

Matsuyama Elementary Newsletter



Photo Captions and More Images on page 3

November 2015



From the Desk of the Principal

It seems that change has been a constant in education the past few years and this year is proving to be no exception. Regardless of how we feel about change, it is the one action that leads to growth, progress, and innovation.

Report cards will be different this year. They are much more streamlined, easier to understand, and parent friendly. Students will receive scores of 4, 3, 2 and 1. This is aligned with the reporting codes used on the CAASPP test. Students receiving a 4 are exceeding the common core standards taught during that grading period. A score of a 3 indicates students met the standards. Students receiving a 2 nearly met the standards. Students receiving a score of 1 did not meet the standards and there should be cause for concern on the part of parents, teachers and students. This is a bit of a paradigm shift in that scores of 2 and 3 are acceptable, and a 4 is exceptional. Citizenship grades will continue to be represented as: O for outstanding, S for satisfactory, N for needing improvement and U for unacceptable.

By now all parents of students in grades 4-6 should have received their student's CAASPP scores. As is normal when new standards are tested in new ways there is a serious dip in scores. Please keep in mind that this is a starting point. This test told us what we did not know we did not know. There are a lot of variables that could have affected the test outcomes, including that the test was given on MacBook's and not all students have access to technology, there were a few technology glitches, the test is testing new standards in a completely different way. Students can no longer narrow the 4 possible answers down to 1 or 2 and make an educated guess...the test required them to think critically, problem solve, analyze, critique, and explain answers in writing. It was a very difficult test and in spite of that we had a few students score perfect scores. This is the point from where we build.

Please be sure to calendar the following dates:

- Students in grades 2-6 will be taking benchmark assessments somewhere between 11/9 and 12/4.
- Thanksgiving Vacation is the week of 11/23-11/27.
- December 4th is the end of the first trimester and will be a minimum day schedule. Students in grades 1-6 are released from school at 12:30.
- Parent/Teacher Conferences will be held 12/7-14. Those 6 days will be minimum days as well.
- Report cards are due to parents no later than 12/18.
- Winter Vacation starts 12/21 and ends on 1/16

On behalf of the Matsuyama staff I wish all of you a very peaceful Thanksgiving Break. We have much to be thankful for here at Matsuyama, particularly for our students, their families, and our great staff.

--Judy Montgomery

Notes from the PTA

Our school year has started off with quite a few successful events. Thank you to all the volunteers and attendees. Without your time and effort, our events would not be possible.

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING:

*** Jan Taylor for organizing the PTA membership drive. Because of her hard work and perseverance, 272 members joined. Great job Jan!!

*** Carolyn Fong, Irene Nakaoka, and Carol Yoshioka for coordinating our Walk to School Day Event, and to Daylight Foods and the Taranto Family for their generous donations for Walk to School Day.

*** Karen Landeck, Rochelle Andersen, Hiroko Kurosaki, and Marissa Saika for organizing and distributing the Zbest coupon books.

*** Jen Lightstone, Rege Farina, Irene Nakaoka, Jessica Zyrek, Angela Chapman, and Raquel Beloney for all the hardwork and dedication to the Harvest Festival.

*** Taranto Family (again!) and Osakaya for their Harvest Festival donations and to Starbucks at Lakecrest Village for hosting Gallery Night.

The PTA provides many events and services including assemblies, tutoring, and after school clubs. In order for the PTA to this, we have fundraisers throughout the year. We appreciate any amount contributed. We do not expect you to support all the fundraisers, just the ones that are best suited to your family. Every little bit helps! On Sunday, 11/15/15, we are having a FUNDRAISER AT Z PIZZA. Dine in or take out and Matsuyama receives a percentage of all sales. Flyers regarding this dine and donate fundraiser coming soon!

In addition, we are starting another fundraiser that will require minimum work from you, other family members, and friends. Please **DOWNLOAD THE SHOPAROO APP** on your smart phones. Choose Matsuyama Elementary as the recipient to help the school earn free money. All you have to do is take pictures of receipts from qualified restaurants and stores. It's fast and it's easy. There is no limit to the number of receipts you can scan per day so let's start earning free money!!

The PTA REFLECTIONS PROGRAM 2015/2016 theme is "Let Your Imagination Fly". Students are encouraged to submit original works of art in the categories of dance choreography, film production, literature, music composition, photography, and visual arts. For more information, please email Holly Reynolds at hmlreynolds@msn.com.

The next few months will continue to bring more opportunities to participate in school activities. If you haven't joined the PTA yet, it's not too late. Membership lasts the whole school year. Why join? Because membership helps support programs at school and a portion goes directly back to your student's classroom.

--Cherissa Tom (PTA President)



In Case You Missed It...

It was a busy start to the school year! So much happening. . . Cover photo details: 1) Ashlyn R and Samantha P at the 6th Grade Fundraiser at Funderland. 2) Colin S at the Prize Machine for the ZBest Coupon Book Fundraiser 3) Scarecrow welcoming everyone to the Harvest Festival 4) Kylie J, Hiyori A, and Sammy T on International Walk to School Day.



Another successful International Walk to School Day.



Matsuyama families enjoying the 6th grade Funderland fundraiser.



More Funderland fun with Ryan Y and Tayt J.



Katelynn H showing off what she won in the Zbest Prize Machine.



Mr Brickner sharing info about beekeeping to the 5th graders.



Ann L showing off student artwork at Starbucks Gallery Night.



Ms Kassow and Ms Hisamoto helping out at the Harvest Festival.



Harvest Festival square dancing with Mrs. Gisler's Class.



More of our wonderful volunteers working at the Harvest Festival.



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