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Back to School Edition



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From the Desk of Principal Montgomery

Welcome to the 2014-2015 school year! This year brings many new opportunities and challenges, including full implementation of the common core standards, a new math adoption, CAASPP testing that should result in student outcomes based on the common core standards, possible new benchmark assessments to support planning and instruction, a new report card, a new student information system (Infinite Campus), a district wide focus on Social Emotional Learning (SEL), and a new superintendent, Mr. Jose Banda.

Mr. Banda's vision for SCUSD is: Together create a service-oriented culture of excellence with success for all students and relationships that reflect our core values. The identified core values are: Achievement by all; Collaboration; Relationships; Integrity (transparency); Creativity/innovation; Service; Compassion; Personal and professional development.

While these may at first appear to be lofty goals they are achievable and will result in improved outcomes for all children as long as we all continue to work together, support each other, and keep our students at the forefront of all our decisions and actions.

For our students to be successful in school and in life it is important that they all learn to develop social emotional learning competences. These competencies include: self-awareness, social awareness, self-management, relationship skills, and responsible decision making. You will be hearing more about how we can work together as a team to support our children in developing these life skills.

With these big changes it is important that we focus on the journey, the process of learning, and not just the destination (report cards and/or standardized testing scores). The common core standards in math focus on conceptual understanding, and not just learning the algorithms. Students and teachers are being asked to stretch their thinking and step out of their comfort zones. Much of the learning in English will take place in the classroom through class discussions, response journals, and writing prompts. The measurement for success is the journey, the individual growth each student experiences throughout the year, and the confidence they gain from the learning opportunities teachers will be providing our students.

Matsuyama has a rich tradition of a strong parent, teacher partnership, it is that continued support that will insure all our children experience great academic, social, and emotional growth throughout this transformational year.

19th Annual Fun Run Event Raises Funds for Sly Park Camp

On one of the mildest mornings of the summer, more than 250 adults and children gathered to participate in the 19th Annual Fourth of July Matsuyama Fun Run, a 5K and 8K race to help Matsuyama sixth graders raise money to attend Sly Park Environmental Science Camp. Students who recruited runners and walkers (as well as “virtual runners”) earned the entire Fun Run registration fee toward their Sly Park account. An additional \$5,000 raised through sponsorships went to cover the costs of the race and support scholarships to help students attend Sly Park.

The Fun Run committee would like to thank all those who supported the event through volunteering, participating, donating merchandise for the Fun Run raffle and sponsoring the event. Top-level sponsors included: (\$500 level) City of Sacramento--Councilmember Darrell Fong, Sacto Mofo, Meena Chan Lee—Cook Realty; (\$300 level) Riverside Wesleyan Church, Ronald T. Blanchette, D.D.S., and Harbison Estate Wines.

Plan now to attend the 20th annual Fun Run next summer! Thank you to our fabulous chairman Esther Chapman!

Student Staff Spotlight--Meet Ms. Berry

Our Kindergarten Teacher By Paris Medina



Mrs. Berry Loves being a teacher. She has been teaching at Matsuyama for 21 years and teaching 24 years in all. She has taught kindergarten, 2nd, 3rd, 5th, and 6th grade. She has always wanted to be a teacher since she was in elementary school. She wanted to be a teacher because she had good teachers and they inspired her. Her favorite part of being a teacher is being able to see the student grow and learn new things. Her least favorite part of being a teacher is saying goodbye at the end of the year. She says that the hardest part of being a teacher is keeping everybody motivated. She also says that being a teacher is challenging because she has to teach them how to be in school like how to play with other kids or what table to go too. She is a great teacher.

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Pictures from the end of the school year & summer: Talent Show, Nicole, James & Baton Team, Fun Run-Great Start, Medal Winners, Councilmember Darrell Fong with 6th Graders, Field Day-Tug a War and Staff Appreciation Luncheon



From Your PTA, Karen Landeck

In my second and final year as the Matsuyama PTA President, I want to welcome everyone back to school and revisit some of the things that the PTA was able to accomplish thanks to your donations, time and effort. Because of Matsuyama Parent support, the PTA could do such things as help fund the crossing guard's salary, we allocated \$15,000 to our classrooms, spent an additional \$10,000 for books for our classroom and to improve our library and provide three free books to every student. We also raised money for a climbing wall that we hope to install soon.

The PTA creates great memories and fun activities for the kids by sponsoring events like the harvest and cherry blossom festivals, the family dance and talent show. To foster communication and school spirit the Matsuyama PTA produces things like this newsletter. We create our yearbook & provide school's spiritwear, both close to cost. The PTA Reflections art contest gives students an opportunity to use their creative talents by expressing themselves through their own original works. We support several afterschool programs like the band and robotics.

We have also brought several assemblies to the school. This October we are proud to sponsor the Crocker Art Ark, a mobile art museum and education center that brings original works of art and activities to Matsuyama. To pull off such an experience will

require volunteers to help to be docents and help to with tours.

You can support Matsuyama without opening your wallets. By joining Bel Air's Something Extra Program a percentage of your purchases can go to our school. It is free to the consumer; you just need to activate it online. The Nugget, Target and Safeway offer similar programs too. We earned approximately \$1750 in Box Tops. Ten cents a box top doesn't seem like much but together when we collect them as a community it makes a big difference. We also collect Campbell Soup Labels for Education. Start saving your used clothing for our drive in January. Last year we earned approximately \$2000 from Re Use It. For all of these programs, please ask your contacts to assist with our efforts. For example since I started to ask my friends and family to save Box Tops, I am able to submit so much more.

The PTA membership drive has begun. By joining this national organization your \$5 dues will help all school children in our country and it will give you a voice to vote on our budget and board elections. If you want to be informed of areas of need and be on the PTA contact list, email us at Matsuyamapta@gmail.com and write I want to help in the subject line. You will be kept aware of volunteer opportunities and will be under no obligation.

Although we accomplished great things last year, 2014/15 is a

new school year and WE DESPERATELY NEED MORE HELP. You do not need to participate in every fundraiser but please don't ignore the fundraisers or request for your time to improve your child's future. The stronger our community of volunteers, the more we can provide for our school and this is how we can make Matsuyama a better place. I would like to invite you to join our team of volunteers, ask you to support our fundraisers or donate directly to our PTA. For more information, contact us at matsuyamapta@gmail.com or leave me a message in the office.

Important Dates:

- 9/2 PTA Membership Drive (ongoing)
- 9/10 Back to School Night
- 9/11 Z Best Coupon Book Fundraiser (11th through 25th)
- 9/15 Lunch with a Scholar
- 9/30 Innisbrook Fundraiser (9/30 through 10/14)
- 9/30 Picture Day
- 10/3 to 10/9 Crocker Art Ark lessons, tours (need volunteers please)
- 10/3 PTA General mtg approve budget and possible open house to families for Crocker Art Ark
- 10/8 International Walk to School Day
- 10/10 Tentative Harvest festival gallery night
- 10/17 HARVEST FESTIVAL (4-7 pm)
- 10/21 Lunch with a Scholar

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