



The Ladera News



Ladera Elementary School PTO Newsletter

April 2009

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. Students in second through fifth grade will participate in the testing during the week of May 4-8. Make-up testing will take place during the week of May 11-15. 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
- Make sure your children go to bed at a reasonable hour
- Make sure your children come to school after 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 it is 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.

Principal's Message (continued)

Below 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.

Thank you to our April newsletter sponsor!

Linda Beck

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President's Message

By Kirsten Jessel, PTO President

Dear Ladera Families and Staff,

Thank you to all involved with our **Spring Fundraiser: The Ultimate Tailgate Party** on March 27th. **Nancy Mallory** and **Kathy Kendall** planned an amazing event, which far exceeded the quality of a typical elementary school fundraiser. Thanks to the efforts of Nancy, Kathy, the Fundraising Committee, sponsors and contributors, Ladera is in a much healthier financial situation than many of the public schools in California.

PTO sponsored activities in April include the Mother-Daughter Tea on April 2nd, the annual event for 5th grade girls preparing for middle school. **Gita Kalili** and **Marilyn Monroe** have been planning for this important event since the fall, and it is sure to be memorable for Moms and daughters alike.

The Art Masters Assembly on April 17th will feature Dutch post-Impressionist Vincent Van Gogh. Art Master's instructor Poli Rizco has been scheduled to teach at Ladera again next year. If you have seen Poli in action, you will agree that her promised return is great news! All Art Masters Assemblies will be held on Mondays for the 2009-2010 school year so that parent instruction can take place in the school library, which does not operate on that day.

Don't forget to bring in your clean plastic bottles at drop off on April 17th, and again on May 20st. Bottles will be collected by our Green Team and 5th Graders, and all proceeds will go towards the 5th Grade Promotion Committee. Thank you to **Pam Edmondson** and **Robin Steinmetz** for arranging this joint effort.

After School Enrichment Programs resume Monday April 20th. Two new classes will be available for the spring trimester. On Thursdays Kiddie Tech will be offering a Basic Computer Skills class. Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and typing skills will be covered. On Mondays, a Creative Workshop for K-5th grade will be taught by design professional and Ladera parent **Angelika Belle**. Angelika has had an exciting career in athletic shoe and automotive design and is eager to share her knowledge with Ladera students. VP of Programs **Noreen Wong** has done a great job arranging a variety of after school enrichment programs this year. She is very open to new ideas, so please contact her with any suggestions you may have.

April 20th-24th is our "Power Down TV Turn off Week," which corresponds with Earth Day on April 22. Our inspired Librarian **Geri Shaw** introduced this event last year. The week is meant to encourage students to read, exercise or spend quality time with family rather than "Sponge Bob." For this and the many other wonderful things Ms. Shaw has done for Ladera, she will be honored with a Coordinating Council Award on April 21st. Each spring the Coordinating Council (all TUSD PTO/PTA Presidents) recognizes outstanding colleagues and volunteers from each school site.

The second annual Father-Son Event is scheduled for the evening of April 23rd. Father-Son Event Chair **Keith Schildt** has arranged a presentation by the Tustin Police Department regarding Internet safety and bullying, and an interactive workshop on African drumming which will incorporate team building. Other fun activities and dinner are also planned.

Finally, I encourage everyone to attend the April 16th PTO General Meeting at 8:30AM. The 2008-2009 PTO Executive Board (see page 3 for proposed slate) will be elected at this month's meeting, so this is a great opportunity to find out what's going on at Ladera and with the PTO.

Hope to see you there!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APRIL

- 1 Walk to School Wednesday
- 3 First Grade Play - "Hansel and Gretel Eat Right."
- 6-13 No School Spring Break
- 14 School Resumes
- 15 Walk to School Wednesday, DiLellio/St. Clair
3rd grade show "Pirates from Grammar Island"
- 16 PTO Meeting 8:30am
School Site Council Meeting 3pm
- 17 Art Masters - Vincent Van Gogh
- 20-24 Power Down TV Turn-Off Week
- 22 Walk to School Wednesday
- 29 Walk to School Wednesday

MAY

- 4-8 Star Testing
- 8 Angels Game Family Night
- 6 Walk to School Wednesday
- 13 Teacher Appreciation Day
Walk to School Wednesday
- 20 Walk to School Wednesday
Plastic Bottle Recycling Day
- 21 Principal's Chat 8:30am
PTO Meeting 9:00am
School Site Council Meeting 3pm
- 25 No School Memorial Day Holiday
- 26-29 Spring Book Fair
- 27 Walk to School Wednesday
- 29 Minimum Day
PTO Installation Brunch 9-11
Open House
- 30 Quad-MATH-alon

JUNE

- 3 Walk to School Wednesday
- 10 Walk to School Wednesday
- 17 Field Day
Walk to School Wednesday
- 18 End of 3rd Trimester
Last Day of School
5th Grade Promotion



The Ladera News is a monthly newsletter published by the Ladera PTO. To submit an article, please email it to Kim Patrick at kimpat3@mac.com or drop it off at the school office. The submission deadline for the next issue (May) is April 28.

