



Matsuyama Log

Newsletter of the Mighty Pines 

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



From the Principal's Desk...

For a short month, February seemed pretty long! In typical Matsuyama style we stuffed as much as we possibly could into one month... conferences, talent show, cookie dough fundraiser, and 1st grade benchmark tests! None of the aforementioned activities could have been accomplished without the steadfast dedication of our teachers, support staff, and parents. Thank you all so much! I know we are all looking forward to the return of regular days, and an opportunity to turn our undivided attention back to regular classroom instruction. There is still so much to discover, learn, and do before the end of the school year.

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PARKING AND TRAFFIC

Drop-off and pick-up times continue to be a source of student safety concerns. Having parking enforcement and SPD issue tickets for parking and moving violations has not been much of a deterrent. People continue to make U-turns in front of the school, double park, speed, block driveways, run through the stop sign, jay-walk, park in the staff parking lot, and a myriad of other unsafe actions. Neighbors are increasingly concerned and there have been too many near misses. Last week I met with Jon Fitzpatrick from the city Public Works department. We identified some possible solutions that may help alleviate some of the problems. School district staff is also working closely with me to address the concerns. Before any changes are made we will be hosting a community traffic safety meeting on Tuesday, April 9th at

6:00 p.m. We are open to suggestions from all stakeholders. If you have some ideas that you would like considered, please email them to me at judy-montgomery@scusd.edu. This is not a problem unique to Matsuyama. Every school in the district is faced with these types of challenges due to the lack of adequate parking spaces. It is just hard for me to understand what could possibly be important enough to justify unsafe traffic behavior and compromise the safety of all children. Hopefully we will be able to come up with a solution that will insure safety for our children and help us to be a good neighbor to the people that live on Windbridge Drive.

BENCHMARK ASSESSMENTS

During conferences there was a lot of discussion about the Benchmark assessments that are given 3 times per year to students in grades 1-6. The Benchmarks serve a couple of purposes. The first is to assess where student achievement is in relation to mastery of the end-of-the-year grade level standards. The second is to inform teachers about the effectiveness of instruction, based on student outcomes, in order to plan future lessons and activities and plan for targeted intervention for students needing support. The first benchmark is given at the beginning of the school year. Keep in mind that it tests progress towards mastery of **end-of-the-year** grade level standards. Students are not expected to have mastery at that point; however, results will inform teachers what standards students have mastered, and where they need to focus their energy. For example, if 100% of students are proficient or advanced in single digit multiplication on the 4th grade Benchmark 1, the teacher would not need to focus (con't on page 2)

Lunchroom Reminders

Please be sure to pay your child's lunch balance timely. There are quite a few negative balances and it's important to keep your child's account current.

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.

Upcoming Dates

- 3/9 General PTA Meeting
6pm
- 3/12 Cookie Dough
Fundraiser Pick-up
- 3/16 Fun Run Planning Mtg
6pm
- 3/20 Spring Picture Day
- 3/25 through 3/29
Spring Break



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

a lot of energy on that concept and could allocate more time for teaching two and three digit multiplication. Since the benchmark assessments measure progress towards the end-of-the-year grade level standards the cut-off points for mastery "move", in that it is expected that as more concepts are taught student mastery should increase. The table below shows the cut-off points. These scores are one of the measures of student progress as reported on the report card. You will see that to be considered advanced on the 4th benchmark, which is optional and is closely aligned with the STAR tests, a student in grade 3 would need a minimum of 85.01%, but on benchmark 1 would only need a score of 60.01% to be advanced.

Performance Band	Test 1		Test 2		Test 3		Test 4 (optional)	
	Grades 1-2 4-6	Grade 3	Grades 1-2 4-6	Grade 3	Grades 1-2 4-6	Grade 3	Grades 1-2 4-6	Grade 3
ADVANCED	55.01+	60.01+	60.01+	70.01+	75.01+	80.01+	80.01+	85.01+
PROFICIENT	40.01-55	45.01-60	45.01-60	55.01-70	55.01-75	65.01-80	65.01-80	70.01-85
BASIC	30.01-40	35.01-45	35.01-45	40.01-55	40.01-55	50.01-65	50.01-65	55.01-70
BELOW BASIC	15.01-30	20.01-35	20.01-35	25.01-40	30.01-40	35.01-50	35.01-50	40.01-55
FAR BELOW BASIC	0-15	0-20	0-20	0-25	0-30	0-35	0-35	0-40

Hopefully this brief summary explains the benchmarks as much as possible. If you ever have any questions about your student's benchmark results, please do not hesitate to call me.

