



A Message from ... Mrs. Michels



Above and Beyond... The Sky's the Limit at Fairlands School!

September / October 2011

Message from the Principal

We are off to a wonderful start to the school year! I am very proud of how well our students are doing. They are working hard in class and playing hard during recess. By this point in the year students have learned the routines for their new classrooms. They have learned how to transition from their home classroom to PE, music, library, science lab and computer lab. They have also re-connected with old friends and made new friendships as well. It has been a very busy time and they have done a marvelous job adapting to the new school year.



We are continuing our "Recess Before Lunch" program this year. The first few days of school were not as challenging as last year. If you notice your child is coming home with uneaten food in his or her lunch or if your child shares he did not have time to eat then please discuss further with your child what is happening during lunch. We are finding that many students who bring their lunch to school are not finishing. The students have 20 minutes to eat their lunch. If the student is hungry and wants to eat early then the student is



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Attendance: 462 - 0926
www.pleasanton.k12.ca.us
Kimberly Michels, Principal

Pleasanton Unified School District



COMING UP IN OCT...

- 7 Walk to School Day
- 8 Fall Festival, 2-5 pm
- 16 Bon Appétit Dinner (PPIE)
- 17-21 Fall Book Fair, Library
- 19 Reflections Entries Due
- 22 Bon Appetit, 6:30-10pm
- 24-28 Red Ribbon Week
- 26 Art Night with Mark Kessler
- 31 Minimum Days (1-5 only)

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Traffic Update

Thank you to ALL of the parents who are truly following our traffic safety procedures. It is imperative for each person who is either dropping students off or picking them up to follow the procedures to ensure ALL students and adults are safe. To ensure the traffic moves along as efficiently as possible we ask that you:

- **DO NOT LEAVE YOUR CAR UNATTENDED UNLESS YOU ARE IN AN ACTUAL PARKING SPACE**
- **PULL ALL THE WAY FORWARD BEFORE ALLOWING STUDENTS TO EITHER EXIT OR ENTER YOUR VEHICLE**
- **WHEN PICKING UP, CIRCLE TO THE CENTER OF THE LOT AND WAIT TO BE CUED TO PULL UP IN FRONT OF THE MP**
- **ALWAYS ENSURE YOUR CHILD EXITS/ENTERS THE VEHICLE ON THE PASSENGER SIDE IN FRONT OF THE MP**
- **USE 'HANDS FREE' SETS WHEN SPEAKING ON A CELL PHONE**
- **PLEASE DO NOT ASK YOUR CHILD TO WALK THROUGH THE PARKING LOT UNATTENDED AND GET INTO YOUR VEHICLE WHILE YOU ARE WAITING INSIDE THE VEHICLE.**



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Message from the Principal (con't)

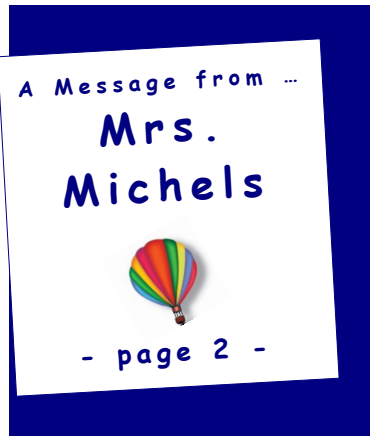
encouraged to do so. Students who are buying lunch and express that they are really hungry are given the opportunity to purchase lunches a little early as well. We are working to meet the needs of all of our children. We understand that for some students the lunch period will not be sufficient to finish eating, even when they eat right away. The goal is for students to have enough nutrition to feel full, have energy to learn and avoid feeling run down or tired.