Ladera Elementary School 2515 Rawlings Way, Tustin, CA 92782 (714) 730-7505 - www.tustin.k12.ca.us/ladera	
2008-09 PTO EXECUTIVE BOARD	
Principal	Ryan Bollenbach
President	Kirsten Jessel
Co-VPs, Programs	Noreen Wong Linda Lowder
Co-VPs, Fundraising	Nancy Mallory Kathy Kendall
Co-VPs, Membership	Pam Edmondson Janice Lee
Co-VP, Publicity (Newsletter) Co-VP, Publicity (Email Blast)	Kim Patrick Michelle Hernandez
Co-VPs, Volunteer Coordinators	Emmy Coats Tori Crummack
Secretary/PM Meetings Secretary/AM Meetings	Kirstin Schechter Liz Lehnhof
Treasurer	Camille Gershenovitz
Financial Secretary	Pam Dixon
Parliamentarian	Cathy Waldman

Highlights from the March 19th PTO Meeting

Budget - Camille Gershenovitz reviewed the budget.

- Our budget is in a good position to help out with next year's budget.
- PTO purchased Marcy Cook books for classrooms.
- Red Robin Restaurant Night raised \$400.00-\$410.00.
- PTO has approximately \$900.00 in holding for 5th grade promotion.
- PTO paid for Computer personnel and PE Teacher.
- Yearbook needs more ads (below forecasted amount).
- PTO purchased computers for hallways for \$4,000.00.

Assemblies - Linda Lowder spoke to Walk through California and American Revolution assemblies.

- Walk through programs include 35 students.
- Students attend the assembly as specific characters. Funds are needed now for next year.
- It is necessary to sign up by April 15th for next year.
- Next year we will need 5 assemblies.
- The cost for 5 assemblies is \$1,630.00.
- Kathy Winters motioned to approve \$1,630.00 for the assemblies; Tori Crummack seconded the motion; motion was approved.

Lisa Cappell- SDC Program - spoke to speech lab needs.

- More than 133 students receive speech services at our school.
- In the past the materials in the speech lab have belonged to individual teachers.
- Materials needed in speech lab are the following: Kaufman card sets \$425.00; Vocabulary drill cards \$200.00; games & toys \$250.00; Consumables \$100.00; oral motor whistle kits \$90.00; sensory materials \$50.00; Apraxia kit \$66.00; 1 entire set of first round series \$65.00.
- A total cost of above materials is \$1,246.00.
- Materials will be permanent for Ladera.
- The speech therapists at our school work all year around.
- Damage or lost materials not a concern since our therapists will still be in speech lab over summer.
- Tori Crummack motioned to approve funds for speech lab of \$1,250.00; Kristin Schechter seconded the motion; motion was approved.

Tori Crummack - spoke about Angel Game Family Night.

- Tickets are \$14.00 per seat which also includes dinner.
- The game is on Fri., May 8th.
- Hotdogs, pizza & Subway will be served at the game.

Kirsten Jessel - spoke about Father/Son event and Spring Fundraiser.

- Father/Son event will be on April 23rd.
- Spring Fundraiser will have lower priced basket items this year.
- Might be better due to the economy

Ryan Bollenbach - spoke to funds needed for PLC maps.

- Cost for PLC maps is \$97.42.
- Linda Lowder motioned to approve funds for \$100.00; Kathy Winters seconded motion; motion was approved.

2009-2010 Ladera PTO Executive Board Proposed Nominee Slate

The PTO Nominating Committee has announced the proposed slate of officers for the 2009-10 school year:

President	Nancy Mallory
VP, Programs	Noreen Wong & Robin Steinmetz
VP, Fundraising	Kathy Kendall & Janice Lee
VP, Membership	Pam Edmondson & Carmel Ryan
VP, Publicity	Michelle Hernandez & Kim Patrick
VP, Volunteer Coordinators	Tori Crummack & Mary Hajali
Secretary	Zubia Villacorta
Treasurer	Pam Dixon
Financial Secretary	Bini Teng

This proposed slate of nominees will be put to a vote before the PTO membership at the April 16th PTO general meeting at 9:00 a.m., at which time nominations may also be taken from the floor.

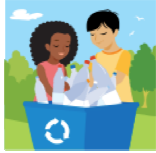




Help Ladera Recycle and Raise Money for our students! Start saving your PLASTIC BOTTLES, USED PRINTER CARTRIDGES and USED CELL PHONES

The Ladera Green Team and the 5th Grade Class will be collecting **PLASTIC BOTTLES** through the end of the school year, on the 3rd Friday of the month.

Please save the following dates for Plastic Bottle Recycling days:



- March 20th
- April 17th
- May 15th

All plastic bottles should be brought in plastic trash bags and dropped off at the front of the school or the back gate on the Friday mornings specified above. Bags will be collected at morning drop off.



Used Printer Cartridges and Cell Phones can be dropped off in the school office anytime; collection bins are to your immediate right when you enter the office. You may also send printer cartridges and cell phones to school with your child.



THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!



