



# Patwin Elementary

October 20, 2008 Newsletter

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

## Calendar of Events

DATE	DAY	TIME	EVENT
10/21/08	Tuesday	6:30 pm	PTA Meeting (Library)
10/22/08	Wednesday	6:30 pm	6th Grade Walker Creek Trip Parent Meeting
10/29/08	Wednesday	12:00 pm	Kindergarten Scavenger Hunt (MPR Courtyard)
10/30/08	Thursday	2:45 & 3:10 pm	Scavenger Hunt (MPR Courtyard)
10/30/08	Thursday	1:30 - 3:30 pm	Book Fair Set-up (Library)
10/31/08	Friday		School Holiday: Teacher Work Day
11/3-11/7/08	Monday-Friday	1:30 pm	Parent Conference Week: Early Dismissal (First through Sixth Grades)
11/3-11/6/08	Monday-Thursday	1:30 - 3:30 pm	Scholastic Book Fair (Library)
11/3/08	Monday	4:30 pm	Climate Committee Meeting
11/4/08	Tuesday		Election Day (Polls in MPR)
11/5/08	Wednesday	5:30 - 8:00 pm	Book Fair Family Night (Library)
11/7/08	Friday	8:30 - complete	Book Fair Breakdown & Clean up (Library)
11/11/08	Tuesday		School Holiday: Veteran's Day
11/24-28/08	Monday-Friday		School Holiday: Thanksgiving

### Compliments and Thank Yous!

Parents are invited to add compliments and thank you's to our compliment and thank you wall in the office. They are shared with staff weekly and can really brighten a day. We want to also thank all the parents who help Patwin be such a positive place!

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 12:00 noon. Articles should be e-mailed to the editors at [patwineditor@gmail.com](mailto:patwineditor@gmail.com). Please include a contact name and phone number.

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Michelle Azevedo, Principal • Terri Clarke, PTA President  
[www.patwinelementary.org](http://www.patwinelementary.org)

# DID YOU KNOW...?

The **CLIMATE COMMITTEE** meets the first Monday of the month at 4:30. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend.

A **WASTE-FREE** Lunch includes: reusable lunch container; cloth napkins; stainless-steel forks and spoons; reusable drink containers; and reusable lunchboxes. **EARTH BUCKS** are given out on **MAKE-NO-WASTE MONDAYS**.

**RUNNING CLUB** meets Tuesday and Thursdays from 2:35 to 3:35. Permission slips **MUST** be signed by parents prior to participation. Forms are available in the office, at the CDC, at the field, and on our website.

**RECYCLE**, help the earth, and support the fourth grade class's trip to Malakoff Diggins next spring! Please bring your aluminum cans to the bin outside room 15.

**PTA EMAIL NOTIFICATION LIST:** 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/>.

## District News Flash—No More Cupcake Sales

Due to legal reasons we will no longer be selling cupcakes on Wednesday.

This law has been on the books for a while now, but has been overlooked due to fundraising needs. It will no longer be overlooked, so from now on no homebaked goods may be sold at school functions and no baked goods may be sold before 1/2 hour after the last school bell has rung.

## PTA Meeting Tuesday: Agenda

All parents are invited to attend the PTA meeting to be held this **Tuesday, October 21 at 6:30 pm** in the Library. Items on the agenda include:

- Increase in PTA Dues
- 2007/08 Audit
- 6th Grade Community Service – 20 Hours
- Unfundraiser Information
- Principal's Report (Cupcake Sales- no more- District Policy, School Climate, Community Service, Site Council Elections, etc.)
- Block Scheduling – Frequently Asked Questions Answered.
- Budget – Where do you want PTA Money Going?
- Parent Education Meetings – What topics do you want to have discussed?

## Block Schedule

Do you want to know more about the new Block Schedule? Come to the **PTA meeting this Tuesday at 6:30 in the library** and find out the answers to these Frequently Asked Questions!

Q: How are students assessed and then placed in appropriate groups?

Q: What curriculum and strategies are used during this time for each grade level and each group?

Q: How often will student be assessed and possibly moved to a new group?

Q: Will teachers be rotating what they teach during the block time?

Q: What is the purpose of the block schedule?

Q: Has any other school in the district used the block schedule? With what results?

Q: Will there ever be a block schedule for Math?

Q: How will information be communicated back to my child's home teacher?

