



# Ladera PTO Newsletter

## PTO President's Message

By Janice Lee

Thank you to all who attended our Fall Carnival on October 28<sup>th</sup>. It was a record turnout, and was overwhelmingly fun, especially with students and parents arriving in costume. Ladera PTO netted over \$12,000 from this event through teacher donations, silent auction items, wristband sales, concession sales and dinner by Farmer John (100% proceeds brought in over \$2,000 in dinner ticket sales!) Thank you to all of the parent volunteers who organized and helped us create so many spectacular carnival games for our kids to play. Special thanks to two of our biggest donors: **Zov's Bistro and Farmer John**. And last but not least, thank you to Ladera parent Judy Clark for orchestrating such a fun-filled and successful event. Her many hours of hard work are greatly appreciated!

I hope everyone has a safe and wonderful holiday season!



## Principal's Message

### The Wonders of Parent Involvement...

There is a tremendous amount of research to show that parent involvement is of great value and has a deep, lasting impact on their child's education. Parental involvement makes a difference to student engagement, achievement, and it positively benefits teachers and schools.

The positive impact on the child is greatest if the school and parents work in partnership. There are two chief areas of parent involvement: in the life of the school; in support of the individual child at home and school.

In the early years, parental involvement in play, fun and physical activity produce the most effective outcomes, aiding in the child's cognitive development and laying the groundwork for successful long-term results. Interestingly, the frequency with which children play with letters and numbers at home leads to attainment in literacy and numeracy skills.

In studying parental involvement in their child's reading, results indicated a higher level of achievement for students that were helped at home - students showed an increased level of interest in learning, and were better behaved at school. The results were better than students that received extra reading practice from a qualified teacher.

Homework is also important - evidence shows that there is a positive relationship between the time spent on homework and achievement at the secondary level.

Some other interesting studies have indicated that parental involvement in a child's schooling:

- Outweighed family background indicators such as social class, family size and parental education
- Resulted in heightened progress in math and reading between the ages of 11-16
- Enhanced student confidence and self-esteem,
- Promoted positive behavioral and attitudinal changes

Leisure time activities were also of great importance. Research indicates no matter what the social class of the parents, participation in things such as visiting the museum, going to the theater and opera when children are teenagers - has a positive effect on their earnings potential, educational attainments and civic engagement in later life. Reading and writing for pleasure along with artistic and music related leisure activities increase a child's likelihood of getting a first degree, taking courses in adult education and being a member of a voluntary organization.

On behalf of the Ladera staff, we feel that parent involvement in the form of: communicating with the school on a regular basis, volunteering, and collaboration/decision-making through PTO or other avenues.

We look forward to your continued support and involvement.

Sincerely, Derek Pinto

## Events Calendar

### December 2011

- 12/9: Family Movie Night
- 12/13: Barnes & Noble Book Fair and Restaurant Night
- 12/14: Winter Performances
- 12/19-30: No School (Winter Break)

### January 2012

- 1/9: Art Masters
- 1/13: PTO Assembly
- 1/16: No School (MLK Day)
- 1/18: PTO Meeting
- 1/27: No School (TUSD Furlough Day)



## 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 would like more information, please contact PTO President Janice Lee at [laderaleopards@hotmail.com](mailto:laderaleopards@hotmail.com).

## Ladera Book Fair at Barnes & Noble

Please join us on **Tuesday, December 13<sup>th</sup>** at Barnes & Noble in The Marketplace for our PTO-sponsored book fair to raise funds for the Ladera Library. Ladera's PTO will receive 15% of all sales attributed to Ladera families and friends.

Ladera teachers and staff will be reading aloud to students in the Children's section from 3:15 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Beginning at 4:00 p.m., we will be raffling off great prizes each half hour to those in attendance (remember to check in at our stand at the entrance to the Children's section to get your raffle ticket).

