



# Ladera PTO Newsletter

## PTO President's Message

By Janice Lee

Thank you to all of those families who participated in our Membership & Pledge Drive this Fall. Most importantly, for recognizing Ladera PTO's role in your child's education.

Ladera is one of the best schools in Orange County, not by accident. It is because we have supportive parents such as YOU that help supplement our teachers and programs at Ladera. We still have a long way to go, since state budget cuts have made it more and more difficult for public school children to receive a quality education. With projected spending 2.5x more than projected revenue this school year, we will be left with very little reserve for next school year.

Please continue to support our school and teachers by coming out on Friday, October 28<sup>th</sup> for our Fall Fundraiser Carnival. It is the most fun-filled family event of the entire year!



## Principal's Message

By Derek Pinto

### School Attendance

Students usually begin each school year with excitement and enthusiasm – even if they don't show it around adults. The anticipation of new classes, the developing and rekindling friendships provides real motivation for daily attendance at school early on.

Unfortunately, we sometimes become careless about regular attendance. Sometimes parents must travel for work or holidays and wish to include their children so that they might spend quality time together. As a result, students miss a day of instruction here and there, or an extra week of holidays is added to school breaks.

There are several reasons why regular attendance at school, along with arriving on time each day, is important for every student.

First, it is difficult for students to learn if they are not in class. The learning process builds upon itself. Each lesson presented to students is based upon or related to the lessons that were taught earlier. Just as we can never regain a moment of time wasted, the student who misses a day of school also misses a day of education that cannot be retrieved.

Research shows that those students who attend school regularly and arrive on time each day, are more likely to be successful during their later school years.

Young students need to develop habits of good attendance, meeting time expectations and promptly completing

assignments while they are at school. Their success as adults in their chosen occupation is dependent upon developing these attributes. Your child's regular attendance in school and arriving on time, are important elements for success.

When parents believe that consistent attendance is important and indicate that belief to their children, tardiness and absences from school are drastically reduced. Students should attend school every day, on time, unless an illness or emergency prevents them from doing so.

Some things that might help with on-time arrival:

- getting to bed early (before 9:30 pm)
- having clothes ready the night before, keeping your backpack by the door
- budgeting your time wisely and saying "no" to time wasters - save the TV /Play Station/phone-calls/going-out with friends as a reward for **after you've finished homework**

At Ladera, we are aiming for our students, your children, to set goals of perfect attendance. Our most critical partner in all this is you – the parent/caregiver. We need your help to ensure that your child gets to school in a timely fashion, and is present at school each and every day.

Sincerely,  
**Derek Pinto**  
Principal



## Oct. Events Calendar

- 10/3: Art Masters
- 10/5: Picture Day
- 10/7: PTO Assembly
- 10/10-14: Fall Conferences
- 10/12: Family Portrait Night
- 10/19: PTO Meeting
- 10/24-28: Harvest Week
- 10/28: Fall Fundraiser & Family Night
- 10/31: No School



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

## Fall Carnival & Harvest Family Night

Come one, come all to the first ever Ladera School Carnival on Friday, October 28<sup>th</sup> from 5 to 8 PM on the school grounds. This will be a fun-filled evening for the entire family that includes: Carnival games & prizes, Cake Walk, Halloween Costume Contest, Teacher Donations, Silent Auction Items, dinner for purchase courtesy of Farmer John, Concession Stand items and MORE!

Kids and adults can come dressed as their favorite character for the costume contest and prizes will be awarded.

Don't miss out on a great evening for the entire family!

\*\*100% of the proceeds go directly to the Ladera PTO\*\*



## Dinosaur Dash XXI is Next Month!

Tustin Public Schools Foundation (TPSF) will sponsor the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Dinosaur Dash at The Market Place on Sunday, November 6, 2011. This year you can run *and* ride for education! The Dinosaur Dash features 4 events: 5k and 10k timed races for all ages, a 2k non-timed "Fun Run" and the non-timed 50k bike tour.

This is a wonderful opportunity for the Ladera community to show its pride and enthusiasm for education and our fabulous school. Please register online today for Dino Dash XXI. Each online entry made by Wednesday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> showing Ladera as the school, will have a direct effect on Ladera continuing to house the coveted Stegosaurus trophy. Our goal is to have the highest percentage of registrants

based on our school population. Additionally, Ladera teachers will receive \$6.00 for each online registration to be used for instructional materials. Last year Ladera netted over \$3,000 to be used for instructional materials. If Ladera is to keep the Stegosaurus trophy, we need students, teachers, parents, siblings, grandparents, neighbors, and friends to register for Dino Dash 2011! Other Tustin schools are preparing a new home for the trophy but Ladera Leopards don't want to see that happen.

