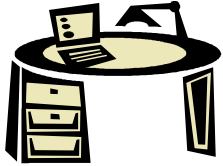




# Matsuyama Log

Newsletter of the Mighty Pines 

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



## From the Principal's Desk...

April has definitely arrived like a lion! The wind and rain has caused an increase in allergy symptoms; however, it has also caused the school gardens to erupt into a sea of beautiful, vibrant colors and fresh new growth. From my office I am able to enjoy the rich purples of the lavender plants as well as the golden poppies peeking out over the edge of the flower beds. During recess I am able to watch our city kids turn the soil, plant vegetables and flowers, and revel in the new life that spring brings. I must say that from my vantage point, life is good!

### STAR TESTING

STAR testing will begin on April 30<sup>th</sup> and end on May 16<sup>th</sup>. While the STAR tests are but one measure of student achievement they are THE measure that the State of California and the Federal Government use to measure student success and the effectiveness of schools. Our teachers and support staff have been working, and continue to work, very hard to teach our children all the grade level content standards necessary for every student to master the assessments. At the end of the month students will have the opportunity to show just how much they have learned. We all put a lot of pressure on our students to perform well on these tests, but the reality is that many of us tend to get anxious and freeze when it comes to standardized tests. Therefore, it is very important

that we all do what we can to reduce the stress on our students and create an environment that supports their success and builds their confidence. Here are some strategies for helping your child be in the best physical and mental shape to rock the STAR!

- Make sure they get plenty of uninterrupted sleep. That may mean no late practices during the testing period and no staying up late reading books. Most experts agree school age children need about 10-11 hours a sleep per day. Try to get them to bed before 9:00. Make sure your child gets a good, balanced, breakfast-toast and cereal is not enough. They need some protein and a little fat to make that food stick with them and get their brains focused. Pack them a healthy snack as well.
- Make sure they get to school on time. Late students will not be allowed into the classrooms after testing starts at 8:15 and will be required to sit in the front office during the testing period. They will then be required to make up the sections missed on Mondays and Fridays. Students do better when they test with their class.
- Create a stress-free morning by preparing the night before in order to mitigate the morning madness that can happen when raising young children!
- Consider walking to school. Studies show that twenty minutes of moderate physical activity, like walking to school, increases attention span, concentration, and specifically the

*“STAR testing will begin on April 30th and end on May 16th.”*

[\(con't on page 2\)](#)

## Uniform Donations

It is time for some spring cleaning. Please consider donating your outgrown, gently used uniforms. We can take any item of clothing that fall within the Matsuyama uniform policy. A collection box is in the office. With our donations, the PTA will have a used uniform sale on Friday, April 26<sup>th</sup> after school. Families will have an opportunity to purchase economical school clothes. Tops will be .50 and pants, dresses, skirts and sweat-shirts will be \$1.00.

## Dates to Remember

- 4/30 through 5/16  
STAR Testing
- 5/17 Movie Night
- Week of 5/20  
Jog-A-Thon
- 5/21 PTA General Mtg  
3rd/4th Grade Performance
- 5/27 Memorial Day Holiday
- 5/28 through 5/30  
Staff Appreciation Week
- 6/13 Last Day of School



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

- ability to answer tougher questions accurately. No surprise this increased focus leads to higher achievement (equivalent to as much as a full letter grade) on standardized tests. Live too far away? Park at Garcia Bend Park or the Bel Air parking lot and walk in.
- Tell them how proud you are of them and encourage them to do their best, take their time, and check their answers.

### ATTENDANCE ALERT

Most of you probably know that school funding is based on average daily attendance. Every day that a student is absent the school district does not receive the allocated state funding of approximately \$30 per day. It does not matter if the absence was excused, if the student is not at school the funding is not dispensed to the district. Last year SCUSD lost close to \$4.4 M dollars due to student absenteeism. This money could be used to fund close to 48 teachers! In February Matsuyama had a 90% attendance rate, which is well below the district goal of 98%! There has been a past practice of granting short term "independent" study opportunities to families that take vacations or have family emergencies during the school year. This practice was originally intended for emergency use and to bridge the transition from a year round to a traditional calendar; however, over time it has become a general practice and it is having a severe effect in the classroom in that too many students are missing valuable instruction time. It also creates a lot of work for teachers to plan work for the missed time, and with increased class sizes it has become an unnecessary burden for a staff that already goes above and beyond on a daily basis. Consequently, this practice will be completely discontinued next year. We strongly encourage families to plan vacations and reunions during scheduled school breaks. We understand that emergencies do happen and in that case we will work individually with affected families to determine the best options. The district does offer a short-term independent study option for leaves of a minimum of 2 weeks and a maximum of 6 weeks. This option must be approved well in advance of the requested leave dates. Capital City School (CCS) processes the application, approves the application, and processes the teacher payroll time sheet. The home school teacher can be identified as the independent study teacher and will be paid through CCS. In order to educate our students, we need them at school every day.

### PERMITS

Many of you whose children have the privilege of attending Matsuyama on a permit may be wondering why you have not yet received a letter informing you if I will be able to renew your permit for the 2013-1014 school year. There are a couple of reasons. First, open enrollment was extended due to the recent school closures. Students accepted to Matsuyama through open enrollment will be notified this week and will have the opportunity to register before the end of the month. Secondly, the district's past practices on permits has been called to task. In response the district has convened a permit task force that will be making recommendations that may change the process and procedures for issuing permits. Consequently I will be waiting until those recommendations are released before deciding to renew permits for the next year. Please note that if your student is here on an inter-district permit, one between SCUSD and another school district, the California State Educational Code 48204 states that those permits are good through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. I will be sure to keep everyone informed as soon as the recommendations of the task force are made public.

