



# SPARTAN SHIELD

Sunrise Elementary School

11821 Cobble Brook Drive ~ Rancho Cordova, CA 95742

(916) 985-4350; Fax: 985-8927

Judy Hunt-Brown, Principal

<http://www.equsd.net/sunrise/>

Volume 1, Issue 9

April, 2008



## IMPORTANT... IMPORTANT

Mark Your Calendars

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. We ask that you avoid scheduling any medical, dental, or out-of-school activities on these dates. We will be testing from 8:30 - 10:45 on these dates.

Grade 2: April 14<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> and April 22<sup>nd</sup> -24<sup>th</sup>

Grade 3 : April 14<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup>\* and April 22<sup>nd</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup>\*

Grades 4<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> : April 14<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> and April 22<sup>nd</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup>

\*Third grade also takes the CAT6 test.

We thank you for your support.

### Parenting Tips to Help Your Child Do Their Best During STAR

Testing Taking the *California Standards Test* is an opportunity for our students to demonstrate all of the wonderful learning they have accomplished! Parents can play a significant role in **helping their child approach the test with a positive, "can-do" attitude** resulting in improved performance. Here are some tips:

- ⇒ Encourage your child to do their best
- ⇒ Speak positively about the test - try to reduce test anxiety
- ⇒ Attendance - Be on time!
- ⇒ Try to avoid the stress of the morning rush.
- ⇒ **Make sure your child gets a good night's sleep and eats a healthy breakfast.**
- ⇒ Do something fun together to celebrate hard work on the test.

\*Students that arrive at school after testing has begun will be held in the school office so as not to interrupt the testing environment.

## IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

- 4/7 **Rock Your Body Fitness Assembly  
Jog-a-Thon Kick-off**
- 4/15-27 **CST Tests for 2nd -6th Grade**
- 4/18 **PTA Jog-a-Thon**
- 4/25 **Movie Night hosted by 3rd grade 6:30 p.m.**
- 5/3 **Track Meet at Laguna Creek 8:30 a.m**
- 5/8 **Open House at 6:30—7:30 p.m.  
1st Grade Performance at 6:00 p.m.**
- 5/17 **Spring Fling—Parent Social**
- 5/26 **Holiday—Memorial Day**
- 5/28 **Cast I Annie Performance at 6:30 p.m.**
- 5/29 **Cast II Annie Performance at 6:30 p.m.**
- 5/30 **Cast III Annie Performance at 6:30 p.m.**
- 6/4 **6th Grade Promotion at 9:30—10:30 a.m.**
- 6/5 **Kindergarten Promotion at**
- 6/7 **Community Yard Sale 8:00 a.m.**

### School Activities to Encourage "Doing Your Best on the Test"

As a new school, we have the opportunity to establish a positive school atmosphere during testing that will help our students take pride in their work, their school, and our school's performance on the test. We are preparing the following activities to help our students approach testing with a "can do" attitude:

- NED Yo-Yo Assembly - ( May 31<sup>st</sup>) The message promoted through-out the Yo-Yo assembly was "Never give up. Encourage others. **Do your best...or NED."**
- Rock Your Body Assembly - (April 7<sup>th</sup>) Healthy choices and doing your best
- Spirit Parade - (April 14<sup>th</sup>) School parade, Grades 2-6 with spirit banners and class chants
- Time-on-Test Incentive Cards - Each student will receive a Time-on-Test card. For each test that the student gives 100% effort, they will receive a stamp. A card with a stamp for each test is an admission ticket to a special activity at the end of testing.
- SNACKS - Our PTA has approved funds to provide each child with a daily snack on each day of testing.

## Important Year End Information

Last Day of School - Thursday, June 5<sup>th</sup> is a MINIMUM DAY - Kinders all early schedule 8:20—11:40 . Kindergarten Promotion—Time??

Sixth Grade Promotion Ceremony

Wednesday, June 4<sup>th</sup> - 9:30-10:30 in the Multi

Field Day:

Each grade level will hold its own Field Day event. \* Details to follow from teachers. Volunteers needed!

