



Matsuyama Elementary School



Third Grade STAR Awards Recipients



October 2013



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From the Desk of Principal Montgomery

We are off to a great start!

The 2013-2014 school year is off to a great start. I must say this has been one of the smoothest school openings especially considering that we revamped the traffic flow and added a few new events to our schedule. Thank you all so much for your role in helping get the year off to such a great start. There is nothing more rewarding than seeing children come to school excited about the possibilities for the new school year.

Speaking of the year ahead, this is bound to be an interesting one! As a nation, state and district we are in a state of transition. The California State Standards are being phased out and National Common Core standards are being phased in. While the common core standards are not fully expected to be implemented until the 2014-2015 school year, many states and districts, including California and SCUSD, have been slowly implementing some of the common core expectations and instructional strategies. Consequently there will be some significant changes in testing, classroom activities, curriculum and homework. The common core standards are focused on college and career ready expectations and involve a great amount of critical thinking and problem solving skills. In math, students will be focusing on fewer concepts each year, but are expected to have a great depth of conceptual understanding. This will mean that students in grades 3-6 will be bringing home fewer math problems; however, each problem may require multiple steps to solve and will use a multitude of math concepts to solve. In the classroom, there will be less direct instruction and more exploration and critical discussion as students use the number sense skills developed in kinder-2nd grade to solve real life math problems. In addition, they will be required to write about how they solved a particular problem. In Language Arts, there is a strong focus on informational text and critical literary analysis. Students will be reading more novels, and participating in debates and classroom discussions to develop a deep level of comprehension. Most homework will involve persuasive and comparative writing activities.

In regards to testing, there will no longer be benchmark tests and the STAR test given in the spring will not take place. Instead students in grades 3-6 will most likely take a test that is aligned with the common core standards. The new test, being developed by the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC), is completely technology based, in that it is taken on a computer and results are almost immediate. You can view test sample questions at: <http://www.smarterbalanced.org/pilot-test/> This year the test is strictly designed to test the test, get the students used to a computer based assessment, and work out the kinks before the common core is fully implemented in the 2014-2015 school year. We will be holding common core parent workshops throughout the year. Check the website and Facebook page for reminders. These workshops will give parents the opportunity to experience common core lessons and learn strategies for supporting your students at home.

I am excited about the changes but also anticipate a lot of growing pains as we all of a sudden ask students to think critically, analyze their thinking, explain their rationale, and struggle with the learning. It has been said that confusion leads to learning and that learning is messy! It is a good thing that we are growing and learning together, myself included!



STAR Awards and Lunch with a Scholar

Congratulations to our perfect 600 and to all of our medal winners

The last STAR awards assembly and the first Lunch With a Scholar were held this week. Parents, grandparents and even great-grandparents converged on campus to enjoy a picnic lunch with their students. It was a great community event. I hope all of you are able to make at least one Lunch With a Scholar event this year! After lunch we held the STAR awards assembly. Students were awarded medals based on the following criteria: Gold medal winners scored at the advanced level in both ELA and Math. Silver award winners scored either proficient in both ELA and Math, or advanced in one content area and proficient in the other. Bronze medal winners scored either advanced or proficient in one area, and basic in the other content area. Students in grades 3-6 could also earn a bronze medal by making a quintile gain in at least one content area. In addition, students that scored a perfect 600 were awarded a "soaring with the eagles" certificate! If your student came to Matsuyama from outside of the district and you believe they earned a medal, please bring their STAR report in and I will be more than happy to award them their medal. Congratulations to all of our medal winners!

Lunch with a Scholar and Star Awards



October is Anti-bullying month! Participate in the Mismatched Sock Program

This year Matsuyama Elementary School will be working in conjunction with Brownie Troop 1798 and Cadette Troop 4026 on the Mismatched Sock Project to help reduce bullying. We will be sending home a paper sock for each student to decorate. Paints, crayons, stickers, or pictures from magazines will all work! We want to see you - your interests, your hobbies, etc - all on your sock. Please turn socks in by Friday, October 25 so they can be displayed in the cafeteria. We can't wait to see how creative we all are!

