



# Patwin Elementary

March 31, 2008 Newsletter

Visit our web site: [www.patwinelementary.com](http://www.patwinelementary.com)

## Calendar of Events

Date	Day	Time	Event
3/31/08	Monday	7:00 pm	DJUSD Special Board Meeting (Emerson Junior High)
4/5/08	Saturday	9:00 - 1:00	Patwin Walkathon
4/9/08	Wednesday		Open House
5/2/08	Friday	1:15 - 3:05	Battle of the Books (4th, 5th, 6th graders)
5/26/08	Monday		School Holiday: Memorial Day
6/4/08	Wednesday		Kindergarten Patwin Day
6/6/08	Friday		Patwin Day

- Running Club meets Tuesday and Thursdays from 2:35 to 3:35. Running Club will be cancelled if it is raining up to 1 hour before 2:30.
- A Waste-Free Wednesday Lunch includes: reusable lunch container; cloth napkins; stainless-steel forks and spoons; reusable drink containers; and reusable lunchboxes
- There will be no cupcake sale this Wednesday. The cupcake sale will return on April 9.
- School Savings deposits are collected each THURSDAY morning from 8:10 to 8:25 outside the MPR
- Music Club meets on Thursdays 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.
- 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/>.

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](mailto: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](http://www.patwinelementary.com)

## Train of States

Be sure to stop by all the fifth grade classrooms on Open House night, April 9. Thanks to a grant from the Robert E. Willett Educational Fund, each fifth grade student has been able to build a circus boxcar to represent a state in our fantabulous TRAIN OF STATES project. You won't want to miss this exciting exhibit! See you at Open House!"

## Congratulations to Nature Bowl Team

Congratulations to the Patwin Nature Bowl teams of 2008! At the Nature Bowl semi-finals held on March 13th, Lanna Kozlowski, Gabriella Maffly, Lyla Schoenig and Annie Schmidt did a fantastic job working together, qualifying for the finals. The 5th grade team of Rachel Eya, Aaron Hirst, Gabriel Leal, Aviva North, Alyssa Ponferrada, Phoebe Ross, Katie Sanger and Anna Seban also did a spectacular job, with great presentations and teamwork in all events. Good job!

## Battle of the Books!

The Battle of the Books for fourth through sixth graders will take place **Friday, May 2nd from 1:15 to 3:05**. Parent volunteers are needed to help out as judges. Please contact Mrs. Chason at [wchason@djuds.k12.ca.us](mailto:wchason@djuds.k12.ca.us) or call the library at 757-5393 to sign up.

## Option for Emerson Junior High

At the board meeting on March 20, as we hope you all watched, the board has narrowed the options for closing Emerson to "Option A" and "Option G". Information about these options can be found at the district website. It appears that they will be looking into these options and possible variations of these options.

The district staff and the board has obviously worked very hard on this issue, has been obviously listening to public concern based on their questions and ideas, and should be commended for their rapt attention to this matter. A "thank you" is in order.

1. Please consider the "Dollar A Day" campaign launched by the Davis Schools Foundation. Funds need to be collected to offset some of the drastic cuts which have delivered "pink slips" to the people who influence YOUR child's life every day. However, this support is not a permanent solution.

2. Start thinking about a parcel tax which could be a more permanent solution to not only keep Emerson open, but fund district-wide programs and beef-up our "rainy day fund" so we would not be so afraid to use it in times of crisis. If this isn't a "rainy day", I don't know what is. As, our own mayor pointed out, this would not be an excessive tax.

3. Ask the district and the board to make an effort to produce and present easily available and easily understood, information. I was amazed to hear we do not have key information which would allow us to make informed decisions.

Again, I think we owe a great deal of thanks to our Board and district staff for their hard work. However, there is a great deal more that needs to be accomplished. It will be a long and bumpy road for us all.

There will be a special meeting discussing the options on Monday, March 31, 7:00 PM at Emerson Junior High. Your input is crucial to determining the fate of Emerson. All of you support thus far has truly made a difference in having our concerns appropriately addressed.

