



Patwin Elementary

December 1, 2008 Newsletter

Visit our web site: www.patwinelementary.org

Calendar of Events

DATE	DAY	TIME	EVENT
12/01-05/08	Monday - Friday		6th Grade Walker Creek Trip
12/1/08	Monday	3:30 - 5:00 pm	Patwin Site Council Meeting (Room 5)
12/10/08	Wednesday	1:00 - 1:30 pm	Character Assembly (MPR)
12/11/08	Thursday	11:00 am	Fourth-Grade Provided Teacher Appreciation Luncheon (Teachers' Lounge)
12/15/08	Monday		STEAC Donation Deadline
12/16/08	Tuesday	6:30 pm	PTA Meeting (Library)
12/18/08	Thursday		Spelling Bee
12/18/08	Thursday	7:00 pm	DJUSD Board Meeting (City Chambers)
12/22/08-1/2/09	Monday - Friday		School Holiday: Winter 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 12:00 noon. 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
 Michelle Azevedo, Principal • Terri Clarke, PTA President
www.patwinelementary.org

DID YOU KNOW...?

If students are left standing outside longer than 10 minutes from their dismissal, they will be asked to go to the office. You can find them in the office or at the picnic tables.

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/>.

From the Principal:

The Climate Committee meeting originally scheduled for Monday, December 1, has been postponed. However, there will be a Site Council Meeting on Monday December 1st in room 5 from 3:30 to 5:00. We hope to approve our site plan. Anyone is welcome to come.

The November Patwin Press from the Principal is being mailed out this week. This document is also attached at the end of this newsletter.

Our Patwin website (not to be confused with the PTA website) is getting a makeover. Keep your eyes open for its unveiling.

STEAC Food, Coat, & Book Drive

Patwin Student Council is coordinating a food, coat, and book drive for STEAC. STEAC provides food and gifts for families in need every holiday season; last year they served over four hundred families in Davis. It has been their tradition as well to provide books for children and young adults and coats for all members of the families they serve. When these families come to pick up their gifts, they display both books and coats and let them "shop" for themselves, with the hope that every young person will go home with worthwhile books to enjoy and every individual in need of a warm coat will have obtained one.

Student Council is asking the Patwin student body to bring their used books (ranging from toddler picture books to young adult chapter books) and gently used coats for men, women and children to your school. In addition, we are collecting non-perishable food items. See the list below. These items can be brought to class or the office. STEAC will pick them up on Dec. 15.

In addition to food and good nutrition, we feel books are a special way to provide lasting enjoyment and enrichment to those in need - and a warm coat, of course, is essential for the winter months. We hope you and your child will be willing to participate in this endeavor. Let's emphasize our character words of the month: COMPASSION AND CARING! Together, we can truly make a difference!

We appreciate your support.

Patwin Student Council

STEAC Food Drive Suggested Items

Cereal
Fruit Juice
Spaghetti Sauce
Peanut butter
Jam/Jelly
Canned Fruit
Canned Vegetables
Macaroni and Cheese
Rice- One pound packages
Cooking Oil- small bottles

Teacher Appreciation Luncheon

The Fourth Grade Sponsored Teacher Appreciation Luncheon will be held on Thursday, December 11 at 11:00 a.m.

The Theme will be **Winter Holidays**. The menu will include:

Soup,
Breads,
Holiday Cookies & Treats,
Oranges or fresh fruit.

This is an easy way to show our teachers how much we care and appreciate their hard work. If you can help by providing a soup (we will need 5 crockpots full, some nice bread or rolls (enough for 50 people total), Many holiday treats (they eat these of multiple day), and a bag or two of fresh oranges and/or other fruit. Most items can be dropped off early in the day on Thursday December 11 or after school on Wednesday December 10.

Please email Teresa Clarke at tclarke190@aol.com to help organize and/or sign up to bring one of the above items. Thank you.

The Reason Why We Add This New Showing of Appreciation:

The PTA would like to make a point of showing thanks to our teachers all year long. A new series of PTA events this school year is a monthly luncheon for teachers and staff. The Teacher Appreciation Luncheon Series is for ALL TEACHERS AND STAFF. There are approximately 50 teachers and staff personnel at Patwin who would partake.

Each month, one grade level will provide lunch/snacks for the teachers and staff. The sixth grade hosted the first luncheon in September; the fifth grade families sponsored the October luncheon. Other grades are scheduled throughout the year as noted here:

December 11th	4th Grade Provided Teachers Luncheon
February 12th	3rd Grade Provided Teacher Luncheon
March 12th	2nd Grade Provided Teacher Luncheon
April 2nd	1st Grade Provided Teacher Luncheon
May 14th	Kindergarten Provided Teacher Luncheon

A flyer with menu information and suggested donations will be sent home December 1 with Fourth grade students. Sign up sheets will be posted on 4th grade classroom doors as well as on the PTA Bulletin Board for the December Luncheon. You may also reply to Terri Clarke at tclarke190@aol.com to sign up or if you have questions.

Thank you all for your assistance!

