

Valentine Elementary School

February 2008

Vol 58, Issue 4



Valentine Voice

PTA President's Message



Dear Valentine Families,

My first grader came home from school the other day with an announcement from his teacher that the school year is officially half over! After my first thoughts of panic that the year is flying by way too fast, I took the opportunity to reflect on the happy memories I have of the first 5 months of school, and everything I'm looking forward to in the next 5 months.

Among the most recent highlights of the school year have to be the incredible Holiday Program and Holiday Workshop. Our children shared the joys of the season with their songs and the craft gifts made for loved ones. Both of these events are wonderful examples of our community working together - students, faculty, staff, and our committed volunteers. And I hope that you warmed up with a cup of coffee and a yummy donut at Donuts at Dawn!

There are some very exciting events upcoming in the Valentine calendar - Chinese New Year celebration, Jog-a-Thon, and Science Fair. There are multiple opportunities for you to participate, and I invite you to learn more about them in the related Voice articles. Sponsor your child's participation in the Jog-a-Thon and come cheer them on that day, help write Chinese New Year's wishes, and join your children in cooking up some scientific fun on one of these rainy afternoons!

Also upcoming is the pinnacle of Valentine's social and fundraising calendar - the 2008 Parent Party - Casino Night on the Riviera - on May 17. Mark your calendars now for a fun-filled evening of dancing, games of chance,

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shopping, and fun! Learn more about ways you can join in the preparations in the related Voice article.

However you choose to join in the festivities, please take the time to contribute to our school programs and events. There is something for everyone, and a way that only you can make a difference - you'll be so glad that you did!

Sincerely,

Karen Wicke

The Principal's Message - "Turn off the Tube" and Talk About a Book!!



"Turn off the "Tube" and Talk About a Book!"

No matter what age your students are, they can enjoy talking about books. For the youngest elementary students, consider talking about a book before you read it to them, or they read it to you. Look at the cover's illustration and ask what they think the story may be about before they begin reading. With more mature students, point out the name of the author and illustrator on the jacket and confirm that students understand what each one contributes to the finished product. You also could lead into an educational lesson on how this particular book was acquired--from tree to paper to author and illustrator to publisher to marketing, all prior to reading the story.

After the story is read, ask a few simple, entertaining questions to check the accuracy of students' comprehension. Once they have answered basic questions to your satisfaction, press on for a more detailed study of the contents or characters with complex, stimulating questions. Encourage children to re-read their favorite part of the book and explain why that particular passage is of interest to them. Ask them to show you an illustration that appeals to their individual senses then lead the conversation into an accompanying lesson focusing on art and artists. Select another book and compare the various artistic styles and media used by the two books. If the student continues to talk, continue to teach through light conversation. When you share your enjoyment in reading and talking about books, students will benefit from subconsciously absorbing important lessons.

Our Valentine kids are voracious readers. Let's all

February At a Glance

- Friday, February 1
 - Valentine Jog-a-thon (details have gone home)
- Tuesday, February 5
 - Deadline for Science Fair registrations
- Friday, February 8
 - Chinese New Year Celebration Lunchtime at Valentine
- Tuesday, February 12
 - 6:00-8:00pm Science Fair
- Wednesday, February 13
 - 9:00am PTA Meeting
- Friday, February 15
 - NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS - PRESIDENTS' DAY
- Monday, February 18
 - NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS - PRESIDENTS' DAY
- Tuesday, February 26
 - Founder's Day
- Friday, February 29
 - MINIMUM DAY - END OF SECOND TRIMESTER

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

support their appetite. Every time they read and learn, we all gain!

BY THE WAY- *I hope that you have been regularly visiting the links on our website "Today's Tip for Parents" and "School Success Ideas for Parents." There are some real "nuggets" of wisdom to be mined.*

Dr. Tray Schreiber

Jog-A-Thon



Run/Jog/Walk-a-Thon

Get your running/tennis shoes ready for the
4th Annual Valentine Run/Jog/Walk-a-Thon.

It will be held **today** Friday, February 1, 2008. Everyone can participate and join the fun. There will be great music and prizes!

If you have any questions, please contact:
Ruth Roberts (626) 943-1859 or Mary Ulin (626) 403-3060.

On your mark, set, go!

Chinese New Year

Chinese New Year



This year, the Chinese Lunar New Year will fall on Thursday, February 7th, 2008. This holiday is special for Chinese people because it signals the coming of the spring season, new beginnings, new hope, and optimism for the future. Chinese families spend weeks before the New Year Day preparing for it. They clean their house, do repairs, pay off debts, and purchase new linens, clothes and houseware to replace those which are

broken or worn.