## DJUSD

### Board Meeting

There will be a special meeting of the DJUSD Board of Education this Monday, March 31 at 7:00 pm at Emerson Junior High to discuss the options for the Junior High. Patwin parents are encouraged to attend.

# It's Almost Time to Put a Spring in Your Step at Patwin Walkathon 2008!!!

See you this Saturday, April 5th, from 9:00am-1:00pm—Rain or Shine, so come prepared!

- Come enjoy all the wonderful entertainment—the Cal Aggie Band-uh, Hardwater, DHS Madrigals, UCD Cheerleaders, Music Matt, Emerson Jazz Band, a jump rope team from North Davis, Pallen's Martial Arts, and Frank "Magic Man" Starsinic!
- It's not too late to turn in your forms and money to the box in the office, or you can even sign up at the event—but make sure to bring your parent to sign the permission slip.
- Everyone who raises \$20 in pledge money will receive a t-shirt.
- 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!
- Bring some money to buy yummy food and raffle tickets!
- All registered walkers get a Patwin water bottle at check-in!

Come help out, volunteers are still needed! Call Grace DeMasi at 753-8609! With your help the Walkathon will be a fabulous, community-building event—something we could all use right about now!

## DHS Choral Workshop

The Davis High School Madrigal Singers will be presenting a "Seminar of Song" directed by Dr. Karen Gardias for students in grades K-12. The Seminar will be held on Saturday, April 5 from 1:00 to 4:30 pm in the Performing Arts Building at Davis Senior High.

The cost is \$15 per person and includes a commemorative t-shirt (though supplies not guaranteed with registration after March 19). A limited number of scholarships are available.

Registration forms and information are available online at [www.dhsmadrigals.org](http://www.dhsmadrigals.org). Registration at the door is also welcome. You may also contact Carol Rosset at 753-9237 or via email at [crosset@sbcglobal.net](mailto:crosset@sbcglobal.net).

## Garnival!

*Sponsored by Emerson Junior High PTA*

**APRIL 10-13**

Thursday (4:00 pm - 10:00 pm)

Friday (4:00 pm - 10:00 pm)

Saturday (11:00 am - 11:00 pm)

Sunday (12 noon - 10:00 pm)

at

**Cannery Park  
J & Covell, Davis**

**Free Admission**

Music ~ Food ~ Games ~ Bike Corral ~ Free Parking  
Unitrans Lines E P Q and YoloBus #42

Visit student booths for fun! Activities! Prizes!  
Support enriched education while you and your family have fun!

Carnival Rides - including the Zipper, Century Wheel, Cliff Hanger & Loli Swings. Unlimited ride 1-day pass: \$20 (advance) or \$25 (at the gate); or pay by the ride. Advance purchases available now at: Carousel Stationery, 706 2nd Street, Davis. To purchase by email: [EmersonCarnival@gmail.com](mailto:EmersonCarnival@gmail.com)

**Thanks to Lewis Planned Communities for its support!**

# What's Going on at the Library?

By Wendy Chason, Patwin Librarian, Holmes Junior High

If you are the parent of a Third Grader at Patwin, you probably heard about our annual Battle of the Books that took place on March 14th. Almost all of our third graders participated and had a great day. I would like to thank the following parents and students for helping out as judges: Sandy Batchelor, Julie Kuo, Uta Russell, Teresa McIssac and Bill Sutcliffe. In addition four of our sixth graders who have participated and won battles since third grade helped out as well: Spencer Salk, Ajay Klein, Brandon Strong and Nathan DeRopp. I would also like to thank my staff members, Meera Klein (who was our scorekeeper) and Lynne Sundstrom who helps coordinate signups, teams and volunteers. We also have enjoyed hosting third graders from Fairfield Elementary School who join us for our Book Battle. You can see it takes a team effort to put this wonderful reading program together for our students.