This is a great time to shop for family and friends for the holidays, donate books to your students' teachers, and provide funding for

books for the school library. All items in the store provide profit to the PTO, including NOOK eReaders and accessories. Remember to visit the new educational games section, shop the holiday cards, and even order a Cheesecake Factory cheesecake to earn money for our school!

In addition to in-store purchases, we will also receive a portion of proceeds from online purchases made from 12/13—12/19 (use Bookfair ID# 10584514).

Café purchases count toward our fundraiser too, but if you have a bigger appetite, head over to Red Robin for our restaurant night fundraiser from 5:00-10:00 p.m. (see page 4 for more info). We hope to see you there!

**BARNES & NOBLE**

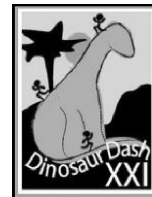
## Dino Dash XXI Report

The staff and students at Ladera want to express their appreciation for your generous support of this year's Dino Dash. It's Ladera's commitment to excellence that allows us to continue the tradition of Ladera being #1 and home to the Stegosaurus trophy.

This year Ladera registered 486 participants for Dino Dash, a 128% participation ratio and the highest percentage of all schools in Tustin! Due to the active participation of Ladera, our school will receive \$3,510 to be spent for the enhancement of instruction.

Mrs. Schwartz' class had the highest number of registrations with 61. Mrs. St. Clair's class had 46.5 and Mrs. Dilello's class was close behind

at 45. Eleven classes had a participation rate of 100% or higher and will be enjoying a half-hour of P.E. with Mr. Pinto. Way to go Leopards!!!



Congratulations to our Ladera poster contest winners:

- Kindergarten** – Victoria Turner
- First Grade** – Ava Paydar
- Second Grade** – Ellie Hsieh
- Third Grade** – Julianna Christopoulos
- Fourth Grade** – no participant
- Fifth Grade** – Sabrina Chen

Again, thank you for your support of Dino Dash 2011. The success experienced by Ladera is the envy of schools throughout the district!

## Help Ladera's PTO Earn \$\$ with Spreebird!

Ladera's PTO has a chance to win up to \$10,000 in Spreebird's \$100,000 School Giveaway promotion! Ladera will also earn 500% more from Spreebird's School Rewards Program from now through Dec. 15, 2011. The PTO will use the funds to continue the many valuable programs for our child(ren) that have been cut from California public school budgets.

Spreebird is the leader in Community Friendly Deals. Featuring 50-90% off your favorite local businesses including restaurants, day spas, travel and more!

You can help us earn these much-needed program funds by signing up to receive Spreebird's Daily Alert Email before Dec. 15, 2011 at [www.spreebird.com/100kgiveaway](http://www.spreebird.com/100kgiveaway).

Ladera will receive \$5 for each new and valid Spreebird sign-up during this promotion. And YOU will receive a \$5 credit just for signing up! Already a subscriber? Visit the Spreebird website to receive your \$5 credit. Our school also receives 10% of proceeds from deals you choose to purchase throughout the year!

So, please take a moment to sign up and help Ladera close the gap on our fundraising goal this year. It only takes a few minutes, you'll help your child's school earn money, and you'll love the daily deals you'll receive. Don't forget to share this great news with your local friends and neighbors!



## More peas please...

...onions, broccoli, cauliflower, artichoke and squash, too. Yes, that is what Ladera students will be asking in about 45 days. This past week many students had the opportunity to visit the newly revitalized Ladera Garden and help plant these and many other edible plants. During the coming months, students will help water, weed and eventually harvest and taste a variety of delicious fruits and vegetables.

Ladera parent Mike Martinez and his family have put in many hours preparing the garden for fall planting as well as creating an outdoor classroom where students

will learn about the environment, composting, and vermiculture, the study of worms.



Thank you to Lowe's Irvine and manager Tim Oberone, who have also assisted in the garden renovation by making donations and offering future support.

