



Cumberland Elementary School
Sunnyvale, California

November 15, 2006

Dear Parents and Friends,

Thanksgiving time is here. The days are getting shorter and cooler. What are you thankful for as we enter this holiday season? During this busy time of year, it's easy to become pre-occupied with finding the time to get everything done (not an easy task). Let's all try to take time to slow down and look around us. Enjoy the brisk fall weather, the time with family, and the great construction paper turkeys and pilgrims that come home!

Here at Cumberland, we are truly thankful to have met, and even exceeded, our fundraising goals for this year's Pirates of Cumberland Walkathon. Thanks to so many of you and your children we have raised more than \$90,000 to support our children's education. Achieving our goal allows the PTA to fully fund the programs in this year's budget. Additionally, it allows us all to take our attention off fundraising and put all our efforts towards implementing the activities, programs and events that help to enhance our children's time at Cumberland! A sampling of these include Music, Band, Library, Computer Lab, Teacher and Grade Level Grants, Student Council, Read Naturally, the upcoming Grade Level Music Performances, Science Fairs, International Potluck and so much more.

This week, parents have the opportunity to meet with our children's teachers during Parent-Teacher conferences. This is our chance to see the new Standards Based Report Cards in action. The new reporting system has been in the planning stages for several years and a lot of research and training has gone into the process. I want to send a big "Thank You" to Eleni Malkos from the Sunnyvale School District, who came to Cumberland last week and, along with Mrs. Ahuja, shared a lot of great information about the new report cards. The meetings were helpful and productive. Even if you weren't able to attend one of these sessions, be sure to share your feedback with your child's teacher. The SBRC team is interested in hearing what parents think about the new tool. I would like to thank Pam Rebollo, Naomi Nakano-Matsumoto, and Kay Zeren for stepping

forward on short notice to help with snacks for the report card sessions.

I would also like to thank Michele Pett for organizing our Thanksgiving food drive which is underway this week. There is still time to bring in your cans and boxes of non-perishable food by Friday, Nov. 17. They will be taken to Sunnyvale Community Services to support those in our community who struggle to make ends meet. Thanks, Michelle, for giving your time to pull together this worthwhile effort!

Finally, I want to send kudos to Rozanne Hermelyn and Katie McCann for their amazing hard work on the FAME (Fine Arts Mini Experience) program this year. Not only have they challenged themselves to make sure every class has an opportunity to have FAME lessons in their classroom, but they are planning Cumberland's first ever 'Hands On Art' Day on December 5. This program will rotate all the grade levels through a series of creative art activities in the Multi-Purpose room. If you're interested in helping with this special event, let Rozanne and Katie know!

I wish everyone a happy and healthy holiday season!

Warm regards,

Ruth Helfinstein
Cumberland PTA President 2006-2007



Come Join Us for Our 1st Hands-On ART Day!



Tuesday, December 5th in the MP Room

Volunteers Needed to Help Set-Up and Clean-Up
Throughout the Day.

No Art Experience Needed.

Help Needed: 8 to 9:30am, 9:30 to 11am & 1 to 2:30pm!

Each teacher will bring their class through to experience 3 to 4 art techniques. The goal is for the children to have fun painting and experimenting with different art medias and techniques that they may not have been exposed to before. We will rotate the children through each technique, between 5 to 10 minutes each.

- 8:20 - 8:50: Kindergarten Team
- 8:55 - 9:25: 4th Grade Team
- 9:30 - 10:00: 2nd Grade Team
- 10:25 - 10:55: 3rd Grade Team
- 1:15 - 1:45: 1st Grade Team
- 1:50 - 2:20: 5th Grade Team

Email or Contact Us if You Can Help, (even if it's just an hour!) Thank You!

Rozanne Hermelyn #992.0906, vision@hermelyn.com or
Katie McCann #530.8447, jark5@mac.com



Contributions to the next PTA Newsletter are due no later than Wednesday, December 6th. Information can be sent to Eunice Chen, PTA Newsletter Editor at hey2eu-ptanews@yahoo.com.

Walkathon Update

Our Walkathon Treasure Chest is currently \$90,000 full. Thank you to everyone for making this such a successful community event. This means that all of our PTA funded enrichment programs will continue. Thank you also to those parents that took the time and made the effort to get company matches. Cumberland students really appreciate you. A great prize assembly took place last week with lots of excitement and lots of noise. Lots of students were recognised for their walking and fundraising achievements. Any student who brought in over \$225 is invited to a party. Those students will be receiving details soon. The Auction Committee is still working hard to let people know about their 'Auction Booty' and of course, the money they owe.) If you are confused about whether you owe, please send an email to carrie@finline-media.com.

Here are some fun numbers. On Walkathon Day we ate:

- 130 Chicken Sandwiches
- 28 Veggie Burgers
- 275 Cheese/Hamburgers
- 129 Hot Dogs
- 568 slices of Pizza

We walked over 4000 miles.

Stay tuned for some more fun facts coming in the next newsletter.

Dates To Remember:

- Nov 16 KidPower Workshop, 7 p.m.
- Nov 22 - 24 Thanksgiving Holiday, No School
- Nov 29 School Site Council Meeting, 3:00 p.m.

- Dec 4 - 8 Food and Toy Drive
- Dec 5 FAME "Hands on Art" Day
- Dec 12 Teacher Learning Day, Early Dismissal, 12:45 p.m.
- Dec 18 - Jan 1 Holiday Recess, No School