Q: How will information be communicated to me about my child's progress during the block schedule?

Q: Why are we implementing the block schedule now?

Q: What do we have in place to support students and teachers during this time?

## Join our Bookfair Safari!

The Scholastic Bookfair will be at our school Monday, November 3 through Thursday, November 6. **We desperately need volunteers to help during the dates and times listed below.** Also, two additional parents are needed to help run the cash register every day.

Date	Time	Event	Lead
Thursday, 10/30	1:30 - 3:30	Set up	
Monday, 11/3	1:15 - 3:45	Book Fair	T. Clarke
Tuesday, 11/4	11:15 - 1:30	Kindergarten	T. Clarke
Tuesday, 11/4	1:15 - 3:45	Book Fair	C. Sloane
Wednesday, 11/5	1:15 - 3:45	Book Fair	L. Carlock
Wednesday, 11/5	5:15 - 8:15	Family Night	TBA
Thursday, 11/6	1:15 - 3:45	Book Fair	Clarke/Carlock
Friday, 11/7	8:30 - ?	Clean up	

Six grade students may earn Community Services hours helping us decorate prior to the fair and watching the doors (keeping bookbags outside) during the bookfair. Three students are needed Monday through Thursday from 1:30 to 3:30.

A sign up sheet will be posted on the PTA Bulletin Board or if raining in the Library. For more information, contact Terri Clarke at [patwinpta@gmail.com](mailto:patwinpta@gmail.com).

### Book Fair Homepage

Check out Patwin's Book Fair Homepage to find learn more about products!

<http://bookfairs.scholastic.com/bookfairs/cptoolkit/publish/patwin>

## Guess the Weight of the Gigantic Pumpkin!

The 6th grade class is having a "guess the weight of the pumpkin" contest to raise funds for their upcoming trip to Walker Creek. For just 25 cents you guess the pumpkin's weight and the closest guess will get to take it home on October 30th. Enter as many times as you like. Come find us at the lunch tables after school for the next two Wednesdays and see how good you are at estimating the weight of this ginormous pumpkin!



## Scavenger Hunt

Come One, Come All To Patwin's First Scavenger Hunt! Help Us Earn Money For 6th Graders Walker Creek Scholarship Fund. For \$1.00 you can enter into the

### PATWIN SCAVENGER HUNT

**Thursday, October 30**  
**2:45 pm & 3:10 pm**

**Kindergarten Hunt**  
**Wednesday, October 29**  
**12:00 pm.**

**Patwin Elementary School**  
**MPR Courtyard**

**Cost: \$1.00 per person**

Come for the fun and excitement. Enjoy music and a treat afterward

Guess the weight of the Giant Pumpkin for \$0.25; if you get it right you get to take it home.

Please help the 6th Graders Earn Money for the Walker Creek Scholarship Fund, Permission Slips to Participate will be sent home and made available that day.

If you can, please consider donating an additional dollar or two, so that all children in the school that wish to may participate in the Walker Creek Trip.

## Trick or Treat for UNICEF

### PATWIN Kids Helping Kids

Want to go trick-or-treating and save lives at the same time? Read on! "Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF" began in 1950 when a group of kids in Philadelphia collected \$17.00 on Halloween to help children whose countries were devastated by World War 2.

Davis children have participated in Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF for over 25 years, and the students at Patwin raised \$2,949 in 2007! Permission slips are coming home with students now, or you can complete and return the permission slip from this newsletter (to either the classroom or the Patwin office.)

For more information, contact Ann Larsen @ 758-9446 or ann.larsen@sbcglobal.net, or visit [www.unicefusa.org](http://www.unicefusa.org)

UNICEF (the United Nations Children's Fund) is the leading children's organization in the world. A recipient of the Nobel Prize for Peace, UNICEF works in more than 160 countries and territories to provide children with lifesaving medicine, nutrition, clean water, sanitation, education and emergency relief.

Everyone save your change—the Trick-or-Treaters for UNICEF are coming to your house this Halloween!

## YES on Measure W!

Only 2 weeks remain until our community votes to be "lifesavers" for our school programs!

Check out the supplemental information at the end of this newsletter and visit <http://www.yesforourstudents.org/> for more information or contact John Kraft, Patwin YES on W Campaign representative, at [soar49@yahoo.com](mailto:soar49@yahoo.com).

