

# 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 8 May 2008**

**Online Fun!**

Check out our new web links for this month. There really are plenty of sites that can make learning basic skills fun!

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**Finding the Right Bike**

With warmer weather ahead of us, many families will take to the outdoors. If bicycling is in your plans, read on to see how to select the perfect bike for your child.

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**2007-2008 PTA Accomplishments**

Wow! We've been busy this year! Pat yourselves on the back when you read all that you've accomplished this year! Thank you!

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**Piano Lessons**

With the responsibilities of homework suspended over the summer, it might be a good time to learn a new skill. Why not try piano playing?

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**2008-2009 Officers Announced**

You've voted and your new officers take their positions effective July 1st.

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**Around and About**

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](mailto:no.wonder@verizon.net)

Hello Friends,

Thank you all for coming to our April General Membership Meeting. Elections were held and we welcome the following Officers for the 2008-2009 School Year:

- President: Laurie Carter
- 1st VP/Programs Chair: Teresa McIntyre
- 2nd VP/Membership Chair: Beverly Wilson
- 3rd VP/Ways & Means Chair: Kathy Bleak
- Treasurer: Lynette Martin
- Secretary: Vicki Blackstone
- Auditor: Lynda Gordon





**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.**

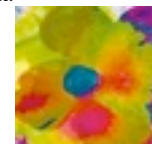
I will be once again be appointing Deanna Liberotti as our Parliamentarian. If any of you have a particular interest, please feel free to contact any of the officers, who are always looking for subcommittee help.

I appreciate so much your confidence in each of us, and look forward to continuing our good work with you in the next school year.

STAR testing is the hot topic as I write this. It was wonderful to see Mrs Dierkens wishing the second graders well before school on Tuesday! And the kids loved it, too. Remember to applaud your child's efforts and thank them for doing their best! That's all we can ask from them.

Fondly,

Laurie Carter



## SPRING FLING!

A new event comes to Buena Vista this season - Spring Fling! This is planned as a community-building activity that will be pure, old fashioned fun!

Want to help plan it? Come to Starbucks on H St on May 1st at 5:30 pm



## Finding the Right Bike

[www.kidshealth.org](http://www.kidshealth.org)

In the market for a new bike? When selecting bikes for kids, here are some basics to know:

- Make sure to consider a child's age, maturity level, and the riding environment.
- Before making any purchase, be sure that the child is in the age range recommended for the cycling gear.

Once you've brought the bike home:

- Never carry a child younger than 1 year old on a bike, even in a child seat — a baby doesn't have the neck strength to wear a helmet or safely sit up in a seat.
- When biking with your child, stick to areas you know are safe, like bike paths, parks, and streets with little or no traffic.
- Everyone in your family should wear a helmet while riding. Make sure that helmets fit properly, and that any harnesses and belts are fastened securely.

### Trailers

A trailer is one of the safest ways to take a young child for a bike ride, according to the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). Hitched to the back of the adult bicycle, a trailer is a low, mesh-covered seat that's supported by two wheels for stability. The trailer's sturdy frame provides protection from accidents, and the child is riding far enough behind the rear wheel of the adult bike that the spokes are out of reach of little fingers. Trailers also sit fairly low to the ground, so if the adult bike falls over, the child in the trailer won't tumble very far. Remember: Only adult cyclists should tow young children.

Look for a trailer with a shoulder harness and lap belt to secure your child. The hitch that attaches to the adult bike should have a flexible joint that allows the trailer to stay upright if your bike falls. Make sure the trailer has reflectors, and attach a tall bright warning flag to the trailer for increased visibility.

Caution: The trailer is wider than the adult bike, so one of the trailer's wheels could slip off the road's edge if you're not careful. Also, the trailer could

overturn after hitting a bump, if one wheel rides a curb, or if your bicycle turns sharply.

### Child Seats

A child seat fastens above the rear wheel of the adult bike. While the AAP considers trailers to be the safest best, if a parent uses a child safety seat, these precautions can help reduce the risks of injury:

- Look for a seat with a back high enough to support the child's neck and spoke guards that prevent the child's feet from touching the rear wheel and getting caught in it.
- Seats should have a lap belt with a childproof buckle and a shoulder harness.

Caution: The added weight of carrying a child in a child seat compromises the adult rider's ability to balance and handle the bike. It also increases the amount of time the adult needs to press on the brakes to stop the bike.

