### **Matsuyama Elementary School**



### **SO MUCH TO BE THANKFUL FOR**

As 2015 winds down many of us will take some time to reflect upon the year and look forward to the fresh opportunities a new year brings...

There is so much to be thankful for at Matsuyama. First, I am thankful for our parent volunteers, especially our yard duty volunteers who work rain or shine in the noisy cafeteria and on the bustling playground. Our PTA volunteers work tirelessly to provide many of the "extras" that make school so memorable: assemblies, clubs, and enrichment opportunities. My front office staff sets the tone for our school. They are the first people visitors meet and they establish the positive, calm, and caring culture at Matsuyama. Plus, they have the nearly impossible task of keeping me in line! The support staff, from the custodial team to the kitchen crew, and all our aides provide so much support to all us. Of course, our teachers...there are not enough words to express how much I appreciate what they do. They are the hardest working teachers around. Finally, nothing can compare to the absolute joy for learning that our children bring to school. I was reminded, at a special assembly we had for our zPizza acts of kindness winners, about the special innocent wisdom our children possess and how much we can learn from them. Many students thanked us for the party, innocent to the fact that we were thanking them for their acts of kindness. To them kindness is just the right thing to do and it is done without the expectation of any recognition. I can honestly say that after interacting with our little Mighty Pines I leave work with my bucket filled, even if it was empty when I came to work. This year has been extraordinary and next year looks even brighter and full of new adventures. On behalf of the staff at Matsuyama we wish each of you a very happy holiday season and an extraordinary 2016! -Judy Montgomery, Principal





#### DECEMBER 2015 | http://matsuyama.scusd.edu/

# **Photo Time!**

### A PEEK AT WHAT OUR STUDENTS WERE UP TO LAST MONTH. . .



Students learning about snakes at the Australian Animals Assembly.



Veronica I, Colin C and Jordan carving pumpkins in Mr Hanks Class.



Coach Roach, Chase S, Togo K, & Ethan R at the Run Because You Can





Ms Porto making friends with a tarantula at the assembly.



More 4th graders working on their pumpkins,



More Matsuyama BOKS running club members ready to run the 5K race.





Mr. Blueberry sharing his poetry with the 5th grade students.



Ms. Sheila from the Discovery Museum with the 2nd grade class.



Matsuyama's Robotics Team at their 1st Lego League Competition.

From your PTA...

### Cherissa Tom, PTA President

I'm pleased to announce the PTA is off to a great start. A special thanks goes to everyone who has participated in our fundraisers and events. Special thanks to Tiffanie Yee and Karen Landeck for organizing the Winterwear fundraiser. Did your student tell you how much fun they had at the Australian Animal assembly? The PTA sponsors the great assemblies. Without the generosity of Matsuyama families, we wouldn't be able to expose your student to these wonderful activities. It's never too late to join the PTA or participate in events and fundraisers.

A huge thank you goes out to ZPizza and everyone who participated in the Dine and Donate fundraiser on 11/15/15. We made \$187.78. We have another Dine & Donate opportunity on 12/7/15 at L&L Hawaiian BBQ in the Lakecrest Shopping Center. The PTA will receive 20% of all sales all day. Look for the flyer coming home soon. A reminder of ongoing fundraisers including BoxTops and Labels for Education. Turn them into the office so we can turn them into free cash for the school. Make holiday shopping easier and get your orders in for giftcards at Scripzone. Com. The deadline is Wednesday, December 9th to get them before the holidays.

Our next PTA general Meeting is Tuesday 12/15/15 at 5:30 at the Kinder Holiday Performance. We hope to see you there. Mark your calendars for our next big event, the Family Dance on 1/29/15.

On behalf of the Matsuyama PTA, we wish you and your loved ones the happiest of holidays and a joyous 2016.

## Staff Spotlight Say Hello to... Ms. Pam

Written by Christy Chan and Alanna Gillette

Ms. Pam is our school's Cafeteria Manager. She has worked at Matsuyama for 16 years and the SCSD for a total of 20 years. Her duties as a Cafeteria Manager are to make sure students eat good food, putting in orders, making sure the kitchen has staff working, following the rules from the health department and SCSD, and going to meetings. Ms. Pam also makes sure kids have some fruit during breakfast and lunch and at least three items on their tray. The hardest parts of Ms. Pam's job are customer service, having good teamwork, and serving good food. Her favorite foods to prepare and make for lunch are Mac and Cheese and spaghetti. She thinks the loudest group of kids during lunch is the 3rd and 4th graders. Ms. Pam's favorite kitchen appliances to use are hotel pans.

Ms. Pam is positive, flexible, and serious, but she is easy going when she is not at work. Her favorite childhood memories are her 3rd grade teacher because she made the class feel extra special.

Another memory is fishing with her brother during the summer. Her dream is to become an author by finishing the book she is writing.

When Ms. Pam started working at Matsuyama, the school didn't serve breakfast, so Ms. Pam and some of the parents wrote a letter to the principal saying that they wanted to start serving breakfast and the letter was approved. So if you're a student who buys breakfast or lunch from school, make sure to say thank you to Ms. Pam!



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