## RENEW Your Safeway ESCRIP

### PLEASE RENEW YOUR SAFEWAY ESCRIP

Every time you use your Safeway Club Card, Patwin PTA can earn money! But each year we must renew our Safeway Club Cards at [escrip.com](http://escrip.com) by November 1 to continue earning for our school.

#### It's Easy to Renew

- Have your Safeway Club Card number available
- Visit [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com)
- Click on "YES RENEW!"

For uninterrupted contributions, renew annually by November 1.

Not a Member Yet? Sign up Today! Your participation can mean hundreds of dollars for Patwin.

- Have your Safeway Club Card number available
- Visit [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com)
- Click on "1- Sign Up"
- Present your Club Card every time you shop and our group earns!

## "Unfundraiser" 2008

Thanks to the following families for their support of this year's donation drive:

Detweiler Roy Fecteau  
Weiss Nichols

Marybeth Selvin on behalf of  
Claire Alongi

So far we are at just under \$8000 and counting, from a total of 90 families. Keep those donations coming in, it's never too late—and remember, every little bit helps!

## Math Advisory Committee

One parent volunteer from Patwin is needed to serve as a representative to the Math Instructional Materials Advisory Committee. The group will advise the District and the Superintendent in the identification of instructional materials for Math in grades K – 8 based on the California Math Standards.

Applications are due by **Thursday, October 30, 2008** for consideration. For more information, please contact Nicole Tillman, Curriculum and Instruction Department Secretary (757-5300 ext 150) or by email at [ntillman@djuds.k12.ca.us](mailto:ntillman@djuds.k12.ca.us) or Diana Zaragoza, Math Specialist (757-5300 ext. 110) or by email at [dzaragoza@djuds.k12.ca.us](mailto:dzaragoza@djuds.k12.ca.us)

## Dialogue with Dr. Deborah

Dear Dr. Deborah,

*How on earth do we explain the current financial crisis to both our young children and our teenagers? We don't know yet know how drastically we are going to be hit by this, but we definitely are going to need to do some "adjusting". We want to use this as a "teachable moment", but not scare or overwhelm them.*—Parents Facing Tough Financial Times

Dear PFTFT,

What a thoughtful and timely question you raise! The Chinese character for crisis and opportunity is the same. Perhaps, the way to look at the bleak financial news we have been receiving is an unexpected gift. The crisis is giving us opportunities to talk to our children about what TRULY matters in life, as well as good financial fitness principles. Using the appropriate language for each developmental level of your children, I would try to get across these points:

1. As your parents, our job is to love, guide and protect you. We will do those things to the best of our ability. We will do all in our power to ensure you receive the things you need to live and be healthy.
2. Money does not equal happiness. We will continue to enjoy our lives together, albeit maybe in some new and simpler ways. Many people all around the world are learning

how to live on less and are re-discovering some of life's more natural, simple pleasures.

3. These new financial circumstances provide us more opportunity as a family to work together for our common good. Families can each other by coming up with some realistic and appropriate ways we each can cut back.
4. This financial crisis reminds us of our responsibility to teach and reinforce the value of learning good financial habits in your youth. These habits include regular, systematic saving, deciding when and if to use credit and how to use it wisely, setting financial goals, and living within your means. We must instruct you in these important things, just as we teach you other important habits of safety, health, and character. We desire to watch you grow into an adult of good character, optimum health, and a strong, independent, wise steward of your available resources.
5. This is a time our family can extend ourselves by reaching out in compassion and lending assistance to those less fortunate than we are. It is important to help our kids understand and appreciate the many blessings we have, even in times of want and during this challenging time in our country's financial history. In this Thanksgiving month, may we reinforce generosity

## Book of the Month

*Raising Financially Fit Kids*  
by: Janet Bodnar (Kaplan Business: 1993, ISBN-10: 1419505164) Also, visit website: <http://www.jumpstart.org>

to others and model for them how to give thanks for what we do have.

Happy Thanksgiving from Dr. Deborah

## Street Smarts Poster Contest

The 2008 Street Smarts Poster Contest is underway. Davis students in grades K-6 are invited to create original Street Smarts messages and artwork focusing on the topics of Proper Helmet Use, Safe Bicycle Riding and Crossing the Street Safely.

There are some great prizes for the finalists (like a portable DVD player and an Apple iPod Shuffle) and the winning poster will be used in Street Smarts materials like newspaper ads and other displays. This is a great opportunity for students to learn more about traffic safety as well as to creatively express themselves.

