



# SPARTAN SHIELD

## Sunrise Elementary School

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### EGUSD Budget Decisions

On Tuesday evening, March 3, 2009, the EGUSD Board of Education made decisions in regard to budget cuts for the 2009-2010 school year. Using Superintendent Ladd's four pronged criteria of safety and security, campus cleanliness and maintenance, academic programs and services, and people before things; the Board voted to spend the district's reserves to offset some cuts. By spending the reserves the Board was able to postpone for one more year the elimination of class size reduction of 20:1 in grades K-3, the elimination of librarians, and a reduction in the number of vice-principals. Additional cuts include \$10 million in one-time cuts in 2008-2009, \$4 million in one-time cuts and \$12.2 million in on-going cuts for 2009-2010. Based on the best information available at this time, the district will need to make about \$38 million in ongoing cuts over the next three years.

What does this all mean for Sunrise Elementary? Great news for next year!! Had the Board not voted to approve expenditure of the reserves for class size reduction, close to twelve of our twenty-seven teachers and our librarian would have lost their jobs. Our primary students would have been in classes as large as 28:1 and our library would have closed. As it stands now, we are optimistic that the majority of our teaching staff along with our librarian will return to Sunrise for the 2009-2010 school year. We are delighted to share this news!

Still to be resolved for the coming year are issues regarding fiscal support for the instructional supplies and resources necessary to run a school – items like duplicating paper, pencils, art supplies, student agendas in grades 4-6, reading assessments, and copy machine leases and supplies. Should there ultimately be a shortfall in these areas, we can work together to ensure that our students have all the essentials that they need for learning.

As the 2009-2010 school year progresses, decisions in regard to budget cuts will again need to be made in light of conditions current at the time. For now, we will make the best use of the resources that we have and be grateful for one more year together!

Regular School Attendance is Essential: Any excused absences beyond 3 days requires a doctor note. Absence beyond 10 consecutive days can result in disenrollment of your student. Please schedule vacations during winter, spring and summer breaks.

### IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

- **3/12 PTA General Meeting 6:30 in the MP room**
- **3/13 Albani MS Counselor Presentation to the 6th grade**
- **3/17-30 Cookie Dough Sale Begins**
- **3/18 6th Grade Visits Albani MS**
- **3/19 Spring Picture Day**
- **3/20 Spirit Day "Hawaiian Day"**
- **3/27 Character Awards Assembly K-6**
- **4/2 Internet Safety for Parents 6:30-7:30 in the MP room**
- **4/6-10 Spring Break—NO School**

### IMPORTANT - STAR Testing is Coming!

Each year students in Grades 2-12 throughout California take the California Standards Test (CST) which is mandated under California's *Standardized Testing and Reporting* (STAR) Program. The results of this assessment are used to measure both individual student and school program progress. How our students perform this year will determine our area (s) of focus for the coming year. It is important that our students do their best on this test.

Please note the following dates on your calendar.

Grade 2- 6 April 21—24 and April 28—30

Please avoid scheduling any medical, dental, or out-of-school activities on these dates. We thank you for your support.



### ART Docent Program

The ART Docent Program materials have arrived, been assembled, and are ready for classroom use! The Art Docent Program is a K-6 art history, art appreciation, and art creation curriculum. It features monthly thematic lessons focused on a particular topic. Students study five to seven large art prints representative of the particular theme. The work of famous artists from throughout history is featured. The program is designed to be taught by parent volunteers serving as Art Docents. Information about each art print and an art activity are provided in the resource materials. Teachers received overview training from Mrs. Lee at a recent Monday staff meeting. Parents who volunteered to serve as art docents will be contacted by their child's classroom teacher.

## MARCH Character Trait "TRUSTWORTHY"

- I WILL keep my word
- I WILL be honest
- I WILL be loyal
- I WILL not deceive, cheat or steal

These phrases comprise our character education pledge for the month. Each morning, immediately following the Pledge of Allegiance, our students recite this pledge. Throughout the month, teachers will be reinforcing examples of these phrases in the actions of story characters and in the behavior of their students.