COMMON CORE STANDARDS

Many of you may have heard your students talking about the common core standards, particularly in the area of math. Matsuyama teachers in grades 3-6 are currently receiving training in the math common core standards. They are also beginning to implement some of the math practices that support the common core standards. Beginning in the 2014-2015 school year California will switch over to the common core standards. Next school year will be the last year of the STAR test and in 2015 students will take an entirely different assessment that will measure mastery of the new common core standards. For many students and parents the common core standards will look very different. The current state standards have been described as a mile wide and an inch deep. The common core standards are an inch wide and a mile deep. Expectations include an increased focus on writing and critical thinking. Below is an excerpt from the Common Core State Standards Initiative website.

"The Common Core State Standards Initiative is a state-led effort that established a single set of clear educational standards for kindergarten through 12th grade in English language arts and mathematics that states voluntarily adopt. The standards are designed to ensure that students graduating from high school are prepared to enter credit bearing entry courses in two or four year college programs or enter the workforce. The standards are clear and concise to ensure that parents, teachers, and students have a clear understanding of the expectations in reading, writing, speaking and listening, language and mathematics in school.

The Common Core State Standards were written by building on the best and highest state standards in existence in the U.S., examining the expectations of other high performing countries around the world, and careful study of the research and literature available on what students need to know and be able to do to be successful in college and careers. No state in the country was asked to lower their expectations for their students in adopting the Common Core. The standards are evidence-based, aligned with college and work expectations, include rigorous content and skills, and are informed by other top performing countries. They were developed in consultation with teachers and parents from across the country so they are also realistic and practical for the classroom." (<http://www.corestandards.org/resources/frequently-asked-questions>)

I encourage you to look at some of the following websites for more information about the common core standards and some sample assessment questions being developed by Smarter Balance, the company that is in the process of developing the assessment tool that will be used in 2015.

<http://www.corestandards.org/the-standards>

<http://www.ocde.us/CommonCoreCA/Pages/Parent-Resources.aspx>

<http://www.smarterbalanced.org/sample-items-and-performance-tasks/>

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/re/cc/>

SPRING BREAK

Spring break is just around the corner, March 25th-29th. On behalf of the faculty and staff at Matsuyama we wish each of you a restful, fun-filled, and safe break. Keep in mind that when we return there is still close to 3 months of school to complete. Students in grades 2-6 will be gearing up for the STAR test and there is still much to learn in those three months!!

Which class is in the lead?

A new Box Tops contest has begun, and we need
For all of you to help participate to meet our goal
Of \$1500 to help fund after school activities and show that together we can all make a difference for our school.

Yes, you can be a Box Tops Hero, wouldn't that be cool?

On February 1st, every class started all of the same,
But in the end, on April 15th, it's the one class that wins the game.
To let you know who's in the lead so far,
Gisler's class, with 280 has set the bar
With Messick, Arnett, Jones, & Brunson gaining step by step,
Hoeft, Lee, Spinella, Renschler, and Porto are closing in with pep!
Not to forget that Willard, Zahniser, Gravitz, & Jeter are in the race
Hey, let's encourage Lun, Albert, Davids, Hanks, & Chertorisky to keep up with the pace
Along with Celeste & Mullen, submit your Box Tops!
Label your room number/teacher's name on sheets and/ or ziplocs
And show how we can all be heroes for our Mighty Pines! Yahoo!
Yes, each of you can make a difference for our school.



Keep on submitting Labels for Education.
It's not a part of the contest, but well worth the dedication
Be willing to commit,
To spot, clip, and submit!

Attention 5th Grade Parents!!! Fun Run Planning Meeting

Wednesday, March 13th
@ 6:00pm
In the Multi-Purpose Room

We will begin planning for the annual 4th of July Fun Run/Walk, which helps next year's 6th grade class raise funds towards attending the Sly Park Environmental Science Camp. There are 5K & 8K races. We need business and/or personal sponsors, ranging from \$50 to \$500 or more, for the event. If you know someone who owns a business (your realtor, your bank, your favorite restaurant, etc.), please ask if he or she will support this important event. We also need parent volunteers for all kinds of tasks, small and large. Sponsorship, volunteer forms and race registration forms will be available soon in the front office. Plan now to kick off your 4th of July celebration with a great family event, the Matsuyama Fun Run/Walk! Any questions, please contact Edna Toy edna.toy@gmail.com.