For details on the contest and an entry form, visit: [www.cityofdavis.org/streetsmarts](http://www.cityofdavis.org/streetsmarts) or contact Crystal O'Hara, Street Smarts coordinator, at 757-5640 or [cohara@cityofdavis.org](mailto:cohara@cityofdavis.org). Contest entries are due by 5:00 pm on October 31.



**Clip and flip!** Save 10 Box Tops and these fishy friends will flip!



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)

# “Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF”



## PATWIN Kids Helping Kids 2008

### Want to go trick-or-treating and save lives at the same time? Read on!

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) is the leading children's organization in the world. A recipient of the Nobel Prize for Peace, UNICEF works in more than 160 countries and territories to provide children with lifesaving medicine, nutrition, clean water, sanitation, education and emergency relief. An estimated 7 million children are saved each year by the efforts of UNICEF and its partners.

### But I'm just a kid. How can I save lives?

"Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF began in 1950 when a group of kids in Philadelphia collected \$17.00 in decorated milk cartons on Halloween to help children whose countries were devastated by World War 2. Over the years, more and more kids got involved. The pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters collected by children add up. As of last year, young people had raised over \$125 million through "Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF."

For the last 25 years, Davis children have participated in Trick-or-Treating for UNICEF. Last year alone, they raised almost \$15,000, including \$2,949 raised by the students at Patwin Elementary! In fact, the children of Davis have been named official "UNICEF Emissaries" by the U.S. Fund for UNICEF in recognition of their contribution to UNICEF. This year we hope to raise more money than ever.

### I'm convinced that kids can help kids. How do I sign up?

Simply return this permission slip to the Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF box in the Patwin School Office by **Tuesday, October 28** so that a collection box can be issued to you. Have questions? Contact Ann Larsen @758-9446 or [ann.larsen@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ann.larsen@sbcglobal.net) or visit [www.unicefusa.org](http://www.unicefusa.org)

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PATWIN SCHOOL

I give permission for \_\_\_\_\_ to collect for "Trick-of-Treat for UNICEF" on October 31. He/She will return the collection box to school on November 3.

Teacher's name \_\_\_\_\_ Room # \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian signature \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

(You don't have to go Trick-or-Treating to collect for UNICEF. Any time is a good time for family members, neighbors and friends to put their spare change in your UNICEF collection box.)

**Have a Happy and Safe Halloween!**

# MEASURE W SUPPLEMENT

## Facts about Measure W

On Tuesday, November 4, voters in the Davis Joint Unified School District will be asked to preserve classroom and educational programs by authorizing an instructional parcel tax. The amount per homeowner funded by this measure is \$120 per year. Apartment owners will be assessed \$50 per unit per year. The tax will last for three years, provides a voluntary exemption for those who are 65 or older, and requires review by a Citizen Oversight Committee. The parcel tax requires a two-thirds Davis voters majority for approval.

Davis has supported education through local parcel taxes since 1984. Prior measures in Davis have passed with 71% to 75% of the vote. This is a record shared with only a handful of districts in California.

## What Measure W Funds

Many of the classroom programs that make Davis schools unique are at risk without a stable funding source from the state. Measure W, an initiative on the November 4 ballot, will provide local funding for three years, allowing the District to preserve:

- Elementary science taught by subject credentialed teachers so that students begin to develop knowledge of biological and physical sciences, laboratory experimentation, and scientific method;
- School librarians teaching information literacy and research skills, sharing a love of reading, and supporting the core curriculum at elementary and secondary schools;
- Music teachers for the elementary instrumental music program and to support instrumental and choral offerings at secondary schools;
- Accessibility to a selection of secondary courses in English, math, science, social science, physical education and foreign language so that students may benefit from all that is offered;
- Lower class sizes for 9th and 10th grade English and math to help students master these subjects at a critical time;
- Athletics and co-curricular offerings such as drama, debate and journalism that provide students opportunities to develop skills and build school community.

