



Ladera PTO Newsletter

PTO President's Message

By Janice Lee

On behalf of the PTO, I welcome you to the 2011-2012 school year! I want to extend a special greeting to all new families. We are very fortunate to have our remarkable group of teachers returning. I am also pleased to warmly welcome our new Principal, Mr. Derek Pinto.

We look forward to benefiting from Mr. Pinto's extensive experience in both the public and private sectors. He has worked in the education field spanning 3 countries (Japan, Canada and the U.S.) and has worked as a teacher, Assistant Principal and Principal in K-12 environments.

The PTO's role is to support students and educators in achieving the highest advantages in academic, physical, and social education. With state budget cuts, this has become increasingly harder. I hope you'll turn to page 2 and learn about our first ever PTO Pledge Drive.

Please feel free to contact me via email at laderaleopards@hotmail.com with any questions or suggestions. See you at Back to School Night on 9/14!

Principal's Message

By Derek Pinto

It is my pleasure to extend a warm welcome to both new and returning members of our Ladera Elementary School community. The 2011-12 school year marks the 10th anniversary of Ladera, and it promises to be challenging, exciting and successful.

The teachers and support staff at Ladera are ready to provide all students with instruction that leads to their successful attainment of the state academic standards and the necessary foundation to be successful in their future academic challenges. We are very proud of our instructional programs, our safe, positive school environment, and the excellent progress demonstrated by our Ladera students.

Our faculty has high expectations for all Ladera students. These expectations for excellence in performance and classroom behavior can be realized through a united effort on the part of students, the school faculty and parents.

With this in mind, we have adopted a theme for the school year taken from author Sam Parker's work, "212° - the extra degree". The premise of the book is simply this: that at 211°, water is hot. At 212°, water boils. With boiling water comes steam, and with steam, you can power a locomotive – just one extra degree can make all the difference. In keeping with this theme, we are asking everyone to heighten their effort in everything they do by "1 degree".

First Day of School packets, distributed September 1st, include important information that is related to school expectations, including: the bell schedule, school dress code, emergency and disaster release information, and student rights and responsibilities. Some of this information can also be found on our website at www.laderaleopards.org.

Your child's safety is a priority. It is imperative that you keep us updated on your contact information, so that in the event of an emergency, we can contact you. The school office hours are 7:30am-4:30pm, and the phone number is 714-730-7505.

It is important to have parents understand the direction the school is taking, and work with us as partners in the education of each child. Your participation in activities at Ladera, as we prepare students for their future, is welcomed and encouraged.

Some important upcoming dates:

- **September 5:** Labor Day (holiday)
- **September 14:** PTO Meeting and Back to School night

Ongoing and effective communication with parents and students is a very important aspect of a successful school. Pairing our top quality educators with a group of supportive, interested parents will ensure what I expect to be a rewarding year for your child.



Sept. Events Calendar

- 9/1: First Day of School
9/5: NO SCHOOL
9/14: PTO Meeting and
Back to School Night
9/20: Restaurant Night
9/22: Vision & Hearing
Screening
9/29: New Family Welcome
BBQ



PTO Board 2011/2012

President: Janice Lee
VP Programs, Assemblies:
Kathy Ghanouni
**VP Programs, After School
Programs:** Sheila Adlwan
VP Fundraising: open
VP Membership:
Zubia Villacorta
VP Publicity: Karen Sisson
VP Volunteers:
Pam Edmondson
Secretary: Judy Clark
Treasurer: Jim DiLellio
Financial Secretary:
Pam Dixon

We are still looking for a volunteer to help with Fundraising this year. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Janice Lee at laderaleopards@hotmail.com.

See page 4 of this newsletter for a list of open PTO Committee Chair positions.

PTO Pledge Drive Begins!

The Ladera PTO would like to invite you to join the PTO and participate in our NEW "Direct Giving Pledge Drive".

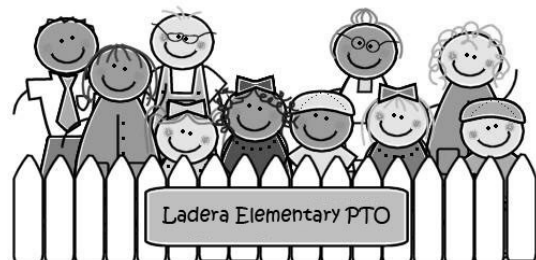
Each year, the PTO provides many valuable programs, experiences and supplies to our students. The following are just a few of the activities and events that are funded by the PTO: 4 RTI teachers (CA-credentialed) to assist with burgeoning class sizes, Art & Music Programs, Assemblies, Teacher, Student and Office Supplies, Educational Field Trips, Technology Enhancements and so much more.