The week before Spring break, fourth-sixth graders were introduced to the titles they will be reading for their battle which will take place, FRIDAY, MAY 2ND from 1:15 – 3:05. All titles are available at the Patwin Library, Davis Branch Library, for sale at Borders Books and the Avid Reader. Once again we are eager to have parents volunteer to help out as judges (you don't have to read the books to judge). Please email me at school: [wchason@djuds.k12.ca.us](mailto:wchason@djuds.k12.ca.us) if you are available or call the library at 757-5393.

## Battle of the Books!

Titles for 4th-6th grade battle:  
*Becoming Winn Dixie*, by Kate DiCamillo  
*Ella Enchanted*, by Gail Carson Levine  
*The Homework Machine*, by Dan Gutman  
*The Magician's Nephew*, by C. S. Lewis  
*Peter and the Starcatchers*, by Dave Barry and Ridley Pearson  
*The Seven Wonders of Sassafras Springs*, by Betty Birney  
*The Tale of Despereaux*, by Kate DiCamillo  
*Time for Andrew* by Mary Downing Hahn

Other research and reading activities that are going on in the next few months are: The California Young Reader Medal books and voting for students in grades K-3, fourth graders will be reading and evaluating the Caldecott Medal Award books and putting together a summary of their favorite titles; fifth graders finished their month long study of a Newbery Award book and will now move on to researching an American Hero. This project introduces our students to a variety of reference tools, both print and non print as they research an American that had a lasting impact on our country's history. Sixth graders have finished a variety of reference book activities and will now research a country of their choice as they begin a month long project based research program that explores a

wide scope of reference tools and Internet sites.

During Parent Conference Week, the library turns into a bookstore for our families. Co-chairs Teri Clarke and Carin Sloane work incredibly hard to raise monies for our school library. They share some of the week's work with several parent volunteers, but I want to particularly thank these two hardworking parents for all their time and energy while they juggle their own children, parent conferences and family life during this busy week.

As I write this article for you as parents, I am deeply concerned about the status of librarians, music and science teachers for next year. I know many of you are following the numerous news articles, board meetings and agendas that will deeply affect the outcome of your child's learning in the coming years. I am working very hard with other colleagues to help raise funds with the Davis Schools Foundation, but the reality is that the community will determine the outcome of many of our outstanding programs for our students. In addition, those of you in West Davis, have the added burden of wondering where your students will attend junior high. At this writing, that has not yet been determined. However, we all must pitch in and help fund programs for our children. My own children who are now adults had wonderful learning opportunities in the Davis schools, and I want those same choices extended to the young people I work with each day in my school libraries.

## Family Living

As part of the Health and PE Committee's goal to help kids learn the skills they need to make healthy decisions for themselves throughout their lifetimes, we are starting a weekly article in the Patwin newsletter with ideas about how to do just that. The best way for children to learn these ideas is through their families and their community.

We will collect and describe ideas from all of you about healthy snacks, lunches and dinners and inform you about seasonal and local vegetables and fruits. In this new part of the newsletter, we will also be writing about great ways to

exercise with your family and fun places for families to get outside this spring and summer.

The first of this series of articles will be in early April and will give ideas for healthy snacks and lunches for your kids. We need your suggestions! So, if any of you - parents and children - have any favorite things to eat in a snack or lunch that is healthy (low fat, low sugar, full of vitamins and minerals), please email your suggestions to Grant Taylor at [ranchette05@earthlink.net](mailto:ranchette05@earthlink.net) or Annie Hargadon at [aphargadon@gmail.com](mailto:aphargadon@gmail.com). Thank you for your participation and we look forward to hearing from you!

## Wennberg Festival

Come and see what the amazing Davis Public School orchestral music program has accomplished this year. Led by the phenomenal directors Angelo Moreno, Greg Brucker and Kim Cole, 5 orchestras with musicians ages 10 - 18, will perform for the community. The Concerto Competition winner, 16 yr old Angela Yeung, will perform Beethoven's Concerto No. 3 in C Minor. Whether you are a community member, budding musician, or a supporter of the arts from across the country, this festival will prove the value of music in our schools.

