

Newsletter



Keeping the lines of communication open between parents, teachers, administrators and the community strengthens our school and benefits our children.

A Monthly Newsletter

Issue 1 Volume 6 March 2008

Homework Club

Volunteers are still needed in order for this program to get off the ground. This could be the opportunity to help that you've been waiting for.

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Family Health and Fitness Night!

Let us show you how easy it is to exercise to stay fit! It will amaze you to learn that simple movements go a long way!

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Spring Book Fair!

If you loved the Fall Book Fair, you won't want to miss the Spring event! A "Reading Road Trip" will be unforgettable.

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Getting Involved with Your Children

Learn ways to start conversations about learning with your child and ideas for celebration!

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Getting Involved with Teachers

Understand how you can partner with your child's teacher to increase the success of the students.

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With the moderate weather of the Central Coast, there are many activities planned for Lompoc and surrounding communities.

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President's Corner

Your PTA President is Laurie Carter, who can be reached at no.wonder@verizon.net

What a whirlwind year this has been! I can hardly believe I am writing a newsletter for March already!

There is a lot going on for the remainder of the school year. There are conferences and Book Fair, Family Fitness Night and Spring Break. Don't forget testing, achievement awards, yearbooks and a new PTA-sponsored Family Event: Spring Fling!

In the eight months that I have been your PTA President, I have met some of the most marvelous people in the world! It does a soul good to see so many kind and generous people working so hard to support our children and families. We are strengthening our community bonds with every interaction and I just love it!

PTA Vision: Making every child's potential a reality.

PTA Mission: To be a powerful voice for all children,

A relevant resource for families and communities, and

A strong advocate for the education and well-being of every child.

Every month we ask for help with various projects and our request is very sincere and usually urgent! We do want to give every parent or grandparent the opportunity to be a part of the activities, not only because we need your help desperately, but because the kids need the supportive environment that all of us working together builds.

At our last two PTA membership meetings, people were sparse but the ideas were tremendous! The PTA Officers were thrilled to be able to get fresh ideas and observations from those who attended. Even though attendance was low, we all left energized and ready to explore exciting new options!

So please, if you have time to spare, help us with our programs that we sponsor in the school. We really need and enjoy having you! See you soon!

Fondly,

Laurie Carter





Homework Club Needs More Volunteers

Laurie Carter, Homework Club Coordinator

Homework Club recently had its first orientation for volunteers. Three parents signed up then and two more since.

The Club start date is on hold pending more parent volunteers. The target is to have enough parent volunteers to cover 3 days per week, and that each parent might only need to do one to two days each month.

If you have an interest in helping kids reach their full potential through Homework Club, please contact me for more materials.

Homework Club is an enrichment program of the school and can not begin until we have enough volunteers.

To volunteer, contact Laurie Carter at no.wonder@verizon.net or call 733-1946.

Online Fun

Check out these sites for learning fun!

www.kidsfootprint.org

www.visualfractions.com

www.myschoolhouse.com/courses/sample.htm

www.quiz-tree.com



WANTED ADS

WANTED: Volunteers for Spring Catalog Fundraiser. Collect forms and count money. Receive and distribute presorted orders. Contact: Deanna Liberotti at 733-2972.

WANTED: Volunteers for Spring Book Fair. Help set up on March 5th at 6:30 pm. Teacher Preview Workers March 6th, 10:30 am to 1 pm. Student Preview March 7th, 8:30 am to 2 pm. Work any portion of these hours. Book Store Worker noon to 6:30 pm March 10, 11, 12. Work any hours, any days. Contact Laurie Carter at 733-1946 or no.wonder@verizon.net

WANTED: Homework Club volunteers. High School students, parents, grandparents welcome. Must be available at least one day a month from 2:20-4:00 and have patience with children. Contact Laurie Carter at 733-1946 or no.wonder@verizon.net.

WANTED: Volunteers for Family Health and Fitness Night on March 14. Fitness and health gurus are a plus, but all are welcome. Contact Teresa McIntyre at 733-3036.

WANTED: DVD player for kindergarten classrooms to share. If you can donate one, see Ms Schroeder.

WANTED: One more person to be responsible for changing the marquee on the front of the school. See office staff to volunteer.

