



Cumberland Elementary School
Sunnyvale, California

January 18, 2006

Happy New Year! I hope January finds you rested and renewed after the long holiday break. Though the PTA was quiet in the meetings and newsletter departments last month, there was a lot happening on campus!

Michele Pett coordinated our Thanksgiving Food Drive. Sunnyvale Community Services was so thankful for all your donations. Our newly elected Student Council did a terrific job of collecting the donations.

Our first grade-level performance featuring the 3rd graders led by **Judy Bayse** took place on December 1. Thanks to all of you who helped coordinate those rehearsals, set and costume design!

Judy Bayse treated the Cumberland community to a free Purple Cow concert in December. What a talented lady! And, what a generous way to give back to the community – thanks, Judy!

The Holiday Food & Toy Drive featured a Giving Tree this year. **Brownie Troop #522** made and decorated all the ornaments for the Giving Tree and **Marina Donovan** coordinated the entire weeklong event. Our own Student Council came through again helping to collect all your donations. Cumberland made a big difference to many families in Sunnyvale – thank you, everyone!

As we ease into the New Year, the PTA turns its attention to the many new projects and events coming up. As this newsletter goes to press, the Cumberland Band has just performed its first concert. A huge thank you to **Carolyn Wong** and **Katie McCann** for the countless hours spent coordinating this valuable after-school program.

Our 1st graders will perform “The Tortoise and the Hare” Thursday, January 19th. Special thanks to all those assisting with set and costume design.

The PTA, in conjunction with the School Site Council, is exploring **Noon League**, a new lunch recess program for Cumberland. Noon League is an opportunity for students to participate in structured fun activities on their lunch recess. Local schools participating in Noon League have seen an improvement in how students manage conflict as well as a decrease in bullying and playground injuries.

Parent volunteers are needed to lead the children in both active games like soccer, plunger ball and sack races, as well as quiet activities like knitting, origami and chess, to name a few. The activities available depend on the interests of the parents who volunteer in this new program. Parent volunteers will be given training in conflict mediation and instructions for all activities scheduled. Please consider coming to the **Conflict Mediator Workshops** to learn these skills now along with our 4th and 5th grade “conflict mediators”. The workshop leader would be pleased if interested parents would attend from 8:00 to 11:30 am on Mondays, January 23rd and 30th.

The next **Noon League Committee** meeting will be Wednesday, January 25th at 8:30 a.m. Please join us to learn more (what is plunger ball?) and help us develop this fun new program. We will be defining the paid coordinator position and setting our goals for Noon League at Cumberland.

The PTA is looking for 1 or 2 community members experienced in **PA Sound Systems**. Our microphones have begun to fail and the PTA needs the help of a sound engineer to assist in diagnosing the needs of our school and to help make recommendations on updating the system. Please contact me if you are one of these people!

Our PTA Parliamentarian, **Laura Healy**, will soon be forming the Nominating Committee to select candidates to serve on the Executive Board and in the numerous Committee Chair positions for the 2006/2007 school year. It's not too early to consider how you would like to be involved next year. The success of our PTA depends on you, the next generation. I invite you to ask questions and consider volunteering for a position that interests you. I can honestly assure you that volunteering in the PTA is a fun way to meet new friends and make a difference in your child's education.

With warm regards,

Jeanette Krogstad
Cumberland PTA President, 2005-06

Come to the PTA Budget Brainstorm Session

When: Thursday, January 26, 2006
1:15 pm to 2:25 pm
Where: In the Multi-Purpose Room



Please come share your ideas about the goals you have for Cumberland and how unbudgeted PTA funds could help accomplish these goals. This forum will assist the PTA in deciding the priorities, in line with school plans, for spending the money raised by the Walkathon.

SNACKS will be served!

Questions? Please contact Ruth Helfinstein at 737-2936 or school@helfinstein.com



Author Comes to Cumberland

Author, David Greenberg, hailed as “our emerging poet of Gross” by the New York Times, will be giving two assemblies at Cumberland on January 25, grades K-2 at 1:00 and grades 3-5 at 1:45. His first book, *Slugs*, made him notorious for his wicked sense of humor. He has written over 10 children’s books which will be available for purchase and autographed by David. Order forms will be sent home with your child AND are available in the library. Be sure to visit the David Greenberg display in the library and get a glimpse of some of his books. You can also visit his website: www.authorsillustrators.com/greenberg/greenberg.htm for more information on David and his books.



