



Ladera PTO Newsletter

PTO President's Message

by Nancy Mallory

Thanks to everyone who made Viva Ladera an incredible success, most especially Janice Lee. What an amazing job she and her committee did this year! I think everyone will agree that the online auction was a perfect addition to our spring event.

As you will see on page 3, our PTO board positions are complete for next year. There are, however, a few Committee Chair positions still available. They are listed below for your consideration:

- Book Fair
- Community Arts Liason
- Family Nights
- Father/Son Event
- 5th Grade Promotion
- Fundraising Assistant
- Green Committee
- Hospitality

Please contact me at 714-669-5492 or nancymallory@cox.net if you would like to volunteer or would like more information.

Principal's Message by Ryan Bollenbach

Thank you for the contributions, hard work and ultimate success of our Spring Fundraiser. The success of the evening was a total team effort. The Ladera Staff is so appreciative of the support we receive from our families on a daily basis. In these uncertain economic times we are more grateful than ever to feel so supported and cared for by our community. **THANK YOU!**

Spring conferences have concluded and soon we will begin standardized testing for second through fifth graders during the week of May 3-7. Make-up testing will take place during the week of May 10-14. Our teachers and students have been preparing for this test since September by identifying essential standards, flexible grouping, taking common assessments and learning test-taking strategies. In order to assure that our students are well-prepared during test week, we ask the following:

- Do not schedule doctor and dentist appointments in the morning.
- Have your children go to bed at a reasonable hour.
- Make sure your children eat a good breakfast.

-Send a healthy snack and juice for the recess break.

-Encourage your child to do his/her best.

Whether your child is a part of the assessments or not, there are several things you can do to support your child's academic achievement. Assisting in progressing your child's reading comprehension is one way to help.

Reading comprehension is a key component to a child's academic success. It is possible for students to decode words and yet not understand what they are reading. Some students may also read very quickly and not be grasping the main idea of a story or expository text. Questions such as, "What is the story about?" or "What are you reading?" tell parents and educators little about reading comprehension because the first question is too broad and the second question is too narrow. Asking specific open ended questions helps children with reflection as well as gives you information about a child's reading comprehension. Following are a few sample questions

(be sure to modify the vocabulary to your child's instructional level):

-“Tell me about the main character in the story. Do you relate to the character? Why or why not?”

-“Where does this story take place? In what time period does the story take place? What do you think it would be like to visit the setting of the story?”

-“Can you summarize the climax of the story? Can you summarize the objective of the lesson?”

-“What do you anticipate will happen in the beginning, middle, or end of the story?”

-“Is there a moral to the story? If so, what is it?”

-“What is the main idea of this unit in your Social Studies book?”

In all areas of the curriculum, comprehension, as well as deeper level thinking is essential in a child's success. Questioning students about what they are learning not only helps you, as a parent, monitor and improve a child's comprehension, it also allows for students to reflect on their learning experiences and explore a further love of reading.

Spring Fundraiser Success!

by Janice Lee



Thank you to all Ladera families and friends who attended Viva Ladera on March 26th. It was a wild success! Preliminary numbers show we grossed over \$45,000! We could not have done it without all of your support! Special thanks to The Manetta's who donated 100% proceeds of all wine & beer that was sold at our event, and The Yang's who managed and ran our Poker Tournament. Congratulations to 1st place winner Jeff McClelland, 2nd place winner Jason Genova and 3rd place winner Jim Stepanian.

50/50 Raffle Results:

Raffle Total: \$6,010.00

Ladera PTO: \$3,005.00
50%

1st Place: \$1,502.50
25% (Nikki Bamdad)

2nd Place: \$901.50
15% (Kathy Kendall)

3rd Place: \$601.00
10% (Chase Ford)

Teacher of the Year Dinner

The 16th Annual Teacher of the Year Dinner is coming up on May 27th. We are asking for everyone's help to make this a special night for our nominee, second grade teacher Mrs. Neuer, and for all of the other wonderful teachers from Tustin Unified who were also nominated. It means so much to have parents and staff attend to support our school's nominee. Discounted tickets

can be purchased online at www.tpsf.net before May 7th. Ticket order forms are also available in the school office until May 14th.

For more information, please contact the Tustin Public Schools Foundation at 714-832-6299 or info@tpsfn.net.



