



The Ladera News



Ladera Elementary School PTO Newsletter

December 2008/January 2009

Principal's Message

By Ryan Bollenbach

As the end of the first trimester is upon us, it is important to take a look back and celebrate the accomplishments of the first three months of the school year. The teachers have been working incredibly hard as we create a collaborative culture with a focus and commitment to student learning. In a professional learning community, collaboration represents a systematic process in which teachers work together interdependently in order to impact their classroom practice in ways that will lead to better results for their students, their team and ultimately our school. All students in first through fifth grades are placed in flexible groups for language arts and/or math. This ensures that all students are receiving instruction at their appropriate level. Additionally, students who need additional support are provided with that support during the school day. For students who are proficient, enrichment activities are provided.

Ladera students are continuously impressive as they go above and beyond the behavior expectations (as set forth through our Positive Behavior System). Students rapidly collect their "Right Thing" cards in preparation for the monthly "Five for Friday Movie Day." On average, about 80 students have attended each of the movie days. Keep up the great work Leopards!

Ladera has once again been recognized by the California Business for Education Excellence (CBEE) as an Honor Roll School. The CBEE uses data (school-wide and subgroup) based on the California Standards Test to evaluate academic performance, honor roll school are recognized for demonstrating consistent high student academic achievement. Way to go Leopards!

The stegosaurus stays at Ladera. Good job Leopards in keeping the Dino Dash trophy at Ladera. We had a great turnout at the soggy Dino Dash, thank you to everyone who participated.

We have had an amazing first trimester. Let's keep up the hard work (and fun) for the remainder of the school year. I want to wish everyone a safe and healthy holiday season, thank you for all that you do to make Ladera a great place to be.



Congratulations Mr. Bollenbach!

Mr. Bollenbach has been nominated by Tustin Unified School District for the 2009 Administrator of the Year (Elementary Principal Category) for Orange County by the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA). ACSA annually recognizes outstanding administrators for their leadership skills, professionalism, creativity, innovation and commitment to quality education. Winners will be announced in spring 2009.



Winter Holiday Performances on December 11th

Ladera students are preparing their special Winter Holiday show. This year all performances will be held on Thursday, December 11th in the daytime only during school hours as follows:

- 9:00 Kindergarten through 2st Grades
- 11:00 3rd Grades through 5th Grades



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)	Kim Patrick
Co-VP, Publicity (Email Blast)	Michelle Hernandez
Co-VPs, Volunteer Coordinators	Emmy Coats Tori Crummack
Secretary/PM Meetings	Kirstin Schechter
Secretary/AM Meetings	Liz Lehnhof
Treasurer	Camille Gershenovitz
Financial Secretary	Pam Dixon
Parliamentarian	Cathy Waldman



JBM
MOTORING
www.jbmmotoring.com

Happy Hollidays from JBM!
Bring This Ad to Receive:
- 10% Off Your Next Purchase
- Additional 10% of Purchase
Donated to Ladera

Specializing In:
Wheels, Tires, Suspension, Grilles
428 West Katella Ave Orange, CA
714-997-0400 jbmmotoring.com

President's Message

By Kirsten Jessel, PTO President

The Ladera Spirit Run is almost here! Thank you for your generous contributions thus far. The Spirit Run is our second biggest fundraiser of the year, and is a great reason for the students to engage in some healthy exercise. VPs of Fundraising Nancy Mallory and Kathy Kendall have done a fabulous job of putting this event together. Speaking of exercise, our P.E. instructor Maryanne Liscio has been conducting classes twice weekly for over a month now, and the students are loving every minute of it. If your child hasn't talked to you about the new P.E. classes, be sure to ask! To find out more about the CATCH P.E. program visit www.laderaleopards.org/catch-physical-education/

After the kids have run hard and generated a hearty appetite, please join us for Restaurant Night at Rubio's on Monday, December 8th. Rubio's has always been a popular Restaurant Night destination because of its delicious and family friendly food. Rubio's has also been extremely generous to Ladera, providing free kids meals coupons to every student at the end of the last school year.