## Measure W Funds Existing Programs Only

Measure W, an initiative on the November 4th ballot, maintains and preserves existing academic programs. Many of these programs were rescued in the past year by a private community-wide fundraising drive led by the Davis Schools Foundation. This one-time fundraising effort provided funds directly to Davis schools to avert deep program cuts and teacher lay-offs. The funds raised in this one-time effort were for the 2008-09 academic year only. By contrast, Measure W would preserve school programs in the face of continued state funding cuts over the next three years. Without the funds that would be provided by Measure W, there will be both program and staff cuts next year. The parcel tax requires a two-thirds Davis voters majority for approval.

# MEASURE W SUPPLEMENT

## Measure W

The Davis Joint Unified School District relies on state funding to maintain classroom and educational programs. Currently the District anticipates a \$2.8 million shortfall in state funding for 2008-09.

The Board of Education has placed Measure W on the November 4th ballot to preserve classroom and educational programs. The proposed components of this Measure include:

### ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS:

**Science Teachers:** Specialized science instruction for grades 4-6 (8 science teachers)

**Music Teachers:** Instrumental music instruction (4 music teachers)

**Librarians:** Support student learning and coordinate the school library program with the instructional programs of the district (4 Librarians)

### SECONDARY SCHOOLS:

**Classroom Teachers:** Preserve existing classroom programs including math and science, English, music, physical education, class size reduction for English and math (10 teachers)

**Librarians:** Support student learning and coordinate the school library program with the instructional programs of the district (1.5 Librarians)

**Athletics & Co-curricular Programs:** After school athletic program offerings and teacher support for drama, debate and journalism programs (\$325,000)

## Measure W: Your Questions Answered

### Why do we need this parcel tax?

Davis Schools need Measure W to preserve existing classroom programs, including math, science, English, music, librarians, class size reduction, and athletics. School districts are faced with decreased funding from the current state budget, which this year included no cost of living adjustment. This lack of funding severely limits the district's ability to maintain existing classroom programs. The Board of Education therefore recommended a parcel tax to fund these programs over the next three years.

### What will happen if Measure W does not pass on November 4, 2008?

If voters do not authorize the parcel tax, the school district will be forced to cut \$2.4 million from its annual budget. Every student in our schools will feel the impact of these cuts in reduction to programs, services and teaching staff..

### Does this Measure fund new programs?

This Measure maintains and preserves programs currently funded by one-time funds raised by the community. It DOES NOT fund new programs or include programs funded by other local tax measures.

# MEASURE W SUPPLEMENT

## **Why is DJUSD in a budget crisis and other districts are not?**

DJUSD has a high quality educational program for all our students. Most of our available funds are put directly into services, making us more vulnerable to year to year fluctuations in revenue.

## **How much will it cost?**

The amount per homeowner assessed by Measure W is \$120 per year. Put another way, it would amount to \$10 per month per household.

## **I live in an apartment. Will I pay the tax?**

You will not receive a bill for the parcel tax. Owners, not residents, of multi-unit dwellings will be levied \$50 per unit annually.

## **Are all senior citizens exempt from the tax?**

Yes. An exemption is available to anyone 65 and older when you fill out a brief application. Applications will be available at the district office and on our website at [www.djUSD.net](http://www.djUSD.net).

## **What accountability measures are in place?**

Measure W requires an annual audit of all expenditures to be reviewed by a Citizen's Oversight Committee, already in place for Measure Q. Should funding be returned from the state, the Committee could recommend reducing the amount of tax levied. In addition, the measure expires in three years, at which time need can be reassessed.

## **What budget reductions has the district made?**

The district made \$1.1 million in reduction in the 2008-09 budget:

- \$125,000 reduction in administration
- \$275,000 in site and district discretionary spending
- \$170,000 in reduced teaching positions (declining enrollment)
- \$180,000 in energy cost reductions
- \$100,000 by holding open vacant positions
- \$250,000 in reductions achieved through consolidation of the elementary school program



**Remember to Vote on  
Tuesday, November 4!**

**For More Information,  
visit [www.yesW.org](http://www.yesW.org) or  
[www.yesforourstudents.org](http://www.yesforourstudents.org)**

## **Patwin PTA Endorses Measure W**

At its September 16 meeting, the Patwin PTA voted to endorse Measure W. Please contact John Kraft, Patwin YES on W Campaign representative, at [soar49@yahoo.com](mailto:soar49@yahoo.com) or Terri Clarke at [patwinpta@gmail.com](mailto:patwinpta@gmail.com) or go to [www.yesw.org](http://www.yesw.org) to get a lawn sign to display in your yard. Volunteers are also needed.