Also, each classroom will be signing a pledge to respect themselves, show respect to others, and to always get an adult when they witness bullying. This pledge will remain in the classroom as a promise to all of us. There will also be some other surprises during the week.

Then, the final culmination will be mismatched sock day on Friday, October 25! Wear fun and creative socks and make sure your socks are not the same! Celebrate your uniqueness! Be proud of who you are and what you do! Show us with your crazy mismatched socks! Since this is the last Friday of the month, it is also a FREE DRESS DAY!

Harvest Festival

Friday, October 18th from 4 to 7 pm.



It's that time of year again! As the days are growing shorter and the leaves are starting to change, the Matsuyama Harvest festival is drawing near! This year's Harvest Festival will be held on Friday, October 18th from 4-7pm at Matsuyama. We will feature a variety of fun arts and crafts and there will be plenty of delicious food to enjoy from the famous Firefighter's BBQ Grill. New this year are separate tickets for crafts and food. This year craft tickets will be purchased as a punch card and food tickets will be sold separately.

All proceeds from the Harvest Festival benefit our Matsuyama teachers by providing funding for classroom supplies for our students. As always, we welcome your generous donations and volunteer time to make our Harvest Festival a success.

Matsuyama Mighty Pines

Save the Dates:

10/11 Starbucks Art Gallery Night
10/14 Due date for Innisbrook
10/14 Kids Can program starts
10/15 Lunch with a Scholar
10/18 Harvest Festival
10/25 Free dress day/Mismatch sock day
11/11 No school Veteran's day
11/13 Lunch with a Scholar
11/15 Kid Can program ends

Show your support by becoming a sponsor and advertising your business in our new monthly school magazine. NewsCrafted provides our school with this free newsletter magazine each month, thanks to the generous support of local businesses. Your sponsorship will help ensure the continuation of this program. For information on becoming a sponsor, please contact Ben Schifftan at 818-644-7789 or via email at ben@newscrafted.com

Our PayPal site is up and running. Visit our site:
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Check out our website:
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Contact our PTA:
matsuyamapta@gmail.com

Do you enjoy taking photos? Looking for a way to get involved but have little time to spare? Please consider contributing your time to the yearbook. Shutterbug Opportunities: 1) Take 3-6 photos of your child's class between now and January. 2) Take 6-12 photos at a single school event. Also need 1-2 6th Grade Parents per class to help with a special publication dedicated to our 2014 graduating Mighty Pines. Smart Phone Pics are acceptable, but digital cameras are desired. Sign up, snap away, and upload images using a single link. Please contact Tiffanie Yee at matsuyamapta@gmail.com.

SCUSD has changed their requirements for volunteer registration: Please see Mrs. Magee for a new ANNUAL background check that must be completed each school year.

The Starbucks Gallery Night will be held on Friday, October 11th from 7 to 9 pm. Students who submit an art piece will have their poster hung at Starbucks in the Lake Crest Village Shopping Center (next to the Nugget). At the Gallery night free hot chocolate or apple juice will be available for all children who come to view the art. Please come and join other Matsuyama families for this casual community event. Contact Jennifer Lightstone for additional information or questions: jlightst@comcast.net We would also like to thank STARBUCKS for providing free coffee on our first day of school.



November's theme is **COMPASSION** **KCRA Kids Can Food Drive**

BECAUSE CHARACTER EDUCATION IS A VERY IMPORTANT ASPECT OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR CHILDREN, THE STAFF OF MATSUYAMA HAVE BEEN FOCUSED ON ENCOURAGING ACTIONS THAT REFLECT THE THEMES OF GOOD CHARACTER.