With regard to academic pursuits, Ladera's Book Fair returns December 10th and continues through December 16th. In lieu of "Teacher Wish Lists", Ladera students and families are being asked to participate in a book donation drive benefiting Children's Hospital of Orange County. During the Book Fair, students may purchase a new book for children staying at CHOC hospital. All book donations will be made in loving memory of Ladera student and avid reader Ethan Mouisset, and will bear a label acknowledging the donation in his name. The Book Fair will be open 9AM-3PM every day, and 5:30PM -7:30PM on Thursday December 11th, the night of "Cozy Story Night." At this Winter Family night, Principal Bollenbach and our own Art Master's Lecturer and Professional Storyteller Poli Rizco will be reading stories, and the 5th Grade Promotion Committee will be selling hot drinks, popcorn, and dessert. Ms. Rizco will also conduct a bookmark craft. Students are invited to wear their pajamas, and bring a pillow, blanket, or stuffed animal.

On January 9th Poli Rizco returns for an Art Master's lesson on French Impressionist Claude Monet. Bingo Family Night is back by popular demand on January 23rd. Bingo night has always been well attended and is great fun for children and parents alike.

All parents are invited to attend the PTO meetings on December 16th at 8:30AM and January 15th at 7PM. Please check the website and email blasts for discussion topics.

On behalf of the PTO, I wish you all a safe and happy winter break!

Thank you to our December/January newsletter sponsor – JBM Motoring.

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. The submission deadline for the next issue of February is January 23, 2009.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December 2008

- 1 GATE Testing in Library all day
- 3 Walk to School Wednesday
4th Grade Musical - "Missions...and More" 8:50 A.M. and 9:50 A.M.
- 5 Trimester Ends / PTO Fundraiser - Spirit Run
- 8 Restaurant Night - Rubio's
- 9-16 Winter Book Fair
- 10 Walk to School Wednesday
- 11 Winter Performances during the day
Cozy Story Night 6-7:30pm
- 17 Walk to School Wednesday
- 18 PTO Meeting 8:30am
School Site Council 3pm
- 22- 31 Winter Break (school resumes Jan.5)

January 2009

- 1-4 Winter Break
- 5 School Resumes after Winter Break
- 7 Walk to School Wednesday
- 9 Art Masters - Claude Monet
- 14 Walk to School Wednesday
- 15 School Site Council 3pm
Principal's Chat 6:30pm
PTO Meeting 7:00pm
- 19 No School Martin Luther King Day Holiday
- 20-23 5th Grade Outdoor Science Camp
- 21 Walk to School Wednesday
- 23 Family Night Bingo
- 28 Walk to School Wednesday /
Assembly - "Icky Yucky
Gross Bug Show"

February 2009

- 4 Walk to School Wednesday
- 5-6 4th grade Lazy W overnight field trip
- 6 Art Masters - Winslow Homer
- 11 Walk to School Wednesday
- 13 No School Lincoln's Birthday Holiday
- 16 No School Washington's Birthday Holiday
- 18 Walk to School Wednesday
- 19 Principal's Coffee 8:30am
PTO Meeting 9am
School Site Council Meeting 3pm
- 24 Walk to School Wednesday
- 25 Assembly - "Water and Science Education" K-1st grades
- 26 Assembly - "Water and Science Education" 2nd - 5th grades



Dear Ladera Families,

The staff and students at Ladera want to express their appreciation for your continued support of this year's Dino Dash... *the best yet*. It's Ladera's commitment to excellence that allows us to continue the tradition of Ladera being **number 1**, with the highest percentage of registrations for the 7th year!

This year Ladera registered 569 participants for Dino Dash 2008 giving us a **163%** participation...**THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE OF ALL SCHOOLS IN TUSTIN**. Due to the active participation of Ladera families our classrooms will receive over \$3,000.00 to be spent by our teachers for improving and enhancing instruction. All classes will be receiving 30 minutes of P.E. time with Mr. Bollenbach.

Mrs. Dilello/Mrs. St. Clair's class, as well as **Mrs. Moore's** class, will receive an additional 30 minutes with Mr. Bollenbach because they were the grade level winners, K-2 and 3-5. Mrs. Dilello's/Mrs. St. Clair's class had a whopping 280% participation and Mrs. Moore's class had an impressive 184% participation. **WAY TO GO!!!**

Again, thank you for the support you have given Dino Dash 2008. The success experienced by Ladera is the envy of schools throughout the district.

Dino Dash Co-Chairs,
Rosalind Moore
Erin Neuer

Highlights of the November Coordinating Council Meeting



The Coordinating Council consists of all the PTO/PTA Presidents in TUSD, and meets monthly to discuss matters concerning Tustin Schools. Below are highlights of the November 18th, 2008 Coordinating Council Meeting.