On Chinese New Year Day and the two weeks following, families gather together to celebrate; old friends renew their acquaintances; and people visit one another bearing gifts: bright fruits, beautifully arranged sweets and flowering plants. All are symbols which represent the cheerful wishes the gift-giver brings to the recipient: May your new year be bright, cheerful, sweet and abundantly fruitful! Some people might greet young children and unmarried friends by giving out hong bao (Mandarin) or lai see (Cantonese). These are red envelopes which represent the good wishes the giver offers to the receiver. Inside the envelopes, sometimes there is money, sometimes there are sweets, and sometimes wishes written down.

This year, the Valentine PTA Chinese New Year Committee is working with teachers and administrators to bring a New Year celebration to the Valentine Elementary School. This is so that the Chinese families of Valentine can share the joy and good will of New Year festivities with all of the Valentine children. To bring some of the festive sights, sounds and smells of Chinese New Year to the community of San Marino and Valentine.

During the week of February 4th to 8th, 2008, the students of Valentine will be offered opportunities to learn more about the Chinese New Year or Chinese culture in general. 85 new books have been purchased for the library; templates for red envelopes have been sent home so the children can make them and put wishes inside; the food service will be preparing a Chinese sack lunch on Friday, February 8th; and the children will be offered a chance to write an essay on the meaning of Chinese New Year. Finally, on Friday, February 8th, an hour-long festive program is scheduled to take place on the playground, from 11:35am to 12:45pm. The program will include lion dances, folk dances, martial arts demonstration, and a mock Chinese imperial court with attendants, ministers, and visiting dignitaries.

Please join us on that day to welcome the New Year! Come enjoy the show, the children, and the day with your Chinese Valentine neighbors and families.

The Valentine PTA Chinese New Year Committee, 2008



(click for forms/links)

[Calendar of Events](#)

[Sack Lunch Menu](#)

[Permission/Sack Lunch Form](#)

Lunch Instructions

Our Cafeteria will be offering your student a special lunch for this occasion - Lunch will be served in the Valentine Lunch Court area only - We ask you to review this information and return to your student's teacher the Chinese Lunch Parent Permission/Purchase Form (page 2).

Teacher will distribute the bottom section prior to picking up the sack lunch.

FOR US TO KNOW EXACTLY HOW MANY SACK LUNCHES TO PREPARE, PLEASE FILL OUT COMPLETELY ONE FORM PER STUDENT AND RETURN IT TO YOUR STUDENT'S

TEACHER NO LATER THAN WED. JANUARY 30TH

Any questions, please feel free to contact Blanca Woods @ (626) 660-5836

Science Fair



SCIENCE FAIR

"Think Green / Be Good to our Earth"
February 12, 2008

We had 2 great Science Fair Advisor events! Thanks for the enthusiasm and participation. There is still time to get your application in. Applications are due February 5th - submit an application form to gain approval and start your experimenting. The project does not need to be related to the "Green" theme. [Science Fair Application Form](#)

Display poster board + T-shirt will be sold for \$10 and are available for purchase from Genny Sanchez at 284.1177 / abundancex3@mac.com or Kelly Wilkniss pkal4@mac.com. Additional T-shirts can be purchased for \$5. The display poster boards are mandatory for participation.

There will be no judging this year - EVERYONE will be a winner for participating!

Science Fair Schedule of Events

7:50 am - 8:30 am Drop off projects to the Little Theatre
9 - 2:30 Classroom viewing

6:00pm Dinner catered by Fresh Gourmet

[Dinner Order Form](#)

6:40pm THE MAD SCIENTIST show (the kids will love this show)

7:30 - 8pm Project viewing

We can't wait to see all of the great projects -- start thinking about all of the different ways science can be applied to help the world we live in!

Questions or able to volunteer? Contact Wendy Pratt at 308.1145 or spratt1@socal.rr.com or Cheryl Cabot at 289.3440 or cmcabot@aol.com.

Reflections 2007-2008 Awards



CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL PARTICIPANTS IN
THE 2007-2008 REFLECTIONS PROGRAM

"I can make a difference by . . ."

All participants will be recognized at the PTA meeting on
February 13, 2008, at 9:00 am in the Little Theater.

PRIMARY DIVISION (Grades K - 2)

ENTRIES (Finalists in Bold)

Literature

- Blake Castleman
- **Sierra DuNah**
- **Justin Pratt***
- Grant Spitzer

Musical Composition

- **Josiah Yew**

Photography

- **Grant Spitzer**

Visual Arts

- **Sierra DuNah**
- **Adrian Huang**
- **Jack Wallis**

INTERMEDIATE DIVISION (GRADES 3 - 5)

ENTRIES (Finalists in Bold)

Literature

- **Rachel Linton**
- Zoe Perez
- **Grace Wallis**
- **Samantha Wong**

Musical Composition

- **Matthew Tso***

Photography

- **Sarah Linton**
- **Tyler Spitzer**
- **Alec Stashevsky**

Visual Arts

- Justin Castleman
- Jill Lin
- **Andrew Mecum**

- Tyler Spitzer
- Grace Wallis
- Bethany Yew

* First place at the San Marino Council level.

