



Patwin Elementary

Newsletter

February 25, 2008

Visit our web site: www.patwinelementary.com

Calendar of Events

Date	Day	Time	Event
2-28-08	Thursday	3:05 pm	Student Council Meeting (Room 21)
2-28-08	Thursday	3:15 pm	Variety Show Practice (MPR)
2-29-08	Friday		End of 2nd Trimester
2-29-08	Friday	8:40 am and 6:00 pm	Patwin Variety Show (MPR)
3-3-08 to 3-7-08	Monday - Friday		Parent Conference Week— 1:30 Dismissal All Week
3-3-08 to 3-7-08	Monday - Friday	1:30 - 3:30 5:30 - 7:30 W	Spring Book Fair (Library)
3-5-08	Wednesday		School Spirit Day: Look Alike Day
3-5-08	Wednesday		Walkathon T-Shirt Entries Due
3-13-08	Thursday	3:05 pm	Student Council Meeting (Room 21)
3-17-08	Monday	7:00 - 8:00 pm	Kindergarten Information Night
3-20-08	Thursday	9:00 - 3:00	Kindergarten Registration for 2008-09
3-24-08 to 3-28-08	Monday - Friday		School Holiday: Spring Break
4-5-08	Saturday	9:00 - 1:00	Patwin Walkathon

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,

Four years ago when I walked onto the Patwin Elementary School campus as the interim principal, I never, for a moment, imagined that I would become the permanent principal and remain at Patwin through the 2007-2008 school year. I did remain and that decision proved to be one of the best decisions I have made in my career. I have truly enjoyed my four years of working with Patwin students and their parents, the school staff, and the school district personnel. After 38 years in the profession, however, I find that it is time for me to retire. I will retire as the principal of Patwin and Fairfield Schools effective June 30 of this year.

Without a doubt, I will miss the daily interaction with students,

staff and parents. As all new retirees, I hope to find enough activities to fill the void I will have from leaving a most active position.. My plans are to keep physically fit, play golf regularly, finish reading the numerous books that I have started, learn to play my banjo, do some fishing, and enjoy a more relaxed life with my wife and son.

I would like to thank the Patwin School community for all of the support you have given me. Your volunteering for the numerous offices, jobs, committees and events at school and the quality work you have done in those roles have kept Patwin School alive and well. I thank the students, who are without question the best in California, for their cooperation and compliance with the many requests and demands

that a school principal places on his students. And, I would like to thank and acknowledge our expert school staff for their following of my leadership these four years. I have looked forward to going to work every day that I have worked at Patwin.

As we go through the last months of the school year I will assist the school staff and community in any way that I can in the selection process of a new principal. I am sure this will be a smooth transition. I look forward to seeing you all in the community in the years to come. Thank you for the Patwin experience. You are all Patwinners!

Sincerely,

Michael R. Parker.

Quilts for Kids

Davis is pleased to announce that it has adopted Quilts for Kids, Inc. (www.quiltsforkids.org). We are a 501c3, non-profit charity that makes quilts from donated fabric to donate to children with life-threatening illnesses, under going long term medical care in our community. Currently we are asking for 100% cotton fabric (preferably juvenile prints, solids and flannels), batting, and thread donations. All donations are tax deductible. We are also looking for volunteers to help make the crib size quilts. If you are interested in either donating or volunteering, please contact Cindy Nelson, davisqfk@comcast.net.

Running Club Update

Congratulations to the following Patwin marathoners this past week: Andrea Cheng, Maya Miramontes, Joshua Lien, and Rida Jan. They all ran 104 laps equal to 26 total miles. They each received their Fleet Feet "I ran a marathon" t-shirt. Super Job!

And a big congratulations to Corey Juaquinod on his 2nd marathon! WOW! Great running out there.



Vision Screening

Students in K and 3rd grades will have their vision screened by an optometrist on March 11, 2008. No medication will be used. You will be notified if any problem is found.

Any students in the 1st and 4th grade who were not examined by the optometrist will also have their vision checked. If a 6th grader had a vision deficit during vision screening by the school nurse, they will be examined by the optometrist as well.

Book Fair Hours

Come one, come all on a Reading Road Trip—Monday, March 3rd through Friday, March 7th.

Our Spring Scholastic Book Fair is coming soon! Don't miss out on the fun!