Our goal for the month of October is to work on using proper table manners. This includes the following:

- POLITE TABLE CONVERSATION (NO SCREAMING, YELLING, OR 'BATHROOM' TALK)

- EAT YOUR OWN LUNCH (DO NOT TAKE FOOD FROM OTHER CHILDREN OR SHARE YOUR FOOD DUE TO STUDENT ALLERGIES)
- CHEW WITH YOUR MOUTH CLOSED
- NO THROWING FOOD, PAPERS, DRINKS, TRAYS, ETC.
- CLEAN UP YOUR OWN GARBAGE AND PUT IN THE PROPER RECEPTACLE (FOOD SCRAPS / PAPER & WRAPPERS/PLASTICS)
- RAISE YOUR HAND AND WAIT FOR A SUPERVISOR TO COME TO HELP YOU WHEN NEEDED
- WALK IN THE PICNIC AREA AT ALL TIMES

We appreciate your help in reviewing the above goals with your child. Together we are cultivating respectful, well rounded citizens who excel both academically and socially.



Pleasanton Unified School District



Traffic Update (con't)

If you are walking with your student please ensure you ALWAYS cross the street where there is a crosswalk attendant. Please DO NOT cross the street near the Golden Chopsticks. There is an attendant posted on West Las Positas and Suffolk as well as on Santa Rita and West Las Positas. Please obey all traffic signals, crosswalk guards and use caution when approaching or leaving the school grounds. Our primary goal is student safety, ALWAYS. Thank you for helping to ensure everyone arrive and leaves school safely.

October 7, 2011 is WALK TO SCHOOL DAY! This is the perfect day to put all of the above practices into effect. Walk to School day is a special day sponsored by the city of Pleasanton. Our goal is to reduce the number of cars on the road and encourage students to either walk or ride their bikes to school. Get together with your neighbors and form a walking school bus where students walk together to school. It is a great way to begin the day. It is good for our environment as well. Snacks will be served on the blacktop from 8:00-8:15 to celebrate this event.



Halloween Parade

The annual Halloween Parade is scheduled for **October 28th at 8:30 A.M.** This is also a **minimum day** where students are out of school at 12:30 p.m. As you begin to think about Halloween costumes please keep in mind that costumes must meet **dress code specifications**. Please refer to your *Fairlands Handbook* for details regarding the *District Dress Code*. A good rule of thumb is if you have to ask if the costume is appropriate for school then most likely it is not. In addition students may **NOT** bring weapons or props of any kind. More information will follow.

Harassment / Teasing / Bullying

Fairlands School has a **zero tolerance policy for harassment, teasing and bullying**. Students who engage in this kind of behavior are counseled and the district policies for discipline are applied as needed. Yet, to truly understand what harassment, teasing and bullying are we need to teach our students the definitions, how to recognize it and how to self-advocate. I have found that students who are accused of bullying or teasing will most often say, "I was just kidding... I was just playing around." Usually situations immerge between friends and the students do not necessarily mean to hurt each other. In situations where students are teasing one and other I have often found the student who seems to be the victim has not communicated that he or she does not like the "teasing" game that is being played.

The first step to stopping teasing is to give an "I" message. Teaching students to say, "I do not like..." (fill in the blank with the behavior or words that the student does not like). Once a student has stated this message or simply told the other student/s to "Stop!" and the behavior does not stop, then the student needs to seek support from a teacher or other staff member. We will work

with the students to clarify and reiterate that teasing is not allowed. We will guide the students to learn means of communication that do not involve teasing. In addition, we will work with students to replace the teasing games with different games or activities that promote positive play and interactions.

During the month of October I will visit each fourth and fifth grade classroom to discuss in detail the definitions of teasing, harassment and bullying. I will also work with students on strategies they can use to self-advocate. We are proud to be a Community of Character. The character traits: *Responsibility, Compassion, Self-Discipline, Honesty, Respect, and Integrity* are the keys to ensuring students understand what being a part of the "*Community of Character*" means. Mrs. Olbrycht will visit our third grade classrooms to share stories and have discussions around building friendships. Each morning I share a morning message to reinforce the importance of treating each other with kindness and compassion. We invite you to reinforce the 6 character traits whenever possible with your children at home.

A Message from ...