Additional congratulations to First District winners Justin Pratt (Gold) and Matthew Tso (Silver).

Valentine Voices Winter Session



VALENTINE VOICES - 3rd, 4th & 5th Grades - WINTER SESSION 2008

Wednesdays, 2:50 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.
January 23 through March 19, 2008
Tuition \$177

This performance group will focus on refining musical skills to create the highest quality choral sound. It is preferred that students interested in this group already possess a basic sense of pitch, rhythm, harmony, intervals and beautiful singing, but is not required. Movement is also incorporated into the program through warm-up exercises and "choral-ography." The goal for this group is to provide several performance opportunities during this semester.

Please register with the San Marino Recreation Department
(626) 403-2200

NO AUDITION REQUIRED FOR EITHER CHOIR ALL STUDENTS MAY JOIN!!!

(Location for both classes: Valentine Little Theatre)
Please contact Richard Seymour for more information
rseymour12@earthlink.net or by calling [626-793-0215](tel:626-793-0215)

VALENTINE CHILDREN'S CHORUS - 1st & 2nd Grades - WINTER SESSION 2008

Mondays, 2:50 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
February 4 through March 24 2008
Tuition \$139

Children will be introduced to a variety of choral styles while learning pitch, rhythm, harmony, intervals, dynamics and beautiful singing. Singing in this choir will teach children how to focus, concentrate, work in a group as well as build confidence and a sense of accomplishment. Movement is also incorporated into the program through warm-up exercises and "choral-ography." The goal for this group is to provide at least two performance opportunities during this semester.

Please register with the San Marino Recreation Department
(626) 403-2200

NO AUDITION REQUIRED FOR EITHER CHOIR ALL STUDENTS MAY JOIN!!!

(Location for both classes: Valentine Little Theatre)
Please contact Richard Seymour for more information
rseymour12@earthlink.net or by calling [626-793-0215](tel:626-793-0215)

Autism Awareness

SOUTH PASADENA KIWANIS
FEBRUARY 2008 LUNCHEON PROGRAMS RAISING AWARENESS &
UNDERSTANDING OF AUTISM

MEETING FORMAT

12 - 12:30 BUFFET LUNCH AVAILABLE (COST \$ 12 - ATTENDEES ARE NOT REQUIRED TO PURCHASE LUNCH, BUT IT'S REALLY GOOD)

12:30 - 1: KIWANIS MEETING
1 - 1:30: PROGRAM

SCHEDULE OF PROGRAMS

FEBRUARY 6TH: JIM GOTT, FORMER DODGER PITCHER & PARENT OF CHILDREN WITH AUTISM

FEBRUARY 13TH: CATHY GOTT/DR. LAURIE STEPHENS OF ALTADENA'S EDUCATION SPECTRUM

FEBRUARY 20TH: SPEECH THERAPIST AMY JOHNSON OF SO PAS' CORNERSTONE SPEECH & LANGUAGE & GOLDEN RETRIEVER SYLVIE

FEBRUARY 27TH: KATHY MANRIQUEZ, MOTHER OF 10 YEAR OLD PHILLIP

DISCUSSES HOW DISCOVERING PHILLIP'S ABILITY TO TYPE HAS IMPROVED HIS, AND THEIR FAMILY'S, LIFE

LOCATION: BASEMENT MEETING ROOM OF CALVARY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 1050 FREMONT AVE., SOUTH PASADENA, CA 91030

PUBLIC INVITED & ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND

Community Outreach Trash Walk



Trash Walk -- Take Two!

The Community Outreach/Green Ideas committee would like to ask students to try again to take a trash walk.

Last time we tried, our posters and boxes of gloves were drowned out by rain. Hopefully, this time, you will help yourself to two pairs of disposable gloves, and take a walk with your favorite grown-up through your neighborhood, your favorite park, beach or other natural place and pick up all trash in your path. You'll be amazed how much trash there is, once you're looking for it!

Gloves will be available the week of Feb. 11 - 14, just prior to our President's Day holiday weekend. Thank you for your participation in this Green Idea!

Tori Mordecai
Chair - Community Outreach/Green

OKLAHOMA Performance at Huntington Middle School

OKLAHOMA is coming to Huntington Middle School!

