



Cumberland Elementary School
Sunnyvale, California

March 15, 2006

Reading is a gift too easily taken for granted. Read Across America on Dr. Seuss Day reminded us of the importance of being able to read. To teach a child to read opens many doors of opportunity. And, isn't that what we all want for our children?

Parents can have a very strong influence on their son's or daughter's motivation to read, says Rosemary Miller, coordinator of the Literacy Initiative at the University of Minnesota. Miller cites parental modeling as a critical ingredient in motivating kids to continue reading on their own through middle and high school. Young people should see parents reading, and reading materials should be in clear view around the house. Miller also recommends that parents set time every day or week when the family reads together. "You can make it a family book club where each member gets a chance to recommend a book to read," she said. All book choices should be honored unless a choice would be inappropriate for younger children.

Other things parents can do to motivate their kids to read include playing audiotapes of books in the car and carrying reading material when traveling and/or waiting to see the doctor or dentist. Encouraging preteens and teens to read nonfiction also can bolster their reading comprehension, as people learn how to extract information and make inferences from nonfiction, said Miller.

Parents can help their children with academic reading, too. For example, if you notice your son is struggling with his science reading assignment, you might say, "How's the homework going?" and then with him read the title of the chapter, scan the chapter by reading the subheads plus any highlighted material, and read the questions at the end of the chapter. Then together you can pose questions about what you want to know, or what you hope the chapter will provide, said Miller.¹

Parent-child book clubs are another way to promote reading in your family. A book club can be started with as few as 3 readers as young as first grade. Let kids make the book selections and use the internet to plan a couple fun activities on the book's theme. Keep the focus on fun, and the book club will become a tradition for your family, too.

Cumberland provides help to struggling readers with the **Read Naturally** program. Read Naturally depends on help from parents like you. Please join me in thanking **Michele Carr** and **Louise Christy** for providing this important program to our students, and feel free to contact them if you have an hour or two in your week for reading with students.

Cumberland's **Klutz Build-a-Book** event on Wednesday, March 29 is another opportunity to promote reading and have fun doing it. Don't miss this fun Cumberland tradition.

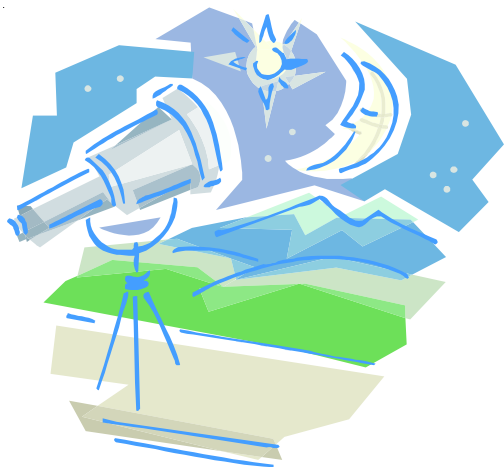
April brings more reading fun with the "**Camp Read a Book**" **Scholastic Book Fair**, which will run April 3-6 in the library. We can look forward to a story night along with the opportunity to buy many popular new titles for both our family and our classroom libraries. All the proceeds go to support the Cumberland library. Watch your weekly packets for more information!

Each thing you do to promote reading with your child and the students at school opens that additional door of opportunity we all want for them. Keep up the good work, parents and teachers!

With warm regards,

Jeanette Krogstad
Cumberland PTA President, 2005-06

¹ Joan Kuersten, "Are Middle and High School Students Reading to Learn or Learning to Read?", published on the National PTA Website



Star Gazing Party & Ice Cream Party

The PTA is sponsoring a **Star Gazing & Ice Cream Party** on **Friday, March 17th at 6:30 p.m.** on the Cumberland blacktop/playground. After dark (around **7:30 p.m.**), we will view the stars thanks to volunteers from the **San Jose Astronomical Association** who will provide us the use of their high-powered telescopes. Please, no flashlights on campus during stargazing. Plan to bring blankets or chairs. In the event of rain or clouds, there will be ice cream and a movie (TBD) in the Multi.

Lisa Maletis-Massey



KLUTZ Build-A-Book Family Night

WANT TO HAVE SOME FUN?
Join us for Cumberland's 3rd annual

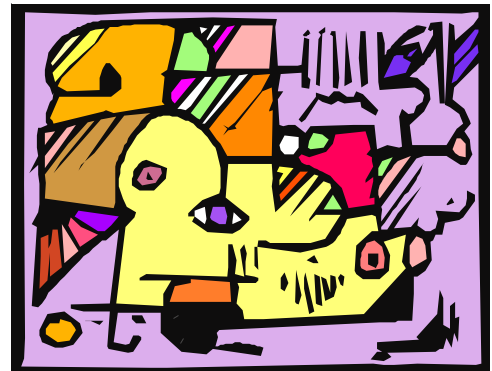
KLUTZ Build-A-Book Family Night on **March 29, 2006** at **6:00 p.m.** in the cafeteria.

Come build a one-of-a-kind three dimensional book. Complete and return the registration form (being sent home with your child and available in the library) along with \$6.00 for each kit you wish to purchase. The kits contain a wire-o bound Klutz book, glue stick, pen, google eyes, foam pieces and more. This is a great time for the entire family. Visit the KLUTZ Build-A-Book display in the library to see a kit and look at books made by students from previous years. See our librarian, Mrs. Atkins with any questions.

