

JOHN ADAMS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

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THANK YOU TO OUR ADAMS DONORS

Public schools are mandated to provide all the basic supplies necessary for students to succeed in school, we are no longer able to provide families with lists of supplies that students might wish to have to supplement that which we provide. We are still operating on minimal supply budgets, so if you would like to make a donation to the school or to your teacher's classroom your generosity is much appreciated. We are always in need of Xerox paper, #2 pencils, glue sticks, erasers, colored markers, Kleenex, hand soap, etc. You are welcome to donate supplies directly to your child's classroom to be shared with all of the students, and/or make a donation to the school and will be glad to distribute it from the office. If you would like to make a monetary donation, we will deposit it and order bulk supplies. Thank you to the Tobin family for the donation of hoses and spray nozzles for campus clean up and maintenance. Thank you to Sheri Dunn for the donation of planting soil and bark chips and to the Vigil family for bedding plants for campus clean up. And thank you to our PTA for purchasing plants and supplies for our clean-up day.

FYI – our custodial budget has been reduced, like all budgets, over the past several years. If you would like to make a donation to ensure that we have the supplies to keep our campus clean, your generosity is most appreciated. If you choose to donate, please make your check payable to **John Adams**, memo "John Adams Custodial Supplies".

ABSENCES AND REQUESTS FOR HOMEWORK

Please help us by calling the office to request homework for students who will be absent two or more days. We discourage you from requesting work for a single day because the student can easily make it up when they're back to school and feeling better. If you let the office know before 10:00 a.m. we will do our best to have the work on the counter by the end of the day. When parents go straight to the classroom and ask the teacher for assignments it interrupts their teaching and makes it difficult for them to do their job. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. If you know that your child will be out of school for a week or more, we can prepare an "independent study" packet for them to take with them. This allows students to keep up with their class work and allows the school to continue to receive ADA (\$) for them in their absence.

WE'RE LOOKING GOOD – THANKS TO OUR WORK PARTY

On Saturday, August 27th, we had a fabulous crew of parents, students and friends gather to ready the campus for the start of school. We cleaned the marquee, did decorative stenciling around the doors, cleaned the grounds, cleaned out the flower beds, planted new color plants, painted the wooden picnic tables on the playgrounds and installed shade covers on the Kindergarten. A big thank you to the following Patriots for all of their help: Melissa, Karissa, Jonathan Rick and Rachel Tobin; Sheri and Chris Dunn; Audrey Osejo with Grandma Dee Lopez; Jennifer and Maddie Espinoza with Grandma Joy Cabe; Debbie and Kyle Nilsson; Gretchen, Jeanna and Janelle Axton; Yvette, Ted, Ashley and Holly Vigil. Danny Garcia and Rick Kirkwood returned the next week to install and secure the shade cover in the Kindergarten before the start of school. We're looking good!

STAFF UPDATES

We've had several changes to our staff since we left in June. We welcome teachers Melissa Anderson to fifth grade, Marlie Zwirin to our K-3 Learning Center, and Jo Scudamore to our 4-5 Learning Center. Nicole Kruegar will join us as a part time counselor, Jeanine Black is our Speech and Language teacher, and Wendy Kellum is our Psychologist. We also welcome the following new paraeducators to our Learning Center program: Crystal Knight, Diane Davis, and Jamison Bickel. Cassandra Gaxiola will join our staff as a Noon Assistant.

TUSD ENFORCES STRICT DRESS CODE

In Spring 2004 the TUSD Board of Education reviewed the dress code for the district and modified as follows: "In cooperation with teachers, students, and parents/guardians, the principal shall establish school rules governing dress and grooming which are consistent with law, Board policy and administrative regulations.

Each school shall allow students to wear sun-protective clothing, including but not limited to hats, for outdoor use during the school day.

In addition, the following guidelines shall apply to all regular school activities;

- Shoes must be worn at all times. **Elementary students must wear flat, closed shoes.**
- Clothing, jewelry and personal items (backpacks, fanny packs, gym bags, water bottles, etc.) shall be free from writing, pictures or any other insignia, which are vulgar, profane, or which advocate racial, ethnic, sexual orientation, or religious prejudice.
- Sunglasses, hats, caps and other head coverings shall not be worn indoors. Only medically/religiously required headgear, approved by the principal, may be worn indoors. Sun-protective clothing must comply with District and school site dress and grooming standards.
- **Clothes shall conceal underwear at all times.** See-through or fishnet fabrics, halter-tops, off-the-shoulder or low-cut tops, bare midriffs and skirts or shorts shorter than mid-thigh are prohibited.
- Swimwear, pajamas, nightgowns, and oversized clothing are not appropriate school wear.

