



Ladera PTO Newsletter

PTO President's Message by Nancy Mallory

As the school year is winding down, it is time to plan ahead for the next school year. I want to thank those of you who have already volunteered for board positions and committee chair positions. Without our parent volunteers, many of the programs at Ladera would not be possible.

Although we have had many volunteers, we are still in need of chairpersons for some of our committees. Please take a moment to review the list on page 4 and consider heading up one of the committees.

If you are able to help, please contact me at nancymallory@cox.net. Thanks for your consideration!



Principal's Message by Ryan Bollenbach

At the PTO/PTA Coordinating Council Awards held on April 20th, we were proud to honor volunteer extraordinaire **Michele Hernandez**. Mrs. Hernandez has been actively involved in the Ladera community ever since her daughter Casey began in Kindergarten. Mrs. Hernandez is a vital member of our amazing volunteer corps and is the person responsible for all of our incredible Family Nights. Thank you Michele for all that you do for Ladera. Congratulations to Classroom Behavior Interventionist **Nichole Harvey** who was named Ladera's 2010 Classified Employee of the Year. Mrs. Harvey is an integral part of the success of our pre-school program. Thank you Nichole for continuing to go above and beyond expectations and for being a positive role model for our students.

Recently we sent home a valuable resource entitled *Net Cetera: Chatting with Kids About Being Online*. Below is an excerpt from the brochure about cyber bullying. Unfortunately, this form of bullying is becoming more prevalent among school-age children. I encourage you not only to read this excerpt, but the entire brochure and have a

conversation with your children about online safety.

Cyber bullying is bullying or harassment that happens online. It can happen in an email, a text message, an online game, or comments on a social networking site. It might involve rumors or images posted on someone's profile or passed around for others to see or creating a group or page to make a person feel left out.

Talk to your kids about bullying. Tell your kids that they can't hide behind the words they type and the images they post. Hurtful messages not only make the target feel bad, but they also make the sender look bad – and sometimes can bring scorn from peers and punishment from authorities.

Read the comments. Cyber bullying often involves mean-spirited comments. Check out your kid's page from time to time to see what you find.

Don't react. If your child is targeted by a cyber bully, tell them not to respond. Bullies usually are looking for a reaction from their target. If the bullying persists, save the

evidence and contact the school or law enforcement.

Protect their profile. If your child finds a profile that was created or altered without his or her permission, contact the company that runs the site to have it taken down.

Block or delete the bully. If the bullying involves instant messaging or another online service that requires a "friends" or "buddy" list, delete the bully from the lists or block their user name or email address.

Help stop cyber bullying. If your child sees cyber bullying happening to someone else, encourage him or her to try to stop it by not engaging or forwarding anything and by telling the bully to stop. Researchers say that bullying usually stops pretty quickly when peers intervene on behalf of the victim.

Recognize the signs of a cyber bully. Could your kid be the bully? Look for signs of bullying behavior, such as creating mean images of another kid.

Keep in mind that you are a model for your children. Kids learn from adults' gossip and other unkind behavior.

Open House

Ladera's Open House is scheduled for Wednesday, June 2nd, at 6:00 PM. Save the date!



Green Team Tip

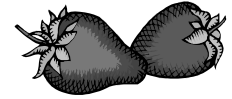
According to The Daily Green, each year, 19 billion catalogs are mailed to American consumers. All those catalogs require more than 53 million trees and 56 billion gallons of wastewater to produce.

So grab that stack of catalogs piling up and visit CatalogChoice.org to put a stop to unwanted catalogs. This free service allows you to choose which catalogs to stop and which to keep and changes can be made anytime. Within 10 weeks, your mailbox should be empty of unwanted catalogs. A less cluttered mailbox means less pollution and less waste, and that is good for the environment.