Ask your child's teacher how you can help plan visits to the garden, to work, play or just enjoy the serene setting. The garden is a great place to learn about nature, weather, science as well as a place for inspiration for writing, art and more. Visit [www.kidsgardening.org](http://www.kidsgardening.org) to get inspired.

## Don't Miss Family Movie Night!

Put on your PJ's, bring a blanket & pillow and join the Holiday fun on **Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup>** from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the Ladera Multi Purpose Room! Come and sing holiday songs followed by the movie  Polar Express.

**ADMISSION IS FREE!** Hot chocolate, popcorn and desserts will be sold by the Glee Club & Fifth Grade Promotion! This event is sponsored by the PTO.

## January PTO Assembly

The PTO will sponsor a school assembly on **Friday, January 13<sup>th</sup>**, entitled "**The Bully Dudes...and What to do About Them.**" Students will learn useful skills in dealing with bullies while also exploring the less talked about but equally important subject of being a witness or bystander to bullying. Performances will be in the MPR at 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Parents are welcome to attend!

## Birthday Book Club

Thank you to the following students who joined the Birthday Book Club by donating a book to the Ladera Library in the past month:

Malaika Abbi

Roxy Chavez

Ethan Fong

Haley Goldenberg

Abbi Hanson

Emily Manetta

McKenzie McClelland

Hailey Phan

Micah Taira



## Restaurant Night

Our next Ladera Restaurant Night will be held at Red Robin Restaurant in The Marketplace, in conjunction with the Barnes & Noble Book Fair on **Tuesday, December 13<sup>th</sup>**. A portion of your food purchase will be donated back to the Ladera PTO, so make a night of it and have dinner before or after the book fair! More details to follow regarding this fun event.



## Kindergarten Update

Mrs. Elconin's Kindergarten Wonderful Wizards and Mrs. Wenner's Super Stars enjoyed sharing The Thanksgiving Story and their terrific talents at their Variety Show on November 17<sup>th</sup>. It was fun to hear the songs, music and poems, and see the artwork, dancing, cheerleading and karate moves. We even had some children hula hooping and showing sports skills like ice hockey. They should all feel proud of a job well done!

Besides learning about Native Americans and Pilgrims, the Kindergarten students have been

busy with activities on phonics, rhyming words, reading, and journal writing. Their math unit is number sense, one-to-one correspondence, and counting. Also, the students are continuing to work on putting their numbers in order from 1 to 30 and on graphing and patterning.

There is a lot going on in Rooms 201 and 202! You are welcome to come by and see what good work these young Ladera Leopards are accomplishing...all while remembering to be respectful, safe and responsible!



## Ladera Students are Scholars!

As you visit your child's classroom, you may notice different icons, usually printed onto square, laminated paper, posted somewhere on a wall, whiteboard, or door. These are the scholarly attributes that we use in our daily teaching and below is a brief description of their meanings:

- Scholars spend time pondering ideas and problems.
- Scholars consider themselves "half full". They exercise academic humility by realizing that they will always have more to learn.
- Scholars have both short and long term goals for themselves. They have a vision.
- Scholars come prepared to learn. They bring their tools with them and are ready with "minds on".
- Scholars save ideas, documents, and unfinished work so that they may come back to them later.
- Scholars look at things from multiple perspectives. They realize

that there is sometimes more than one answer, and that their way isn't always the only way to solve a problem.

- Scholars are curious. They ask thoughtful questions.
- Scholars look at a variety of resources. They may include both fiction and nonfiction, and include different genres of literature in their research.
- Scholars exercise their intellect by trying challenging tasks.
- Scholars are risk-takers. They are willing to try something new and difficult.

As teachers we use these icons to teach our students that they are all scholars, that they all possess these attributes. It is a way for us to remind our students how to approach a problem, that it's okay to have a different answer than the person sitting next to them, that it's okay to take time to think of an answer, that it's okay to ask a lot of questions.

