

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 11 — April 21
STAR Testing

April 18 — April 22
Screen Free Week
Ditch the TV, Wii and Apps

April 19
5th and 6th West Side Relays
Petaluma High School
8:30 — 1:00 P.M.

April 20
Kenilworth Jr. High Open House
6:30 — 8:00 P.M.

April 22, April 25
Teacher Furlough Days

April 27
Promotion Meeting for 6th Grade Parents
7:00 P.M., Library

April 29
Pajama Day
Sponsored by Leadership

April 29
Last Skate Night!
5:30 — 7:30 P.M., CalSkate



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Friends of Penngrove PTA PANTHER PRESS

Volume 3

April 13, 2011

BRIEFS ROUND-UP

Murals, STAR Tests, Fun Days, Book Fair and *More*

Bottle Top Mural

Penngrove's New Permanent Garden

In August, parent Michelle Vachini had a really big recycling idea: a mural for Penngrove School based on a design she had seen made of plastic bottle tops which cannot otherwise be recycled. She envisioned a project involving all the students and gained the full support of Ms. Larsen and the office. Over the school year, scores of students brought in bottle tops from home. They were then sorted into colors by Kindergarten through 3rd Graders. "I wanted every student in the school to have an opportunity to work on or support the mural," she notes.

The 8' x 16' mural is designed to fit perfectly on the outside wall of the Multi between the breezeway to the parking lot and the Multi doors near the stage. The 5th graders have just



Above: Ms. Cheal's Kindergarten girls take Friday's *Twin Day* to a whole new level. **Below:** Sophia Vachini and Lindy Tweten trace the design of the bottle top Mural onto its plywood background.



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BRIEF ROUND-UP

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completed transferring the design to four sheets of plywood. Michelle designed the image — a garden scene with flowers, butterflies and rainbows.

In the next stages, students will paint the mural in bright colors, then screw in matching colored plastic caps over the painted background.

“We hope to unveil the mural before the end of the school year,” says Michelle. If you’d like to help, give her a call at (707) 695-8166. You can see a sample of the bottle cap art in the school’s main hallway.



Brain Food

Serve all-STAR Breakfasts
STAR testing is upon us. How can you prepare your child? Plan for enough rest and feed them a proper breakfast.

According to author and physician, Dr. William Sears, lack of breakfast affects children’s learning. And, it matters what they eat. Children who eat a breakfast containing equal calorie amounts of complex carbohydrates and proteins tend to show better learning

and performance.

So, don’t just send your kid out this week with buttered toast — an ideal, nutritious breakfast contains grains, *plus* dairy, *plus* fruits.

Pass the Baton

5th grade takes over

Outdoor Ed Fundraising

For families of K through 4th-graders, Outdoor Education is a mysterious thing that happens in May of 6th Grade. There’s a whole lot of buzz about fundraising, and the 6th Graders disappear for a week, but why?

For many years, Penngrove 6th graders have participated in a week of Outdoor Education, most recently at the *Marin County Outdoor School at Walker Creek Ranch*. It’s not just camp songs and s’mores, Walker Creek is a real school operated by the Marin County office of Education. Kids learn hands-on Life and Earth Science from a curriculum that correlates to the standards of California Public School for grades 4–7. It’s an experience they remember the rest of their lives.

Outdoor Ed does not come cheap, however. Not all families can write a check for the \$340 per student to attend. Thankfully, Penngrove has a “no 6th grader left behind” policy. So, each year after Spring Break, 5th Graders begin raising money to bring every student’s cost down through a variety of “tried and true” fundraisers: *Ice cream sales, Cookie Dough*

Sales, Dine Outs, Pasta Feeds, Bake Sales, Accordion Festival Raffle, and Cans for Camp.

Each family with a 6th grader does what they can to support these efforts. And, when your child reaches 6th grade, you probably will too! So, the next time you buy ice cream or donate cans, you know where it’s all going.

Leadership Fun Days, or What to Wear

Last Friday, you may have noticed that your child was planning furiously with another student to prepare for *Twin Day*. Student leadership plans these Friday *Fun Days* each spring to alleviate boredom and stem the “rush towards summer”. So, get in the spirit and put these dates on your calendar:

- **April 29:** Pajama Day
- **May 6:** Sports Day
- **May 27:** Crazy Day

From the Librarian

What’s news?

We have voted for our favorite California Young Reader Medal books! We are waiting for the results so we can compare our school votes with the winners. We had fun reading all those great stories!

A big “thank you” goes out to the Rogers, the Kane and the Isetta families for their book donations to the library. Thanks to the Rogers’ family we now have



Stink books! (Ask your kids.)

The *Buy One, Get One free* Scholastic book fair will be held **May 10, 11 & 12th**. All sales benefit the Library. We are

looking for a few volunteers to:

- Help set up **Mon. May 9**
- Work the fair at lunch recess or after school

• Help take down **May 13**
Please call me, Laurie Lutz, Librarian, at 707-778-4755, llutz@pet.k12.ca.us if you’d like to help.

West Side Relays

Cue “Chariots of Fire”

5th and 6th Graders are gearing up for this month’s **West Side Relays on Tuesday, April 19th**. Our Panthers will compete against other Petaluma District Elementary schools in running events, high jump, discus and shot put. The teacher-coordinated training began in February. Every student participates. Last year, Penngrove took home First Place! Wish the 5th and 6th graders luck!

Note from Ms. Larsen

I would like to remind primary parents that we do not have child care on the playground after school. If parents take their kids up to the playground, they need to be watching them closely. No parents on campus? Students must go down the hill with the teacher on duty. Thanks! ■