

JOSEPH SIMS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Shelly Hughes, Principal
Chris Nugent, Vice Principal

March - April 2009

Principal's News

Greetings!

Welcome to warmer weather and spring! It's so nice to have the sun out more regularly.

We are searching for volunteers to assist in school safety. Particularly, we are looking for parents and grandparents who are willing to volunteer to support our school's many **Cross Walk** duties either in the morning or in the afternoon. So how can you help? You can attend a simple training and sign-up for a time/month that works best for you to volunteer as a Crossing Guard for Joseph Sims. Our school will be offering a training on **Friday, April 17th from 8:15 am - 9:00 am**. I believe this can be an exciting way for you to serve Joseph Sims and support your child's education. If this training day or time doesn't work for you, please contact our school office and leave your information. We will let you know when the next one will be held.

The next **Principal Coffee Chat** will be held on **Wednesday, April 1st** following our last assembly from **9:15 am -9:45 am**. Mr. Nugent will be on hand to talk about our Watch DOGS program and I will be able to share an update on the Budget. One item that was suggested at our last Coffee Chat was the Cross Walk Volunteer group we are getting up and running. We would love to hear more of your terrific ideas so please come and join us. If you think you might attend, please call to RSVP with Mrs. Clark or email her at: scclark@egusd.net so we may plan accordingly. There will be coffee, tea, and great conversation.

The **California Standards Test (CST)** is fast approaching. This formal assessment will test our students on their current grade level standards. It is extremely important that we strive for 100% perfect attendance, free of tardies, dental appointments, etc., if at all possible, during the testing window. Students typically perform best when they are in the consistent, daily environment of their classroom. Please help us to support our students where they do their best by making the every effort to have your child here, on-time, each day of testing. Students in grades 2nd-6th will participate in CST testing on the following dates:

- 2nd- 6th grades Tracks C & D April 20th - May 1st
- 4th grade *only* Track D May 5th *Writing Assessment
- 2nd - 6th grades Tracks A & B May 18th - May 29th

**students in grades 4 and 7 take an additional written assessment*

Finally, I would like to thank Mr. Ferrario for his generous offer to donate a redwood planter for our gardening area. We are anxious to get it up and operating.

Fondly, Mrs. Hughes

Dear Parents,
Standardized state testing (CST) is right around the corner and we have had many inquiries by parents on how they can help their student through the testing season. Below is a short list that you can share with your student to make the testing process less stressful

**2009-2010 Track Change Requests will be available on
April 15 @ 7:30 AM**

Middle School Parent Information Nights

Harriet Eddy

Parents are welcome to attend either night!

- ❖ HEMS MP Room April 8 7:00-8:15PM

Toby Johnson

- ❖ TJMS April 14 6:30-7:45PM A & D



The V.P's Nuts and Bolts

and more productive.

Ways to help you do your best:

Before the test

- Get plenty of rest
- Eat a healthy breakfast
- Attend school everyday
- Arrive to school on time

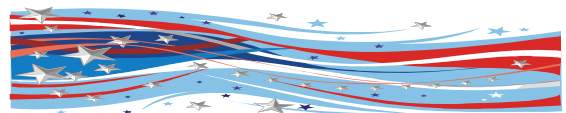
During the test

- Read & pay attention to all directions.
- Read all answer choices - the best one could be last
- Don't spend too much time on any one question. Skip difficult questions until all others are answered and then go back.
- Make sure to record the answer in the correct place on the answer document
- Keep a good attitude & stay positive!

After the test

- Use all the time ... go back & check your answers

Chris Nugent
VP Joseph Sims Elementary



Elementary Summer School

Registration forms for the 2009 elementary summer school program are currently available in the school office for traditional and D Track students. This year's summer school program will take place from June 10-29, 2009 at the following schools:

- Arnold Adreani Elementary School
9927 Wildhawk West Drive
Sacramento, CA 95829
- James McKee Elementary School
8701 Halverson Drive
Elk Grove, CA 95624

Please remember that your child's enrollment will require their teacher's approval. After your child's teacher has signed the registration form, submit it to the school office by Friday, May 8, 2009.

Dental Screening

EGUSD Annual Dental Screening for 2008-09 Kindergarten students and for incoming 2009-10 kindergarten students will be provided by Western Dental School on April 17, 2009.

- ❖ Florin Elementary 8:00 - 12:00 am
- ❖ Irene West Elementary 8:00 - 9:30 am
- ❖ Helen Carr Castello 10:00 - 12:00 am

Students can be screened at any location, but must be accompanied by a parent. Permission slips will be available at the screening sites.

Lights...Camera...Book Fair!

Mark your calendars! The "Hollywood" Book Fair is coming soon to our school library. All profits will benefit our school library.

- ❖ April 16th - 23rd 2:30-3:30PM
- ❖ Family Nights: April 17 & April 21 5:30-7:30PM

We hope to see you there. Thank you for supporting our school library



GATE Testing & Self-Contained GATE/Accelerated Class

- April 9, 2009 – 7-8pm in MP - EGUSD GATE Test Parent Information meeting for grades 2 – 6. The last Naglieri Test for this school year is on May 16th. Paperwork is due on May 1st.
- April 23, 2009 – 7-8pm in MP - Joseph Sims Self-contained GATE/Accelerated class application information for grades 4 – 6 (for the 2009-2010 school year).