Monday through Friday, from 1:30 to 3:30;
Kindergarten Day, Tuesday from 11:50 to 1:30
Family Night, Wednesday from 5:30 to 7:30

Book Fair Volunteers Needed

Come join the Reading Road Trip Team and help make our Spring Book Fair a huge success! The Book Fair provides funds and books for our school.

Volunteers are needed to staff the Reading Road Trip Book Fair from March 3 through March 7. Shifts are available each day from 1:30 to 3:30, Kindergarten Day (March 4) from 11:50 to 1:30, and on Family Night (March 5) from 5:30 to 7:30 pm.

Volunteers also needed to set-up on Friday, February 29 from

10:00 to 3:30 and break down on Friday, March 7 from 3:00 to 6:00. You can work anywhere from 30 minutes to 2 hours+ and feel free to bring your young helpers.

The Bottom Line: We need YOU to make our book fair a success!

To sign up to volunteer mail Terri Clarke at Tclarke190@aol.com with your available date(s) and time(s) or see the sign up sheet on the PTA Bulletin Board.

Thanks in advance for helping our school by volunteering!

Patwin Walkathon 2008 is Coming!

Mark your calendars for Saturday, April 5th, from 9:00am-1:00pm and get ready to "Put a Spring in Your Step!" Have your kids told you about marching with the Cal Aggie Band's amazing drum major and drummers at the kickoff assembly on Wednesday? The entire Patwin student body got to do a practice lap around the walkathon route, and now everyone knows how fun and easy it is to both support our school and stay healthy!

Important things to remember:

- Students should turn in their t-shirt designs to their teachers by March 5th. Designs should be done in black ink on a white 8 ½ x 11 inch paper with their name on the back. The contest is open to the whole school and the design should reflect the theme, Put a Spring in Your Step.
- Everyone who raises \$20 in pledge money will receive a t-shirt.
- Sponsor sheets should have come home with students last week. Please note that walkers will be asking for lump sum donations this year, not pledges per lap. Everyone who turns in their sponsor forms and money by March 14th will receive a prize!
- Remember to bring a pair of new socks or underwear (to be donated to STEAC) on the day of the event to receive a free lap!
- Parents or siblings who want to walk with Patwin students and raise money can get sponsor forms in the school office.

Finally, volunteers are needed! Call Grace DeMasi at 753-8609 or look for the signup sheet coming soon to the PTA bulletin board! Remember, walking in or helping out at the Walkathon supports all of the ways that the PTA helps make Patwin a great school for our children—even more important now in light of the budget cuts coming our way!

Walkathon T-Shirt Design Contest



Patwin needs a really cool t-shirt for the 2008 Walkathon. We are holding a t-shirt design contest and we are hoping for entries from every one of you. If selected, your design will be worn by all participants in this year's walkathon.

The theme for this year is "Put a Spring in Your Step". All entries must be on an 8½ X 11" (standard size) white paper, with your design in black ink.

You must submit your entry to your teacher by Wednesday, March 5, 2008. Please put your name, room number and teacher's name on the back of your paper,

We can hardly wait to see your designs! Thank you for your participation.



- Running Club meets each Tuesday and Thursday from 2:35 to 3:35 at the Patwin Field. Running Club will be cancelled if it is raining up to 1 hour before 2:35.
- A Waste-Free Wednesday Lunch includes: reusable lunch container; cloth napkins; stainless-steel forks and spoons; reusable drink containers; and reusable lunchboxes
- Cupcake Sale this week! Please come out this Wednesday, February 27th, to support Mrs. Ponciano's class. 
- School Savings deposits are collected each THURSDAY morning from 8:10 to 8:25 outside the MPR
- Music Club meets each Thursday from 3:10 to 3:45.
- Recycle, help the earth, and support the fourth grade class's trip to Malakoff Diggins this spring! Please bring your aluminum cans to the bin outside room 15. 

Leap Into the Arts

The Davis School Arts Foundation is inviting the community to celebrate Leap Year with a month-long "Leap Into the Arts" starting February 29 with the opening of an elementary school art exhibition at the Davis Art Center.

The annual elementary school art exhibition at the Davis Art Center featuring original student art from Davis public elementary schools on display February 29 through March 20. The public is invited to view the exhibition during the Art Center's regular hours of 10 am to 6 pm Monday through Friday.