Monday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>-Kindergarten, Third and Fourth Grades

Tuesday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> - First and Fifth Grades,

Sixth Grade to Raging Waters

Wednesday June 4<sup>th</sup> - Second Grade

Monday, August 25<sup>th</sup> - First Day of School (tentative)



### Spring Weather and Sunrise Dress Code

How we dress affects our outlook and attitude toward the day. Please help us maintain the quality of our learning environment. The following excerpts from our dress code apply to spring and summer clothing. The complete code may be found in your copy of the Student Parent Handbook.

Shorts, dresses, and skirts - must be mid-thigh or longer

All shorts and pants must be size appropriate and worn at the waist

Leggings must be covered by shorts, skort, or skirt of mid-thigh length

No spaghetti straps, strapless, tops, tube tops, tank shirts, tops with large armholes, or tops with low necklines

Sandals must have an ankle strap. No flip-flops, zories, slides, or mules. Tennis shoes are preferred for safety and physical education purposes.

### APRIL Character Trait: "GOAL SETTINGS"

We will set goals that are unique for our abilities.

We will come to school and strive to achieve our goals.

We will complete tasks to the best of our abilities.

We will continue to progress towards our goals.

2008-09 Enrollment: If you are planning to move outside of the attendance boundaries for Sunrise Elementary over the summer months, please contact the school office to let us know. This information is extremely important to us as we plan for class lists and teacher assignments.

# WELCOME

### Sunrise Welcomes Two New Additions to our Team

We are delighted to announce that *Mrs. Barrowcliffe* will be joining the Sunrise staff as our school's library technician beginning Monday, April 7<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Barrowcliffe is a fully credentialed librarian and has been the librarian at Charles Mack Elementary School. Once she has the opportunity to get oriented to our library and do a little catch-up of the backlog of work that has accumulated over the past two months, students will once again be able to check out books from our beautiful library! Sunrise welcomes the third member of our custodial team, *Mrs. Hoang*. Mrs. Hoang will be working with Mr. Shewmaker in the evenings preparing our campus of classes the next day and meeting the needs of the community as they use our school facilities. We are delighted to have her join our team!

### EGUSD School Board Acts to Preserve Kindergarten Class Size Reduction

On Tuesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, the EGUSD School Board voted to preserve kindergarten class size at twenty students per class for the 2008-09 school year, opting to tap into the district reserves to cover the expense. The small class sizes had been one of cuts on the table as the district has struggled to balance its budget given the current state budget crisis. At Sunrise, this has an additional benefit as reinstating class size reduction at kindergarten means 56 fewer teachers across the district that will be laid-off. Since ten of our teachers received pink slips, this increases the probability that our teachers might retain their positions at Sunrise.

### Attendance

Since the first of the year, we have been experiencing a high number of students arriving late to school. When this happens, the late student misses out on instruction and the entire class is interrupted when the late child enters class. Please note that instruction begins promptly at 8:20 AM. There is a warning bell at 8:15 when teachers proceed to the blacktop to greet their students. We ask your help in getting your child here to school on time. In an effort to address this issue, we have multiple positive systems in place; award certificates, monthly prizes, and monthly entries into a drawing for a bicycle. We are also working with a noon recess time-out or detention for students who are tardy repeatedly. We hope that this combination of positives and consequences will result in improved on-time attendance.

## What do I need to do when my child is absent?

If your child is going to be absent from school, please call the school office at 985-4350. Our phone system has a voice mail system that will allow you to leave a message if you call outside of school.

Sly Park Field Trip: Parents of 5<sup>th</sup> grade students.... We have enough support and participation to proceed with this wonderful science camp experience! Pam Ayo, fifth grade parent, has volunteered to chair fund raising activities in support of this trip. Specific details will follow.

## Technology at Sunrise

Sunrise has its own website! Please visit:

<http://www.egusd.net/sunrise/>

There you will find copies of the Sunrise Spartan newsletter available for download. There's also information from our PTA, information about our computer lab curriculum, and much more.