For more information or to register, visit [www.DinosaurDash.net](http://www.DinosaurDash.net). Thank you for supporting Ladera and Dino Dash XXI!



## Ladera Students to Ride in Tiller Parade

Congratulations to two Ladera Leopards, Zoe and Max Martinez, for being chosen as this year's Little Miss and Tiny Mr. Tustin Tillers. Max is in Mrs. Elconin's Kindergarten class and Zoe is in Miss Sommer's 2<sup>nd</sup> grade class. They will be riding in the Tustin Tiller Parade on Sat. October 2<sup>nd</sup>, not only representing the parade but also in a way Ladera Elementary. Their mom, Tiffany Martinez, says she is very

humbled by this honor, especially since Max has autism and got up on stage to sing Twinkle Twinkle Little Star in the competition. She believes this is a testament to our exceptional Ladera Staff, especially Bonnie Solomon in the SDC Preschool, who worked with Max for the past 21/2 years. His sister Zoe sang the National Anthem in the competition with incredible poise and pride. Way to go Zoe and Max!

## Student Council Elections

With an amazing turnout of 35 candidates, Ladera students had many great choices for student government officers. After a week of bright-colored posters and thoughtful campaign speeches, the student body voted. We are pleased to announce the First Term Student Council Officers:

**President** - Elizabeth Bowers

**Vice President** - Megan Kendall & Lauren Longstreet

**Treasurer** - Lauren Mike

**Secretary** - Michaela Baker

**Spirit Chair** - Bethany Bowers

**Member at Large** - Rya Partible

**Advisors** - Ms. Schwartz & Mrs. DiLellio



## 2011-2012 Leopard Leaders

Ladera counts on a strong group of 5<sup>th</sup> grade leaders to assist on the playground and field during lunch recess. These students must demonstrate outstanding responsibility, respectfulness, and safety. We are pleased to announce the 2011-2012 Leopard Leaders led by Leopard Leader Advisor Ms. Schwartz:

### Term 1 (Oct.-Feb.)

Kian Aminloo

Kylie Bell

Presley Carillo

Madison Chi

Alanna Edmondson

Parmida Favakehi

Joshua Gallardy

Sam Gouron

Danielle Lee

Flora Lee

McKenzie McClelland

Theo Mitchell

Abby Steinmetz

Kaitlyn Thoresen

Julia Wang



### Term 2 (Feb.-June)

Elizabeth Bowers

Sabrina Chen

Bella Coats

Sruthi Kilari

Talia Koblin

Jason Lam

Kiara Larkin

Nico Meneses

Lauren Mike

Milton Ortiz

Tyler Peltier

Brooke Pitchess

Aurash Roessler

Dylan Ryan

Sophia Tran

## International Walk to School Day

Parents and students at elementary schools throughout the Tustin Unified School District will step forward and participate in the International Walk to School Day on Wednesday, October 5<sup>th</sup>. Walk to School Day encourages adults and children to walk to school together. The 14<sup>th</sup> annual event is designed to raise awareness about walking as a form of exercise, reduce

traffic congestion and pollution, and focus on teaching children safe walking skills and routes. Over three million people from 40 countries around the world are expected to participate in the event. For more information, contact the school office or visit [www.walktoschool.org](http://www.walktoschool.org).



## Family Portrait Fun Night

Join us on Wednesday evening, October 12<sup>th</sup>, for beautiful indoor family portraits! The Family Portrait Night is a great way to get a head start on holiday portraits and cards. One FREE portrait is included in the \$35 sitting fee!

Go to [www.familyportraitfun.com](http://www.familyportraitfun.com) and find "Ladera" on October 12<sup>th</sup>. Register

and schedule a sitting time in the Ladera multi-purpose room. Everything is done online and all portraits are mailed directly to your home. It couldn't be easier!

Ladera's 5<sup>th</sup> grade class receives \$17 of the \$35 sitting fee and a percentage of any portrait orders, but ONLY if 20 or more families sign up. Please help by participating in this fun event!