The annual Young at Art Festival from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday, March 16, at the Davis Art Center featuring hands-on art projects for kids of all ages and music, singing, and dance performances. Admission and performances are free but tickets will be sold for

a small charge for each project or game.

Lamppost Pizza is supporting DSAF during California Arts Education Month by donating a portion of proceeds from all pizzas sold to customers with a DSAF coupon. The coupons will be distributed at Davis public schools and available at the Davis Art Center.

DSAF is encouraging all K-12 classroom teachers to use the month of March to apply for a Harmony Music grant or Watermelon Gumball Music grant to support a music education program in the 2008-2009 school year. DSAF will award more than \$10,000 in grants from \$500 to \$1,500 each. Applications are due April 4. For details, visit the DSAF website at www.dcn.davis.ca.us/go/dsaf.

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). Bike size is determined by measuring the diameter of the wheel rim. Names of donors & recipients will be kept confidential.

BIKES NEEDED	BIKES OFFERED
14 or 16 inch girl's bike	12-inch orange unisex bike w/ training wheels
14" or 16" boy's bike for a 1st grader, training wheels a bonus	12-inch red unisex bike
	12-inch Huffy boy's bike w/ training wheels

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.

Dialogue with Dr. Deborah

Dear Dr. Deborah:

I have kids in our school district and I work in the district. I am having a lot of anxiety over the changes ahead due to the published \$4,000,000 that must be cut in our budget. I am personally anxious, but also worried about the impact on my kids and all of our students. Change is so hard!!

Anxious Mom

Dear Anxious Mom and Fellow Staff Member:

Yes, change is indeed hard for everyone impacted. While the particular changes coming to our district are mandated by the state, the literature suggests the more committed we are, both as staff members and parents, to having a voice in the change processes that must occur, the more we can readily accept the changes and feel ownership for them.

First to address your personal anxieties: None of us want the cuts that are inevitable in this monetary climate, but we are fortunate to have several venues offered by our new superintendent and school board to express our views and be a part of the change process. The literature suggests the more constituencies (teachers, staff, parent groups, community members) that participate in the offered venues related to the changes that must be made, the greater likelihood that the adverse consequences of limited resources will be diluted (*Revisiting The Culture of The School and the Problem*

of Change, Seymour Sarason, 1996).

Secondly, to address the possible impact on your children: There is of course going to be an impact on all of our kids in ways that are yet to be fully decided. This impact might look like larger classes, fewer offerings, fewer support staff, and less money for supplies and equipment, or a myriad of other scenarios. I think we use this episode in the life of our school community as a teachable moment with our children. We talk about our system of government, the benefits of public education, the importance of being careful with and thankful for the resources we do possess. I do not think it is too soon to introduce the concept of how blessed we are in our country relative to the majority of the world's families. Is all of this ideal? Of course not! But it is also not the end of life or school as we have known it. The academic success of our children, as well as the development of their characters, is all of our concerns. We can model strength in the time of adversity and demonstrate how to problem-solve when times are difficult for our children. Teaching them these skills will help them prepare for the challenges they will have as adult decision makers in years to come.

Until next month,
Dr. Deborah

Please respond to Dialogue with Dr. Deborah. Forward any comments, questions, or any concerns to Deborah Kimokeo, DJUSD District Prevention/Intervention Manager. Email: dkimokeo@djUSD.k12.ca.us & Phone: 757-5400x133.

Patwin Web Site Server Change

The newsletter staff would like to apologize to all for any delays in receiving the last issue. Our website and newsletter are now on a new host server. Many thanks to Eric Engelhard who has been managing our web site and worked through the hurdles.