Patwin PTA Newsletter and List Serve

Several questions have been posed to the Editors of this Newsletter regarding ease of download of the newsletter from the website.

Our list serve (mailing list) currently has approximately 300 members! We are fortunate to be able to use this service courtesy of the Davis Community Network at no cost.

One limitation of this free service is that emails are limited to 40 kb in size. What does this mean? Well, the newsletter in PDF format is generally over 300 kb in size and often over 500 kb if we have any graphics. Therefore, we cannot send each individual member an email with the newsletter attached. Further, some people have limitations on their email due to method of connection to the Internet or their mailbox will block large attachments.

The most efficient method for getting information out to the large number of people on our mailing list is to post the newsletter on the web site and send everyone an email to let them know it is available for download. We hope this explanation is sufficient for all to understand our limitations in trying to keep everyone at Patwin well-informed!

Dialogue with Dr. Deborah

*Dear Dr. Deborah,
How can parents tell if a child's experimentation with tobacco, caffeine, alcohol, or other substances is an attempt at self-medication for a mental health problem or just caving in to social pressures? What are some signs that this behavior may be a reaction to depression, ADD, or other undiagnosed conditions?*

*Thanks,
Trying to Raise Mentally Healthy Kids*

Dear TTRMHK,
The good news is nobody knows your child better or longer than you. A sudden change in behavior, sleeping patterns, eating patterns, countenance, energy level, relationships, academic achievement, attentiveness and anxiety levels are things to note and explore together with your child. Tell your child you love him/her and that you have noticed these changes. Ask also take their children in for a complete physical if they have those kinds of concerns. Some of the behaviors in disease, drug use, addiction, and depression can mimic each other. Your physician can help you rule out a physical problem that might cause some of the worrisome symptoms and behaviors. The diagnosis of attention-deficit disorder should be confirmed and managed by a physician. If you suspect drug use, this would also be an excellent time to ask the doctor to administer a drug test. Your first actions should be data collection.

If physical ailments are ruled out (to the degree that is possible), ask yourself and your child questions about how the current behavior you are concerned about differs from your child's past. There is a difference between a depressive episode and a major depressive disorder. Has this child experienced failure, loss, rejection, or on-going frustration lately? Has your child's peer group changed? Is your child socially appropriate with peers and adults? Has your child been involved in increased disciplinary actions at home, school, or with law enforcement? Is your child's academic motivation imploding? Encourage your child to seek help with a mental health professional to "sort" out the issues if they persist more than two weeks, (immediately if self-harm is a concern).

I don't believe a child merely "caves" into social pressure. There are choices involved and it is important to understand the reasoning behind those choices. If the choices are poor ones in regard to your child's health, well-being, and safety, those are important issues to investigate with your child, always reinforcing that you will do "whatever it takes" to keep your child safe because you love the child beyond measure.

Take care,
Dr. Deborah

Book of the Month

Parenting Preteens with a Purpose: Navigating the Middle Years

Author: Kate Thomsen
Publisher: Search Institute, 2007

K and 1st Grade Health Form Reminder

The oral health forms are due by 12/31 and the physicals as soon as possible. First grade students need to turn these forms in if they did not do so when they were in Kindergarten. We do not exclude students if the parents did not turn in these forms.

CDC Winter Camp

CDC Winter Camp will be open December 22 to January 2 (with the exception of December 25th & 26th and January 1st) from 7:00 am to 6:00 pm. Prices are \$139 for 2/3 days a week, and \$187 for 4/5 days per week. We also have a daily rate of \$40 for 5 hrs and \$70 for all day. Any family is welcome. Please call Linsee at 756-1369 to sign up.



PATWIN PRESS

November 2008 Issue

Michelle Azevedo, Principal

2222 Shasta Drive, Davis, CA 95616
(530) 757- 5394 FAX (530) 757-5417

Dear Patwin Families,

I am happy to report that we have had a great beginning to our year. As we put one trimester behind us, we welcome a new one. The weather is changing, but our motto remains the same:

Work hard and be kind to one another!

Here's what is new at Patwin...

- ~ First, our Language Arts Block Schedule is well underway. Teachers are continuing to collaborate, assess, and massage the schedule to ensure that all students are getting an hour of targeted instruction to meet their Language Arts needs.
- ~ We are also happy to announce the addition of Andrea Thomas, our English Learner Specialist. While splitting her time between Patwin and Korematsu, she has already proven to be a huge asset. We are assessing our English Learners and evaluating their instruction to ensure that they are successful.
- ~ We now have a Math Specialist on board, who happens to also be a Patwin parent. Diana Zaragoza is working diligently with staff and students to provide the Math support our school needs. We continue to work towards a Math schedule that would mirror our Language Arts block schedule.
- ~ We are pleased to also welcome PE Specialist, Diane Studley, who is working with us to adopt a PE program that encourages life long, healthy living and activity. Teachers have been working with Ms. Studley to select the program that best fits the needs of our primary and intermediate students.

Here are important dates and details...

Generosity at Patwin: Patwin continues to be a very generous community.