In our effort to simplify life and avoid countless fundraisers, we are excited to introduce the Ladera Pledge Drive. We are asking for a tax-deductible donation of \$300 per student, which amounts to less than \$1/day. This can be donated as a one-time gift at the beginning of the year or over 10 monthly payments (Now-June 2012). Donations of \$500 or more will be acknowledged by a permanent tile, that you decorate, to be placed on Ladera's New "Wall of Fame". We ask you to strongly

consider giving the most you can at a level that is comfortable for your family. Your gift will enrich the lives of our students each and every day! Please make a difference and make a 100% tax-deductible donation today.

Soon you will receive the PTO Membership and Pledge Drive Packet, which includes more information about the Pledge Drive, school directory and the membership form. Please read through the packet, fill out the Membership Form and return to your child's teacher. We need just one packet returned per family.

Thank you in advance for your contributions! Please contact Janice Lee at laderaleopards@hotmail.com or Zubia Villacorta at zeevee71@sbcglobal.net if you have any questions.



Fall Carnival & Harvest Family Night

Come join in on the fun at our first ever school Carnival!!! Our fun-filled family event will be held on Friday, October 28th from 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. Festivities will include:

- ◆ Carnival games and prizes
- ◆ Cake Walk (100% proceeds go to 5th Grade Promotion)
- ◆ Popcorn, snow cones & cotton candy
- ◆ Costume Contest
- ◆ Teacher Experiences*
- ◆ Silent Auction*
- ◆ Dinner for \$5.00 per person
- ◆ AND MORE!!

Kids and even adults can come dressed as their favorite character. This is a great evening for the entire family!

We need parent volunteers for this event. If you are interested and would like to help out, please email Judy Clark at judyclark1@cox.net.



*100% of the proceeds go directly to the Ladera PTO

We Need You!

Ladera PTO loves new faces, ideas and always need volunteers! Many of the PTO's greatest accomplishments begin with only 1 parent making a difference.

Volunteering is a great way to become involved at Ladera. Whether one is able to donate an hour a year or an hour a week, each contribution is important and plays a part in the overall success of all Ladera students.

Volunteer opportunities range from taking inventory of science kits to

teaching Art Masters projects in the classroom. Help is needed for annual events such as picture day, bookfair and field day. Weekly commitments are needed for copying, recycling and physical education.

Volunteering is a great way to stay connected with other Ladera parents, to get to know teachers and staff, and to feel like part of the Ladera community. If you would like to volunteer, or have questions, please contact Pam Edmondson at pamedmondson@cox.net.

Art Masters

The PTO will again fund one of Ladera's favorite programs, Art Masters. Lectures will be led by the popular Ms. Poli Rizco, and parent volunteers will lead us through another six creative and diverse classroom projects.

This year, we will study the lives and art of three intriguing individuals as well as the diverse artwork from three distinctive art styles. We will begin with the study of past civilizations through art from the Ancient Americas, then move on to the works from a variety of Native American artists. Next, we will review the art of American contemporary realist painter,

Joseph Raffael. Our fourth lesson will cover the African Legacy and its impact on Western art. We will then move on to something fun, a study of prominent pop artist, Roy Lichtenstein. We will end the year with a look at the works of architect, interior designer and writer, Frank Lloyd Wright.

This educational and fun program is interesting to both students and adults. It offers a great opportunity for Ladera parents to meet and spend time in their child's classroom as well. If you are interested in volunteering, or have questions, please contact Pam Edmondson at pamedmondson@cox.net or Liz Lehnhof at e.lehnhof@gmail.com.

Looking for Ladera Photo Volunteers

We are excited for a new school year and are looking for photo volunteers to capture those unforgettable moments throughout the year to be included in our 2011/2012 Ladera Yearbook.

We are looking for two designated parents in each classroom to work with their teachers on capturing images during all classroom events throughout the school year. We are also looking for photo volunteers to assist with taking pictures at general school events.

If you are interested, we would love the help. No special cameras or talents needed!! Just a willingness to capture pictures of the MANY events that happen throughout the year.