It Was A "Class Act" Night by Robin Steinmetz

Ladera families and staff were treated to a fantastic evening of music on Friday, March 5th at our first ever Class Act Family Night. A string quintet from the Pacific Symphony came to perform musical selections composed by Peter Tchaikovsky, our composer of the year, as well as other well known musical pieces, including a crowd pleasing finale of the "Pirates of the Caribbean" theme song. Two of the five musicians were our own Class Act musician teachers; Nancy Eldridge and Andy Honea. Nancy, violinist, has been teaching the Orff sessions this year to grades Kindergarten through third grade; and, Andy, cellist, has been our Class Act teacher this year for all grades.

Thank you to all students, parents and staff for making our first Class Act Family Night an evening to remember. If you have any questions about the Class Act program please contact Parent Coordinators Robin Steinmetz or Sandi Koblin. **Upcoming Class Act Events:**

May 13th – Interactive Musical Fairytale inspired by the music of Peter Tchaikovsky will be presented to the Kindergarten and 1st graders.

May 19th – BRAVO Assembly (all grades) an opportunity for each class to showcase what they've learned this year through the Class Act program.

June 8th – 2nd through 5th graders take a field trip to Segerstrom Concert Hall.



Back row left to right: Musicians Nancy Eldridge, Carolyn Riley, Doug Basye, MarlaJoy Weisshaar, Andy Honea

Students/Musician Hosts: Curtis Talley, Brandon Pitchess, Sabrina Wiggins, Caroline Beckman, Ashley Palmer, Priscilla Nguyen, Yash Dara, Meghna Sen

Library Update by Geri Shaw

Thank you to everyone that visited the Barnes & Noble book fair in February. The Ladera Library received nearly \$500 in credit to purchase books for the library. In addition, many books were donated by our generous Ladera families to both the library and to our teachers.

Looking ahead, April will be a very busy month in the Ladera library. We have just finished reading the California Young Reader Medal Award nominees for the 2009 - 2010 school year. Our students' votes will be sent in to the state committee to be tallied along with votes from young readers throughout California. Ladera students chose *Millie Waits for the Mail* as their favorite and in May the overall winner for the state will be announced. I love this award because the kids, rather than a panel of adult judges, get to decide which author and illustrator are most deserving of this honor.

April is School Library Month and the week of April 12th - 18th is National Library Week. The entire Tustin Unified School District will

be having a book fair at Barnes & Noble to support our school libraries. If you make any purchases during the week and let them know that you are supporting TUSD, a portion of the proceeds will go to our schools.

Also, the week of April 19th - April 25th is National TV Turnoff Week. This year, I will not be promoting and rewarding participation in TV Turnoff Week, however I highly encourage each family to take time to consider their use of screen time and take a few days (or a week) off from screen use. Determine a time that works for your family (before or after the Stanley Cup and/or the American Idol finale) and see what interesting things you can do together as a family without televisions, computers, videos and handheld games. Visit the American Academy of Pediatrics at <http://www.aap.org/family/smarttv.htm> for a very interesting guide on consuming TV just as we do food...bottom line, too much snacking on junk throughout the day is detrimental to our children's health! Turning off screens for an extended period is quite

a challenge, but can be very rewarding and is a great opportunity to read more books!

Finally, students in the fourth and fifth grades that are participating in the Battle of the Books competition (a voluntary program) will begin competing to see which five-member team can correctly answer the most questions about the books they read. Each team is responsible for reading ten predetermined books and will now go up against other teams in their own class and then against teams within their grade. All participants will receive a medal and the final winning teams will receive an additional prize. The final battle will take place in the multi at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 13th. This program has really inspired our students to read some interesting books that they may not have otherwise chosen. Some students have even gone on to read other books by some of the authors highlighted in the program.

Keep on reading and I'll see you in the library!



Proposed 2010/2011 PTO Board

The slate of PTO officers for the 2010/2011 school year will be voted on at the April PTO Board Meeting:

President: Nancy Mallory

VP Programs, Assemblies: Mary Hajali & Kathy Ghanouni

VP Programs, After School Programs: Sheila Haghghinia

VP Fundraising: Janice Lee (+ one more person needed)

VP Membership: Carmel Ryan & Cindy Koval

VP Publicity: Karen Sisson

VP Volunteer: Pam Edmondson

Secretary: Zubia Villacorta

Treasurer: Pam Dixon

Financial Secretary: Becky Yang

We are still looking for another volunteer to help with Fundraising next year. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Janice Lee at 714-360-2092 or janicel@mygatsby.com.