School Board Report, Tammie Bullard

- Thank you all who helped in getting Measure L passed.
- The economic downturn has resulted in a substantial drop in current and projected California State revenue collections, thereby widening the projected gap between revenue and spending set forth in the State's current and upcoming budgets. On November 6th, 2008 the Governor called a special session of the legislature and proposed a substantial tax increase coupled with large reductions in state spending, primarily affecting education, health, and human services. If approved, this plan will result in a \$7 million mid-year cut for TUSD. The Governor hopes to have the plan approved before the new legislature is sworn in on December 1, 2008.
- OC Philharmonic has donated 2 violins to TUSD.
- The Tustin Assistance League has allocated \$35,000 to "Project Today," a program run in collaboration with TUSD and various community groups. "Project Today" mandates that parents participate in rehabilitation for students suspended for drug and/or alcohol.

Report from Superintendent Richard Bray, given by Tammie Bullard

- Representatives from Pioneer Middle School traveled to Washington, DC to receive the National Blue Ribbon Award.
- Dino Dash had a record 7,767 participants. Over \$170,000 was raised
- Tustin High School is participating in its 16th annual Model UN program.
- The Rotary Club has awarded \$25,000 in cash to TUSD staff and teachers for educational programs.

TEA Report, T.J. Prendergast

- The previously determined .67% cost of living increase for teachers is being reduced as a result of the aforementioned budget situation.

Report from TPSF Representative Gerry Aust, given by Rose Fruenhaus

- Thank you all for participation and assistance with Dino Dash.
- The TSMA Dinner will be March 25th, 6pm to 8:45pm at Temple Beth Shalom in Santa Ana.

Presidents Report, Rose Fruenhaus

- The Coordinating Council Nominating Committee will meet in February to nominate next years CC Board Members. Parliamentarian Megan Foss will chair the Committee

Erin Nielson, Executive Director of Tustin Community Foundation and Tustin High School PTO President

- The Tustin Community Foundation is fundraising vehicle which can be used for projects and organizations which do not fall under the clearly defined parameters of Arts, Sports, Education, etc. For example, the Foundation has raised money for fire victims and for the installation of smart boards at a Tustin Elementary School.
- The Foundation can give school grants. For more information visit www.tustincommunityfoundation.org
- The largest TCF fundraiser of the year is the Tustin Mayor's Thanksgiving Breakfast at the Marconi Museum on November 20, 2008.

Community Arts and Events Sampler December/January

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

- ✚ American Quilts: Two Hundred Years of Tradition
September 20, 2008 – March 15, 2009
- ✚ Passages: Photographs of Africa by Carol Beckwith and Angela Fisher
November 15, 2008 – April 19, 2009
- ✚ Masters of Adornment: The Miao People of China
November 15, 2008 – ongoing

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

- ✚ Nutcracker for Kids
December 13, 2008
Visions of sugarplums will dance in your head after seeing Tchaikovsky's delightful Christmas ballet — performed in a condensed version created just for kids. This seasonal favorite finishes with a visit from Santa and our annual holiday sing-a-long.

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

- ✚ The Nutcracker
December 12-24, 2008
Festival Ballet Theatre's production of The Nutcracker is a family tradition with the beauty and pageantry of Tchaikovsky's holiday classic.

Los Angeles Music Center, 213-972-7211, www.lamusiccenter.org

- ✚ **Performing Books** introduces children to the performing arts through children's books. This free series offers families the unique opportunity to hear stories read and brought to life by professional storytellers and artists. Recommended for children ages 4 through 10.

- Performing Books - The Velveteen Rabbit

December 6, 2008
Starts at 02:00 PM

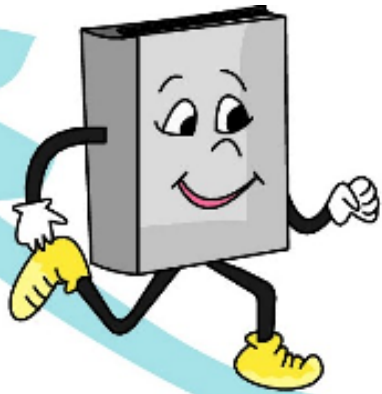
- ✚ **World City** features internationally renowned artists in admission-free performances on select Saturdays at the W.M. Keck Foundation Children's Amphitheatre at Walt Disney Concert Hall.

