



Matsuyama Log

Newsletter of the Mighty Pines

Matsuyama Elementary School • 7680 Windbridge Drive, Sacramento, CA 95831 • 916.433.5535



From the Principal's Desk...

Open House was a testament to what an incredible year the 2012-2013 school year has been. Seeing the growth students have made from September to now is absolutely phenomenal. Not only have they grown academically, they have also grown physically and socially. Education is a bit like farming. Each fall we get a new crop of students, we nurture them with love and care, we water them with plenty of discipline and we shine plenty of new knowledge on them every day. In June we are able to harvest the fruits of our collective labors, a bountiful harvest. It is the reason we all do this work. However, the success of the year is only accomplished by the hard work, support, and commitment to education that comes from our families and community. Without their support we would not be able to grow such a beautiful crop. To every mom, dad, grandmother, grandfather, aunt, uncle, and guardian that supports each of our children I send you a HUGE THANK YOU! You are the reason our children arrive at school eager to learn. Without the dedication and passion of our incredible teachers and support staff our students would not flourish and grow at Matsuyama. There are not enough words to thank our teachers, aides, office staff, cafeteria crew, and custodial team. You are the icing on the cake! As I reflect on my first year here I realized that there is a solid base of parents that go way above and beyond

in their support of our school. While there are too many to list, I do wish to call out a few teams of people that provide daily support to our school: the PTA board members under the leadership of the tireless Mary Kwong, our yard duty team that works hard to maintain order on the yard, the School Site Council and ELAC members that support me in overseeing our little categorical budget, all the parents that volunteer in the class-

room on a regular basis, the volunteers that ran and/or supported after school programs, our music teachers, the Matsuyama Mighty Men, Don, our fearless crossing guard and all the parents that helped keep the parking lots safe. As you can see our village is large! Again, there are not enough words to express my sincerest thanks to each of you.

Looking forward to the 2013-2014 year we will see a few changes:

GATE CLUSTER CLASSES:

Matsuyama is now officially designated as a district GATE Cluster school. What that means to us is that Matsuyama students identified as meeting the criteria to be classified as a Gifted and Talented Learner will be able to stay at Matsuyama and receive Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) services during the day. All teachers at Matsuyama have completed the GATE certification and are each fully qualified to teach the GATE classes. Each grade level will have one GATE cluster class which will be made up of GATE students and some students working at the Basic and high

***"Looking forward
to the 2013-2014
year we will see a
few changes..."***

Movie Night Success

Thank you to all of the families that came out to our Matsuyama Movie Night. And a special thank you to Rege Farina who made our screen bigger and better and for setting up the AV equipment. It was just like being in a theater but better enjoying it with our Matsuyama community.

Thank you PTA Volunteers!

Thank you for all the
Hours you spend
Attention you give
Needs that you tend
Knowledge you draw on

Your special touch
Offering assistance
Undaunted by much

Very attentive
On top of your tasks
Leaving nothing to chance
Until the very last
No other parents
Take more time or
Effort
Entirely dedicated
Ready and alert, PTA
Salutes you!

From the Principal's Desk... (con't from page 1)

below basic levels. The other two classes will be made up of Advanced and Proficient students that are not GATE identified as well as students performing at the Basic and Far Below Basic levels. Classes will still be heterogeneous in nature allowing all teachers to have strong models. Studies show that struggling students tend to achieve at a higher level when they are in classes with stronger learners. As you can see, teachers will need to be very strategic in making class placements and there will be very little room for parent requests. With the GATE Cluster program we will be instituting a GATE advisory committee next year and GATE teachers will be participating in ongoing coaching support and planning time, and fully implementing the William and Mary strategies. The GATE teacher positions will rotate from year to year which will allow all teachers to develop their capacity in teaching all levels of learners and to create a school where the "line forms at every door".

COMMON CORE

Teachers will be diving deeper into the Math common core and beginning to implement more Language Arts common core activities. Many of our intermediate teachers are already incorporating more novel studies into the curriculum and you can expect to see more of that happening as well as more opportunities for opinion and informational writing as well as listening and speaking skills. The basic goal of the Language Arts common core is a much deeper level of comprehension and the ability to debate, discuss, and defend their ideas with evidence from the text. You may see less math homework in the intermediate levels; however, homework problems will be more multistep problems that may involve the use of a variety of math skills in order to solve. Primary students will also have more critical thinking problems while still learning their basic math facts. I will be conducting workshops throughout the year so parents can "experience" the common core!

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER

I wish each of you a very safe, relaxing, and fun-filled summer break. To our promoting 6th grade students and families I wish you the best of everything as you move into secondary school. I appreciate the year I was able to spend with you and I hope you keep in touch as the years go on. You are an incredible group of students! If you move over the summer, please be sure to notify the school of any changes. You can leave a message on the answering machine as I will be here most of the summer. I cannot thank you enough for the warm welcome and support you extended to me this year. My first year at Matsuyama was a great experience and I fully intend on returning in the fall! Enjoy the time with your family and I look forward to seeing you in the fall.

~Judy Montgomery, Principal

Fourth of July Fun Run is Almost Here!