Oklahoma will be performed by Huntington Middle School students on February 28, 29, March 1 and 2 in the Kenneth F. White Auditorium. Directed by Janet Thayer, this production has a cast and crew of over 60 talented HMS students. Set in the early 1900's,

Oklahoma is a toe-tapping tale of fun, love and romance of folks living in the Oklahoma territory. You'll recognize the Rodgers and Hammerstein songs! It's a great show and it's sure to warm the hearts of children and adults alike!

Tickets go on sale on February 8th. Tickets are \$15 and seating is assigned on a first come, first served basis. Three evening performances are on Thursday, February 28, Friday, February 29 and Saturday, March 1 at 7 pm. One matinee performance will be at 2 pm on Sunday, March 2. **Students: There's a \$5 Student Ticket Special on Thursday night only (February 28th)!**

Want to become a Musical Patron? A Patron drive has been launched with Patron levels of \$500, \$400, \$200, \$100 and \$50. All contributors are given prominent recognition in the program and most levels receive complimentary tickets to the show of their choice!

Interested in advertising in our program? All proceeds generated from "Oklahoma" will benefit the HMS Performing Arts Program to help offset production costs. Please ensure your Patron and Advertising forms are delivered to the HMS office by February 12 to ensure inclusion in the program!

Patron, Advertising and Ticket forms are available in the HMS office or through the website at www.hehms.us.

American Heritage Day

AMERICAN HERITAGE DAY

This year American Heritage Day will be held on MONDAY, MARCH 3. Our fifth graders will spend the day experiencing the daily life of pioneers in the Old West. They will get hands-on training in grinding wheat, spinning wool, stitching and leather designing and making butter, candles and necklaces. All parents are invited to volunteer and help our fifth grade pioneers.

Please remember that the fifth graders will not need sack lunches on March 3.

If you have not already signed up, please contact Wendy Glazier (626-0041/glazier5@sbcglobal.net), Helen Kim Spitzer (626-584-6939/hspitzer@socal.rr.com) or Gail Rolfe (626-308 0042/calrolfe@pacbell.net).

Teacher & Staff Appreciation Week

Valentine Elementary School PTA would like to recognize and honor all our teachers and staff during a week long celebration starting Monday, 3/10-Friday thru 3/14,2008. To give Thanks to all teachers and staff members, we ask each child to participate in the following manner:

- Monday: Bring a single flower from your garden to your classroom teacher so the combination of flowers can be made into a bouquet.
- Tuesday: Student's homework to be turned in the neatest handwriting.
- Wednesday: Bring springtime to our teachers and staff. Please write a note on the attached flower to your teacher or staff member and return to your classroom. The note can describe something your child likes about the teacher or class.
- Thursday: Best behavior all day long!
- Friday: Send a gift card from Office Depot or Staples for the teachers to stock up on classroom supplies. Classroom supplies can also be purchased-check with room moms to see what is needed.

On Friday March 14th, the teachers and staff will be honored at " **A Spring Luncheon**" provided by the parents. If you would like to help with the luncheon, we especially need help with flowers and decorations. Please call Appreciation Week Chairs, Beth Ezold at 626 943-0266 or Lisa Gibbs at 626 395-7429.

Thank in Advance for making Appreciation Week Special for our teachers and staff.

Parent Party Auction -- Needs Items



*"It's Almost time to Imagine where your
Dice could land at our fabulous"
Casino Night on the Riviera
Parent Party 08*

That means we need your help in locating marvelous silent auction items from you the parents and the community. Do you own a vacation cottage; have theatre, concert, or sports tickets? Possibly you are willing to treat our bidders to something unique and exciting you already own or are willing to buy. We're asking for your help in scouring the city for these wonderful items which will be creatively displayed and sold on our online auction again this year. Our auction teams are ready to get this party started with your help!!

Please contact Liz Voxman 626-7870 or Kelly Wilkniss pkal4@mac.com for information.

The Parent Party is the biggest fundraiser that Valentine PTA operates to make funding possible for the following programs: Art, Science, Computer, Library, Music

The Parent Party is a community event - it is a night where all Valentine parents. Teachers and administrators are invited to come celebrate our children and our wonderful school and community.

This year, the party will be held at a private club in Pasadena on **Saturday, May 17, 2008 from 7 pm - midnight.**

The year's theme, Casino Night on the Riviera will take you on a journey to the French Riviera where you will be entertained with a Casino, DJ and Dancing. While in the French Riviera you will be treated to a cocktail reception and buffet dinner. Wolfgang Puck has graciously donated a dessert and coffee bar for your after dining enjoyment.

