



Cumberland Elementary School
Sunnyvale, California

December 13, 2006

Dear Parents and Friends,

We had our very first Hands On Art Day last Tuesday! Rozanne Hermelyn and Katie McCann, joined by a multitude of eager helpers, outdid themselves, presenting a series of fun and creative art projects in the multi purpose room. All the classes, Kindergarten through 5th participated, and everyone had a great time! I was very impressed with how smoothly it went. It took a huge effort, and I want to send a really big THANK YOU to everyone who helped make it happen.

Also last week, we had our annual Food and Toy Drive. Thanks to everyone who participated in this important community service event. Frances Bland and Marina Donovan did a great job of organizing the drive and distributing the donations! They would like to give special recognition to Brownie Troop #522 lead by Rozanne Hermelyn and Debbie White for making the ornaments for our giving tree, and to Anna, Molly and Lucy Bland, Cassidy Shapiro, Emily Ekman and Student Council members Haruna Aridomi and Rujuta Kortikar for helping collect the donations from the classrooms.

Did you bring in your Box Tops for Education this week? If not, hold on to them and you'll have another chance to turn them in for the March collection. Thanks to Robin McNeil and Mary Duval for coordinating this program and to the Student Council for their help in counting and sending them in!

PTA Membership cards are here! Our Membership Chair, Nikki Miner, has started passing them out. If you haven't gotten yours yet, look for it to come home this week. If you haven't joined the PTA yet, it's not too late! Membership envelopes are available in the school office.

This is our last newsletter of 2006! When we come back from our Holiday Break, we'll be ready to head into 2007 with renewed energy for all the great activities we have planned. January starts with our International Potluck, combined this year with our January PTA meeting. Also, we'll be treated to our first musical performances of the school year with the band concert and the 4th grade music performance. It's definitely something to look forward to!

I want to wish you all a happy, healthy and safe holiday season. I look forward to seeing everyone in the new year.

Warm regards,

Ruth Helfinstein
Cumberland PTA President 2006-2007



Hands on Art in the Multi

Dates To Remember:

Dec 18 -Jan 1 Holiday Recess, No School

Jan 2 School Resumes

Jan 8 Budget Committee Meeting, 2:45 p.m.

Jan 9 Teacher Learning Day Early Dismissal, 12:45 p.m.

Jan 11 Winter Band Concert, 7 p.m.

Jan 15 Martin Luther King Day, No school

Jan 16 School Site Council Meeting, 3 p.m.

Jan 16 International Potluck, 6:30 p.m.

Jan 16 PTA Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Jan 18 4th Grade Performance, 1:30 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Jan 31 ELAC Meeting, 8:30am



Committee Chair Is Needed for Chinese New Year Parade

February 18 is the first day of the Chinese New Year in 2007. Cumberland needs a volunteer to be the committee chair for Cumberland's 5th Annual Chinese New Parade in February. Last year's parade included a Dragon Parade, a martial arts performance and a Lion Dance. Please contact Ruth Helfinstein at school@helfinstein.com if you are interested in helping to continue a Cumberland tradition.



Science Fair Is Coming This Spring!

Now is the time to start thinking about your fabulous projects! Can you cause a plant to grow sideways? Do heavy objects fall at the same rate as light objects? Start thinking about what you want to do. After winter break your class will have demonstrations to remind you how to do a project, and science fair packets will be sent home. Thanks to Mrs. Yordan's application for the Synopsis grant, Science Fair display boards will be provided and participation ribbons awarded. It is a good idea to use the winter break to decide what your topic will be. Growing plants or crystals takes some time. The K-3 science fair is March 8 and April 5 for 4-5. Good Luck!



After School Enrichment



Cumberland is considering offering after-school enrichment programs in Theater, Dance & Music and/or Visual Art, taught by the teachers from the Starting Arts program. Sessions would be 1-2 hours per week for a 12 week session. Would your child be interested in something like this? We would like your feedback – if you have thoughts, ideas, or would like to help make something like this happen, contact Ruth Helfinstein! No idea is too small! We really want to hear.

International Potluck



On January 16, join us for an International Potluck. Bring a dish reflective of your heritage, or just something you want to share. It's a great chance to "break bread" together, and appreciate our rich community. Save the date and think about what dish you'd like to share!

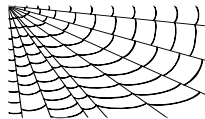
Contributions to the next PTA Newsletter are due no later than Wednesday, January 10th. Information can be sent to Eunice Chen, PTA Newsletter Editor at hey2eu-ptanews@yahoo.com.

Are Video Games on Your Christmas List?



Are they okay for your child to play? Just as movies and TV shows are created for people of varying ages, so are computer and video games. Some have content that may not be suitable for children. Parents have a responsibility to guide their children toward games they decide are okay to play. The Entertainment Software Rating Board (ESRB) video game rating system can help.

The ESRB rating system provides information about age suitability and describes the content of the game so you can make informed decisions before buying or renting a game. More information on video game ratings can be found online: www.esrb.org. Free brochures are available in the school office. Consider picking one or more up to help make informed decisions during the holiday season.



Charlotte's Web Quiz Winner

Congratulations to Tingyee Cheng, winner of the Charlotte's Web library quiz contest. She won a \$25 gift card to AMC theaters to see the new Charlotte's Web movie. Tingyee answered the five quiz questions correctly. Enjoy the movie.

Safety



Thanks to everyone for adapting to the new traffic patterns and helping keep our kids safe. I'd like to remind everyone to respect the crosswalk and be extra careful when making U-turns at the corner of Cumberland and Piper.



Pennies for Patients

Cumberland has signed up to participate in The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's Pennies for Patients program this year. For a three-week period in February and March, individual classrooms collect spare change for the Society. *We are looking for a parent volunteer to coordinate this program.* All materials needed are provided, we just need someone to be the point person! This is a great opportunity to incorporate community service into the classroom. If you're interested, contact Ruth – school@helfinstein.com. THANKS!