Book Fair: A Reading Road Trip

Laurie Carter, 733-1946

The Spring Book Fair Committee has planned some literary excitement for March 10, 11, and 12 as a "Reading Road Trip" rolls into town! If enough volunteers are recruited, the book fair will be open from Noon - 6:30 Monday, Noon to 7:30 on Tuesday, and Noon to 6:00 Wednesday.

From 6:30 - 7:30 on Tuesday, we welcome Mr Steve Straight, who will be reading stories to children at

our "campsite" on the stage. Bring your blankets and wear your jammies and get ready for a great time!

Parents can purchase books for classroom libraries through our Classroom Wish List Program. Every dollar donated to the One For Books program goes toward purchases for the school library. Look for the displays for each program at the book fair.

Proceeds from the book fair will be used to purchase instructional materials for the classrooms. Hope to see you there!

Family Health and Fitness Night

Contact Teresa McIntyre at 733-3036

Family Health and Fitness Night is a time for families to get together and experience fun exercise, enjoy healthy snacks, and learn more about how to be healthy and fit. This takes place in the MPR of the school on March 14th from 6-8 pm.

Kids and parents can enjoy a Mini Zumba Class. Zumba is an exercise class that explores Latin and international themes. Examples are Salsa, Merengue and Cumbia.

Next you can try an obstacle course, hula hoop contest, or some healthy snacks while checking out informational booths.

Then finish off the evening with a relaxing yoga session! Put on your comfortable clothes and shoes and join us at this action packed event.

The PTA provides Family Night activities as a means for families to do things together. Several Family Nights are provided throughout the year. If you have ideas for activities or who like to host a Family Night event, contact Teresa McIntyre at 733-3036.



Getting Involved with Your Children

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Put on a happy face! At the end of a busy day your feet may hurt and your head may pound, but when your youngsters come running to you full of enthusiasm about something at school, put on a smile and match their excitement. When you put them off with, "Later, later," their joy in the accomplishment disappears.

Table talk. Talk about what our children are learning in school while at the table eating supper. After the meal is finished, pass around any papers they've brought home for everyone to discuss and admire.

Don't stow it, show it! Instead of stowing school papers and artwork in a forgotten drawer, show it off. Use a wall, the refrigerator door, or a bulletin board for the display. Take a minute now and then look at the changing displays with each child and talk about how proud you are of the work that's exhibited. When papers are taken down from the bulletin board, preserve in a special folder for periodic review.

Change "What did you get?" to "What did you learn?" When tests and reports come home, take the emphasis off the grades and focus instead on the information and skills they learned by doing the work. Give children a chance to show what they know by asking simple questions about the subject. Increase your children's knowledge by sharing anything you know about the topic, or by looking it up in an encyclopedia.

Talking texts. Ask your youngsters to read their textbooks to you while you fix dinner, sort laundry or drive the car. Any text will do - a reader, a social studies book, even a math book. When they finish a section, discuss any questions the book presents in order to expand their comprehension of the ideas in the text.

"I can" cans. Give each child an empty juice can covered with contact paper and labeled "My 'I CAN' Can." Whenever your children learn a new

skill, be it academic, artistic, or athletic, write it on a piece of paper and stuff it in the can. Review the contents of the cans periodically, and watch your children's self-esteem soar.

Make mistakes okay. When children can learn from their mistakes, instead of feeling discouraged by them, they are on the road to success. Make mistakes okay by talking about your own errors: "One mistake I made today was..." Encourage your youngsters to describe mistakes that they made, and then talk about solutions: "One way I can keep from making this mistake again is..."

Getting Involved with Teachers

Reprinted with permission from PTA Parent Involvement Commission, Communicator Jan 2008

Email or Paper Happygrams. Write a brief note of thanks whenever your children demonstrate new skills or express excitement about something that happened in school. The short time you spend on this happygram will greatly enrich your parent-teacher partnership.

Email or Telephone talk. To keep in touch with teachers between formal conferences, use email or the telephone for occasional "catch-up" conversations. If you phone, ask teachers beforehand for the best times to call.

Ask for advice. Teachers like sharing their specialized knowledge with concerned parents, so don't hesitate to ask for advice. Teachers can assist you with behavior problems, homework hassles, and how to reinforce at home what's learned at school.

Lend a hand. Even busy parents can pitch in when teachers call for help with school projects. Let the teacher know how much time you have and what talents you could offer. No matter how small, your contribution will be a help to the teacher and noticed by your child.