### SUNRISE STUDENT COUNCIL

Hi, my name is Danielle Castrence the secretary of student council. We just had our Golden Awards assembly for classes with good behavior in the lunchroom, computers, and library. Here are the winners!

Computers: Fernandez, Garrett  
Cafeteria: Casey, Martin  
Library: Standing, Heine

### Spirit Day

Hawaiian Day is on March 20, 2009 and the class that has the most spirit wins the spirit trophy and a spirit dance from our spirit officer Chase Kimball.

**Last month's spirit winners: Weshner, Garrett**

### Meetings

Representatives need to check classroom C-2 every Monday to see if **they need to come Tuesday's meeting. We meet in C-2** from 7:45 to 8:10.

### Smencils

We are selling Smencils for \$1.00 before school every Wednesday and Friday. Smencils are scented gourmet pencils that come in bubblegum, cinnamon, tropical blast, grape, cotton candy, chocolate, very berry, orange, watermelon and root beer.

### Spartan Idol Talent Show

We will be having a talent show on March 9, 2009 at 1:30-2:15.

### Riddle of the month by Chase Kimball

What did the Pacific Ocean say to the Atlantic Ocean?

**Answer: They didn't say anything they just waved just waved.**

Look for the answer somewhere else in this newsletter.

## Attendance Campaign March Prize

\* \* The No Excuses—Go to School Attendance Campaign is having a PRIZE BONANZA this month with more awesome prizes! \* \* \* Not one, not two, not three.... **But FOUR lucky students will win a gift certificate to Mimi's Café, The Crocker Art Museum, Fairy-tale Town or a free hot chocolate from Port City Java** for having perfect attendance for the month of March. Make sure you come to school everyday—all month- to have a chance to win these great prizes.

### Recycling – Sunrise Helps Conserve and Preserve

**Plastic Recycling** – March is the last month for plastic recycling for this school year. Ms. Radke will redeem our current collection of plastic bags at the end of the month. Any additional plastic collected will be saved for redemption in the next school year. Proceeds from plastic recycling benefits our library.

**Nike Reuse Shoe Event-** In April we will again participate in Nike's shoe recycling program. Save your old running and tennis shoes! The recycled shoes are used to build the rubber running surfaces of outdoor tracks. Flyers will come home closer to the start of the event. More detailed information is available at <http://www.nikereuseashoe.com/how-it-works>.

*Riddle Answer: They didn't say anything they just waved just waved.*

## Internet Safety Workshop for Parents . . . .



Parents are invited to attend a free Internet Safety class on Thursday, April 2nd from 6:30—7:30 in the Sunrise Elementary Multi-Purpose Room. Learn about how you can protect your children from dangers found when accessing the Internet. Gail Dessler and Kathleen Watt from the EGUSD Technology Services Department will provide the training.

### Improving Traffic Safety at Sunrise

**As a result of recommendations by our site's Safety Committee** in collaboration with EGUSD Police and Rancho Cordova Police, we will be implementing some changes in our traffic plan along Cobble Brook and at the parking lot entrance on Anatolia. The changes will go into effect on Monday, April 13, 2009; the day we return from Spring Break. The changes are as follows:

- Cobble Brook will be coned down the middle of the street.
- Exit from the school parking lot onto Anatolia will be a *RIGHT TURN ONLY*

The purpose of these changes is to reduce the number of U turns and the double parking that is creating an unsafe condition along Cobble Brook, to increase the traffic flow through the parking lot, and to minimize the back-up of traffic at the intersection of Cobble Brook and Anatolia.

Other Safety Items:

- Please watch your speed when driving to and from school. We have received several phone call complaints from non-school community members reporting speeding parents through the neighborhood in the mornings.
- Children should not be arriving at school prior to 8:10 AM unless they are participating in the school breakfast program.
- No double parking or U turns on Cobble Brook at arrival and dismissal.
- Please be sure to call the school office with any changes to your telephone number and your emergency contacts.
- When driving children to school please obey the 25 mph speed limit at all times. No speeding through the neighborhood.