



# The Ladera News



Ladera Elementary School PTO Newsletter

November 2008

## Principal's Message

By Ryan Bollenbach

### Pyramid of Success

“Success isn't having trophies or toys.  
It isn't a medal or friends of your choice.  
What is Success? That's easy to see.  
It's trying to be the best you can be!  
Don't worry what other may have or may say.  
When trying your best,  
Success comes your way.”

-An excerpt from Inch and Miles: The Journey to Success  
by Coach John Wooden

At the final flag ceremony of each month, one student from each class will be honored for displaying a positive value. In addition to receiving a certificate, the students' names are displayed on the Pyramid of Success located in the hallway next to the Library.

If you have not had an opportunity to see the Pyramid, please find the time to do so. The values (*Hard Work, Friendship, Cooperation, Determination, Enthusiasm, Fitness, Team Spirit, Skill, Confidence and Poise*) are based on Coach John Wooden's Pyramid of Success and are the topic of Coach Wooden's book Inch and Miles: The Journey to Success. Each teacher has been provided a copy of the book, courtesy of the Kendall family, and every student has had the opportunity to hear the book in its entirety.

Each month the teachers revisit the trait of the month and the poem that goes along with the value is posted in each classroom. Students are encouraged everyday to follow all of the blocks of the Pyramid of Success as they work their way to their personal best.

## President's Message

By Kirsten Jessel, PTO President

Dear Ladera Families and Staff,

There has definitely been an abundance of activities at Ladera this fall! The quality and impact of these activities is fueled by the efforts of our many parent volunteers. A sincere thank you for all that you do to make our school a better place!

The 2008 PTO Membership Drive was incredibly successful, with over 75% of families and 100% of Ladera's teachers joining! These generous families and teachers, along with our new corporate sponsors, raised over \$19,000 for our children. **Pam Edmondson** and **Janice Lee** did a fabulous job of running the endeavor. As of press time Janice and Pam were working diligently on assembling our indispensable *Ladera Directory*.

**Noreen Wong** has organized a diverse array of after school enrichment classes, providing extracurricular guidance in performing and visual arts, fitness, martial arts, and science. Thanks Noreen for helping our children develop such a wide variety of skills!

Ladera scholars have already enjoyed two PTO sponsored assemblies. Both shows utilized drama and storytelling to engage the students in the subjects of nutrition and the importance of uniqueness. On November 19<sup>th</sup> the students will witness the history of theater at the assembly "Theatre through the Ages." Thank you **Linda Lowder** for scheduling these performances-the kids love them!

Our first two Ladera restaurant nights were very well attended and lots of fun for all! Thanks to the amazing promotional skills of **Linda Beck** and **Judy Weise**, the Restaurant Night Committee is on its way to another record breaking year.

The Art Masters program is in full swing under the creative leadership of Chairpersons **Pam Edmondson** and **Victoria Longstreet**. Our students have attended lectures on Henri Toulouse Lautrec and Paul Cezanne, and have developed beautiful artwork under the tutelage of 35 parent volunteers.

*(continued on page 2)*

## Restaurant Nights

**Restaurant Night at Kobe's Teppan and Sushi** in October was lots of fun. Kobe's will be donating 20% of our \$1,400.00 in sales from the evening to Ladera's PTO. Kobe's also donated (4) \$25.00 gift certificates for our drawing. At the Friday morning assembly Mr. Bollenbach was presented with a pair of training chopsticks from Kobe's which he used to draw the winning names out of *the red box*. Congratulations to the following lucky Leopards: **Carly Wrobey** (Neuer) **Alyssa Nguyen** (Moore) **Cameron Aynehchi** (Pilon) and **Zach Heller** (Whitfield).

Join us for the next restaurant night on **Monday, November 17<sup>th</sup>** at **California Pizza Kitchen** in the Tustin Market Place. We look forward to seeing you there.

## PTO President's Message

(continued from page 1)

**Angela Jaquez** and **Mary Hajali** hosted the second annual New Family Dinner on October 2<sup>nd</sup>. New Ladera families mingled and dined on a delicious Italian dinner. Each family also received first edition Ladera pens and notepads, and a Ladera mug. Welcome new families-we hope you enjoyed yourselves and we are happy you are here!

The Ladera Laps Running Program began its 3<sup>rd</sup> year on October 14<sup>th</sup>. **Nicole Stepanian**, this year's Ladera Laps Chair, is doing a great job keeping the twice weekly running program on track!

At the October 24<sup>th</sup> Friday Flag ceremony, students were treated to a visit by the Orange County Fire Department. Education Specialist Polly Bowen spoke about general fire safety, as well as earthquake and emergency preparedness. Thank you **Robin Steinmetz** for arranging this very important event!

Garden Committee Chair **Kathy Winters** organized our October 27<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> Harvest Week, a great way for the children to celebrate fall! Scarecrow making, gardening and tasting healthy snacks were just some of the activities this year.