- ~ Our Unfundraiser was very successful despite our financial climate.
- ~ Our UNICEF fundraiser was a huge hit thanks to students who fought the rain on Halloween to raise money for those in need.
- ~ We continue to collect Box Tops in each class. Rewards are being given for participation throughout the school year.
- ~ The intermediate grades continue their fundraising efforts to prepare for their upcoming trips to Malakoff and Walker Creek.
- ~ Lastly, we had a fantastic Book Fair thanks to the efforts of many. Whether you help occasionally, frequently, in class, or behind the scenes...your contributions are appreciated.

If you are looking for ways to donate your time, you are all welcome to participate in our monthly Climate Committee meetings (which meets the first Monday of each month at 4:30p.m.) or our Patwin PTA (which meets the third Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m.)

What are students learning? When I walk around at lunch, I try to always ask students, “What are you learning today?” They no longer tell me, “Nothing,” and now come to lunch excited to share what they are doing in class and discover what others are learning. Try asking them the same question. They should be able to tell you.

Nutrition News:

- ~ As most of you have observed, there are no longer Wednesday cupcake sales. I know that this was joyful news for some and dreadful news for others. Regardless, it is a decision that had to be made in order to respect and honor district and state policies. I am hoping that a new and improved student store and some creative classroom fundraising will replace the lost funds. We also welcome any creative ideas you might have.
- ~ Do not forget that Tuesdays and Wednesdays of each month is crunch lunch (salad bar,) and the third Thursday of each month is the BBQ lunch (weather permitting.)

What is the Patwin way? Working hard and being kind is the Patwin way!

- ~ To help build character, we focus on a word(s) each month. At the end of each month, we honor students who exhibited the characteristic at our Character Ed Assemblies. Parents are always invited. They are largely student lead, positive, and entertaining. You might even get to see me do a little dancing.
- ~ This month we are exhibiting compassion for others and caring for others. In December we will focus on being cooperative and fair.

What is going on with the Patwin website? Our Patwin district website (not to be confused with the Patwin PTA website,) is getting a makeover and when finished, should be informative, user friendly, and fun. The potential for even better communication will be amazing. More information will follow, but in the meantime, please know that a lot of information can be acquired from the PTA newsletter and your child’s class newsletter. You can also reach anyone on staff via voice mail or e-mail.

When do we get a break?

- ~ Thanksgiving Vacation is from November 22nd-30th.
- ~ Winter Vacation is from December 20th-January 4th.

As we approach Thanksgiving, we grow increasingly more aware of the things we are grateful for. The following are just some of the things that the Patwin staff is thankful for...

- “I am thankful for our bright future!”
- “I am grateful for my kind and bright students who make me smile.”
- “I am grateful my students have warm homes and food to eat.”
- “I am grateful for Paula, Suzanne, and Angie.”
- “I am grateful for the lunches that families provide for the staff each month. Yum!”
- “I am grateful for UCD interns who make my life easier.”
- “I am grateful for Feliks and Felisa.”
- “I am grateful for a staff that puts in hours of work on weekends and after school.”
- “I am grateful for a PTA President who seems to be everywhere, helping everyone, all the time.”
- “I am grateful for the parents who work behind the scenes to fundraise or help teachers prepare.”
- “I am grateful for a warm and welcoming staff.”
- “I am grateful for a beautiful library.”

- “I am grateful for a safe and clean campus.”
- “I’m grateful for being a 15-year ovarian cancer survivor!”
- “I’m grateful for all the parents who make the effort to get their children to school every day, and for all the kids who come to school every day!”
- “I am grateful the great kids, teachers and principal that I share my days with.”
- “I am so thankful for so many things: my family, my health, my country, the earth.”
- “I am thankful for all the support and kindness of parents, grandparents, and other family members that help our children all along the way. It really does take a village.”
- “I am thankful that my career path has led me to room 2 at Patwin.”
- “I am thankful for our wonderful paraprofessionals in the reading program: super dedicated Marcia with more than 20 years of experience, Jonna and Laurie who have come from Valley Oak and offered with good cheer and a great deal of expertise, and Candace, new last year, who has cheerfully remained flexible and available in the face of many changes.”
- “I am thankful for the Angie and her staff for keeping us fed each day.”
- “I am thankful for our morning greeters, student council members, and our book buddies.”
- “I am thankful for the parent community who continues to show support for Patwin in all sorts of different ways-time, energy, money, ideas, and support.”
- “I am thankful for the opportunity to work in a profession I love and to be awed every year by the amazing growth I see in each and every child. There are moments of unbelievable stress outnumbered by times of profound joy. And through it all, there are those amazing eyes looking back at me, so trusting, so yearning to learn. I am grateful and often humbled by the responsibility I feel towards these children. I look in their eyes and see the future looking back at me. Such a gift!”

I want to thank you again for sharing your children with us. I am truly energized when I see the learning, the excitement, and the kindness that your children display each day. I have learned rather quickly, that the Patwin family is a very special one.

So please keep dreaming big with us!

With Gratitude,

Michelle Azevedo
 Principal, Patwin Elementary School
 2222 Shasta Drive
 530-757-5394 office
mazevedo@djUSD.k12.ca.us