Matsuyama is hosting its 18th annual Fourth of July 5K/8K Fun Run/Walk. This event takes place Thursday, July 4, 2013 the same morning as the annual "Spirit of the Pocket" parade. Check in for the Fun/Run walk begins at 7:00 am ending at 7:45am; race begins at 8:00am.



Not only are we raising money to help send our incoming 6th grade students to Sly Park Environmental Science Camp, but our event promotes physical fitness. We depend upon the generous support of local community members and businesses to make this run a success.

Registration forms are available at the front office or on our website: matsuyama.scusd.edu



Box Top Heroes

Congratulations to Mrs. Brunson's 1st grade class for being the overall winner of the April/May Box Tops contest with a whopping 1,224 Box Tops contribution!

Would you believe that our entire school has helped submit over 18,000 Box Tops this past year? That is over \$1800 that goes back to your school! Thanks to all for submitting Box Tops and Labels for Education this year. You are truly heroes for Matsuyama...Go Mighty Pines!

It's never too late to start collecting during the summer. Bring Box Tops and Labels for Education back to school in September!



find out how at **LabelsForEducation.com**

Lunchroom News

As our school year comes to a close we ask that you please make sure that all outstanding lunchroom balances are paid off. We have quite a few students who owe and these balances need to be taken care of as soon as possible.

Through the mySchoolBucks.com online payment system, parents can electronically deposit lunch money directly into SCUSD's cafeteria fund bank account. The service uses a "super-secure" data center with a 128-bit encryption for confidentiality. Families will be able to pre-pay for as many meals as they wish using a credit or debit card. A \$2 fee will apply. A link to this program is available at www.scusd.edu.

Dear Matsuyama Families,

What a year we had! It is hard to believe that it is June and our school year will soon be over. As a PTA, we started the year with two goals in mind; bringing families together to be part of the Matsuyama community and to raise much needed funds to continue educational initiatives that benefit our students. We feel that we were successful in both of these areas. You have attended our events in numbers greater than we have seen before and your presence and participation help to make Matsuyama a special place.

Thanks to all of you, our fundraising efforts were successful throughout the year and culminated with a jog-a-thon that raised \$3,400 in funds for Mr. Melton's Physical Education department. Through your generosity, the Family Dance raised almost \$5,000 to purchase novels for the classrooms. The PTA plans to continue with our Book Giveaway, assisting with the cost of the crossing guard and librarian. And most importantly, continuing to provide funds to teachers for educational supplies. Your incredible support will contribute greatly to the educational experience of our children.

As we end the year, we wish a fond farewell to the families that will be moving on to the middle school. We wish you much luck as your children enter this next stage and we will miss you. To our amazing principal, teachers and staff, we thank you for all that you do to inspire our children. You continuously raise the bar and we appreciate the exceptional gift you offer our community. To our families, I appreciate your willingness to give your time and resources so freely. Matsuyama is a special school where wonderful things happen every day. We wouldn't be able to do it without your support. And lastly, special thanks to a terrific and hard working group of PTA Board members, committee members and parent volunteers. It has been a pleasure and privilege to serve as president of this PTA. You truly amaze me! We make an awesome team and I'm thankful to have worked along side all of you.

With many thanks,
Mary Kwong, 2012-2013 PTA President

Jog a Thon Results

Thank you everyone that helped make this fundraiser a success! Through our generous and supportive Matsuyama families we were able to raise **\$3,432.37** for our PE departments! It was so fun to be part of the excitement with the student body as they competed against each other. Thank you for all the teachers support. Special thanks to Mr. Todd Melton and Mr. Greg Plant our PE teachers. Of course, appreciation to our incredible PTA group! Just a few people to mention: Mary Kwong Perrin, Karen Landeck, Rege Farina, Chris Cowling, Holly and Morgan Reynolds, Lorena Castro, Cherrisa Chew, Jan Taylor, Karen Arakawa, Jen Lightstone and Carol Fukuhara.

Listed below are the grade level finals. These are the classes that won a free dress day for collectively having the most laps:

Kinder—Willard 272 laps	
1st Grade—Brunson 269 laps	2nd Grade—Albert 231 laps
3rd Grade—Spinella 292 laps	4th Grade—Messick 252 laps
4th Grade—Chertorisky 257 laps	6th Grade—Mullen 298 laps

Listed below are our top joggers. Please note, for our joggers that tied with the top laps, we entered their names into a drawing for the Gift Card prize. For a complete list of the top joggers, we will post their names in the cafeteria.

Kinder

1st place	Clifton C	14 laps
2nd place	Jesse B*	12 laps

1st Grade

1st place	Mac N*	11 laps
2nd place	Jordiss S*	10 laps

2nd Grade

1st place	Riana F	12 laps
2nd place	Sora E*	11 laps

3rd Grade

1st place	Atsuya O	14 laps
2nd place	Alonso F*	13 laps

4th Grade

1st place	Gabriella C*	12 laps
2nd place	Gadebo C*	12 laps

5th Grade

1st place	Mujita K*	12 laps
2nd place	Terrell T*	12 laps

6th Grade

1st place	Harrison A	15 laps (highest in the school!)
2nd place	Nathan G*	13 laps



*Gift Card recipient name drawn