This year we are excited to introduce a different experience as opposed to offering traditional sit-down dinner, we will have several cocktail tables spread out through the venue, there will be side chairs & sofa's for guests to take a seat when needed, lounge chairs by the pool, guests will be free to move around and mingle and find their friends old and new while they visit the delectable buffet stations and bid on the Super Silent and Children's Art Projects. The menu selections are complete and offer a variety of choices ranging from lamb, chicken, seafood, and vegetarian finger foods. During the Live Auction, we will ask guests to step into the grand ballroom and foyer as the live auction items are unveiled and finally a paddle raise will conclude the fundraising portion of the evening. After the auction, the ballroom will be transformed into our dance floor and the casino will begin to operate in the Tennis Pavillion and Fireside Terrace.

Silent Auction: As always, you will have an opportunity to win some of the greatest packages our committee has solicited in spa, entertainment, dining, sports, day trips and much more. If you would like to donate items or gift certificates to the silent auction, contact Liz Voxman at (626) 282-7870 and Kelly Wilkniss at (626) 403-1586. Silent Auction bidding will begin and end online - vBay will be up and running one month prior to the party.

Teacher Treats: Each year, our beloved Teachers contribute their time by giving a treat such as an ice cream outing, a pizza outing, a kickball game, etc - these treats are priceless! Bidding on treats will begin and end online. Andrea Ferraco at (626) 458-5683

Class Baskets: We will continue to solicit donations through the classrooms for the class baskets - a way to supplement our silent auction. Joan Ruskin at (626) 441-6675

Super Silent Auction: & Live Auction: Do you have access to any resort, hotels, cabins, vacation spots, paintings, airline tickets that would qualify for our Live Auction this year? Super Silent and Live will be previewed online but you must be present at the party to win. Call Live Auction Chairs, Paula Dunkel at (626) 289-2264 and Alison McCrary at (626) 570-0037

Children's Art Projects: This year, the children have worked hard on class quilts, each with a theme, each child has designed and sewn on a square to the quilt. These projects are the "hot ticket" items of the Parent Party. Bidding starts online and ends at the auction the night of the party. Be there so you can win your child's class quilt or present an absentee bid that you think might win you the item. Michele Carter (626) 403-6087 and Anita Erskine at (626) 293-1727

Patrons: Consider becoming a patron! The more participation prior to the event we get, the more we will be able to "have fun" at the event. Look for the patron levels that will be coming home soon. Being a patron has benefits too! We encourage matching gifts - ask your employer if they match your donation? Do you know of a corporate sponsor who can sponsor us? Patron

Chairs, Elizabeth Saldebar at (626) 584-1515, Joanne McCloskey (626) 356-7444 and Katherine Lee (626) 795-8898. **Patron Donation Deadline is March 15, 2008**

Advertising: If you have a business you want to advertise or you want to write and post a message for your family, you can buy advertising space on our vBay webpage Look for more information on the Valentine Weekly in the coming weeks. Nicolette Fuerst at (626) 458-9616

vBay: Last year, we ran the silent auction online and it was very successful, we will do the same again this year, keep checking the Valentine Weekly with updates on when the auction begins. Mona-Lisa Alexander at (626) 441-0410

Paddle Raise: Every year, there is an opportunity at the end of the evening, for every parent to raise their paddle for a specified amount (\$100, \$250, \$500, \$700, \$1000) for a monetary donation to Valentine PTA general fund. All donations are tax deductible and go towards offering enrichment programs such as science, art, music, library, computers.

Girl's Night Out: Will be on a Friday night at a home where we will gather for good food and cheer and celebrate our hard work. Helen & Grant Spitzer have offered their home on Friday, March 28, 2008. We encourage your attendance, bring with you a donation valued at \$100 or \$50 cash donation to go towards the auction.

Patron Party: Lainie & Eli Capouya will be hosting the annual patron party at their home for the patrons who donate by: on Saturday, April 26, 2008

Can I still help with the Parent Party? Absolutely, we are still looking for people who can help the chairs in any of the following ways: procurement of items for our silent and live auctions, help with Girl's Night Out, help stuff invitations and hand deliver them to San Marino residents, decorations, help with setting up the day of the event, cleaning up. We won't turn away any help that is offered.

What is Absentee Bidding? Anyone can register a sealed maximum bid online for a "hot ticket" item. Live Auction, Children's Art Projects and some of the Super Silent items will be brought to the auction on May 17, 2008 for further bidding to go on in person. Honoring the sealed absentee bidder at the party only increases the funds raised by the PTA. Every bid sheet will state whether there is a higher sealed absentee bid - please keep this in mind.

We hope to see you at the Casino Night on the Riviera for a "roll of the dice" and to try our luck at the casino tables. We will keep you posted through the Valentine Weekly and through the Parent Party Link to the Valentine website.