Visit the "Links for Students" tab. You will find lots of websites suitable for students doing research for school projects. You'll also find links to websites that are full of fun educational activities and games. Next, visit the "Software Links" tab where you will find links to free

## Looking for Parent Employed by INTEL to Sponsor PC Pals

Are you an INTEL employee, interested in community service, and in taking an active role in supporting our school? Intel Facilities in Folsom and Sacramento have a great program called PC Pals. PC Pals is an email mentoring program where Intel employees email a student twice a week. The idea is to encourage, inspire, and guide young people throughout the school year to work hard and be successful in school. INTEL provides a \$200 Intel Volunteer Grant to our school for every 20 hours Intel employees volunteer at the school. Over the school year, this can add up to a significant amount of money. If you are an INTEL employee and interested in being the Team Lead for our school, please call Mrs. Hunt-Brown at 985-4350.

## 2008 PARENT SURVEY

We are pleased to announce the release of the 2008 Parent Survey. We value the opportunity to receive your opinion on our school's programs and how we can improve in the future. All information collected is confidential. You will receive a paper copy of the survey at the beginning of April. All surveys are printed on special scantron paper and need to be completed using a #2 PENCIL. In addition, this year the survey is available on-line. You may access the survey from the District's homepage at [www.egusd.net](http://www.egusd.net). We will

## SUNRISE PTA APRIL 2008 UPDATE

Greetings from Sunrise PTA!

March was a very busy month! We had a great time at the Sock Hop. Thank you to Stephanie Campbell, PTA Vice-President for Special Events for coordinating this exciting event. The 1<sup>st</sup> Grade class also had a successful movie night. The NED assembly was a great success. Many students purchased NED yo-yo's of which our school will receive a percentage of the profits to be applied toward the purchase of sports equipment for the school. A big thank you goes to all who have contributed so much to our fundraising efforts. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade class hosted a wonderful musical performance on April 3, 2008. Thanks to the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teachers for taking their time to put on this event for the children and the parents. These efforts are greatly appreciated. Mark your calendars! The following are the updates for events scheduled during the remainder of our Spring Trimester:

April 7, 2008. Rock Your Body assembly.

8:30-9:15 & 9:15-10:00. Fitness kickoff;

April 18, 2008. Jog-A-Thon fundraiser.

Children raise \$ while getting in shape

April 25, 2008. Movie Night hosted by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Class

May 16, 2008. Movie Night (host will be announced in April);

May 17, 2008. New date for the Spring Fling

We will be sending information home regarding the Spring Fling. This will be our last big event of the school year. We are planning a wonderful evening of dancing, dining and socializing. We hope all of our Sunrise families can attend. We are rapidly approaching the end of our first school year at Sunrise. This has been a very exciting and challenging year for our school, but we are doing a great job!! PTA board member elections are fast approaching. If interested in helping out with our ongoing programs, or running for office, please call the school office at 985-4350 for contact information. There are vacant positions on the board, so please consider running for office. It's never too late to become a member! Our next general membership meeting will be held on April 10, 2008 at 6:30pm in the multi-purpose room. Attending these meetings is a great opportunity to learn more about our PTA and to ask questions, plus we could really use your help. We look forward to seeing you at the next meeting!

## Earth Week Nike® Reuse-A-Shoe Project

In celebration of Earth Day, Sunrise Elementary will join with other schools in the Elk Grove Unified School District, the City of Elk Grove, and Allied Waste and will be collecting old sneakers and rubber soled shoes and sending them to Nike®. (No cleats or metal, please). Nike

®regrinds old athletic shoes and turns them into sports surfaces, such as basketball and tennis courts, soccer fields, running tracks, and playgrounds, providing people all over the world with new places to play.

Collection Dates: Thursday, April 3rd through Friday, April 18<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Radke and Mr. Martin, will coordinate with members of our Student Council to man a drop-off station out in front of the school each morning. The school that collects the most shoes wins \$1,000! Each student that brings in shoes to recycle will receive a Spartan Shield for citizenship.