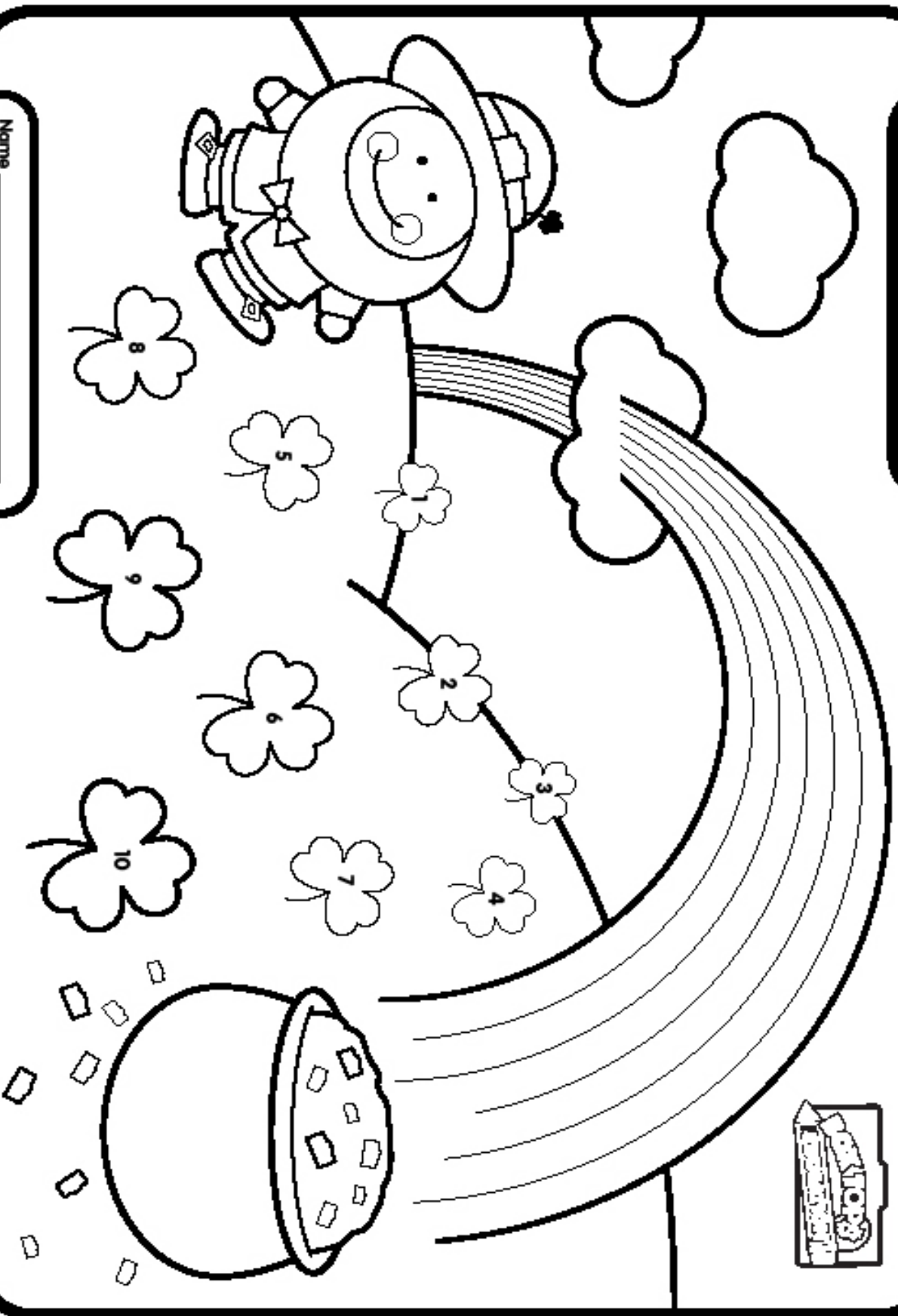
Please note that future emails will now come through a new domain: mailman.dcn.org. Please update your contact lists accordingly so that your newsletter notification is not lost in your junk mail. If you would like to add or update your email account for receiving notifications from the PTA, please visit <http://www2.dcn.org/mailman/listinfo/patwin-pta-announce/>.

New Kindergarten Registration Process!

This year we are trying something new at Patwin. We are inviting incoming kindergarten children to meet with the kindergarten teachers on registration day, March 20 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Teachers will be performing a simple assessment to help balance classes and plan curriculum for the fall.

Please sign up for a 15 minute appointment in the office, at Kindergarten Information Night, or by calling 757-5394. Kindergarten Information Night will be on March 17 from 7:00 to 8:00 pm in Room 2.

Box Tops are as good
as gold for your school!



Name _____

Grade _____

Teacher's Name _____

Thank you for helping! Every Box Top you collect is worth 10¢ for your school.
For more collection worksheets and projects, go to www.boxtops4education.com/activitycenter