Your 2008 co-chairs, Anita Erskine (626) 293-1727 and Gilda Moshir at (626) 588-2945.

NEWSFLASH! Garden Boxes to be Planted in February



You may have asked yourself "What is going on with the garden boxes this year?" Well, I have your answer for you. Last year we received a grant from the state of California to help our garden boxes become a school wide activity. We have recently been given the go ahead on this project. Each box will have a theme. Throughout the next month the boxes will be cultivated and planted by a designated class. There will be a sign that will explain the theme and the class in charge of that box. As the box grows classes will be invited to walk by and discuss what is growing, what each

plant is, and what function each plant has. There will be tags to label each plant. The culminating activity at the end of the year will be a taste and touch activity that will be held during a recess so everyone will have a chance to see what the final product was. There will be children from each class in charge of each table and will answer any questions the students have. I hope this answers that nagging question "What is going on with the garden boxes this year?" Please find time to come and watch our garden boxes grow!

Mrs. LaRue

Allocation Ideas

Each year, the Valentine PTA has been able to raise funds in excess of what is required to operate basic PTA programs. The Allocations Committee is responsible for making recommendations on how to spend any excess monies. The recommendations are brought to the PTA Association for consideration and approval.

Historically, these funds have paid for a variety of programs and projects, such as computers, playground equipment, and re-asphalting of the playground blacktop to name a few. Last year, it was the Allocations Committee that recommended the PTA revamp the playground and purchase new equipment.

The Allocations Committee held its first meeting in January and is seeking ideas from parents, teachers and students. All ideas, big and small, are welcome and will be considered. Please send your ideas to Pam Burt at paburt@socal.rr.com or place your written suggestions in the PTA Executive Vice President file (in the PTA file drawer in the office).

Thank You For All Your Help!

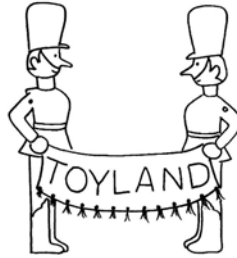
All helpers of the Holiday Workshop, parents and 5th graders, I wanted to say thank you and let you know how much I sincerely appreciate the help and time that you gave. I could not have done it without you and I am truly grateful.



Thanks so much for all your efforts.

Thanks Again

Deborah Kaufeldt-Boardman



Holiday Program

We would like to thank everyone that made "TOYLAND" such a success. The students were amazing under the guidance of Mr. Richard Seymour. Thank you to Anne Alford, Amy Buenabenta, Evelyn Boss, Debbie Day, Maria de Jesus, Kim Halkett, Caroline Howell, Helene Jenkins, and Juanita Weingart. Also, a big thank you to Cub Scouts Den #8 and Jr. Girl Scout Troup #4.

Special thanks to Richard Seymour and his amazing orchestra, Jeanne Lipps, Dr. Schreiber, Alberto and all the fabulous teacher and parents. We also want to thank Michael Hillman and the San Marino High School ROP Media. Again, thanks for an incredible Holiday Program!!

Cynthia Ary and Patti Koch
Children's Programs Co-Chairs



Thank you from Karen Wicke.....

Thanks to the efforts of Cynthia Ary and Patti Koch, and the direction of Richard Seymour for the fabulous holiday performance of "Toyland"; Deborah Kaufeldt Boardman for the amazing Holiday Workshops; Anne Mallory and Christy Kral for the festive Donuts at Dawn; and Helen Kim Spitzer for coordinating Valentine's participation in the Reflections program.

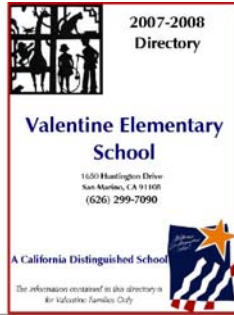
Photos Needed

The Yearbook Wants Your Pictures!!!

We need photos from school events, class parties and field trips. Email your pictures to arwong@earthlink.net or drop off hard copies to the PTA yearbook folder in the office.

Thanks for your help!

Valentine Directories



Valentine Directory

Need an additional Valentine Directory for your car or office? Missed ordering your copy of the Directory? We have a few extra copies for sale. Additional copies are \$10 and payment should be made out to PTA. Please contact Andrea Lunine at 799-7649 or e-mail, piatticeramicart@yahoo.com. We have a few copies left and will be sold on a first serve basis.

Sleep Affects School Performance

According to Brown Medical School and Bradley Hospital research, elementary and middle school students who don't get enough sleep at night don't perform as well in school. The study, funded by the National Institute of Nursing Research and the National Institute of Mental Health, also found that kids who don't get enough sleep have a harder time paying attention.