Because we work hard to provide a focused learning environment, at Adams we discourage any style of dress, hairstyle and/or accessory that is hazardous or would be distracting to the student and/or other students. These issues will be handled on an individual basis. *We also request that all individuals volunteering on campus or visiting classrooms dress in a modest and appropriate fashion.*

SCHOOL SITE COUNCIL

This year's School Site Council will include: **Parents** – Karen Knappenberger, Michelle Dondick, Kari Kirkwood and, Danny Garcia and Rachel Tobin; **Staff** - Sharon Jones (Secretary), Diana Smith (Principal), Debra Juckes, Jackie

Hayden, Tracey Arney, and Melissa Anderson. Our first meeting is September 28th at 3:00 PM. Our agenda will include a budget review, our 2004 STAR test data, and a discussion of goals for the school for the coming year. It's an open meeting and we welcome your participation.

TORRANCE TYKES PRESCHOOL STARTS ITS FOURTH YEAR AT ADAMS

Enrollment Information: Torrance Tykes Preschool program receives State Preschool funding from the Child Development Division of the California Department of Education. The Child Development Division provides funds for preschool for *families meeting lower income standards*. This program is free to eligible participants.

There are a couple of openings available at this time; additional spaces may become available during the school year. Children who live in the Torrance Unified School District and will be four years old by December 2, 2005 may apply. Three and half year olds will be accepted if space is available.

- Please call Torrance Tykes Preschool Office at 972-6490 and ask for Debbie Jones for more information. Torrance Tykes Preschool Office is located at: Arlington Elementary School.

The following items are needed to register your child:

- Child's birth certificate
- Child's immunization records
- Proof of Torrance Unified School District Residency (gas, electric and/or cable bill)
- Income verification (copies of current months pay-stubs or verification of unemployment or CALWORKS documentation)

STAR RESULTS ARE HERE

Last week you got a copy of our State of the School Report with a summary of our CAT-6 and California Standards Test scores. We're in the process of analyzing them and looking to see if there are any patterns emerge that we can use to improve instruction at Adams. Student test scores are used to help plan school improvement efforts, to identify students who are academically at risk and as an initial screening for the GATE program. The test data will help us to target interventions where they are most needed. We also received the updated Academic Performance Index for 2005 (API) and are pleased that we continue to score well (821) and met all of the Annual Yearly Progress (AYP) criteria. Congratulations to our awesome staff.

JOIN US FOR BACK-TO-SCHOOL-NIGHT, Thursday, Sept. 29th, at 6:00 PM

Thursday, September 29th, is our Back-To-School-Night. This is a time for parents and teachers to meet and discuss the coming school year. Teachers will go over their classroom expectations, grade level content, and any special plans they have for the year. This is not a good time to try to have a parent/teacher conference. If you have concerns relevant to your child only, just let the teacher know that you'd like to set up a time to talk privately. This is an adults only evening. Please make arrangements for your children to be supervised off campus. Parking will be available on the 237th street playground. We begin the evening with a brief PTA meeting at 6:00 in the cafeteria, immediately followed by the classroom presentations. Due to the evening program, **this is an early dismissal day for grades 1-5.**

GRANDFRIENDS' DAY COMING OCTOBER 14TH

Friday, October 14th, is our 9th annual Grandfriends' Day. Our students are encouraged to invite a grandparent or senior friend to spend some time with them at school. Our teachers plan special activities in class to involve the "seniors" with the students. We know that not all of our students have grandparents who can come, but maybe a senior who is a neighbor, a family friend, or a childcare provider could join them. The key word here is "**senior**" – sorry parents, but you're not invited to come to the classroom activity – **however** –parents are warmly invited to join us for the picnic lunch and your kids will let you know all about the fun they had in the classroom. Grandfriends' activities in the classroom will start at 11:15. Our family picnic will be held from 12:00 – 1:00. Once again, we will sell lunch in the cafeteria, or you can bring a picnic. The Rusty Tin Can Band will be here again to entertain us during the picnic. The PTA Book Fair will also be open in the Cafeteria so you can go shopping for those extra special books that the kids so love!

ENGLISH LEARNERS MULTICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ELMAC) MEETS IN OCTOBER

Our first ELMAC meeting will be held on Friday, October 21st. We encourage parents of our second language learners to attend this meeting to learn more about the program we offer at Adams and how we can work together to help your children succeed in school. It's also a great time to meet other parents of your culture and make new friends. We hope to see you there.

Month at a Glance:

Sept.	21	PTA Fundraiser Kick-Off
	26	TUSD Board of Ed. Town Hall Meeting, 6:30, North High Gym
	28	School Site Council Meeting, 3:00
	29	Early dismissal grades 1-5, Back To School Night, 6:00
	30	Student Council Elections
Oct.	4	Picture Day
	6	PTA Fundraiser ends
	10	Student Free Day
	11-14	Book Fair (before and after school)
	14	Grandfriends' Day – Classroom activities 11:15 – 12:00, Picnic 12-1
	19	School Site Council, 3:00
	21	PTA Reflections Contest kick-off; Theme: I wonder why... ELMAC meeting, 9:00
	24-28	Red Ribbon Week (Say NO to Drugs)
	28	Conflict Management Day
	31	Halloween Parade –EVERYONE wears costumes, 9:00 on upper playground (Remember to bring a change of clothes for after the parade)