## Glee Club



Glee Club is underway! We are learning songs for our February concert- "Hooray for Hollywood" featuring songs from classic Hollywood movies such as "Singing in the Rain" and "The Wizard of Oz", as well as new Hollywood movies like "Camp Rock" and "High School Musical". Miss Blair is looking for a rehearsal pianist. If you are willing to volunteer your time, please contact her as soon as possible at [spaxton@tustin.k12.ca.us](mailto:spaxton@tustin.k12.ca.us).

## Art Masters

This month, Art Master Students will be introduced to the art of the ancient Americas. Students will view slides of mysterious artifacts and monuments, like the "Feathered Serpent Pyramid", and listen to authentic Maya music. Students will learn how art created long ago tells about past civilizations and thus provides a point of contact between people living now and those who lived thousands of years ago. Inspired by this ancient art, students will then create their own icons using colors and patterns found in the art of the Aztecs, Mayas, and Incas.



## GATE Conference

The O.C. Council for Gifted and Talented Education Conference, "Fall 2011 Gifted Education: Investing in Our Future" will be held on Saturday, October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2011 at UC Irvine, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. This conference has workshop sessions for parents, administrators, and teachers. For more info visit [www.ocgate.org](http://www.ocgate.org) or contact Sharon Maeda in the TUSD GATE office. For informative articles and more resources for GATE-identified students, visit [www.sendgifted.org](http://www.sendgifted.org).

## PTO Assembly

On Friday, October 7<sup>th</sup>, Ladera students will be treated to an entertaining and educational assembly sponsored by the PTO. Imagination Machine will be performing "Who, What, Where and Write Away!" Artistic quality and innovative creativity combine in a fast-paced and entertaining format designed to unlock the wonderful world of creative writing. Performances will be held at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.



## From the Spirit Committee

**WE'VE GOT SPIRIT, YES WE DO,  
WE'VE GOT SPIRIT, HOW 'BOUT YOU?**

What is School Spirit? Is it a special attitude or frame of mind? Is it the desire to wear Ladera Leopard Spirit Wear every day of the week? Is it participating in Field Day and getting super-soaked by your teacher or a parent? Yes! It is all of those things and more.

School spirit is all about hands-on contributions and hands-up excitement. Self-esteem is reinforced as students participate in spirit building.

Sometimes lifelong friendships are created when forming important bonds with fellow students and the school. So come on Ladera Leopards, get excited! Think Red! Show some school spirit!

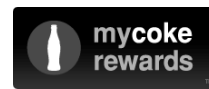


Thank you to everyone who purchased Spirit Wear! The order is estimated to arrive the week of October 10<sup>th</sup>. Don't forget to show your school spirit by wearing red on Fridays! Students, be on the lookout for a Pep Rally during one of the upcoming Flag ceremonies!

## Community Contributions Program

It's that time of the year to renew your enrollment in the Community Contributions Program through Ralphs grocery stores. Ralphs is committed to helping our community grow and prosper. Last year Ladera PTO earned over \$600.00 from this program. To enroll or renew your grocery card, go to [www.Ralphs.com](http://www.Ralphs.com) and click on the Services link and then choose Community Contributions. Choose Ladera Elementary PTO (ID # 82737). That's all you have to do! Then, every time you shop at Ralphs they will donate a portion of your total bill to our school.

We have other ongoing fundraising programs that benefit our school including, My Coke Rewards, Box Tops for Education, eScrip, Target, and many more! For more information on all of these programs please visit the Ladera Elementary website, click on PTO and then on Ongoing Fundraisers ([www.laderaleopards.org/fundraising-partners](http://www.laderaleopards.org/fundraising-partners)).



## Emergency Preparedness at Ladera

Did you know that September was National Preparedness Month? Are you and your family prepared for an emergency? Unfortunately we have watched too many communities be badly hit by natural disasters. As we all know, living in California, our biggest concern is earthquakes. Fortunately the Ladera PTO, over the last several years, has been getting our Ladera community ready for an emergency. Ladera's emergency preparedness efforts began several

years ago with the purchase of a large medal shed to store all the emergency supplies. You will find this shed housed on the playground. Each year the PTO has funded the necessary supplies to keep our children and staff comfortable and safe in the event of an emergency. The teachers are also prepared to handle the emotional and physical needs that may arise when disaster strikes. This should be very comforting to all parents. For more information, please visit [www.laderaleopards.org/safety](http://www.laderaleopards.org/safety).