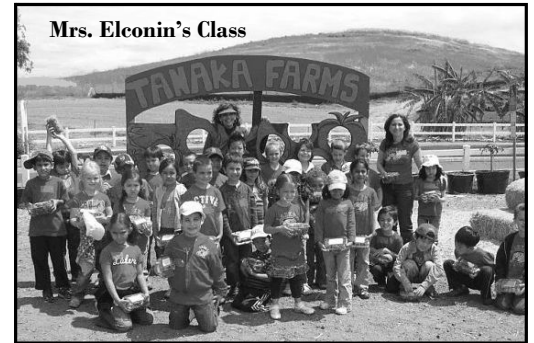
A Visit to Tanaka Farms

by Mrs. Elconin & Mrs. Wenner



Kindergarten classes of Mrs. Elconin and Mrs. Wenner took a field trip to Tanaka Farms in Irvine, one of the only organic farms left in Orange County. We went on a tour, riding on wagons pulled by a tractor and learned a lot about fruits and vegetables. We also got to eat fresh vegetables straight out of their fields, including green onions, carrots, celery and lettuce. The tour culminated with a stop at their strawberry fields where we all got to

pick our own strawberries to take home! The students really had fun and shared some comments: "This was my first time on a bus!" "I LOVE strawberries!" "The onions were spicy." "We can just throw what we don't eat over the side of the wagon??" "These carrots are yummy." "Look! A scarecrow!" It was a wonderful experience and the entire Kindergarten class would like to thank the PTO for covering the costs involved with our very first field trip.



Students Study Exciting and Diverse Artists through Art Masters



In February, students were introduced to American artist, Mary Cassatt through an Art Master slide assembly presentation. Through pictures and stories, students learned how her great talent enabled her to live in France and exhibit with the famous French impressionists. After viewing her paintings, pastels, and portraits, and after learning about the proportions of the face, students created their own portraits and hat designs using studio pastel techniques.

During the month of March, Art Master students completed a unit on the masters of the "Asian Brush". The important influence of Asian art on the artwork from both East and West can be seen in almost all the art our stu-

dents study, but it is the Asian masters' brushwork that truly inspires students to paint. After learning about basic strokes used in calligraphy and painting, students used bamboo brushes and a variation on the Sumi-E technique to create their own bamboo compositions.

This month students met master artist Marc Chagall. The colorful, imaginary world of Chagall afforded a brief review of color, composition, pattern, shape, and light. The fantasy in Chagall's art is greatly due to the absence of the formal properties of perspective, proportion, and point of view. Without these constraints students were given unlimited artistic options to create beautiful enchanted villages in oil pastel.

Summer Connection by Mrs. Schwartz



Back by popular demand! **Summer Connection workbooks** go on sale in May!

The Summer Connection™ program is a great way to connect students' learning from one grade level to the next. The program is for students exiting Kindergarten through those entering sixth grade. These daily skills practice books contain a full 10 weeks (50 days) of invaluable review. The program uses proven distributed (spiraling) skills practice system which helps maintain the basic and higher-order thinking skills needed for the next level.

BELLWORK's Summer Connection™ program features:

- skills in Mathematics and Reading/Language Arts in a multiple-choice format with added extension questions
- a Reading Book List
- a See, Sound, and Spell List
- an Answer Key

Look for more information and an order form in your child's Friday Folder in May. Please email Mrs. Schwartz at lschwartz@tustin.k12.ca.us with any questions.

Yearbook Orders

Now is the time to reserve your personal copy of the **Ladera 2009/2010 Yearbook**. This year's book will feature:

- 80-page computer layout
- Quality digital photos
- *All* pages in **color** featuring highlight photos of school activities and events
- Cover art designed by Ladera students
- Panoramic all student photo 2-page spread
- Grade level photo collages

Only those who **pre-order by Friday, May 14th** will be guaranteed a yearbook. Please use the yearbook order forms distributed in our Friday folders or available in the front office. Order your Yearbook today!

Teacher Appreciation Week

Teacher Appreciation Week begins May 10th and is the perfect time in the year to take a moment and think how lucky we are to have such wonderful teachers at Ladera. It is a great opportunity for our students and parents to show our wonderful teachers just how much we appreciate them for all the effort they put in each day to teach and educate our children.