The celebration of fall ended with an amazing Family Night! The Halloween Magic Family Night and Chili Cook-off, brilliantly orchestrated by **Tori Crummack** and **Michele Hernandez**, was a blast for parents and children alike. Congratulations to **Susan Shube** for bringing home the 1<sup>st</sup> Place prize for best all around Chili - 4 "Premier" L.A. Kings tickets w/ parking. The tickets were donated by **Ken Nishida**, parent of fifth grader Bradley Nishida. Thank you Ken for this AWESOME prize!

Next time you are at Ladera, take a look at the outside and inside (right across from the Library) display cases. Wow! Our new Community Arts Chair **Angelika Belle** has done a beautiful job of featuring Ladera's accomplishments. The displays will be rotating, so don't forget to look for new examples of Ladera pride every time you are on campus.

From design to production to distribution, **Shannon Bowers** and **Shannon Heaton** did a first class job with the 2008 Ladera Spirit Wear T-Shirts. Shannon and Shannon went the extra mile to deliver the shirts to students prior to the Dino Dash. Your hard work and creativity is much appreciated. Hats, baseball shirts, and zippered sweatshirts are coming soon!

Thank you again to all of these volunteers, and to the many more that share their time and skills to benefit the Ladera community. On behalf of the PTO I wish you a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday!



<b>Ladera Elementary School</b>	
2515 Rawlings Way, Tustin, CA 92782	
(714) 730-7505 - <a href="http://www.tustin.k12.ca.us/ladera">www.tustin.k12.ca.us/ladera</a>	
<b>2008-09 PTO EXECUTIVE BOARD</b>	
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

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](mailto:kimpat3@mac.com) or drop it off at the school office. The submission deadline for the next issue (December/January) is November 21, 2008.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

PLEASE NOTE DATES BELOW FOR UPDATES!

### NOVEMBER

2	Dino Dash
5	Walk to School Wednesday
10	No School (non-student and non-teacher)
11	No School (non-student and non-teacher) Veteran's Day Holiday
12	Walk to School Wednesday
17	Restaurant Night at California Pizza Kitchen
19	Walk to School Wednesday / Assembly – "Theatre Through the Ages"
20	School Site Council Meeting 3pm Principal's Chat 6:30pm PTO Meeting 7:00pm
26	Walk to School Wednesday
27	No School Thanksgiving Holiday
28	No School Thanksgiving Holiday

### DECEMBER

3	Walk to School Wednesday
5	Trimester Ends / PTO Fundraiser - Spirit Run
9-16	Winter Book Fair
9	Restaurant Night at Rubios
10	Walk to School Wednesday
11	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)

At the **Dino Dash** be sure to visit the Food Court which opens at 9:30A.M. and the Fun Zone which features bowling, a prize wheel, and carnival-type games.



## Leopards to Dash for TPSF on Sunday, November 2nd!



Congratulations to the winners of Ladera's Dino Dash 2008 poster contest. Your hard work and creativity were evident in your wonderful posters.

Kindergarten	Nicole Turner	Mrs. Wenner
1 <sup>st</sup> Grade	Amy Watson	Mrs. Neuer
2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade	Sabrina Chen	Mrs. Moore
3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade	Justin Boktor	Mrs. Pilon
4 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Peter Hajali	Ms. Schwartz
5 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Marissa Gerchick	Ms. McDonald

One poster per grade level was chosen to represent Ladera in the district-wide contest. Posters will be on display at Café Chin Chin. Please stop by and see the amazing artists we have here at Ladera!

Thank you to the Ladera community for your outstanding support of the Dinosaur Dash XVIII. To date, Ladera Elementary School has registered just over 500 students and adults for this year's event. Currently, this year's Dino Dash registrations from the Ladera community will result in over \$2,800 enriching teaching programs at Ladera.

Race numbers and T-shirts (no T-shirts will be distributed after the event) can be picked up at Chick's Sporting Goods in The Market Place at the following times:

- 🚩 Friday, October 31, 1:00-7:00P.M.
- 🚩 Saturday, November 1, 10:00A.M.-5:00P.M.
- 🚩 Sunday, November 2, Race Day from 6:30A.M.