Respond to report cards. When report cards come home, take time to thank the teachers in a quick note. Teachers usually spend their own evening and

weekend hours to write these reports, and your thanks will help them feel appreciated. If you're pleased with your children's progress, say so. If any of the grades or comments disappoint you, ask what you can do to help your child improve.

Beat the clock. Punctuality counts. When a teacher sets a specific time for a conference, make every effort to be there on time. Teachers often schedule many conferences back to back, and one late parent can throw everyone off schedule.

Be prepared. Bring a list of questions to parent-teacher conferences. Prepared questions help you stay focused, keep you from rambling and prevent the conference from running overtime.

Information, please. Be sure to give teachers any information about changes in home circumstances that may affect your children's behavior or performance. A death in the family, an extended sickness, a separation or divorce - even the loss of a pet can put a strain on children that spills over into the classroom.

Banish blaming. Take a "no fault" approach when your children experience difficulties in school. Blaming teachers or classmates only strains relationships. Join forces with teachers to reach a common goal: helping your children overcome difficulties and find success.

Schedule short a conference if needed. If you think that your child's teacher may have caused a problem, schedule a conference with him or her and share your concern. You may find that the teacher is unaware that the situation exists or has a different take on it. When parents bypass the teacher and complain to the principal, the teacher does not have a chance to explain or correct the problem. If you are not satisfied after the conference, explain to the teacher that you appreciate her time, but that you need to escalate the matter to the principal.



Around and About

With weather as moderate as that of the Central Coast, you can enjoy year around outdoor fun! And for the few days that it rains, you'll find plenty of indoor distractions, too!

PCPA THEATERFEST presents its production of William Shakespeare's Othello through March 7 in the Marian Theater, Allan Hancock College, Santa Maria. Info: pcpa.org or 922-8313.

KELRIK PRODUCTIONS presents its production of Charlotte's Web through March 9 at Unity, 1490 Southwood Drive, in SLO. Cost is \$12 to \$16. Info: 543-PLAY.

THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM OF SANTA MARIA, 412 S. McClelland (next to lawn bowling) is open Wednesday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sundays from 1 to 4 p.m.

Regional habitat exhibits are interactive and multi-sensory. School tours are by appointment only. Donations accepted. Info: 614-0806.

VOLUNTEERS FOR INTER-VALLEY ANIMALS (VIVA) hold pet adoptions Saturdays from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. at the Adoption Center, 133 North D St., Lompoc. Info: 735-6741.

CENTRAL COAST PEREGRINE PATHFINDERS is a local walking club seeking to promote walking as a non-competitive and family-oriented sport. Monthly walks are offered throughout San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara Counties. Info: 688-4065.

THE LUFFA FARM, 1457 Willow Road, Nipomo. Open hours for the public are Wednesdays through Sundays, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Group tours and catered luncheons are available. Info: 343-0883.

LOMPOC CITIZENS' POLICE ACADEMY is a nonacademic informational course hosted by the Lompoc Police Department, conducted every Thursday over a 15-week period. Class size is limited to 25 students. Participants must be at least 14 years of age, have no felony arrest history, and not have been arrested for any charge within the past three years. All applicants will be screened prior to admission into the

class. Pick up an application in the lobby of the Lompoc Police Department or call 736-2341.

VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE conducts free tours on the base every second Wednesday of the month at 10 a.m. through the public affairs office. Tours last about two hours and include a visit to the Heritage Center for a look at how the base evolved, plus space and missile artifacts. Make a tour reservation three weeks in advance by calling 606-3595.

RETURN TO FREEDOM HORSE SANCTUARY is a 300 acre wild horse sanctuary located in the Jalama Valley of Lompoc.

Home to more than 200 wild horses and burros, the organization is working to protect America's remaining wild horse herds through sanctuary, education and conservation. You can visit the sanctuary May-October when they host a variety of tours and clinics for the public. Visitors will get to observe wild horses living in their natural family bands and herd groups – just as they do in the wild. They will also meet "Spirit", the Kiger Mustang stallion that served as inspiration for the DreamWorks animated movie "Spirit: Stallion of the Cimarron". For more info: (805) 737-9246 or admin@returntofreedom.org

Flunk the Budget!

Take Action Today

The California State PTA **opposes** any cuts to education and children's programs in the state budget.

"Our children did not create this crisis, and we cannot allow their future opportunities for success to be undermined because of it."

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Visit The Web Site

www.protectourstudents.org

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