

JOHN ADAMS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER
www.johnadams-torrance.com

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Principal

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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Happy February! Lots of exciting activities are happening during this month. Be sure to check out our website and classroom calendars for more detailed information.

Thank you to all of you who attended our restaurant day at King's Hawaiian Restaurant. It was great seeing so many families come out and enjoy time together. Also, a special thank you to Shari Kaku for organizing the Family Math Night of *Games with a Winter Olympic theme!* I'm sure that many of you were able to take away some fun and interactive math activities and ideas to help your child with math. Thank you for your attendance.

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS AND DONORS

Thank you very much to Shari Kaku for providing another opportunity for our families to purchase Adams wear. In addition to this last order, there will be Adams Wear available for purchase at our carnival in April. Thank you to Rick and Kari Kirkwood for providing the necessary water and granola bars for each of our classrooms in case of an emergency. We would also like to thank all of the members of our PTA Board and School Site Council for their ongoing work on behalf of our school.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR SECOND SEMESTER STUDENT COUNCIL

Our second semester officers are: President – Mike Iovine; Vice President – Sydney Halling; Treasurer- Jake Nash; Secretary – Kati Bentovoja; Activities Director – Allie Schluchter.

Our Student Council Representatives are: Jake Martin, Mi Jin Son, Ryan Sylvester, Natalie Gilhuys, Sanah Sindha, Lorelei Perez, Dillon Grubbich, Farrah Jimenez, Nicole Nash, Emma Ortiz, Imani Jolivet, Joseph Bacigalpu, Emily Boyd, Fiona Tran, Makayla Richardson, Ryan Locano, Stella Poulin, Isabel Poulin, Ismat Sindha, and Alessandra Lucumi.

Thank you to all of our students who ran for Room Rep. and for Council office. You're the best!!

WELCOME TO A NEW FACE ON CAMPUS

As many of you are aware, Mrs. Ruparatne, teacher of our 1st/2nd graders in Room 2, left on maternity leave on Friday, January 12th. We wish her well in this exciting time in her life but will also miss her. We were very fortunate to find a wonderful replacement for Mrs. Ruparatne for the remainder of the year. I would like to introduce you to Mrs. Angela Adams. She comes to us with 19 years of experience in teaching pre-Kindergarten through 2nd grade. Her knowledge in instructional strategies and classroom management in 1st and 2nd grade are a perfect fit. Please join me in giving Mrs. Adams a warm welcome to our terrific Adams family.

HONORARY SERVICE AWARDS DINNER

Please come to our Honorary Service Awards dinner and program on Thursday, February 18th at 5:30 p.m. where we will be honoring our Honorary Service Award recipients Kari Kirkwood and Dolly Poulin. Reservations are required for dinner and are due into the office no later than Friday, February 12th. If you are unable to attend the dinner, please come to our program that begins at 6:00 p.m. Our kindergarten class will be leading us in the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a performance by our school choir. Our program will then continue with an exciting game of "Bingo." We look forward to seeing all of you here as we spend some quality time together honoring a few of our incredible hard-working parents here at Adams.

ELIMINATION OF GRADE FOUR WRITING ASSESSMENT

The CST for Writing (the writing component of the CST for English-Language Arts or ELA), and the CMA for Writing (the writing component of the CMA for ELA) will not be administered to students in grades four in the 2009-10 school year. The elimination of the writing task will have no effect on students' achievement of proficiency because the CST for ELA in grade four and the CMA for ELA in grade four will be scaled and equated on the basis of the multiple-choice questions only.

SCIENCE FAIR – March 18

Our annual Science Fair is coming March 18th. Projects are due in the cafeteria first thing in the morning. If the teachers have asked for them ahead of time the students will set them up the afternoon before. We are asking that students keep display space down to what is actually needed for their project. If you can use a space smaller than the standard display board, we'd really appreciate it. PTA will be selling display boards in the school office on a first come first served basis for \$3 for those who choose this mode of presentation. Torrance High science students will judge projects. One project from each grade level will be selected to represent Adams at the District Science Fair on April 1st. The judges will interview each student who submits a project. Judges will make their selections based on: use of the scientific method, originality, presentation, ability to discuss the project, understanding of underlying concepts, and participation in building the display. Judging will take place on Thursday, March 18th. Parents will have the opportunity to see the projects that evening from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. Our classes will visit the Science Fair the next day on Friday, March 19th, and projects will go home that day.