Volunteers Needed To Help Struggling Readers

The Cumberland PTA offers a reading fluency program called Read Naturally for students who need extra help. It involves one-on-one interaction between adult volunteers and students, and is a highly rewarding way to contribute to the success of the Cumberland community. Most of the program takes place Monday-Thursday between 12:45-2:25. If you could spare even just an hour a week to read with a few children, please contact Michele Carr at (408) 739-4261.

Dates To Remember:

- Jan 17 PTA Meeting 7:00 pm
- Jan 19 1st Grade Performance 1:30 pm and 7:00 pm
- Jan 24 Leadership Council Meeting 5:30 pm
- Jan 25 Author visit, David Greenberg 1:00 pm

- Feb 1 Student of the Month 8:30 am
- Feb 3 Chinese New Year Parade 10:30 - 11:00 pm
- Feb 10 Family Movie Night, 7 pm in the Multi
- Feb 13 Budget Committee Meeting 2:45 pm
- Feb 14 PTA Meeting 8:30 am
- Feb 14 Teacher Learning Day, Early dismissal at 12:45 am
- Feb 20 - 24 Winter Break, No School
- Feb 28 Leadership Council Meeting 5:30 pm



Chinese New Year Performance Volunteers Needed

If you are studying with Ben’s Kung Fu and are interested in performing at Cumberland’s Chinese New Year parade on February 3, please contact Eunice Chen at hey2eu-ptanews@yahoo.com.



Science Fair Is Coming!!



Mark your calendar! The K-3rd Science Fair will be Thursday evening and Friday morning, March 23rd and 24th. The 4th & 5th Grade Science Fair will be Thursday evening and Friday morning, April 13th and 14th. Science Fair is an exciting way for students to delve into fun science or engineering projects and share their accomplishments with friends, family, and the whole school community. An information packet will be sent home soon. For kids who want to get started early, there are tons of great science fair books and project ideas in the Cumberland library and on the internet. One site to try is www.kidsdomain.com/kids/links/Science_Fair.html, another is <http://school.discovery.com/sciencefaircentral/>.

We need parent volunteers to help with classroom demonstrations and science fair setup. If you would like to help or need more information, please contact Eunice Chen at hey2eu-sciencefair@yahoo.com.

Contributions to the next PTA Newsletter are due no later than Wednesday, February 8th. Information can be sent to Eunice Chen, PTA Newsletter Editor at hey2eu-ptanews@yahoo.com.

Have a Voice

Join PTA

Some of the benefits of PTA

- Deciding how our PTA spends its funds
- Networking connections to help your child
- Great resources –homework help and parenting tips
- Numerous enrichment programs for your child

Two ways to join

\$10 for a Family membership, two adults may vote

\$7 for a single membership, one adult may vote

* You must be a member to vote on all proposed special purchases, next year's planned programs and next year's officers and chairmen.

VOLUNTEER HOURS

Please remember to keep track of your volunteer hours spent in the classroom, on field trips and doing PTA-related business. You will be asked to submit these later in the spring to complete year-end reports.

eScrip Fundraising Update

Thanks for your support of the eScrip fundraising program! There are currently about 200 supporters enrolled in one or more of our eScrip or Scrip passive fundraising programs. Supporters can be parents, grandparents, friends or neighbors who register their grocery cards, credit cards and/or shop online after registering with eScrip. When we shop, a small percentage of the total goes to Cumberland PTA AT NO COST TO THE SHOPPER. This is a major source of funding for our kids' programs. Ideally, with about 400 families at Cumberland, we should have even higher participation, so please talk to your friends and family about registering their cards and becoming a supporter.

From the quarter ending October 2005, we earned \$1908 from eScrip (mostly from registered Safeway cards), \$77 from Albertsons, and \$24 from Nob Hill for a total of about \$2000.

Some of you may be wondering, How do I enroll to help Cumberland? The answer is:

- If you haven't already, please enroll in eScrip by going to <http://www.escrip.com>. The Cumberland Elementary eScrip group ID is 136926158.
- Once in eScrip, enroll or renew your Safeway Club Card. Registered Safeway Club cards is the single biggest source of funds, generating about \$5000 of the approximately \$7000 Cumberland received from Scrip-type programs last year.
- Shop online at <http://shopping.escrip.com>. This site has links to Lands End, Eddie Bauer, Target.com, Macys.com, half.com, Barnes & Noble, Dell Computers, and many other frequently used online shopping sites.
- Register your Albertsons card: http://www.albertsons.com/abs_inthecommunity/.
- Register your Nob Hill Foods or Raleys card: <http://www.nobhill.com/> follow links to the Quality of Life Card

If you have any questions about these programs, please contact Linda Kamas, your eScrip coordinator at linda@kamas.com or 739-7212.

