



Cumberland Elementary School  
Sunnyvale, California

September 20, 2006

Dear Parents and Friends,

School has been in session for almost a month now, and what a whirlwind it has been! It has been so exciting to watch our children start a new year of learning. It is a chance for them to learn new things, meet new people and make new friends.

As parents, we have that opportunity, too, by getting involved! That's one of the great things about being a part of the Cumberland Community. Whatever you choose to do, whether it's helping in the classroom, teaching a FAME (art) lesson, supervising a Band practice, or bringing snacks to a PTA meeting, all these efforts help make Cumberland what it is, and bring us all closer together.

And it does take all our efforts! Our parent volunteers have been working since well before school started to help get everything set up. Did you know that **Cathy Haynes** generously spent the first weeks of August revamping the bright pink PTA Handbook? Did you learn anything new when you read it? I did! If you haven't already, take a look – it's not just the same information as last year!

The day before school started, our staff members were treated to a daring pirate-themed luncheon hosted by **Nisa Leone, Rozanne Hermalyn, Debbie White and Allyson Fealtman**, with the assistance of so many of you who provided delicious food and other support! Then **Lisa Massey** led a group of parents to collate those First Day Packets that came home the first day. She really went above and beyond in her effort to make sure that every child got a packet, even when we ran out of registration cards! And then things really got rolling as **Jeanette Krogstad** kicked off the first day of school with our First Day Coffee.

Now that September's here, a good many activities are underway, and many more are poised to begin over the coming weeks. **Nikki Miner**, membership chair, has been collecting the PTA membership envelopes – *have you turned in yours?* **Susan Norton** and **Nina Dobkin** have been working behind

the scenes to keep us informed - updating the sign in the front of the school, and setting out banners and signs of all kinds! **Donna Podbere** and **Jeanette Krogstad** met with Mrs. Ahuja and a group of teachers and staff members to discuss our implementation of the Sunnyvale School District's new nutrition program. **Susan Stevenson** and **Sylvia Gronovius** stepped forward to organize our 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade band – which begins practices this week. **Yaulanda Spyrou** and **Eileen Conway** have started working with kids in the Read Naturally program. And spontaneous help is going on all the time – I spotted **Ray Schryver** putting together sets of folders for the teachers to use with the new report cards.

Planning is well underway for this year's Walkathon and the excitement is building! Poster Making decorated the classrooms (thanks to **Nisa Leone** and her helpers!) and so much is going on behind the scenes to prepare for this big day! Make sure you watch the information that comes home and turn in those Auction forms and Children's Garage Sale items. I can't wait to see what's on sale this year!

If you see any of the people I mentioned, be sure to give them a big **THANK YOU!** And this is just a drop in the bucket. There are so many people working in so many ways to make this school great.

It's going to be a fantastic year!

Warm regards,

Ruth Helfinstein  
Cumberland PTA President 2006-2007

## CBET Program Starts In October

Do you want to learn English, improve your English skills, or practice English conversation? The CBET program in Sunnyvale—Community Based English Tutoring- is for you!

Free classes start the week of October 2nd for beginning level students, including those who have taken some English previously.

Bishop School offers classes that meet Mondays and Thursdays from 3:00 – 5:00 pm in Room 12. Baby-sitting, also free for children ages 3-10 years, is provided in the Library. You may register at the first class which meets on October 2nd.

Ellis School offers classes that meet Mondays and Thursdays from 3:00-5:00 pm in Room 15 with free baby-sitting, children ages 3-10 years, provided in the Library. Registration will be taken at the first class on Monday, October 2nd

San Miguel holds classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:15-5:15 pm in Portable 3. Free baby-sitting for children ages 3-10 years is provided in the Cafeteria. You may register at the first class which meets on October 3rd.

For more information call Sharlyn Heron at the District Office: 522-8200 ext. 279.

Come, enjoy and learn!

### Read Naturally



We hope you are all settled into the new school year here at Cumberland. We would like to have our Read Naturally program up and running by mid-October. Read Naturally is a program that is offered to our students who need help with their reading. We run the program during school hours on a one-to-one basis. After volunteering at Cumberland for a few years, you get to see the difference a person can make to our community. It is amazing the feeling you get when you realize that you have helped a student with more than just reading a word correctly. You are also giving them the ability to do better in life. We are having a meeting September 28th in the Multi-Room @ 7.30pm. Come by to learn more about Read Naturally or if you would like to volunteer. We really need your help so we can provide our children with the skills they need.

If you have any questions please contact Yaulanda Spyrou at 732-4692 or yspyrou@pacbell.net or Eileen Conway at 735-0560 or conway5\_1@yahoo.com

## International Walk to School Day

Join over three million children, parents and teachers on October 4, 2006 by walking or biking to school. The PTA will organize "walking school buses" and will also greet walkers and bikers when they arrive at school with treats and goodies. If you're interested in leading a "walking school bus" or being a greeter, please contact Elaine O'Neill at [oneillelaine@cs.com](mailto:oneillelaine@cs.com).

### Dates To Remember:

Sept 21 FAME (Art) Information meeting  
Sept 28 Fall Picture Day

Oct 2 Full Day Kindergarten begins, dismissal at 2:25 pm  
Mon - Thur; 12:45 pm Fridays

Oct 4 International Walk to School Day

Oct 13 WALKATHON 2006

Oct 10 Teacher Learning Day, Early Dismissal, 12:45 pm

Oct 10 8:30 am PTA Meeting

Oct 11 8:30 am ELAC Meeting

Nov 1 Staff Development Day - No School

You'll get the membership card  
– but your child will benefit!

### Join PTA now

Parent involvement increases student success. One of the best ways to be an involved parent is to participate in PTA.

If you have questions or need a new envelope, please contact me!

**Nikki Miner, PTA Membership Chair**  
**(408) 736-1975**

*everychild. onevoice*