In the study, teachers completed weekly performance reports with no knowledge of the amount of sleep students received. They rated students who had gotten eight or fewer hours of sleep as having the most trouble recalling material, learning new lessons, and completing high-quality work.

Seventy-four children from Rhode Island and Massachusetts, aged 6 to 12, participated in the study. They were screened to ensure they were healthy and did not suffer from sleep or psychological disorders.

Children spent three weeks in the study. One week they went to bed and woke up at their regular times. Another week they stayed up much later than normal; this meant 8 hours of sleep for first and second graders and 6.5 hours for third graders and up. During another week, they spent no fewer than 10 hours in bed each night. Study participants wore wrist monitors that logged motion day and night, to ensure they were complying.

Teachers then filled out a 34-question survey rating classroom behavior and performance. They reported more academic problems and attention problems when sleep was restricted to shorter times.

Gahan Fallone, the study's lead author, says, "Just staying up late can cause increased academic difficulty and attention problems for otherwise healthy, well-functioning kids. So the results provide professionals and parents with a clear message: When a child is having learning and attention problems, the issue of sleep has to be on the radar screen."

Considering that so many children are being diagnosed with attention

disorders and learning disabilities, sleep should be on the minds of all school professionals and parents.

Honoring Presidents George Washington & Abraham Lincoln



Presidents Day is a time to honor all those who have served as President of the United States. They were great men, one and all. However, on this day we are more likely to recall the best known of our presidents: George Washington, the Father of Our Country, and Abraham Lincoln, the Great Emancipator.

Washington never imagined himself leading the new country which he and his Continental Army had fought to preserve. After the war, he wanted to spend his life on his estate at Mount Vernon. However, after the Constitution was ratified, Washington was unanimously elected president, then reelected for a second term. By the time he left office, the U.S. financial system was well established and treaties with Spain had enlarged U.S. Territory.

Possibly the most widely quoted of all presidents, Abraham Lincoln had a way of getting to the truth and stating it simply. When he said, "If slavery is not wrong, nothing is wrong," people believed him. His signing of the Emancipation Proclamation eliminated slavery in the U.S. and set a new social standard for the country. A peacemaker and a collaborator, Lincoln had a talent for bringing people together. In 1862, he said, "We can succeed only by concert." His belief that the country had to be held together was instrumental in the United States becoming one of the most powerful countries in the world.

PTA Minutes December 2007

William L. Valentine
Parent Teachers Association Meeting
Wednesday, December 12, 2007

The meeting was called to order by **2007-2008 PTA President Karen Wicke** at 9:01 a.m. at the Conference Room. The Flag Salute was led by Girl Scout Troop #391.

Guest Speaker-Superintendent Gary Woods asked for views on homework. He recommended parents communicate with teachers about any homework issues.

Adoption of Agenda-Karen Wicke called for a motion to adopt the agenda. Alison McCrary so moved. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Reading of Minutes-Joan Ruskin reported that the November minutes were approved by Ruth Roberts, Robin Otero, and Maria De Jesu. Robin Lahey, Karen Harrigan, and Anita Erskine agreed to read the December minutes.

Principal-Tray Schreiber reported that he is thankful for all the work done on the Holiday Program, the Holiday Workshop, and that the kids are doing well in all areas. Mrs. Day and Ms. Tognazzini's classes will present plays on the California missions next week.

President-Karen Wicke. thanked Richard Seymour, Patti Koch, and Cynthia Ary for their work on the Holiday Program, Debbie Day for organizing the ticket distribution system for the Holiday Program, Deborah Kaufeldt Boardman for her work on the Holiday Workshop, Anita Erskine and Michele Carter for organizing the sewing project for the parent party quilts, and Robin Otero for bringing delicious food.

Executive Vice President-Karen Wicke for Pam Burt thanked all who volunteered to serve on the Allocations Committee and reported that all slots have been filled. The grade level representatives are Tina Zarifes, Justene Pierce, Cynthia Ary, Pana Gelt, Joan

Ruskin, and Gail Rolfe. All are asked to call or email Pam with their suggestions. Thanks go to Mary Wong for working on Earthquake Preparedness.

Treasurer - Juliann Rooke reported the following: Statement of Checks to Ratify - From 10/1/07 to 10/31/07 checks 11901 to 11931 were written for an amount of \$21,622.55 and bank charges were paid for an amount of \$55.00. Check # 11902 was voided. There were no stopped payments. Karen Harrigian moved to ratify the actions of the Treasurer for the month of October. **MOTION CARRIED.** Treasurer's Report - The beginning Balance on Hand as of 9/30/07 was \$299,917.48. Revenues received were \$49,221.31 and disbursements were \$21,800.05, leaving an ending Balance on Hand of \$327,338.74 as of 10/31/07. Maria De Jesu moved to approve the October Treasurer's Report. **MOTION CARRIED.** **Auditor-Karen Harrigian** reported that no discrepancies were found during her audit of the October 2007 Treasurer's and Financial Secretary's records.