SCHOOL SITE COUNCIL

School Site Council met on January 13th. Changes were made to the Parental Involvement Policy and will be made available shortly.

GET READY FOR THE 2010 CENSUS

Every 10 years the Census Bureau counts the entire population. Being counted in the census is important for every community, no matter where you live. The 2010 Census is coming to our neighborhood in March. Be sure to watch for your household's questionnaire.

KINDERGARTEN ROUND-UP — By Appointment Only

Kindergarten Round-Up is a chance for our incoming Kindergarteners and their parents to pre-enroll for the fall, meet the staff, and see what kindergarten is like. Round-Up is also a chance for our teachers to meet our incoming students and for the PTA to welcome parents and share ways to be involved in their child's school experience. Some parents have questions about their child's readiness for kindergarten - Round-Up can help to answer those questions. We will have information about the Preppy program –the "gift of time" for students who are old enough to begin kindergarten, but may developmentally need a little more time with a pre-K program. If you have a student who will turn five on or before December 2nd, 2010, or know of someone else who does, please make sure to schedule a Round-Up appointment. We are making appointments for April 19th, 22nd, 27th, and 28th. Call Sharon Jones at (310) 533-4480.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS OR PHONE – LET THE OFFICE KNOW

Please be reminded that it is your responsibility to inform the office if any of the information on your emergency card changes during the school year. If you move, please let us know immediately. If you move out of the area and wish to finish the year at John Adams it may be possible to accommodate your request. If you move and don't tell us, you jeopardize your right to have your child continue at John Adams. Remember, we can help you in case of emergency or if your child is sick or hurt only if we have correct phone numbers. Please do not jeopardize your child's health and safety; keep us up to date.

PARENT COMMUNICATION

In the Thursday packets there are a few items we hope you look for every week. You may find a sheet entitled "parent reminders" from Miss Sharon to help remind you of important dates. On the back of that sheet you will find a list of activities you can use with your child for every grade level with a specific theme. You may also find a pamphlet entitled "Home and School Connections" that includes information on how school and home can help our students in various ways. Beginning in February we will begin to send home a pamphlet entitled "Math + Science Connection" that will include activities you can try with your child with a math and science theme. We hope you will find all this information helpful and in the future look forward to your feedback about how we are doing with communication between home and school.

OPEN ENROLLMENT

If you are a Torrance resident and wish to have your child attend a school other than your "home school" you can apply through Open Enrollment for the TUSD School of your choice. Open Enrollment is granted on a space available basis. If granted, it's like a permanent permit; you only need to go through the process one time. Your open enrollment status continues through the elementary, middle and high school years – so the student would be expected to continue to attend the feeder schools in the area to which he/she has applied. This would change only if you applied for a permit to go elsewhere or moved out of the district. Open enrollment applications are available in the school office if you are interested in participating in the program. Your application must be delivered in person to the Child Welfare and Attendance office at 2335 Plaza del Amo February 1- March 12th, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.; or March 13th, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon. Late applications will not be accepted under any circumstances. No applications will be accepted via telephone or fax.

PARENT CONFERENCES COMING IN MARCH

March 29-April 2nd are the dates for our second trimester Parent-Teacher Conferences. These are particularly important because it is the time to touch base and evaluate the success of our collaborative efforts and a chance to discuss any interventions that we might still try to help your child succeed during the final trimester. At this time we review our retention/promotion options and discuss available summer programs. Be sure to mark your calendar and plan to attend a conference with your child's teacher. **On these dates dismissal times are: Kgn. – 1:50; 1st –3rd grades – 2:03 4th & 5th grades – 2:12.**

MONTH AT A GLANCE

Feb.	4	ELMAC – 6:00 p.m.
	5	Flag - citizenship
	8	Holiday
	12	Flag - special recognition
	15	Holiday
	18	Family Dinner and Honorary Service Awards (Dinner 5:30, Program at 6:00)
	19	Flag – writing wonders
	26	Flag – math wiz
March	2	Schoolwide writing test
	5	Flag – citizenship
	10	School Site Council – 3:25 in library
	12	Flag – special recognition End of trimester
	17	St. Patrick's Day
	18	Science Fair
	19	Flag ELMAC – 9:00 a.m. in library
	25	McDonald's Restaurant Night
	26	Flag, Report cards go home Bike Rodeo
	29-4/2	Parent conferences