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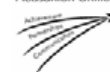
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Kim Michels, Principal

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Talking to Your Child About The School Day

The partnership between parents and the teacher is critical to ensuring students reach their potential. During the school year we have specific dates set aside for teachers to meet with parents of students who are struggling. Teachers will initiate a conference with you if your child is having difficulty. Students who are progressing and either meeting or exceeding standards will not necessarily need a conference. Teachers communicate in a variety of methods the progress of students including weekly progress reports, newsletters, e-mail, assignment books, corrected papers and impromptu conversations and more.

If you would like to conference with your child's teacher you may request a conference at any time. Please contact the teacher to schedule a mutually agreed upon time. In addition, I would like to encourage you to illicit from your child how he or she is feeling about school. If you ask your child how his day was you might be met with a shrug of the shoulders and a statement such as, "It was okay". If you ask what he learned today or what he did in school you might get the response, "Nothing, I didn't learn anything..." Try asking your child one of the following questions instead and see if his response changes:

1. TELL ME ONE THING YOU LEARNED TODAY.
2. WHAT WAS THE BEST THING THAT HAPPENED TODAY?
3. TELL ME ONE THING YOU LEARNED AND ONE THING YOU STILL WONDER ABOUT.
4. WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE PART OF THE DAY AND WHY?

Focusing the conversation helps students to think about specific things he/she did in school and helps t to reinforce concepts learned during the school day.

Hours for Drop-Off and Pick-Up

Students in grades 1-5 may begin arriving at school at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday and 9:00 a.m. on Wednesdays. If students do arrive a few minutes early we ask that they **wait at the gate in front of school**. A bell will **ring signaling students to go to the playground**. At **8:13 a.m.** second bell will ring and students are to **line up** at their classroom numbers. **Parents** who accompany their children to the playground are asked to **say "good bye"** at that point in time and **stand away from the classroom line**. The third bell will ring at **8:15 a.m.** This bell signals **teachers to walk students to class**. **Students who are not in line at 8:15 a.m. are tardy and must report to the office for a Tardy slip.**



We are in need of your help.

Teachers are having difficulty walking their students to their classrooms as there are many parents, siblings and strollers on the playground. Parents are standing with the classroom lines or gathering in between the portables to chat. We appreciate your commitment to your child and we truly treasure the sense of community we have built at Fairlands. Yet, we are experiencing a bit of a "human traffic" jam. When the 8:13 bell ring we would like for parents to say "good byes" and then move away from the classroom lines. Feel free to gather in the middle of the

blacktop area, near the ball wall. Please **avoid standing between the portables or in the line of people-traffic** (Where teachers will lead their classes). This will allow for teachers to lead students to class, ensuring no students get lost along the way. This will also help to ensure that younger siblings do not get swept away with a class.

School ends at 2:50 p.m. We ask that parents **stay outside of the gates until the final bell rings**, unless they are volunteering in a classroom and have signed in at the office. The gates are usually unlocked by 2:30 p.m. **Non-school aged children may not play on the play structure or playground at any time.** To ensure safety and minimize distractions we ask that **parents remain outside the gates until the bell rings**. In addition, **students may not ride skate boards, scooters or bikes on the playground at any time.** On **minimum days the students are dismissed at 12:30.** Our fourth and fifth grade students need to walk from the lunch table area to their classrooms at 12:25. **We ask that parents wait outside the gate until the bell rings at 12:30.** We appreciate your cooperation with these procedures.

****One exception:** Parents may begin lining up for **Jamba Fridays** at the Jamba table outside of room 13. **This is a special exception and helps to expedite the line quickly.**

Academic Performance

We are proud to share that once again our API has increased. Fairlands School has achieved an API of 949. This is an increase of 5 points over last year's score. The API is a score that is derived out of the STAR testing from the previous spring. All students in grades 2-5 take the STAR test in both English Language Arts, ELA and Mathematics. Fourth graders also take a writing test and fifth graders take a Science test. The goal is for 100% of students to test proficient to advanced proficient on all of the STAR tests. According to the data from last spring 85.4% of students in grades 2-5 tested proficient in ELA and 90.4% of our students tested proficient in Math. In addition, 93% of our fifth graders tested proficient to advanced in Science. We are very proud of our student's progress, but we still have room for growth.