### Race Day Schedule:

- 6:30 a.m. - Registration opens
- 7:00 a.m. - Exhibit booths open - come early to enjoy!
- 7:15 a.m. - 10K race begins
- 8:45 a.m. - 5K race begins
- 9:45 a.m. - 2K Brontosaurus Blitz begins

FREE parking is available at The Market Place. Park in the lots on El Camino Real and Jamboree, entering from Jamboree (El Camino Real will be closed from Tustin Ranch Road to East Street). The race will be on the Tustin side of The Market Place, but you can park on either side. Plan to arrive early to allow plenty of time to park and get to the start line. **Leopard Fans will meet at Rubio's at 9:00 A.M.**

## Highlights of the October 16<sup>th</sup> General PTO Meeting

**Special Guest and Ladera Parent Dr. Samireh Said** reviewed sun exposure and dermatological issues.

**Treasurer's Report:** Camille Gershenovitz reviewed the budget.

**Membership Drive Update:** Pam Edmondson reported a very successful Membership Drive.

### **Shade Structure Discussion:**

- Quotes were much higher than Ladera's previously installed structures due to increasing prices of steel and gas.
- An informal vote showed interest in additional research before allocating funds.
- Tori Crummack will conduct the research and the subject will be reviewed during the November PTO meeting.

**Angelika Belle, Community Arts Chair/Display Case Coordinator:** Angelika explained design concept for school-wide display cases and requested \$600 for display case supplies. The request was granted.

**Angela Jaquez, Welcoming Committee Co-chair:** Reported on New Family Welcome Dinner and requested funds to cover cost of Leopard pens and pads. The request was granted.

**Nancy Mallory, Spring Fundraiser:** Noted greater importance of Spring Fundraiser due to economic climate, and requested additional volunteers/committee members.

**Dino Dash:** Kirsten Jessel requested additional \$200 for SDC teacher registration for Dino Dash, to bring the total Dino Dash budget to \$700. The request was granted.

### **Principal' Report, Ryan Bollenbach:**

- Physical Education: Maryanne Liscio has officially been hired as a CTACH PE instructor. She will work 6 hours per day on Tuesdays and Thursdays beginning October 28<sup>th</sup>.
- Still interviewing for Computer Resource Asst.
- Professional Learning Community: Expressed sincere gratitude to PTO for funding conference registration. PTO funding allowed multiple teachers and Mr. Bollenbach to attend. Flexible grouping in 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade is occurring.
- Every day, students receive 30 minutes of enrichment instruction/no new instruction.
- Pyramid of Success: Acknowledged and thanked Kathy Kendall for donating Inches and Miles: The Journey to Success by John Wooden for our teachers.

For more detail, please visit <http://www.laderaleopards.org/minutes/>, or contact Kirsten Jessel at [kjessel@earthlink.net](mailto:kjessel@earthlink.net). All are invited and encouraged to attend Ladera's PTO Meetings. Our next meeting will take place at 7PM on November 20th in the school Library, and will be preceded by a Principal's chat at 6:30PM.



Julie Loeb  
Prudential California Realty  
714-404-3895  
[www.theloebgroup.net](http://www.theloebgroup.net)

THANK YOU!  
To our November  
Online Newsletter  
Sponsor  
JULIE LOEB

"Happy Thanksgiving"  
from Julie Loeb of  
Prudential California  
Realty"

## Fall Fundraiser "Run with Ladera Pride" Ladera PTO's Spirit Run

The Ladera PTO's Fall Fundraiser will be held on Friday, December 5<sup>th</sup>! We invite and encourage all students to participate in our **Spirit Run**. Each student will receive a sponsor envelope to use for collecting donations for the Run. Our goal is for each student to raise at least \$123. Why such an odd amount? Because it's as easy as 1-2-3! (That's only 6 people each donating \$20, plus \$3 a child can contribute from his/her piggy bank.) Students can ask their parents, grandparents, aunts & uncles, etc. to sponsor them. Then, on December 5th, the children will meet at the track to "Run with Ladera Pride." Refreshments and snacks will be provided that day.

**Our goal is to have 100% participation from all students!**

### **WOW! LOOK AT THE PRIZES!**

- **For the class that raises the most money:** Each student in the winning class will receive a \$5.00 gift certificate to Mrs. Nelson's Book Fair in December.
- **For the class that has the highest participation:** Each student in the winning class will receive a \$5.00 gift certificate to Mrs. Nelson's Book Fair in December.
- **All participating kids (those turning in money) will be entered into a raffle for a chance to play in a kickball game with Mr. Bollenbach. (20 names will be drawn)**
- **The class that raises the most money will win a fun afternoon outside with Mr. Bollenbach.**
- **The 3 students that raise the most money will each win a \$50 gift card to Chick's Sporting Goods.**

Nancy Mallory 714/669-5492

([nancymallory@cox.net](mailto:nancymallory@cox.net))

Kathy Kendall 714/955-8142

([kathy.kendall@ingrammicro.com](mailto:kathy.kendall@ingrammicro.com))



## Student Council Elections

Congratulations to the newly elected Ladera Elementary Student Council officers for the 2008-9 school year. Your representatives are:

President: Julia Jessel  
Vice President: Curtis Talley  
Treasurer: Lauren Nguyen  
Secretary: Meghan Sen  
Spirit Chair: Kelsey Higgins  
Member at Large: Zachary Jessel



We wish you a great year!

