

JOHN ADAMS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

www.johnadams-torrance.com

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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Can you believe how quickly the weeks are flying by? **We've had a lot of fun** this fall, with more to come. Halloween was truly memorable. So many of our kids and their guests came in costume and participated in the parade – I think we set a record. Our Student Council Haunted House opened to rave reviews. Thank you Student Council, it looks like you have started a new tradition! The Hoe Down on November 18th and the Holiday Program on December 15th round out our plans for the holidays. Not only do we know how to have fun, **we know how to help others**. We had a record setting post "BOO Day" candy collection and are gearing up for Project Angel Tree. The Salvation Army really appreciates all that we do to help those less fortunate in our community. We are currently in the midst of collecting canned and boxed foods our Holiday Food Baskets; your donations will be going to families in our attendance area.

We work hard! We've had three very productive months of school. Our Learning Center is running smoothly, supporting our at-risk learners, and we have both Homework Club and the before school CCC lab up and running. We've nearly completed the first trimester of school, and Parent Conferences will start December 7th. Remember that we have early dismissal, grades 1-5, December 7 – 16. I hope you'll make every effort to attend your conference and learn about your child's progress at school. The children need to know we're a team.

Thanksgiving is just around the corner, and I'd like to send a special thank-you to everyone who works to make Adams the very special school it is. It is a joy to be a part of a community that values education and supports their neighborhood school. Thank you to our wonderful staff. Not only are they highly qualified; **they care** so much about each of our children. Thank you to our parents who support our programs by volunteering and to those who teach their children to value their education by word and by deed. And a special hug and thank you to our children who do their best each and every day.

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS AND DONORS

Thank you to Rachel Tobin and PTA for a month full of wonderful activities: Barbara Reynolds for all of her work for our Fundraisers, Sherri Kaku and Lucy Sheardown for a fabulous Red Ribbon Week, Kelly Reynolds for our Hoe Down, Nikki Gerdes for both the wonderful Adams Outlook and Reflections contest, and Lela Toda and her Docents for the Adventures in Art program.

Thank you to Dolly Poulin for organizing our Reading Buddies Program and Eileen Lizamo for her work on our Emergency Telephone Tree.

Thank you to all of the members of our PTA Board and School Site Council for their ongoing work on behalf of our school.

Thank you to Miss Pioch and her family, the Hixenbaughs, Nobles and the many other Student Council families, for donating so many fabulous decorations and props for the Haunted House. Thank you to Karen Ly, Karen Knappenberger, and Debbie Nilsson for helping in the Haunted House and to those who helped take it all down.

Thank you to Mr. Malecki for his donation of Snapples & Ice Tea for the teachers.

Can you help? We need more Frisbees for PE. If you know of a company that donates such items for advertisement, ask them to consider us.

PLEASE CHECK OUR WEB SITE: www.johnadams-torrance.com

Our web site has been revamped this year and continues to expand in what it offers to families. Our Home School Connection newsletters are available on the site, as are the Healthy Communities Healthy Kids newsletters. Both have lots of helpful hints that may help you as you support your kids. Please visit the site. I know you'll be impressed. Do please let us know what you like and what you'd like to see added.

SCHOOL SITE COUNCIL UPDATES

Site Council met October 19th. We discussed upcoming events, the site and district budgets, and the need for additional funds to meet the needs of our aging school sites. The Board of Education has given the district the go ahead to look into another bond measure to complete modernization at all of

our 30 schools, and to rebuild Hull and complete construction at Fern. We reviewed our site budget and agreed that we needed to use some of our Title I and School Improvement funds to update our technology program with additional computers, software and DVD/VCR units for the classrooms. We also voted to purchase additional books and quizzes for the Accelerated Reader program, SRA materials for the upper grades, and additional maps and globes for classrooms. We are rewriting our Compact for Student Success and working on the revision of our school Vision/Mission Statement.

FREE PRESCHOOL FOR LOW INCOME FAMILIES

Torrance Tykes Preschool is accepting applications for immediate enrollment. Program services include:

- FREE SERVICES-NO FEES!
- 3 and 4 year old children
- High Quality program focusing on literacy, child development and creativity for 3 hours per day, 5 days a week
- Located at Adams, Arlington, Carr, Edison, Lincoln and Torrance Elementary Schools as well as "The Triangle" near Torrance High
- Extended care available for families attending Griffith and Hamilton Adult Schools
- Space is limited and available on a first come first serve basis for eligible families.

For more information or to make an intake appointment call today! (310) 972-6814

FIRST TRIMESTER REPORT CARDS AND PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES

The First Trimester ends on November 22nd. Report Cards will go home on December 6th. Remember, report cards are a reflection of your child's progress over the entire trimester. Please review them carefully with your child, being sure to recognize their successes as well as offering support to help in areas in which they may need to improve. Emphasize with your student that report cards are personal and private. They are a communication between the school and the family, and do not need to be shared with friends.

Parent Teacher Conferences will be held December 7-16. This is a time to get together with your child's teacher to discuss your child's progress, share information, and plan together strategies to help them do their very best. Parents and teachers can be an exceptionally effective team if they communicate and work together to support student learning. Conferences are scheduled approximately every 20 minutes. Please make every effort to be on time. We appreciate hearing from you if you have a change of plans or will be late. Remember, school is out one hour earlier for these days (1st -5th grades).

HOLIDAY PROGRAM COMING DECEMBER 15TH

Be sure to mark your calendar and plan on joining us for our 10th annual winter holiday program. Classes are in the process of choosing and rehearsing the songs that they will share with us. Remember that we perform outdoors, so dress warmly, bring your lap-ropes, beach chairs, blankets, and a thermos of cocoa. PTA will have the silent auction and opportunity holiday again this year (call Sheri Dunn if you can help out with donations). It's a night we all look forward to – hope to see you there. All students must be accompanied by an adult. The 237th St. playground will be available for parking. We will take our program on the road on Friday, December 16th – we'll shuttle the students to South Bay Bank to sing for our Adopt-A-School partner and their customers. The first bus leaves Adams at 9:00 – and we continue through the morning. We hope that you'll stop by and hear us sing again.

MONTH AT A GLANCE

Nov.	23-25	Thanksgiving Holiday – no school
Dec.	2	Flag – Citizenship Awards 9:00 ELMAC Meeting, Library Fundraiser Parties
	6	First Trimester Report Cards go home
	7-16	Early dismissal for Parent Conference
	9	Flag – Student Council Art Awards
	12	Board of Education Meeting, 7:30 PM, Board Room, EMB
	15	Holiday Program, 6:30 PM, assembly area
	16	Flag – Special Recognition Classes sing at South Bay Bank
	19-31	Winter Break – Enjoy the Holidays!
Jan.	3	Welcome Back

**Have a wonderful
Thanksgiving Holiday**