We will be collecting food for our KCRA Kids Can Food Drive. South Sacramento Interfaith Partnership will receive the food for families here in our neighborhood. The food drive begins on October 14 and will run through November 15. **NO GLASS JARS PLEASE!!!**

Here is a list of most needed items that your child can bring to class to help us out:

Canned fruits / vegetables, Canned & dry soups, Canned tuna, chicken, ham, Ready-to-eat spaghetti, ravioli, pork & beans, stew, refried beans, Dry rice / pasta / beans, Macaroni & cheese, Ramen, Pancake mix, Iron-rich dry cereals, Quaker oats, Cream of wheat, Fruit cups, Peanut butter / jelly (no glass jars please), Powdered milk, Baby food / formula

PTA Art Reflections

Believe, Dream, Inspire: Deadline November 1, 2013



The PTA Reflections Theme for the 2013-2014 school year is "Believe, Dream, Inspire." ALL Matsuyama students are eligible to submit an entry to the program. All children who enter the contest will be recognized and rewarded, and winning entries have the opportunity to travel to council, district, state and even the National PTA Reflections contest. Entry forms, rules and details can be found on the school website and in the front office.

Get involved with the PTA Art Reflections program. Create an original piece in any of the following areas and turn it into the front office by November 1, 2013: Dance Choreography, Film Production, Literature, Music Composition, Photography, or Visual Arts.

From your PTA... Karen Landeck

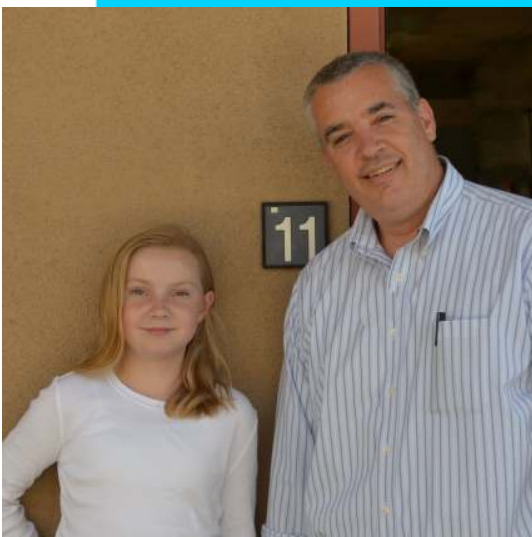
It was a great first month of school. I feel very fortunate to be a part of Matsuyama. We have passionate teachers, dedicated staff and a community of supportive families. Together we are able to provide a lot of extra programs for our school from the librarian and crossing guard salaries, to new computers, books for the library and classrooms, field day, assemblies, field trips, after school programs and so much, much more.

I would like to thank everyone that participated in the Z Best Coupon Book and Innisbrook Fundraisers. I hope to see you at the Harvest Festival. Remember that all of the Harvest Festival proceeds go directly to our classrooms. We greatly appreciate your support and do not expect families to participate in every fundraiser we have.

We are a fortunate school to have so much parent involvement, thank you to all of the many helping hands that dived into the first month of school. We would like to welcome new volunteers, your time and talents will be greatly appreciated and needed.

Student Staff Spotlight/Mr. Mullen

An interview by Elizabeth Reynolds



Mr. Mullen is very involved in promoting technology at Matsuyama. He began running Matsuyama's Robotics program after he saw LEGO Robots online. He thought it would be a cool club, so he bought one, and brought it to school. The Robotics club progressed after that. Mr. Mullen also runs the MESA club (Mathematics, Engineering, Science and Achievement), helps with computers and works on the school website. He has been teaching for twenty years. The last seven years Mr. Mullen has been a 6th grade teacher, although he has also taught 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th grade. His favorite thing about teaching is that he is able to continue to learn new things. Teaching sixth grade is his favorite because he likes the curriculum and discussions in class. He also loves the 6th grade Sly Park trip. Mr. Mullen enjoys golf, strategy computer games, working with technology and spending time with his family. His favorite food is spicy green papaya salad. Say hello to Mr. Mullen when you see him!

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