



Cumberland Elementary School  
Sunnyvale, California

January 17, 2007

Dear Parents and Friends,

Happy New Year! I hope you all enjoyed the break. There are so many exciting things happening on campus. It is exciting to see the momentum continue to build!

By the time you read this, we will have had our **International Potluck** – for the first time together with our January PTA meeting. I am hoping that this will have provided an opportunity for lots of people to hear first hand about what's going on in the PTA. Also, I'm sure the food was yummy (as I write this I'm looking forward to sampling the international cuisine!). **Maria Hansen-Kivijarvi** and **Yaulanda Spyrou** have done a great job getting everything ready for this special event!

As many of you know, last week the **Cumberland Band** had their first performance! It was such a joy to see the band members working together, making music with instruments that many of them only began to play a few months ago! I was impressed with their poise and their progress! I'd like to send a big thank you to **Andy Morales**, our esteemed band leader, and especially to our **Band Coordinators, Sylvia Gronovious**, and **Susan Stevenson**. This wouldn't have happened without your hard work and the support of all the band parents. Thanks!

This week we have a chance to see another show by our Cumberland students - the **4<sup>th</sup> Grade Performance**, led by our fabulous music teacher, **Judy Bayse**. This is the first of the music performances. Each grade level from 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> will have a chance to show some of the things they've been learning in their classes with Mrs. Bayse.

Curious as to when the rest of the performances are happening? The current calendar of events is always available on the **Cumberland Web Site**. Thanks to our webmaster, **Janet Nixon**, for keeping us up to date! There is a wide variety of information available on the site, so be sure to take a look!

Believe it or not, as we head into February it is time to start looking towards next year. Our PTA Parliamentarian, **Jeanette Krogstad**, will soon be forming the **Nominating Committee** to select candidates to serve on the **Executive Board** and in the **Committee Chair** positions for the **2007-2008** school year.

As I have said in previous letters, the PTA is all of us, parents and teachers, working together to make great things happen. Now is the time to start thinking how you would like to be involved next year. There are many opportunities, large and small, to make your mark, and make a difference in the lives of students at Cumberland. I encourage each of you to take a look at the list of Committee Chairs for this year, printed in the **PTA handbook**, and also available on the web site. These are the people who have taken that extra step this year (thanks, everyone!). Is there something on that list that catches your eye? It's a great opportunity to get to know other parents and really make a difference! We can't do it without you!

Warm regards,

Ruth Helfinstein  
Cumberland PTA President 2006-2007

## Booster Seats? The Safest Way To Travel!

It's surprising, but being buckled up with a safety belt is not the safest way for many children to ride in a vehicle. Safety belts are designed for adults, and children under 4'9" tall should ride with a booster seat. Children prematurely moved to seat belts are 4 times more likely to suffer serious head injuries during a collision than children in child safety or booster seats.

A booster seat is a child safety seat designed for children who have outgrown toddler seats and are not tall enough for safety belts. A booster seat raises a child up so the safety belt fits properly. All children under 8 years old should be placed in a booster seat, unless they are more than 4-feet 9-inches tall.

Bottom line, children should be in the back seat in a booster seat from about age 4 and 40 pounds to at least age 8, unless they are 4' 9" tall. **Please consider sending a booster seat with your child on field trips if they do not meet these guidelines, for the safety of your child, and as a courtesy to those who drive.**

Check out the following links for more information:

<http://www.boosterseat.gov>

<http://www.adccouncil.org/default.aspx?id=41>



International Pot Luck



Winter Band Concert

## Join the Cumberland Yahoo Groups!!



Find out what's going on in school and in the community.

**CumberlandNews** – get messages with school-related business such as upcoming events, calendar reminders and updates, PTA meeting agendas, etc.

**CumberlandCommunity** – send and receive information of interest to the Cumberland Community such as local events, parent education opportunities, sport team sign up dates, etc.

To subscribe to the Cumberland News List, send an email to [cumberlandnews-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:cumberlandnews-subscribe@yahoogroups.com).

To subscribe to the Cumberland Community List, send an email to [cumberlandcommunity-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:cumberlandcommunity-subscribe@yahoogroups.com).

## Volunteer Opportunities Available For Chinese New Year Parade

We are still looking for volunteers for the upcoming Cumberland Chinese New Year Parade. Martial arts students are welcome to demonstrate what they have learned and someone is needed to carry the dragon head for the parade. The position for a co-chairperson to help run the parade this year and next year is still open. This year's parade offers an opportunity to learn the parade details and process for next year. Please contact Eunice Chen at [hey2eu-ptanews@yahoo.com](mailto:hey2eu-ptanews@yahoo.com) if you would like to co-chair this wonderful Cumberland tradition or would like to volunteer to perform.

### Dates To Remember:

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

Feb 1 5th Grade Performance, 1:30 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Feb 5 Budget Committee Meeting, 2:45 p.m.

Feb 13 PTA Meeting, 8:30 a.m. in the Library

Feb 13 Teacher Learning Day, Early Dismissal, 12:45 p.m.

Feb 19-23 Winter Recess, No school

Contributions to the next PTA Newsletter are due no later than Wednesday, February 7<sup>th</sup>. Information can be sent to Eunice Chen, PTA Newsletter Editor at [hey2eu-ptanews@yahoo.com](mailto:hey2eu-ptanews@yahoo.com).