Historian-Karen Wicke for Ruth Roberts reported that Honorary Service Awards nominations are due on December 19. This award is for outstanding community volunteers. Nomination forms are available on the website and in the office. This award is presented at Founders' Day.

Parliamentarian-Gretchen Shepherd Romey reported that six parents and one alternate are needed to serve on the PTA Nominating Committee. Parents who were on the Nominating Committee last year may not serve. Gail Rolfe, Maria De Jesu, Julie Castro, Anita Erskine, Gretchen Shepherd Romey, Lainnie Capouya, and Jessica Chien were nominated from the floor. Nomination forms were distributed and are due January 25. Nomination forms will be in the office and will go home with the children in January.

Meeting adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Ruskin, Recording Secretary

PTA Minutes January 2008

William L. Valentine
Parent Teachers Association Meeting
Wednesday, January 16, 2008

The meeting was called to order by **2007-2008 PTA President Karen Wicke** at 9:02 a.m. at the Little Theater. The Flag Salute was led by the Webelos Golden Thunder den.

Guest Speaker-Chief John T. Schaefer of the San Marino Police Department discussed many ways of making our community and our children safer. Parents who would like to receive reports of crime in San Marino by email may send an email to jschaefer@smpd.us and ask to be added to the distribution list.

Adoption of Agenda-Karen Wicke called for a motion to adopt the agenda. Gretchen Shepherd Romey so moved. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Reading of Minutes-Joan Ruskin reported that the December minutes were approved by Robin Lahey, Karen Harrigian, and Anita Erskine. Sharon Takeyama, Karen Harrigian and Maria DeJesu agreed to read the January minutes.

Principal-Tray Schreiber thanked all the parents who volunteer to do little things constantly in the classroom. It is very important to the kids and the teachers. Library, Art Lab, Computer Lab and other programs are very important and volunteers are very much appreciated.

President-Karen Wicke thanked Cynthia Ary and Patti Koch for the holiday program, Deborah Kaufeldt Boardman for the holiday workshop, Pam Burt for organizing the Allocations Committee, and Gretchen Shepherd Romey for organizing the Nominating Committee. A Legislative Update was received from Karen Preston stating that state revenues are below what was expected and that the Governor has proposed cuts to education. Parents are asked to please consider this as the Parent Party, our major fund raiser, approaches. The Family Life series for 4th and 5th grade girls and their mothers will take place tomorrow evening. The Chinese School invites all to its Chinese New Year Carnival on February 2 at Huntington Middle School.

Executive Vice President- Pam Burt reported that the Allocations Committee welcomes all ideas. Please send any suggestions to Pam Burt.

Auditor-Karen Harrigian reported that no discrepancies were found during her audit of the November 2007 Treasurer's and Financial Secretary's records. Gail Rolfe moved to approve the Auditor's Report. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Treasurer - Juliann Rooke reported the following: Statement of Checks to Ratify - From 11/1/07 to 11/30/07 checks 11932 to 11960 were written and bank charges were paid for an amount of \$21,937.08. There were no voided checks or stopped payments. Gretchen Shepherd Romey moved to ratify the actions of the Treasurer for the month of November. **MOTION CARRIED.** Treasurer's Report - The beginning Balance on Hand as of 10/31/07 was \$327,338.74. Revenues received were \$539.10 and disbursements were \$21,937.08, leaving an ending Balance on Hand of \$305,940.76 as of 11/30/07. Gretchen Shepherd Romey moved to approve the November Treasurer's Report. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Parliamentarian-Gretchen Shepherd Romey asked all to please fill out a nomination form for next year's Executive Committee. Lainnie Capouya will not be on the Nominating Committee since members may not serve two years in a row. Gretchen Shepherd Romey moved to place alternate Jessica Chien on the Nominating Committee to fill the opening and to appoint Bonnie Leung as the new alternate. **MOTION CARRIED.**

President-Karen Wicke asked everyone to support the Jog-a-thon. Materials for the Jog-a-thon have been sent home with students. She also thanked Kelly Wilkness and Liz Voxman for the installation of the tile walls and recommended that every one be sure to take a look at them.

Meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Ruskin, Recording Secretary

Dr. Tray Schreiber, Principal
Andrea Lunine, Voice Editor, piatticeramicart@yahoo.com

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