Host a Family

***Make this summer a memorable one for you and your family!
Host a student from France!***

American Discovery is bringing a group of 40 French students to Elk Grove this summer, and would like you to consider hosting one. There's absolutely no cost to you, just wonderful memories to make. Students are here from July 11-31 or July 30-August 18. Each student speaks English and is coming with the desire to live with a true American family. If this is you, sign up today! Call Miranda Menestrina at 916-201-0609, or e-mail her at cmmenestrina@hotmail.com. Deadline to sign up is April 30.

PTO News

- March 27: MOVIE NIGHT featuring Disney's "Bolt"
- April 17: Spaghetti Feed (two seatings: 5:30 and 7:00 pm) Tickets are on sale NOW! Tickets are \$6.00 each or 4 for \$20.00.
- April 21: PTO general meeting at 7pm held in the Staff Lounge
- April 27 through May 8: Staff Appreciation Week

Come out and join in the fun. We would love more parent participation. There will be new board positions open for this next school year. Elections are held in May. Please support Joseph Sims PTO by being involved!



The Ask Anne column featuring District Dietitians Anne Gaffney, R.D. & Lisa Vorce, R.D.

Dear Anne and Lisa,

- I read about the importance of eating breakfast, but have a hard time getting my kids to eat breakfast before school. Do you have any suggestions? Thank you, Breakfast Concerned

Dear Breakfast Concerned,

Many studies have shown that when students eat breakfast they perform better in school. They have better attendance, better test scores and they feel better. Here are a few tips to help encourage your child to become a breakfast eater:

1. Keep quick, easy to fix foods available.
2. Involve your student in shopping for breakfast foods.
3. Discuss the importance of eating breakfast. We tell our kids the importance of brushing their teeth and washing their hands. We need to do the same with breakfast. Let your kids know that eating breakfast is one of the things they do every day to take care of their bodies.
4. Model being a breakfast eater. Let your kids see you eating breakfast. Modeling what we want them to do has a much greater effect than telling them what to do. (Besides, breakfast is important for adults, too. Also, research shows that adults who eat breakfast have an easier time maintaining a healthy body weight.)

Here are some quick breakfast ideas:

- Ready-to-eat whole grain cereal topped with fruit and 1% milk
- Whole-grain waffles topped with peanut butter, fruit or ricotta cheese
- A whole-wheat pita stuffed with sliced hard-cooked eggs
- Hot cereal topped with cinnamon
- Peanut butter on a whole-grain bagel or slice of toast with fresh fruit and 1% milk
- Breakfast smoothie (milk or yogurt and fruit, whirled in a blender)

Another healthy option is to have your student eat breakfast at school. Thirty-three of the elementary schools and all of the secondary schools serve breakfast every morning. There are hot entrees as well as fresh fruit, yogurt, and cereal offered every day.

Thanks for Asking, Anne & Lisa

Upcoming Events

- April 1 – 1-2 Star Assembly 8:15
- April 1– 3-4 Star Assembly 8:40
- April 1 K AM @ 11:15 in K2
- April 1– K PM @ 2:05 in K2
- April 4 – Coffee Chat 9:15 – 9:45
- April 3 – Track Change/Minimum Day
- April 14 - Spring Pictures A & C
- April 16-23 - Book Fair
- April 21 – PTO Meeting @ 7 in office
- April 17 - Spaghetti Feed 5:30 – 7:00
- April 22 – Talent Show Auditions Track A 2:30 – 5:00 PM
- April 29 – 1-2 Star Assembly 8:15
- April 29– 3-4 Star Assembly 8:40
- April 29 K AM @ 11:15 in K2
- April 29– K PM @ 2:05 in K2
- April 29 – Coffee Chat 9:15 – 9:45
- April 30 - Dance Performance 7:00 MP

STAR Testing Dates	
• Track C & D	April 20 – 28
• Track A & B	May 18 – May 27



Reminders

- Parents please do not bring dogs on the school grounds. **Dogs are not allowed on campus at any time.**
- Track Club will begin the week of April 13 and is open to 4-6th grade students. There will be 8 practice sessions and a district, all day track meet on Saturday, May 9. Specific information will be made available mid March, including all permission slips and t-shirt information. Permission slips are mandatory and must be turned in *before* a child can participate in this after school activity. We always need parent volunteers! Please email the Head Coach, Katy Pappalardo (kpappala@egusd.net) or Nancy Friday-Johnson (nfjohnso@egusd.net) if you are available to help or have questions.
- All parents who have not updated Affidavit of Non-Permanent Residence and Intradistrict Transfer Requests for the 2009/10 school year must complete them immediately. If you do not update, your students' placement may be in jeopardy.
- All incoming first grade students must have a physical. So all parents who have not gotten their students into the doctor please do so now.
- Applications are in the office for 2008-09 free and reduced lunches. **2009-10 applications will be available July.**