- World City - Chen Kuai Le Puppet Theater (Puppetry, Taiwan)

January 17, 2009
Starts at 11:00 AM

Run On Over to Ladera's Book Fair

Wednesday, Dec. 10
through Tuesday, Dec. 16



Mrs. Nelson's will be on site with the latest selection of books for all ages. Book fair hours are 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily. All proceeds go towards purchasing more books for our Ladera Library.

A "Paws"itive Giving Opportunity

Ladera students and families are being asked to participate in a new book donation drive benefiting Children's Hospital of Orange County. During our book fair, students may purchase a new book for donation to children staying at CHOC hospital. *All book donations will be made in loving memory of Ladera student Ethan Mouisset and will bear a label*



acknowledging Ladera's donation in his name. Students who participate in the program will also have their name placed on a leopard paw print displayed in our Ladera library.

Cozy Story Night *Thursday, Dec. 11* 6-7:30 p.m.

Wear your PJ's and bring your favorite pillow or blanket!!!

Please bring the whole family to Ladera's multipurpose room on Thursday evening to cozy up and enjoy some storytelling, bookmark craft, and a bake sale (sponsored by our Ladera 5th grade team).

Professional Story Teller, Poli Rizco will join Mr. Bollenbach in reading some of their favorite holiday and storybook classics. *Our book fair will open from 5:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. This is a perfect opportunity for parents to do some holiday book shopping while the kids are entertained!*





A WORD FROM NURSE RIZA, RN

Children and Asthma:

Now that the fall weather is upon us, I want to let parents and children know that colds and cold symptoms are the most common triggers of asthma. Asthma is prevalent among children age 5-17; it is estimated that in a classroom of 30 students, 3 have asthma. Asthma is the major cause of missed school days among all chronic diseases. However, this does not have to happen. Controlling the triggers and managing the symptoms of asthma will allow children to have full participation in school. When coughing wakes your child with asthma more than 2 nights a month, or is using his emergent inhaler more than 2 times a week, it's a sign that his asthma may not be under control. Start with requesting a referral to see an asthma specialist. He/she will determine your child's asthma triggers and give you an asthma control plan. If you have further question, you can email them to me at rquerubin@tustin.k12.ca.us.



Library Corner

By Geri Shaw, Ladera Librarian

The collection of books in any library is quite diverse, that is the nature of information and literature . . . there is something for everyone. At our school, that means there are books for children in Kindergarten through fifth grade. Providing materials for students of varying ages results in a reality that not every book is appropriate reading for some children or even some families.

Since there are such varying tastes when it comes to books, I try my best to provide diversity without offending our young readers. I do recommend that parents monitor the books their students are bringing home to make sure the content is within your personal standards.

A great resource for determining whether a book is right for your child is Common Sense Media (www.commonsensemedia.org). Common Sense Media rates books (as well as movies, television, music, and video games) on several factors included within content and message guidelines. The organization provides age-based reviews and even allows parents and children a forum for providing their personal reviews of media.

As always, if you have any questions about a book your child brings home, please feel free to call me.

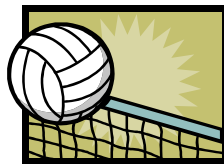
Thanks and I'll see you in the library!



Birthday Book Club

Thank you and Happy Birthday to the following Ladera students who contributed a book to the Ladera Library during the past month:

Davis Bowers	Noelle Lendino
Elizabeth Bowers	Eden Miller
Bethany Bowers	Hayley Roettger
Avalon Brassaw	Cassidy Srevens
Paris Carillo	Zane Wagatha
Ethan Fong	Julia Wang
Cala Gin	Samuel Wang
Patrick Hajali	Zachary Wayt
Jayden Kiely	Jacob Weiser
Chris Kim	Carson Wong
	Mo Zahra



Boy's Volleyball Team try-outs start the week of Jan. 5th. Please contact Ms. Whitfield for more information.

kwhitfield@tustin.k12.ca.us



The Ladera preschool will be having its annual outing to the South Coast Plaza on December 5th to see Santa Claus, ride the Merry-Go-Round and create a craft. This is a fun adventure for the children. Please contact Ms. Sheri Gray (Pre-School SDC - Tustin Unified School District) for more information. sgray@tustin.k12.ca.us