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RED RIBBON WEEK

Our Annual **Red Ribbon Week** will be **October 24th -28th**. During this week, with the support of our PTA, we have scheduled special activities to celebrate living a healthy, drug-free life style.

The PTA has purchased special items for the students as reminders for making Healthy Choices.

Please look for more information in the Fairlands Flyer Weekly or at www.fairlandspta.com regarding this week.

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Academic Performance (con't)



In addition to our rigorous standards within the curriculum we have many students who are working to learn English. Fairlands School has the second highest English Language Learner population at the elementary level. While students work to master the standards within each subject area they are also working to master both written and spoken English. With the support of our PTA and the community, we will continue to identify strengths and challenges within each of our students and design instruction to challenge, enrich and inspire our students. I believe it is the incredible partnership we have with our community, coupled with the expert teaching staff and their commitment to each and every student that has contributed to our on-going success. Please accept our deepest gratitude from our entire staff for your continued support of our school. Together we will continue to strive for EXCELLANCE!

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GATE Testing

**NOMINATIONS FOR GIFTED AND TALENTED EDUCATION (GATE) TESTING
ARE BEING ACCEPTED NOW
NOMINATIONS DUE DECEMBER 08, 2011**



Schools in Pleasanton are preparing for the annual Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) testing period.

The purpose of GATE services is to address the needs of students who need challenges beyond what the general education program can offer. The district works with school staffs to provide high quality differentiated opportunities for learning that meet students' particular abilities and talents and to focus on the areas of need.

Every student up to grade 8 in Pleasanton Unified School District (PUSD) is offered the opportunity to be tested at least once for GATE identification. Students may be tested several times, as often as every other year.

Students in grades 4 to 8 must be nominated by a teacher, parent, or other school staff to be tested for GATE services. Parents may nominate their child by submitting a completed *Parent Nomination / Questionnaire / Permission for GATE* to the Special Projects Office. Parents wishing to nominate their child are encouraged to talk with their child's teacher about the benefits and implications of GATE testing. The [Parent Nomination for GATE](#) form can be found on the district web site www.pleasanton.k12.ca.us. Click on the Educational Services button, the GATE button and then the Identification button. There, parents can read the instructions and download the [District GATE Nomination Form](#). Nomination forms are also available at each school site.

Students are not eligible to be nominated if they took the CogAT test last year.

Students will be tested during the school day at their own school. A letter notifying parents/guardians of the testing dates and other information will be sent home mid January. Testing will begin in late January and finish in late February. The test will be administered at each school on different days during this period.

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Fairlands Parents & Students!



Join in on the Fun!
Friday, October 7, 2011
Walk to School!

**Morning Celebration at the
Lunch Table Area
7:45—8:15 a.m.**

Join your classmates and neighbors on Friday, October 8th by walking to school! This is Fairland's 10th year to participate in the Annual Walk to School Day! Students and parents will spend time together practicing safe pedestrian behavior.

Walking to school is the way to go!

Safe Walking Tips:

- Encourage your child to help choose the safest place to cross the road.
- Practice stopping at the curb, looking left, right, left, listening for traffic and making eye contact with drivers.
- Find all the traffic signs and roadway markings on your route. Talk about what these words and symbols mean.
- Talk about ways your child can avoid or minimize dangers along the route, i.e., driveways, parked cars, strangers, etc.
- Observe people walking, cycling, driving or riding cars. Talk about the safe and the risky things you see.
- Talk with your child about the buildings, people, animals, landscaping, etc. on your walk.
- Discuss the ways your walking trips benefit your health, safety and quality of life.

INTERNATIONAL



Refreshments

Nutrigrain Bars
Water
Hot Chocolate
Coffee for parents

Sponsored by:



Pleasanton Unified School District



Fairlands Elementary School



For more information, call :
Fairlands School Office at 426-4210 or
Lisa Adamoc, City of Pleasanton at 931-5039