### Trailer-Cycles

When a child outgrows a trailer or child seat but is too young to start riding independently, a trailer-cycle is a good option. A trailer-cycle looks like a small bicycle with no front wheel. It has a single wheel and attaches to the seat post of the adult bicycle. (When attached, it looks like a bicycle built for two!) Trailer-cycles have working pedals, and some are equipped with gears so kids can practice starting, stopping, and balancing while watching the adult rider.

Caution: If your child turns or pedals erratically, you'll have difficulty maneuvering your bicycle.

### Biking Independently

Because kids mature at different rates, there's no magic age to introduce a child to a "big-kid" bike. In general, most 6-year-olds have the motor skills they need to mount and balance a bicycle on their own, even if it's with training wheels. The first thing to look for when buying a bike for a child is the right fit, so take your child with you when you shop. A bike is the right size when your child can sit on the seat with feet flat on the ground, with the handlebars no higher than the shoulders. The salesperson at the store should be able to help make sure the bike fits properly.

### Other Considerations

- Don't buy a bike that's too big, assuming that your child will grow into it. An oversized bicycle is dangerous and could lead to injury.
- Bikes for younger kids (about age 7 or younger) should have coaster (or foot) brakes, not hand brakes.
- Bikes for kids older than 7 should have foot and hand brakes. That way, kids can get used to using hand brakes before graduating to the bigger bikes that only have hand brakes.
- If you're buying training wheels, be sure they can be adjusted as riding skills improve.

And make adjustments when your child outgrows a bike. When a bike is too small, kids have to stand up on the pedals, and can't balance as well or get in a position to ride it safely.

Having a bike that's safe — and a good fit — helps kids develop a love of bicycling that can last for life!  
Reviewed by: Kate Cronan, MD  
Date reviewed: May 2007

## Online Fun

Check out these sites for learning fun!

<http://www.mathfactcafe.com/>

<http://www.kidsgeo.com/>

<http://www.kids.gov/>

<http://www.magickeys.com/books/>

<http://www.starfall.com/>

<http://www.ipl.org/kidspace/browse/rzn0000>

<http://www.kidsolr.com/math/fractions.html>





## 2007-2008 PTA Accomplishments

*With so much going on around school, it is sometimes hard to tell what the PTA is doing and what is being done by other groups. Here is a wrap-up of PTA accomplishments for the year.*

### ★ Back to School Night

PTA participated in Back to School Night by having a PTA Open House. We wanted to get to know you without sneaking you into a meeting. It was question/answer time and we had a blast!

### ★ Kindergarten Tea

PTA provided volunteers, food and snacks for the Kindergarten Tea.

### ★ Halloween Carnival

PTA sponsored the Halloween Carnival. Members planned and staffed games, provided food for sale, and organized a silent auction.

### ★ Fall and Spring Book Fairs

PTA sponsored both events and volunteers planned and staffed. Parents purchased books for classroom libraries and others were donated. From Book Fair profits, almost \$3K of classroom books were donated to the school, 2 wooden book shelves, 2 DVD players, a Klutz Build-A Book party, and a media center - all donated to classrooms.

### ★ Beautification Project

PTA provided funding and labor to provide two pocket gardens with benches and a picnic table. The PTA collaborated with the Lompoc Botanical and Horticultural Society to obtain free plants.

### ★ Family Nights

PTA provided several Family Night events, such as Family Reading Night, Craft Night, and Health & Fitness Night - all free of charge to participants.

### ★ Reflections

PTA sponsored a local arts program, as part of the national PTA Reflections program. Winners from school level went to Council,



and some went on to District and then State level. Awards are given at each level.

### ★ Jog-A-Thon

This is a major PTA fundraiser. All volunteer planned and implemented.

### ★ 5th Grade Trip to Catalina

PTA provided \$3500 toward the 5th Grade Catalina Trip.

### ★ Kindergarten Registration

PTA provided volunteer assistance, snacks and drinks.

### ★ Red Ribbon Week

PTA provided curriculum choices, cups for the fence message project, snacks and red wristbands for each student.

### ★ Friday Popcorn

PTA provided the popcorn and volunteers for the Friday morning Eagles Rewards.

### ★ Spring Fling

PTA volunteers planned and staffed this end of year family celebration.

### ★ Spirit Shirts

PTA volunteers coordinated the sales of school clothing.