The Wennberg Festival (12th Annual) will take place Saturday, April 12, at 2:30pm at The UC Davis Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts. Tickets available, \$8-16.00, at the box office, [www.mondaviarts.org](http://www.mondaviarts.org) or by calling: 866-754-2787. More information at: [http://www.mondaviarts.org/events/event.cfm?event\\_id=554](http://www.mondaviarts.org/events/event.cfm?event_id=554).

## 6th Grade End of Year Party

Attention parents of Patwin 6th grade students. As the school year nears the end, it is time to think about Patwins' 6th grade send off party. This party is planned, organized and given by wonderful volunteer parents. The 6th grade students, and teachers are our special guests.

Please come to a planning committee meeting on April 16,

2008, 7:00pm at the Patwin office. We can use all the help we can get! Questions? Please contact Suzanne Morgan, 756-5357.

## Save the Date!

Patwin Day 2008 will be held on Wednesday, June 4 for Kindergarteners and on Friday, June 6 for first through sixth graders. We will need volunteers for both days as well as donations of rubber bands, small jars, and rolled newspapers.

Please contact Bike Exchange coordinators Jill Van Zanten ([jillvz@integrity.com](mailto: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 and recipients will be kept confidential. Kids' bikes in good condition only, please.

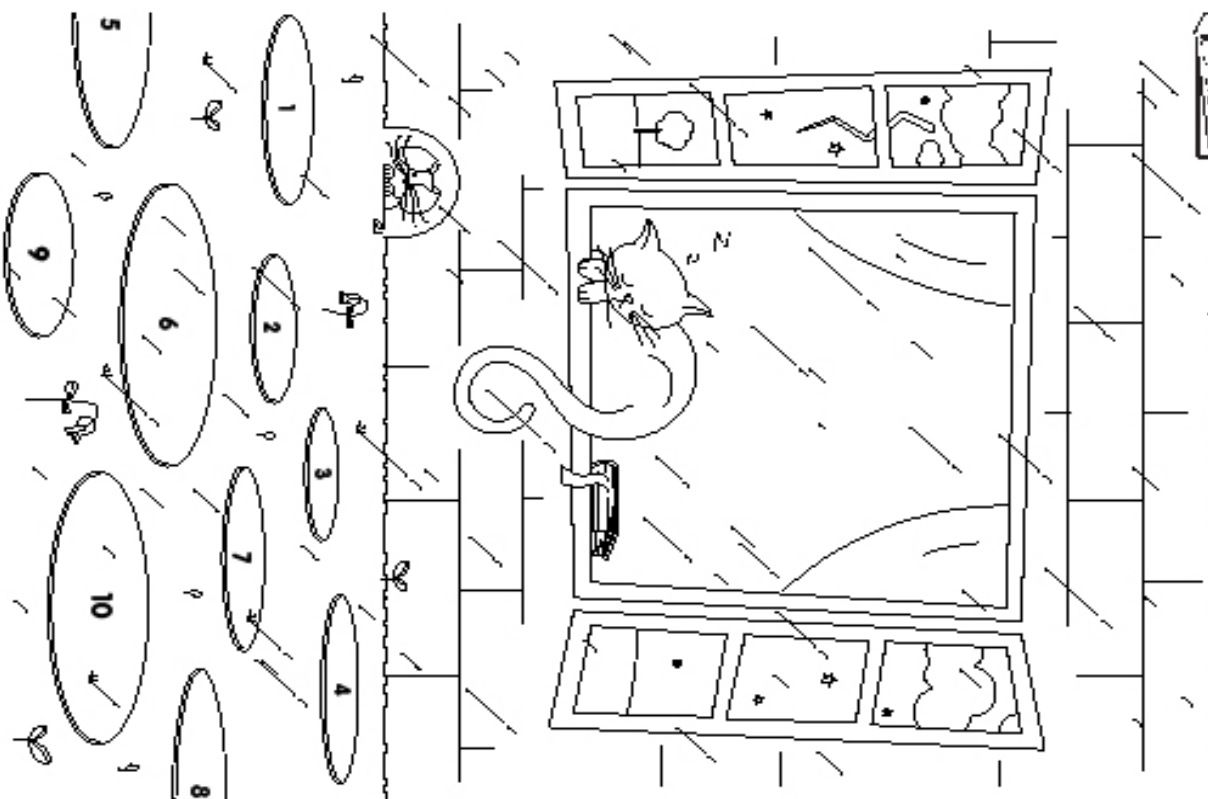
## Patwin Bike Exchange

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

*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.*



April showers...bring May flowers



Name \_\_\_\_\_

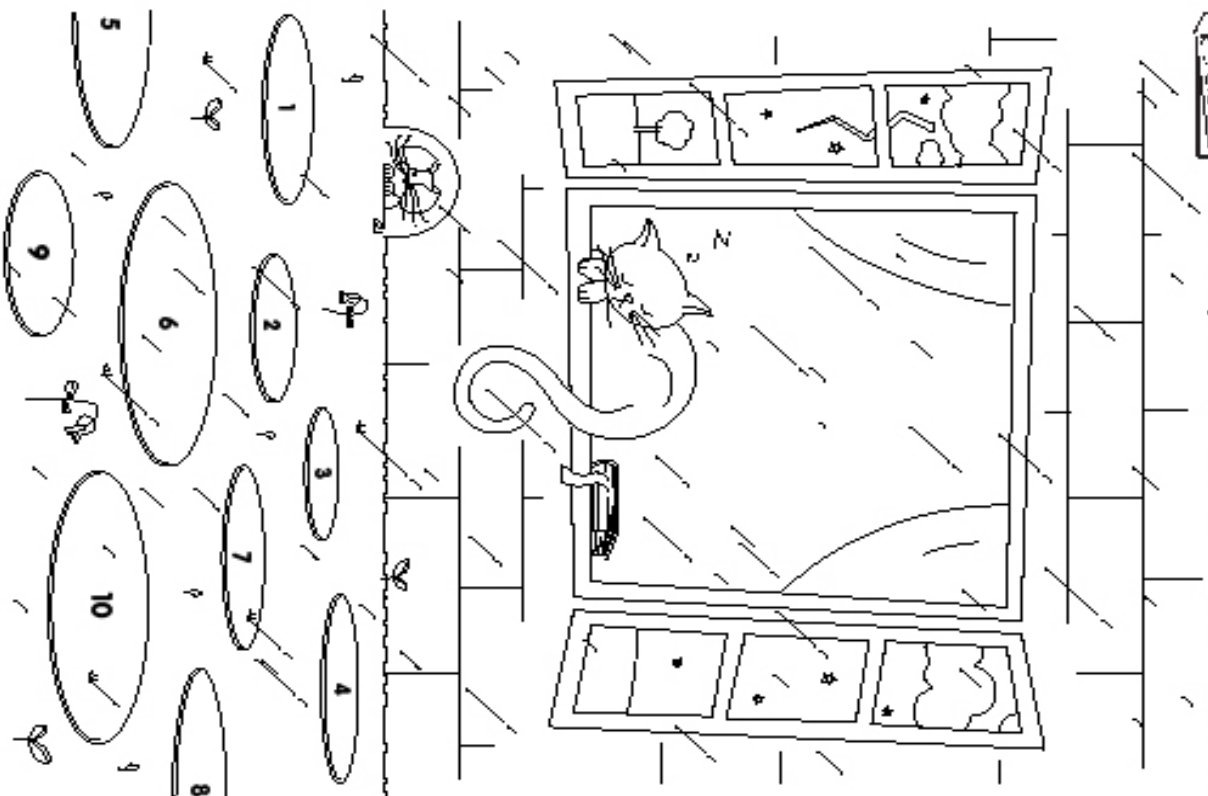
Grade \_\_\_\_\_

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](http://www.boxtops4education.com/activitycenter)



April showers...bring May flowers



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](http://www.boxtops4education.com/activitycenter)