If you would like more information or to volunteer, please contact Colleen Bell at colleenbell@cox.net or Angelika Belle at abelle2@mac.com. You can also sign up at the volunteer tables at Back to School Night on September 14th.



Back to School Night



Back to School Night is scheduled for **Wednesday, September 14th**. The evening will begin at 5:00 p.m. with a Principal's Welcome Address and a brief PTO meeting in the Multi-Purpose Room. Parents will then be invited to attend teacher presentations in their child's classroom at 6:00 p.m.

Box Tops for Education



Now that our Ladera Leopards are back to school, it is back to packing lunches! Don't forget to look for those Box Tops and cut them out. Our school will earn 10¢ for each box top we turn in, and that adds up fast! Just clip the labels and send them to school with your child to put in the "Box Top" receptacle in their classroom. It's that easy!!

Hint: Attach an envelope or plastic bag to the inside of your cupboard and place Box Tops in it throughout the week. Send in your collection of Box Tops once your envelope/bag is full. The entire family can have fun looking for Box Tops on packaging from your favorite foods!



Birthday Book Club

The Ladera Birthday Book Club (BBC) was started the first year Ladera opened its doors. Since that time, Ladera families have donated over 1,000 new books to the library's collection.

If your child wishes to participate, he/she can bring a **new, hard bound, gift wrapped book** to the library during their birthday month. Students can choose their new favorite book from the bookstore or get ideas from the BBC Wish List found on the school website. A letter will go home to your child during their birthday month reminding them of the opportunity to participate.

Glee Club

Miss Blair will be starting a fourth/fifth grade Glee Club that will perform at various events throughout the year. Look for sign ups during the first month of school. Practice and music fun will be once a week during lunch.



Ladera Laps Running Club

Lace up those running shoes Ladera students! Last year our kids ran close to 2000 miles. This exciting program was designed to motivate students to exercise during lunch recess two days a week. Encourage your child to come out Tuesdays and Thursdays. All runners receive special charms when they complete punch cards and a chance to win raffle prizes throughout the year. The top 3 classes with the most laps win a Jamba Juice party at the end of the school year! Parents, we would love your help! Just 40 minutes once or twice a week can make our program extra successful. Plus your kids love to see you out on the field punching holes! Please contact Nicole Stepanian at Njstep@gmail.com or 949-212-8330 to volunteer.



2011/2012 Bell Schedule

Regular Schedule (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday)

Kindergarten (Early Bird)	8:15 - 11:38
Kindergarten (Late Bird)	9:57 - 1:20
Grades 1 - 3	8:30 - 2:35
Grades 4 - 5	8:30 - 2:47

Modified Wednesday/Minimum Day Schedule

Kindergarten (Early Bird)	8:15 - 11:38
Kindergarten (Late Bird)	9:57 - 1:20
Grades 1 - 3	8:30 - 1:26
Grades 4 - 5	8:30 - 1:29



Students may arrive 15 minutes before the start of the school day.

Open PTO Committee Chair Positions

Please contact Janice Lee at laderaleopards@hotmail.com to volunteer or for more information about the following open committee chair positions:

Community Art Liaison - Publicize community art exhibits, programs and contests via flyers and/or the newsletter and website. Coordinate a committee to plan lunch art programming.

5th Grade Father/Son Event - Organize and prepare an evening for all 5th grade Boys with their Fathers or other significant male adult to discuss various issues.

Garden - Responsible for the maintenance of the garden. Coordinate school-wide involvement with the garden as a learning tool, as well as classroom involvement with season maintenance of the garden. Coordinate any communication that may be needed with the District regarding garden maintenance or sprinkler repairs, etc. Determine annual budget for garden expenses, and coordinate such purchases.

Hospitality - Create a special set of information for new families. Get parents involved in the PTO and other opportunities. Coordinate new family dinner.

Teacher Appreciation Week - Organize daily activities for teachers and recruit volunteers for teacher appreciation week in the spring.

Tustin Public Schools Foundation/PTO Liaison - Collaborate with TPSF on various events, including Dinosaur Dash, Teacher of the Year Dinner, and PATS (Parents Appreciate Teachers and Staff) cards.

Wellness Committee - A committee required by the school district (not a PTO position). Two staff members and one parent are needed to ensure adherence to and reinforcement of new California State health guidelines.