### ★ Spring Catalog Sales

PTA volunteers staffed the second largest fundraiser of the year.

### ★ PE Tutors

PTA reimbursed LUSD for several months of Physical Education tutors.



### ★ Assemblies

PTA sponsored numerous assemblies including Opera, Zoo to You, African Acrobats, Rocket Music (coming in June) and more!

### ★ Technology

PTA purchased Test Ready software for the school to help children prepare for STAR testing.

### ★ Yearbook

PTA volunteers take photos throughout the year and page-by-page construct our yearbook.

### ★ Communications

PTA Website, Newsletter and bulletin boards (coming soon...) have all increased communication within the organization!



## Piano Lessons

Looking for a summer activity that just might turn into a lifetime of enjoyment for your child? Piano lessons just might fit the bill! Lori Fredrich offers piano lessons - and the first lesson is free! Call 570-8056 for details.



# 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!*

**American Crown Circus  
May 02, 2008 - May 05, 2008**

The Santa Maria Recreation and Parks Department, along with P.L.A.Y. (People for Leisure and Youth) invites you to a night of breathtaking acrobatic performances. Enjoy jugglers, aerialists, balancers, clowns, and a thrilling high wire act. There will be two shows daily, 6:00 PM & 8:00 PM, May 2, 3, 4 & 5 at the Adam Basin located at the corner of Stowell Rd. and Depot Rd. across from the Santa Maria Fair Park. Advance Sale Tickets: Free Child (12 and under), \$12.00 Adult (13 and up); Day of Show: \$5.00 Child (12 and

under), \$15.00 Adult (13 and up). For more information call the Recreation and Parks Department, (805) 925-0951, ext. 260 or visit the administration office located at 615 S. McClelland Street.

**May 3, Purisima's People Day** 11 a.m.-2 p.m.  
La Purisima Mission, 805 733 3713

**May 4, Cinco de Mayo Celebration**, Ryon Park, 11 a.m.-6 p.m.

**Cinco De Mayo Fiesta**  
**May 04, 2008**  
Santa Maria Town Center invites the public to come celebrate Cinco De Mayo at a

free fiesta featuring the contemporary sound of Café 7 on Sunday from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. Blending cha cha, salsa, mambo, cumbias, ballads, pop and rock and roll, Café 7 will perform in Center Court, lower level, by the clock. A popular, high-energy band, Café 7 heats the beat with horns, percussion instruments, electric guitar and acoustic guitar. Café 7's contemporary Latin music appeals to all ages. Free and fun for the whole family, this concert is a perfect way to celebrate the spirit of Cinco de Mayo. Santa Maria Town Center 142 Town Center East, Santa Maria, CA Phone: (805) 922-7931

**May 10 & 11, Lompoc Civic Theatre** presents "Once Upon a Fairy Tale"  
Call 805 735-ACT1 for details

**May 17 & 18, Relay for Life**, Lompoc High School Huyck Stadium, 515 W. College Ave. Info: 805 736 2610

**Kid's Day in the Park**  
**May 18, 2008**  
The 22nd annual Kid's Day in the Park will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Waller Park. Enjoy live entertainment, games, prizes, booths, rock climbing demos, petting zoo and much more! Hosted by the North County Rape Crisis Center.

Waller Park 300 Goodwin Road Santa Maria CA Phone: 805-736-8535 website: [sbrapecrisiscenter.org](http://sbrapecrisiscenter.org)

**May 31, Mission Life Day** 11 am.-2 p.m.  
La Purisima Mission  
805 733 3713

**June 21, Village Days**  
**La Purisima Mission**, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.  
805 733 3713

**June 25-29, 56th Annual Lompoc Valley Flower Festival** Ryon Park Lompoc Valley Festival Assn. 805 735 8511



## Officers of the Board

- Laurie Carter — President
- Teresa McIntyre — 1st Vice President/Programs Chair
- LaDawn Davis — 2nd Vice President/Membership Chair
- Alison Prochazka — 3rd Vice President/Ways & Means Chair
- Lynette Martin — Treasurer
- Beverly Wilson — Secretary
- Deanna Liberotti — Parliamentarian
- Stephanie Ledgerwood — Historian
- Lynda Gordon — Auditor

## Teacher Appreciation Week

May 5-9, 2008

See your Room Parent for details!



## Contact Info:

Laurie Carter at [no.wonder@verizon.net](mailto:no.wonder@verizon.net) or 733-1946.

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