## Meet Ladera's New P.E. Teacher *(by Marianne Liscio)*



My name is Marianne Liscio and I am Ladera's new P.E. Teacher. I am looking forward to it and ready for the challenge. My husband John and I moved here from Virginia nine years ago. As some of you know my son Andy is a third grader at Ladera and my older son Henry is in seventh grade at Pioneer Middle School. We have been blessed with wonderful friends, a safe community, and Ladera Elementary.

Being a mom of boys I play and enjoy many different sports. However, my passion is tennis. When I am not outside teaching at Ladera, I can be found on the tennis court.

Our P.E. time will be beneficial and fun! Together we are going to explore many different creative games and some healthy habits to practice at home.

I am excited and looking forward to getting started and meeting all of you.

**See you on the playground!**

## Great News about Turf

By: Jennifer Brennan,  
M.S. Early Childhood Special Ed.  
Ladera Elementary



There is a new addition to the Kindergarten/ PreSchool Playground, artificial turf to cover an area of dirt where regular grass just wouldn't grow. No Mow Turf of Trabuco Canyon came out and offered Ladera PTO a great school discount and completed the project in just two days! The over 700 square foot area can now be enjoyed by the Kindergarten, SDC Preschool, and CDC Preschool students. There is also ample space left for continued growth of the tree on this playground. Thank you to Ladera's PTO for funding the project, and No Mow Turf for outstanding work at a great price!

No Mow Turf can be found on the web at <http://nomowturf.com/> or 949-709-3206.

## Art Masters Students Meet Paul Cezanne



Art Master students were recently introduced to the importance of the cone, cylinder, sphere and cube to the French painter Paul Cezanne. Through the slide presentation segment of the program, students "met" Cezanne and learned of his masterful use of the art element, shape. They then created their own tissue collage still life and landscape compositions using basic shapes as Cézanne would have.

## Girls Volleyball Match Schedule



The Ladera girls' volleyball team has kicked off its season with match play versus other TUSD schools. Upcoming games are after school on Tuesdays and Thursdays as follows:

Tuesday	11/04 - Home vs. Peters Canyon
Thursday	11/06 - Away vs. Thorman
Thursday	11/13 - Away vs. TMA
Tuesday	11/18 - Away vs. Benson

Come out to cheer for our Lady Leopards!



## A WORD FROM NURSE RIZA, RN

### Children and Grief:

Parents should be aware of normal childhood responses to a death as well as signs when a child is having difficulty coping with grief. It is normal during the weeks following the death for some children to feel immediate grief or persist in the belief that the person is still alive. A child who is frightened about attending a funeral should not be forced to go; however, honoring or remembering the person in some way, such as lighting a candle, saying a prayer, making a scrapbook, reviewing photographs, or telling a story may be helpful. Children should be allowed to express feelings about their loss and grief in their own way; anger is a natural reaction. The anger may be revealed in boisterous play, nightmares, irritability, or a variety of other behaviors. Often the child will show anger towards the family members. The parents should spend as much time as possible with the child, making it clear that the child has permission to show his or her feelings openly or freely.



## Got Box Tops?

We are collecting Box Tops for Education.

What a great and easy way to raise money for our school! Look for the Box Top symbol on the products you buy, cut them out, and send them into your child's classroom. Items range from Bisquick, Kleenex, paper towels, cereals, soups, popcorn, Ziplock, Pillsbury products and much more. Over 200 products support Box Tops for Education.

If each student collects an average of 45 Box Tops per year (less than one a week), Box Tops for Education will give back over \$1,600 for Ladera Education. All of the money generated by collecting box tops will directly benefit Ladera Staff and Education.

Please look before you throw away your used purchases. As of October 2008 Ladera submitted over \$300 Box Top Labels.

Please visit [www.boxtops4education.com](http://www.boxtops4education.com) for a complete list of participating products.

If you have any questions please contact Julie Wiggins at [peppermintjulie@cox.net](mailto:peppermintjulie@cox.net).

## 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.common Sense Media.org](http://www.common Sense Media.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!

Mrs. Shaw

## Birthday Book Club



Thank you and Happy Birthday to the following students who contributed a book to the Lader September and October:

Hannah Alforque	Megan Kalili	Kaitlyn Thoresen
Janak Bhakta	Michele Kalili	Israel Ruelas
Amanda Boktor	Gianna Lendino	Zachary Shube
Presely Carillo	Dani Lowder	Jason Shube
Ashwin Dara	Emily Manetta	Sarath Suresh
Parmida Favakehi	Sena Nistanaki	Micah Tairah
Jilliane Fernando	Harena Ravikumar	
Sammy Holte	Jack Rilum	

**Keep on Reading!**

*In Loving Memory*



*Ethan Michael  
Mouisset*

September 27, 2001 ~ October 19, 2008