Our teachers do so much for our children. Let's show them how appreciative we are! Your room mom will be sending out an email to let you know how you can help. If you have any questions or comments about Teacher Appreciation Week, please contact Carmel Ryan at carmeldylaned@hotmail.com.



As Benjamin Franklin once said, "*Genius without education is like silver in the mine.*"

Flat Stanley Adventures, 2010!

by Mrs. Crawford & Mrs. Valencia

Who is Flat Stanley? Ask any 1st grader and they will tell you! Flat Stanley is a character from the chapter book series, Flat Stanley. As the story goes, one day Flat Stanley discovers he is flat after a bulletin board falls on him.

Over the last several weeks, the 1st graders have been eagerly listening to and reading the many adventures of Flat Stanley. As part of our Social Studies Unit, *Where We Live*, each 1st grader made their own Flat Stanley to

send to a friend or relative to learn about the city, state, or country where they live.

Be on the look-out for the Flat Stanley display in the front office in May, to see where Flat Stanley visited this year!



Yearbook Art Contest

Thank you to all our **Ladera Leopard artists**, we had lots of terrific entries for our annual Yearbook cover art contest. The winners will be announced in June and each will be given a complimentary copy of the Ladera Yearbook.



Book Fair



Mrs. Nelson's Book Fair will be on-site in the Ladera Library starting Wednesday, May 26th thru Wednesday, June 2nd. The Book Fair will be open during school hours and until 3 p.m. (except minimum day Wednesdays). We will also be open the evening of Wednesday, June 2nd during Ladera's Open House. Stop on by and check out the latest selection of educational and best-selling books. A percentage of all sales goes back to the purchase of books for our Ladera Library.

Birthday Book Club's Newest Members



Adi Agarwal
Kush Bhargava
Zach Jessel
Alyssa Koval
Cade Libertoski
Vanessa Lopez
Trevor Nguyen
Olivia Patrick
Addison Schwarz
Madison Shealy
Grant Threadgill
Jacob Weiser
Alyssa Young

www.laderaleopards.org

Ladera's 2010 Field Day

Run, Jump, Roll and Splash...2010 Field Day is a guaranteed Blast!



Mark your calendars for Monday June 14th and come participate in Ladera's annual Field Day! It's the one day of the year that everyone gets to act like a KID and have FUN. Parents come armed with super soakers and water balloons to participate in this crazy exciting day. We need volunteers to help make this event a huge success. Our first meeting will be at 8:45 a.m. on Wednesday May 5th at PEETS Coffee in Orchard Hills. See you there!

Open PTO Committee Chair Positions:

Book Fair - Coordinate two book fair events each year to help raise money for the school library. Set-up the library and coordinate volunteers for the event.

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

Family Nights - Coordinate Harvest Night, Cozy Story Night, Bingo Night & Angels Game.

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.

5th Grade Promotion - Work with 5th grade teachers and parents to implement 5th grade promotion and related activities.

Fundraising Assistant - Implement passive fundraising opportunities

Green - Assemble & manage Student Green Team. Coordinate & support "Walk to School Wednesdays". Consider additional recycling/green opportunities. Coordinate Earth Day event.

Room Parent Coordinator - Responsible for the coordination of all room parents. Ensure room parents are aware of party guidelines, responsibilities, and assist with coordination of the Spring Fundraiser room baskets for the live/silent auction. Help with development of consistent guidelines for all room parents. Organize beginning of the year room parent meeting and any others as needed throughout the year.

Hospitality - Coordinate food/beverage for PTO meetings and Principal's Coffees as needed.

Recycling - Manage all recycling efforts, including paper, ink jet & laser cartridges, cell phone recycling, and any other recycling opportunities.

Spirit - Responsible for planning and organizing volunteers for school-wide spirit events throughout the school year, including Field Day. Also responsible for Spirit Wear sales.

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