Volunteer!

Student Council

by Lisa Schwartz

Ladera Student Council will be kicking off a fundraiser after Spring Break. All financial proceeds will be donated to children in need, globally, through UNICEF. We will also be working with local charities to help those in need in our own community. Please look for more information coming home in mid-April. There will be several ways to donate to these worthy causes. Your Student Council thanks you in advance for your support!

Kindergarten Update

by Bridget Wenner & Bonnie Elconin

Our Kindergarten students are excited about their addition and subtraction activities. We are adding and subtracting with dice, unifix cubes and other manipulatives. Students are also having fun creating math story problems. During language arts we are learning about farm animals which ties into science and social studies. We are looking forward to our field trip to Tanaka Farms this spring. The strawberry tour is always a highlight in Kindergarten!



Drama Club by Theresa Goldenberg



The Ladera Drama Club is in full swing practicing for their upcoming show, "Willy Wonka, Jr." The 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade thespians are learning their lines, choreography, and blocking for this fun, musical production. The show will be live on stage at Beckman High School. We all look forward to entertaining you in June! This year's Drama Club students are:

Caroline Beckman	Alesha Kenaley	Paige Mills	Emily Sharp
Sarah Brunel	Sarah Klaus	Theo Mitchell	Aurielle Simmons
Arianna Ghanouni	Talya Israel	Emma Monden	Taylor Stern
Julia Greenbaum	Lauren Kilger	Ashley Palmer	Juliette Waldman
Casey Hernandez	Alyssa Koval	Nirali Patel	Danielle Wilner
Carolyn Ho	Jayden Kylie	Olivia Patrick	Victoria Zubiri

2009/2010 Birthday Book Club Members

Sydney Abraham	Kanak Garg	Anyssa Nunez	Kaylee Sutton
Mason Bauman	Connor Gerber	Rachel Palajac	Micah Taira
Kylie Bell	Angela Gerber	Sharon Park	Curtis Talley
Nikolas Belle	Shaya Ghanouni	Nirali Patel	Ashley Teng
Adam Biele	Tessa Gin	Julia Patrick	Rachel Tian
Anna Biele	Sam Gouron	Ardi Paydar	Sophia Tran
Bethany Bowers	Jake Greenbaum	Bryan Peltier	Mikayla Trinh
Davis Bowers	Zach Heller	Tyler Peltier	Kabir Trivedi
Lauren Bowers	Casey Hernandez	Brandon Pitchess	Karisma Verma
Elizabeth Bowers	Carolyn Ho	Brooke Pitchess	Sidra Villacorta
Presley Carillo	Danielle Jones	Ali Raoufi	Jaeger Villalba
Rashmi Chandrasekar	Michelle Kalili	Aurash Roessler	Julia Wang
Brandon Chen	Dean Kendall	Hayley Roettger	Abby Watson
Sabrina Chen	Jadyn Kiley	Bhavesh Rudraraju	Amy Watson
Julianna Christopoulos	Sloane Kiley	Joshua Ruiz	Justin Wayt
Julia Chun	Matthew Kim	Joshua Ruiz	Kelly Winters
Caden Clark	Olivia Knobbe	Dylan Ryan	RJ Winters
Bella Coats	Talia Koblin	Max Schechter	Carson Wong
Will Cohen	Eric Lam	Eli Schwarz	Carly Worobey
Aron Daftari	Jason Lam	Emily Sharp	Ryan Worobey
Ashwin Dara	Gianna Lendino	Timmy Sharp	Mo Zahra
Yash Dara	Dominic Libertadoreski	Sooji Shin	Vicky Zubiri
Ari Dedeoglu	Cade Libertadoreski	Mahi Shiroor	
Rylie DiLellio	Eric Lim	Jason Shube	
Alanna Edmondson	Andy Liscio	Zach Shube	
Parmida Favakehi	Lauren Longstreet	Aurielle Simmons	
Jilliane Fernando	Emily Manetta	Emily Sisson	
Jed Fernando	Vincent Mann	James Son	
Ethan Fong	Elias Martinez	Michael Small	
Madyson Fowler	Madison McClelland	Abby Steinmetz	
Nate Gannaway	AJ Moore	Jamie Stepanian	
Jack Gannaway	Lexi Neary	Cassidy Stevens	

