



Patwin Elementary

Newsletter

January 14, 2008

Visit our web site: www.patwinelementary.com

Calendar of Events

Date	Day	Time	Event
1-15-08	Tuesday	6:30 pm	PTA Meeting (Library)
1-17-08	Thursday	6:30-7:30 pm	Title 1 Meeting (MPR)
1-17-08	Thursday	8:10 - 8:25 am	School Savings Deposits (outside MPR)
1-21-08	Monday		School Holiday: Martin Luther King Jr.
1-23-08	Wednesday	8:40 -9:45 am	PTA Student Assembly (MPR)
1-25-08	Friday		5th Graders to State Capitol
2-5-08	Tuesday		Presidential Primary Elections (MPR)
2-11-08	Monday		School Holiday: Lincoln's Birthday
2-18-08	Monday		School Holiday: President's Day
2-29-08	Friday		End of 2nd Trimester
3-3-08 to 3-7-08	Monday - Friday		Parent Conference Week— 1:30 Dismissal All Week
3-24-08 to 3-28-08	Monday - Friday		School Holiday: Spring Break

The Patwin Newsletter is published each Monday of the school year by the Patwin PTA. The deadline to submit articles is the preceding Thursday at 9:00 am. Articles should be e-mailed to the editors at patwineditor@gmail.com Please include a contact name and phone number.

Patwin Elementary School • 2222 Shasta Drive • Davis, CA 95616 • Voice Mail 757.5383 • Direct 757.5394

Michael R. Parker, Principal • Jacki Balderama & Nicole Starsinic, PTA Co-Presidents

www.patwinelementary.com

Principal's Corner

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year! What a first week of the year! My wife and I were fortunate in that we lost no power from the storm. From the many conversations I've had, however, I think we were in the minority. I will say that our drive home from the central cost area last Friday was far from uneventful.

Our first Character Education Assembly was held on January 9 to recognize students who had, according to their teachers, been exceptionally cooperative and fair.. Every elementary school in the district stresses character education in some fashion. At Patwin we use the assembly format with words of the month being posted in classrooms and staff stressing the words for the month. Assemblies are held on the first Wednesday of the month.

Recognized students' names are read by student council members and students walk to the front of the MPR to receive their certificate. While we hope the recognition and the stressing of the character education word for the month is meaningful to students, the assembly is low key and lasts approximately 30 minutes.

Previous words for the month have been: respectful, responsible/common sense, compassionate/caring, and last month cooperative and fair. The words for January are trustworthy and honest. I encourage you to discuss character education words with your children. I would like to know if students mention the words at home. Our goal as a staff is to have students not only make these words part of their vocabulary but to "live" these words daily. We appreciate your help in making this happen.

A few reminders for us after the holidays are:

- Skateboards, scooters and wheelies are not allowed on campus (district rule);
- dogs should be left at home unless you are bringing a pet for a special classroom presentation;
- school begins at 8:30 (we've had an exceptional number of tardy students the first week back); and
- we have early dismissal on Wednesdays with school being dismissed at 1:30 for all but kindergarteners who leave earlier.

Good luck with your New Year's Resolutions!

Sincerely,

Mike Parker

School Savings: Day Change

Effective January 16, the day of the week that School Savings deposits will be collected is changing. Going forward, collections will be made each THURSDAY morning, instead of Wednesdays. Deposits will continue to be collected outside the MPR from 8:10 to 8:25 am.

"Unfundraiser" 2007 Follow-up

On behalf of the PTA, we would like to thank the following families for their support of the Fall donation drive:

Quijada	Starsinic
Masarweh	Sutcliffe

Our grand total is \$10,345 from 116 families!! A huge THANK YOU to all families who contributed. In addition, thank you so much to all the people who helped on the Unfundraiser Committee, collating letters and writing thank-you notes: Kris Christensen, Linda Garcia, Terri Clarke, Jennifer Bavetta, and Louise Angermann. Your support was invaluable!

Need some extra income?

Patwin is looking for a
Noon Lunch Duty Super-
visor and Substitutes:
MWF from 11:25 - 12:45.

Other shifts available.

Join the Nature Bowl Team

Patwin's Nature Bowl 2008 is starting up! The Nature Bowl is an environmental education program that uses hands-on projects and activities to learn about ecology, native habitats, and natural resources conservation. Any interested 3rd-6th grade students are encouraged to join. Students will attend an afterschool class on Wednesdays from 1:30-3 in room 24 beginning January 16, and with parent help, we'll do some additional field trips and activities in the local area. If you have any questions, please call or e-mail Laurie Seban at 792-1848/lseban@sbcglobal.net

Cupcake Sale



Remember your quarters! The Cupcake Sale returns this week. Please come out this Wednesday, January 16th, to support Mrs. Britz-Diaz's class.

