

JOHN ADAMS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

www.johnadams-torrance.com

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December, 2005
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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

We wish you all the happiest of holidays. We hope you find time to breath deeply, rejuvenate and leap into the new year with optimism.

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS AND DONORS

Thank you to Mr. Malecki (Mark) for the donation of a Leap Pad Pro to room 15; Maeve O'Brien (Killian) for the donation of soft Frisbees for our PE program.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR "PEGASUS" AWARDS WINNERS!

Each year Torrance Exxon Mobile makes generous donations to TUSD in the form of competitive "Pegasus" grants. This year they awarded \$100,000 in grants to Torrance teachers. John Adams had several teachers apply and we were fortunate to have all of our applications funded. Both our fourth and fifth grade teams applied for General Academic Pegasus Awards. Our fourth grade team designed a project called "Walk Through California". They applied for funds to bring a special presentation to Adams for each of our 4th grade classes. They will also purchase additional instructional materials to support the California History curriculum, including music and plays. Our fifth grade team created a project entitled "The American Revolution Comes to Life". This project funded a special presentation for each 5th grade class, as well as instructional materials and the opportunity to participate in an interactive television program on the American Revolution. Mrs. Hsiao, first grade, applied for a Classroom Supplementary Pegasus Award to help her students learn to write and to publish books. Congratulations to all of these fine teachers for their work on behalf of their students.

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

We continue to update the site on a regular basis. All kinds of interesting and helpful information. Under parent resources you will find copies of the HOME SCHOOL CONNECTION newsletter, information on developmental assets, and links to other websites that can help you, and much more. Under Students you will find lots of resources to help your students including our Accelerated Reader book list, websites to help with a variety of study issues and resources. You can access our school calendar, cafeteria menu, topics from the handbook and much, much more. Please visit the site and take a tour. I guarantee you'll be glad you did!

SCHOOL SITE COUNCIL UPDATES

Site Council met on November 16th. We discussed modifications to our school plan and our Safe School Plan. Drafts were approved as written.

THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING YOUR PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES

Thank you to everyone who attended Parent Teacher conferences. This was a valuable opportunity learn about your child's successes and areas that need to be strengthened as we move into the new year. When we return to school in January our challenge will be to put into effect all of the things we committed to at conference. Neither home nor school can succeed alone – it's as a team that we best serve our children.

PHYSICAL FITNESS STARTS NOW!

Good habits for lifelong fitness have to start young. Starting in first grade, students receive 200 minutes of PE every ten days. That sounds like a lot, but they need to be physically active not only at school, but in all venues. Last years Cailifornia Fitness Test (2005), given to all 5th grade students, showed that our students are improving, but still have a way to go.

Percent in Healthy Fitness Zone (met the standard) – GRADE 5

	Aerobic Capacity	Body Composition	Abdominal Strength	Trunk Extension /Strength	Upper Body Strength	Flexibility	Total # Tested
State of CA	58.4	66.4	80.2	87.4	66.6	65.7	472,909
TUSD	73.1	78.0	83.5	87.9	73.7	68.3	1,798
Adams Elem.	44.8	82.1	86.6	97.0	73.1	86.6	67

HOLIDAY PROGRAM TONIGHT!

We hope you'll join us for the 10th annual Holiday Program this evening. The program starts at 6:30 PM. We're gathering in the assembly area by the Cafeteria. PTA will be holding its Silent Auction and the final round of ticket sales for the opportunity baskets before show time. Please be reminded that tonight's program is our holiday gift to you and your family. For the safety of our students, and out consideration for others, students must remain seated with their families when not performing. The corridors and playgouunds are out of bounds. We ask that all of our guests refrain from conversation during the program so that everyone can hear and enjoy the evening. We offer parking on the 237th Street playground.

MONTH AT A GLANCE

- Dec. 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
- 4 Shelter-In Drill
- 5 PTA Board Meeting, 6:30, Cafeteria
- 6 Flag – Citizenship Award
- 13 Flag – Math Wiz
- 16 Martin Luther King Day – School Holiday
- 17 Student Council Election packets available
- 18 School Site Council Meeting, 3:00, Rm. 7
- 20 Student Council Election Packets due
- 23 Central Area Townhall Meeting with Superintendent, School Board and Administrators, 6:30 PM at Torrance High
- 25 Early Dismissal – Teacher Inservice
- 27 Progress Reports; Student Council Election

**Have a wonderful
Winter Break!**