier, bus driver, and schedule juggler. In the Junior High years, you'll only meet your child's teachers and see their classrooms on Back-to-School night. So, it is in those Elementary years, K-6, that you have nearly unlimited access to your child during school hours: at assemblies, on field trips, grading papers; or helping with math, reading, or art. **The time is NOW.**

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GOALS

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3) Improve the Penngrove Elementary website — specifically for PTA

The *Penngroveelementary.org* website is up and running! Here's what you'll find:

- **PTA Link:** Find out what's going on with our events. Download a t-shirt or sweatshirt order form. Know who to look for on campus.
- **Home Page:** News

Did you know parent involvement is one of the biggest factors in your child's success?

updates and a current and accurate calendar. Most calendar items are attached to a file with even more information on events — *and a map.*

- **Lunch Menus:** Check the menu to know when to brown bag and when not to.
- **Teacher and Staff Web Pages:** All have been updated this Fall. Each page is linked to

the staff's classroom web page, if one exists.

- **Daily and Weekly Schedules:** Ever want to know when recess is? When is the early pick-up time? Just look it up.
- **Online Newsletter:** Easily access newsletters back to the beginning of 2010, in case Grandma didn't see your kid's picture in the paper.

We are looking for more ways to improve our communication with parents, so if you have an idea please let us know.

4) Encourage new parent participation & fill executive board positions for 2011-2012.

Penngrove School needs you! At Back to School night we made a timeline of a child's life to remind you that the time to actively make a difference in your child's school life is **NOW**. A school is just a building without the dedicated teachers, staff and parents working with our kids. If you are interested, please contact PTA. We will be happy to find a volunteer niche that works for you. ■

BRIEFS

Can-Do Attitude

Food drive ends tomorrow
Penngrove parents and students have been very generous in bringing canned food items to classrooms. The annual school-wide event collects cans and boxed food for the Petaluma Kitchen. **Tomorrow is the last day to turn in your cans and boxes.** The classroom with the most items wins a Popcorn Party. This year, there has been quite a rivalry between the 5th and 6th Grades. (We hate to be a popcorn-party-popper, Mr. Z, but a certain 5th grade class has 231 items as of this publish date. *Read it and weep* — and pass the salt.)

Cans for Camp

6th Grade fundraiser
The Can Handlers of the 6th grade would like to thank everyone for their continued support in dropping off their items on Friday mornings in the parking lot. They also would like to remind you that they take only aluminum drink cans and plastic drink bottles. As enthusiastic a participant as you are, they must say **NO** to: food cans, milk jugs, glass jars and glass bottles.

Have a Sweet Tooth?

Have we got a spot for you!
Third Grade Parent, Juana Madriz-Bucher, has opened a new business in Cotati called the "Sweet Spot". Beginning in



November, she is donating 25% of her proceeds every second Saturday of the month to Penngrove School! The next donation date is **December 11 between 6 A.M. — 5 P.M.** You'll find the Sweet Spot in the Rancho Cotati Shopping Center on East Cotati avenue, just down from Oliver's. They specialize in gourmet croissants for pick-up or delivery. For more information, call 795-6422.

Penngrove FD

Here comes the Toy Drive After Thanksgiving

Break, you'll find a large can in the office just waiting for your donation of an unwrapped brand-new toy. The Firefighters play Santa Clause every year and donate these toys to local children. Please do not wrap your toy before dropping it off, as they need to know whether the toy is appropriate for boys or girls, and what age range.

Suits you to a Tee

T-shirt/Hoodie Orders
If you are interested in ordering Panther Gear, you can download an order form from penngroveelementary.org. Look for "Panther Gear" on the PTA page. Be sure to **turn your order forms into the office by December 3.** ■