Community Arts and Events Sampler April 2009

Bowers Museum, 714-567-3600, www.bowers.org

- ✚ *Art of the Samurai: Selections from the Tokyo National Museum* April 18 – June 14, 2009
- ✚ *Passages: Photographs of Africa* by Carol Beckwith and Angela Fisher November 15, 2008 – August 16, 2009
- ✚ *Masters of Adornment: The Miao People of China* November 15, 2008 – ongoing

Orange County Performing Arts Center, 714-55602787, www.ocpac.org

- ✚ *Bernstein Beat* April 18, 2009
Featuring the “jumpyest,” most “mamborific,” most kid-friendly music by Leonard Bernstein, this concert explores the wonder of musical rhythm throughout his most famous music – including selections from “West Side Story” and “On the Town.”

The Irvine Barclay Theatre, 949-854-4646, www.thebarclay.org/calendar.asp

- ✚ *The Phantom Tollbooth*: [Recommended for children ages 7 to 11] Thursday, April 2nd, 2009 and Friday, April 3rd, 2009
- ✚ *The Sleeping Beauty*- Ballet for Children: presented by Festival Ballet Theatre Saturday, April 4th, 2009 at 2:00 PM
- ✚ *Festival Ballet - The Sleeping Beauty*: presented by Festival Ballet Theatre Saturday, April 4th, 2009 and Sunday, April 5th, 2009

Green Tips of the Month - April 2009

Turn your computer off at night. According to The Department of Energy, turning your system off at night will save about \$90 worth of electricity each year.

Kick the water bottle habit. Drink water from reusable containers and save money while helping the environment.

Use an online phone directory. Call your local phone company and ask to be removed from their delivery route and help save the paper and energy used to print and distribute the books.

Art Master Students Meet Pablo Picasso

Art Master Students recently “met” master artist Pablo Picasso. The introduction afforded a review of the art elements found in the many painting styles of this prolific Spanish painter. In their classrooms students learned to use the creative right side of the brain to draw in a Picasso-like style.





Budget News

Tustin Unified School District's General Fund Second Interim Budget was released on March 9th. This Budget Report will accommodate the new California State Education Budget. The Report assumes that Propositions 1A-1E on the May 19th Ballot will pass. If all 5 Propositions do not pass, further cuts will be needed. To view the General Fund Second Interim Budget, visit www.tustin.k12.ca.us and click on Budget Watch.

For information on Propositions 1A-1E and how they will affect our schools, please visit: www.laderaleopards.org and click on **Propositions 1A-1E**.

TUSD Coordinating Council General Meeting Notes 03/10/2009

Administrative Report – Deputy Superintendent Brock Wagner

Mr. Wagner presented the TUSD General Fund Second Interim Budget Report. This is the fourth part of a 4 piece budget that is required by the State of California each school year. To view the Budget Report and frequently asked questions visit the TUSD website at www.tustin.k12.ca.us and click on Budget Watch

Additional comments:

- A 1 day furlough for teachers would cut approximately \$100,000 and may need to be considered at a future date.
- A 1% salary reduction for all TUSD teachers would cut approximately \$1.05 million and may need to be considered at a future date.
- Special Education bussing will not be eliminated
- OC Transit, which is convenient to many TUSD schools, may provide discounts as a way to alleviate cuts in transportation.
- The Second Interim Budget assumes that Propositions 1A-1E pass on May 19th.
- The statutory deadline for Certified Employees to receive pink slips (notice of possible non-employment for the following school year) is 45 days before school is let out.
- Personal letters, rather than form letters or emails, are the preferred way to inform California State Representatives of your opinions. The TUSD website has names and addresses of these individuals.

School Board Report, Francine Scinto

- Reported that TUSD was quite effective in cutting the required \$5.4 million from TUSD's 2007-2008 budget; so much so that it went virtually unnoticed to students and parents.
- The TUSD administrative office was the most affected area. The district office operates with the same number of staff that it did in the early 1990's.



Birthday Book Club



The Ladera Birthday Book Club welcomes the following new members who recently donated a new book to the Ladera Library in honor of their birthday:

Aditya Agarwal	Alyssa Nguyen
Nikolas Belle	Brandon Pitchess
Madisen Chi	Luke Schildt
Julianna Christopoulos	Addison Schwarz
Tessa Gin	Eli Schwarz
Zach Jessel	Julia Wang
Julia Jessel	Jacob Weiser
Megan Kendall	Andy Liscio
Alyssa Koval	Paige Mills

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 2008-2009 school year. Our students' votes will be sent in to the state committee to be tallied along with votes from young readers throughout California. The books nominated for the award this year were *Hilda Must Be Dancing*, *The Perfect Nest*, *Bats at the Beach*, *Uncle Peter's Amazing Chinese Wedding* and *Stanley's Wild Ride*. Ladera students chose *Stanley's Wild Ride* 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.

Also, the week of April 20th through April 26th I will be encouraging students to participate in TV Turnoff Week. Each year, I challenge students to take a one-week break from all screen time during this nationally recognized event. This includes all screens...television, computer, video and handheld games. It is quite a challenge, but can be very rewarding and is a great opportunity to read more books!

Finally, students in third through fifth grade 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 was 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. 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!