### BIRTHDAY TREATS

Birthdays are a big deal when you are young and our students are no exception. I can just feel their pride and excitement when they tell me their birthday is next month, in three days, or during the summer. We certainly do not want to discourage birthday celebrations and staff sets time aside at the end of the day to allow students to share their birthday treats. However, we have many children with severe allergies that cannot eat certain foods and as such cannot enjoy the birthday treats. In addition, we are trying to encourage our children to make healthy choices in life. We are **suggesting** that parents **consider** alternatives to the birthday cupcake. Pencils, rulers, bubbles, and other "dime store" (I am definitely dating myself here!) items can be found at a reasonable cost at stores that sell items for a dollar or less. Please give it some thought and maybe we can start a wave of change at Matsuyama!

~Judy Montgomery, Principal

## Box Tops: The contest is very close!

Brunson, Gisler, and Messick are in the lead,  
 Arnett, Porto, and Gravitz are closing in with speed.  
 C'mon all classes and let's see who's going to win!  
 Could there be an upset, a dark horse, who'll gain in the end?  
 Remember that expired ones do not count; they're not accepted  
 Be sure to check the dates before you have submitted.  
 There have been quite a few contributions with no room # or teacher's name.  
 With this contest being so close, who'll take on the blame  
 of not getting credit for taking part of being a hero?  
 Let's keep it going because it benefits all, ya know?  
 The deadline is April 15th, tax day, but did we forget to mention?  
 That we are changing the date to later, just like an "extension."  
 Deadline now is **May 15th**, and that's it, the finale, the last  
 one...  
 Stay tuned for the next Log to find out who has won!



As for Labels for Education, keep on collecting!  
 We've earned more than 61,000 points and still counting.  
 Spot the participating products, clip, and submit.  
 All classrooms will reap the benefit!

## Matsuyama 2013/14 PTA Board

Congrats and welcome to the newly appointed Matsuyama PTA Board members for the next school year! Thank you all!!!

President.....Karen Landeck  
 1st VP-Membership.....Maria Rodriguez  
 2nd VP-Hospitality.....Debbie Owyang  
 3rd VP-Assemblies.....Mary Kwong  
 Treasurer.....Susie Lauck  
 Secretary.....Holly Reynolds  
 Historian.....Chris Cowling  
 Parliamentarian.....Alyson Lunetta  
 Auditor.....Bianca Smith

## 30-DAY NOTICE OF BYLAWS AMENDMENT

At its March 12, 2013 meeting, the executive board of officers of the Matsuyama Elementary PTA approved the proposed amendments to the Matsuyama Elementary PTAbylaws.

The proposed amendments are subject to the approval of Matsuyama Elementary PTA general membership with a two-third affirmative vote at its association meeting on **Tuesday, May 21, 2013 at 6PM in the Multi-Purpose Room**. Adoption date of bylaws will be the date it is approved by the general membership.

The Detailed Summary Report and bylaws set are available for public viewing at Matsuyama's front office on or before April 21st. More information can be found on our website (<http://matsuyama.scusd.edu/>) or email [edna.toy@gmail.com](mailto:edna.toy@gmail.com) if you have questions.

## Get your News Online!!

Sign up for our e-Newsletter at <http://matsuyama.scusd.edu/newsletter>  
 Like Matsuyama on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/MatsuyamaElementarySchool?ref=hl>

## Lunchroom Reminders

Please be sure to pay your child's lunch balance timely. Negative balances will carry over into junior high.

Through the mySchoolBucks.com online payment system, parents can electronically deposit lunch money directly into SCUSD's cafeteria fund bank account. Families will be able to prepay 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](http://www.scusd.edu).

New applications for free or reduced lunch may be turned in anytime during the school year. Income changes due to loss of a job or reduced hours can change your child's eligibility for reduced lunch at \$0.40 per day.

## Cookie Dough Fundraiser

Thank you to the families that participated in our cookie dough fundraiser, bravo to our lead seller the Lucero family in Ms. Lun's room. I would also like to give a special thank you to our chairmen, Fawn Cobb and Valerie St. James and to our muscle, distribution crew, Nancy Sumampauw, Christine Lee, Karen Arakarwa. Shameka Dahlberg and Carol Fukahara. The PTA appreciates your time and generosity, Karen Landeck.



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## Thank you!!

A huge **THANK YOU** to Councilmember Darrell R. Fong in conjunction with Sacto MoFo for supporting Matsuyama PTA at the Food Truck Expo held at Garcia Bend Park on March 21st. It was a beautiful evening to hang out at the park and enjoy some good eats.

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## HELP WANTED: Matsuyama 18th Annual Fun Run/Walk

Planning has started for the 18th Annual Fourth of July Fun Run, which helps next year's 6th grade class raise money to attend Sly Park Environmental Science Camp. Registration has begun. But we're still in need of business/personal sponsors, ranging from \$50 to \$500, for the event. If you know someone who owns a business (your realtor, bank, dentist, optometrist, favorite restaurant, etc.), ask if they will support this important. We also need parent volunteers to assist the Race Day Committee. Sponsorship/registration forms and volunteer sign-up sheets are available in the front office. Plan now to start off your Fourth of July celebration with a great family event...the Matsuyama Fun Run.