Got a craving for a delicious treat?
Does Popcornopolis come to mind?
5th Graders are hard at work to help raise money for next year's Sly Park Environmental Science Camp trip!

Help support them by purchasing the popular
Popcornopolis gourmet popcorn snacks!

5 different mouth-watering treats to choose from
ranging from sweet to savory.
\$6-\$8

Find a 5th Grader and place your order from 3/18 to 4/8!

World of Talent 2013

What a wonderful World Of Talent we had on February 22nd! Vicki and Rege Farina made it truly magical providing a class act with the elegant Program, the professional Sound, the sparkling Lights.....They are the glue to the talent show for sure and are priceless! Hail to the Farina Family!

So many worker bees showed up and gave hours, how in the world do we thank them? Some names I did catch or know. Christine Lee, Bianca Smith, Jen Lightstone, Edna Toy, Yumiko Osaki, John Yee, Karen Landeck, Lucinda Mok, Tamara Vasquez, Tuesday Perkins, Kristen Crawford, Jeff Crawford, Jan Taylor, and Fawn Cobb. What was amazing is the amount of people who showed up and asked how can I help? Whoever you are, we appreciate you!

Thank you Mr. Wiggins for assisting Rege with the sound system. Holly Reynolds is extremely talented at making the script. Karen Landecks' sparkling usher crew stole the show! The Crawford family service was extended from snack bar supplies, controlling the spotlight, organizing the stage design, cueing the performers to bow and smile, and had a watchful eye over the ninja backstage crew! John Yee Photos and Mr. Mullen's videos of the event sure will be great! Lucinda Mok and others guiding the performers backstage.... Girl Scouts came to the rescue in making flags and signs. Paris M. made all the extra large banners for indoors and out. Snack bar ladies Jan Taylor and Fawn Cobb helped all make it through the rehearsal. Tamara Vasquez made sure all were signed in, making sure that we read their penmanship correctly on the applications to develop an exciting script and program. Lots of practice ahead of time during recess and after school was key in the kids successfully operating the backstage and Emceeding the show. Mary Kwong added glee to the show supplying the balloons. We had the best high school volunteer crew from JFK PACE and Criminal Justice Program. Snack bar the night of the show run under the watchful eyes of Maria Rodriguez and the high school crew helped pay for the event. Families that provided the goodies were too yummy! The Arnett family made the elegant trophies! Tom's printing donated the labels for the trophies. Flags from Club Green, Mrs. Porto's class, and Mr. Mullen's class helped decorate the magnificent Hall of Flags. The office staff fielded inquires and issues on a daily basis. And Ms Montgomery's graciously singing with the cast and crew in We are the World was a special ending to the Matsuyama 2013 talent show. A WORLD OF THANKS!! ~Karen Arakawa

Greenhaven Mothers Club

The Greenhaven Mothers Club (GMC) is a non-profit organization serving the Greenhaven/Pocket Neighborhood of Sacramento since 1969. Our organization is dedicated to promoting the welfare of mothers and children in our community. We provide social and educational activities for members and their families. We also have a longstanding tradition of supporting local charities. Thanks to the generosity of donors and bidders in 2012, GMC donated \$4,800 to the Parent Teachers Associations at six Greenhaven elementary schools. GMC will conduct it's annual Charity Fundraising Auction on March 21, 2013. For 2013, the auction theme goes Old School circa 1973, and returns to the early years of the Club and the Greenhaven/Pocket neighborhood, when pant legs were wide, jello mold cooking was hot, and community spirit was king. We expect a large attendance of members and guests. The even will feature both silent and live auctions. Auction proceeds will again benefit local schools.

We ask area businesses to donate products or services that can be auctioned off at our event. Examples of auction items donated in the past include gift certificates and gift baskets of products. Auction items for adults, children, and families are welcome. Most importantly, your donations will assist our organization in making a difference in the community.

Donations may be given directly to any GMC member or mailed to Greenhaven Mothers Club, c/o Amanda Fagan, 6725 Pocket Road, Sacramento CA 95831.