Dates To Remember:

- Mar 15 Family Life, LRC & Multi, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- Mar 16 4th Grade Performance 1:30 pm and 7:00 p.m.
- Mar 17 Pajama Day
- Mar 17 Star Gazing and Ice Cream Party 6:30 p.m.
- Mar 21 PTA Meeting 8:30 a.m.
- Mar 23 K -3 Science Fair 6:30 p.m.
- Mar 28 Leadership Council Meeting 5:30 p.m.
- Mar 29 Klutz Book Making, Multi 6 p.m.
- Mar 31 SELAC Meeting 8:30 a.m.

- Apr 3 New students registration begins
- Apr 3 - 6 Book Fair
- Apr 5 Student of the Month 8:30 a.m.
- Apr 6 4th & 5th Grade Science Fair 7:00 p.m.
- Apr 11 Teacher Learning Day, Early dismissal at 12:45 a.m.
- Apr 11 PTA Meeting 7 p.m.
- Apr 11 SMS Open House (Evening)
- Apr 14 Cowboy/Cowgirl Day
- Apr 17 - 21 Spring Break, No School



FAME Wants Your Input!

FAME is the Fine Arts Mini Experience provided in each classroom by trained parent docents. Last May, a number of parents and teachers met to evaluate the program and a number of suggestions were implemented this year.

Please join our FAME chairs and docents to share your ideas on how this important program can better meet the needs and curriculum standards for our students. **Wednesday, March 22 at 7:00 p.m. in the LRC/library.** Contact Jeanette Krogstad for more information: jmkrogstad@yahoo.com or 736-3342.

A Daisy & Brownie Girl Scout Troop Formation Meeting will be held on Thursday, March 23 from 5:30-6:30 p.m. in Room 22 for grades K-3 (just before the Science fair).

My 8 year old daughter has wanted to join a Cumberland Brownie troop for the last 2 years, but the troops that exist continue to be full. If you have a daughter in grades K-3 that would also like to join a Cumberland Daisy or Brownie troop, you don't want to miss this meeting.



The Girl Scout program is based on the four fundamental goals that encourage girls to:

- Develop to their full potential
- Relate to others with increasing understanding, skill, and respect
- Develop a meaningful set of values to guide their actions and to provide for sound decision-making
- Contribute to the improvement of society

Additional information about the Girl Scout program can be found at <http://www.girlscouts.org/>.

I hope to see you there!

Teresa Heng-Penner
Phone: 408-737-7159
e-mail: teresa.heng@hp.com



Wanted: Walkathon Theme Ideas

Hey, boys and girls! Do you have a really great idea for a Walkathon theme? We want to hear from you! The Walkathon Committee has started planning for next school year's Walkathon and we are looking for a theme that will get everyone excited. Look out for a Walkathon Theme Ideas box in the Library (by the Student Council notice board) and place your theme ideas in it. Please have your entries in by April 14th. Just think, if your idea is chosen, you could win yourself a free Walkathon T-shirt!

Your Walkathon Co-Chairs,
Carolyn Wong and Jen Crewe

School Survey Responses Due



Please be sure to respond to the School Survey that was sent home last week. The last day for the surveys to be returned is this Friday, March 17.



Mad Science Class Begins In March

The City of Sunnyvale Parks & Recreation's Kidzone Enrichment Program at Cumberland is promoting its last enrichment session of the school year. Kidzone Enrichment will be offering MAD SCIENCE March 28-May 30, 2006. Classes will be held on Tuesdays from 2:30-3:45 p.m. in Multi-purpose room. All students must be registered to participate. There are only 23 spots available and class is open to Cumberland students in *K-5th grade. (*NOTE: Class instructors DO NOT pick up students from the school classroom. ALL STUDENTS, INCLUDING KINDERGARTNERS need to get to class on their own.)

To register: Please see the orange registration flyer in students take home packets, for registration and class details. (DO NOT TURN REGISTRATION FORMS INTO YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER! USE DROP-OFF BOX LOCATED IN SCHOOL OFFICE).

Jenni Wong
Recreation Coordinator II
Youth & Teen Services
City of Sunnyvale Parks & Recreation
jwong@ci.sunnyvale.ca.us
Ph: (408) 730-7724
Fx: (408) 730-7754



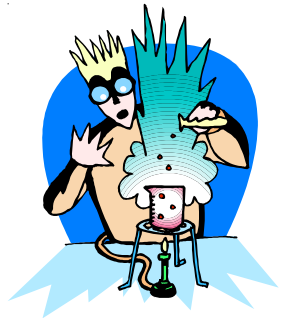
Science Fair Volunteers Needed!

We need volunteers to help with the K-3rd grade Science Fair setup on Thursday, March 23 at around 1:15 p.m. in the Multi. We also need volunteers to help take down project boards and clean tables on Friday, March 24.

We will also need volunteers to help with the 4th/5th grade Science Fair setup on Thursday, April 6 at around 1:15 p.m. in the Multi. We also need volunteers to help take down project boards and clean tables on Friday, April 7.

If you would like to help, please contact Eunice Chen at hey2eu-sciencefair@yahoo.com.

Science Fair Reminder



There is still time to do a science fair project. K-3 Science Fair is on Thursday, March 23 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the Multi. Two weeks after the K-3 Science Fair is the upper grade (4th/5th grades) Science Fair on Thursday, April 6 from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the Multi.

It is important that students bring their projects to school on the morning of the Science Fair because the projects are set up in the Multi by classes and there is no room for projects brought in the evening.

If you need more information, please contact Eunice Chen at hey2eu-sciencefair@yahoo.com.

Contributions to the next PTA Newsletter are due no later than Wednesday, April 5th. Information can be sent to Eunice Chen, PTA Newsletter Editor at hey2eu-ptanews@yahoo.com.