Walkathon 2008!

Thanks to everyone who showed up to the planning meeting back in December ---plans are under way for an early April Walkathon this year! There are still plenty of volunteer jobs available, so please email Ellen at the.shields@mail.com if you'd like to help or if you missed the meeting. We'll be having another meeting this month... stay tuned for the date!

"Waste-Free Wednesdays" Update

Congratulations to the students (and their family support people) who have been helping out the environment by bringing waste-free lunches to school on Wednesdays.

This program is working beautifully. Every week more students participate and get to earn EARTH BUCK TOKENS* for being stewards of their environment. We had an all time high of 72 waste-free lunches on the first Wednesday back to school in 2008. That is about 1/4 of all of the home lunches. The Patwin Community should be proud of their students for such great participation. Yippee!!!!

But why stop there? Let's see if we can up the numbers. How about we try to get half of the students who bring lunch from home to be waste-free? Or better yet, let's have our goal be 100%! Let's go for it. Parents, help your children out. It's something you can do to bond with them.

What does a waste-free lunch look like? The following is an excerpt from the website <http://www.wastefreelunches.org/>. There are more ideas and links there if you care to visit that site.

A Waste-Free Lunch

- sandwiches and other main dishes, fresh fruit, fresh vegetables, and treats in a reusable lunch container
- cloth napkins
- stainless-steel forks and spoons
- reusable drink containers
- reusable lunchboxes

With this type of lunch, lunch food items can be bought in larger quantities. The packaging can be left at home for reuse or recycling. Waste-free lunches are not only a wise environmental choice, but they are less expensive as well.

A typical waste-free lunch costs about \$2.65 whereas the disposable lunch is about \$4.00. Over the course of a school year, switching from disposable to waste-free could result in a savings of about \$250! Multiply that savings by the number of children you have in school and that's no small change.

*Earth buck tokens can be redeemed on the last Wednesday of the month for prizes. If anyone would like to contribute prizes to the prize box, they would be greatly appreciated. In the spirit of recycling, they should be re-gifts, don't go out and buy new things. For more information or if you would like to help with the program, contact Joannie Siegler, RISE leader, Patwin at jmsiegler@hotmail.com.

Running Club Update

All students are invited to join running club. Permission slips are available in the office or at CDC. We meet out at the Patwin field, starting at 2:35 and ending at 3:35, on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons.

If it is raining up to an hour before 2:35, then running club is cancelled.

From the Editor

If you ever want to unsubscribe or change your options (eg, switch to or from digest mode, change your password, etc.), visit your subscription page at: http://mail.cvbig.org/mailman/options/patwin_pta_announce/patwinpta%40gmail.com

The "Environmental Five" Thanked

I've taken too long to write about five fifth grade girls who have taken on the project of helping with the composting and recycling of lunch time waste. Early on in the school year, they asked if they could help with the waste reduction program at Patwin. And they have done so with great determination. From Ms. Birse's class, they are Hannah Lomas, Kimmy Alchek, Karen Grotjahn and Marissa Randsell. From Ms. Britz-Diaz's class is Anna Grotjahn.



They have faithfully taken the fruit and veggie waste to the compost, and helped with ensuring that 5th and 6th graders sort their waste when lunch is over. Last week they emptied the three compost holders to reveal wonderful soil that is now available for use in the Patwin gardens. Plans are also in the making for them to clean up the compost area and make a nice flower garden there. This very ambitious, helpful group of girls should be commended for their contribution to Patwin. If you see them around, give them a big thank you.

Joannie Siegler, RISE leader, Patwin

Bike Exchange Corner

Do you have a bike in good condition that your kids have outgrown? Does your child need a bike? Welcome to the Patwin Bike Exchange!

Please contact Bike Exchange coordinators Jill Van Zanten (jillvz@integrity.com or 758-7667) or Angelica Herrera (753-2084) if you are interested in the listings below, or if you have a bike offer or bike need (give age & gender of child/size of bike). Names of donors & recipients will be kept confidential.

BIKES NEEDED:

BIKES OFFERED:

12 inch Huffy Boys bike w/ training wheels
16" red unisex (age 6-8)
20" blue girl's (age 8-10)

KIDS' BIKES IN GOOD CONDITION ONLY, PLEASE.

Disclaimer: By participating in the Patwin Bike Exchange, you agree to hold neither the bike donor nor anyone affiliated with Patwin Elementary School or Patwin PTA responsible or liable for any circumstance resulting from a Patwin Bike Exchange-related gifting or communication.