

# JOHN ADAMS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

[www.johnadams-torrance.com](http://www.johnadams-torrance.com)

**Diana Smith**  
Principal

April 2006  
[www.dsmith@tusd.k12.org](mailto:www.dsmith@tusd.k12.org)

## **PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE**

This message is a particularly challenging one for me to write because it is with truly mixed emotions that I share with you my decision to retire in July, after 37 years of service in TUSD. I have had a wonderful career and look back with pride and appreciation for the many opportunities I have had in our district. I started my career right out of UCLA at Victor Elementary School where I taught for 20 years! I then went to Madrona Middle School, where I was Assistant Principal for one year. From there I went to Anza Elementary, where I was principal for six years before coming to Adams – my home for the past 10 years. I couldn't have wished for a more satisfying career. I have had the opportunity to play an important role in the lives of many children and families, and to work with some of the finest teachers and staff anywhere. I count among my many blessings the good fortune to become reacquainted with many of my former students over the years – as parents, teachers, fellow administrators, police officers, and productive citizens in our community...after all, that's what it's all about! I look forward to joining my husband in retirement and having time to explore the world in a different way. I will miss you all, but know that what we have built together at Adams will only grow stronger in the coming years. You will always be in my heart - my best years have been here.

## **THANK YOU TO OUR ADAMS DONORS**

Thank you to all of our wonderful families who have done so much to support Adams over the past month. A particularly warm thank you to:

The Dunn family (Chris and Shannon) for the donation of 2 sets of walkie-talkies for our noon aides; the Romero Family (Vivianna) for the donation of crackers and cheese for our lunch fund; and to Karen Ly for covering the office on a day when we didn't get a sub for Miss Sharon!

## **SCIENCE FAIR – A GREAT SUCCESS**

Thank you to our outstanding judges, all students at Torrance High. They talked to each and every student who had a project entered in the Science Fair. The projects that represented us at the District Science Fair on April 5<sup>th</sup> were:

- Kgn: **Stella Poulin** – Man or Moo?
- 1<sup>st</sup>: **Alexa Schluchter** – Flowers and Dye
- 2<sup>nd</sup>: **Andrew Staal** – Bread Mold
- 3<sup>rd</sup>: **Philip Poulin**– What Kind of Detective Are You?
- 4<sup>th</sup>: **Josh Dondick** – Kids' Nutrition
- 5<sup>th</sup> **Molly Gerdes** – Think Twice Before You Kiss that Dog

A huge thank you to Sheri Dunn and her wonderful committee for setting up the Science Fair and facilitating the work of the judges.

## **BIKE RODEO**

We had a great Bike Rodeo on Friday, April 7th. We had wonderful participation! Thank you to Kari Kirkwood and her crew for manning each of the stations and planning another great event for our students! Be sure to look in the next edition of our *Adams Outlook* for the names of the winners.

Our first and second place winners will represent us at the District Bike Rodeo on Saturday, April 22nd. Good luck to our team!

## **LEGAL NOTICE – EDUCATIONAL SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES, BIRTH TO 21 YEARS OF AGE – Please share this information if you know of anyone who may need service.**

- Parents who suspect their child has a mental or physical disability are advised to contact their local school district or the Los Angeles County Office of Education.
- Federal and state laws require public schools to provide free and appropriate education for children with disabilities. Youngsters from birth to 21 years of age may qualify for

special education programs in public schools. Specialists in special education for the disabled will help parents identify appropriate programs, regardless of the type of disability.

- In Los Angeles County, the Office of Education operates many educational programs for children with disabilities by participating in regional planning programs with school districts known as Special Education Local Plan Areas (SELPA's).
- Information about SELPAs is available from local school districts, the Los Angeles County Office of Education's Quality Assurance Unit and the SELPA offices where the pupil resides.

Helpful Phone Numbers:

TUSD Office of Special Education	(310) 972-6100
Los Angeles County Office of Education	(562) 401-5737
Southwest SELPA (South Bay)	(310) 921-2901
Early Intervention Administration	(562) 922-6257
L A County Office of Ed. Quality Assurance Unit	(562) 803-8568

**STAR TESTING COMING MAY 8-19 FOR GRADES 2-5**

It's getting to be that time of year again. The State mandated assessments, STAR Tests, will be administered May 8-19 to all second, third, fourth and fifth graders. These tests are important to us as a school because they help us to assess the effectiveness of our instructional programs and the results will help us in planning for improvement in the coming year. They are important for you and your children because they give you a snapshot of what they have accomplished this year. You can use this information to compare their progress with previous years, and to see how they are doing in relation to State standards. The results of testing are also used to qualify students for other programs, including Title I interventions and the Gifted And Talented Education (GATE) program. Please check your calendar and make sure to avoid these dates as you schedule appointments, etc. Generally testing is completed by first recess (10:15 AM).

**ELECTION COMING JUNE 6<sup>TH</sup>**

Just to keep you informed, there is an upcoming election scheduled for Tuesday, June 6th. Adams will be a polling place. There are many State and local issues of importance before the voters. Anyone who has moved to a new address needs to re-register to vote. Individual voter registration forms are available in many post offices, libraries, and government buildings. Absentee ballots are designed for the busy lifestyle we all lead. If you think you may be too busy to visit the poles, consider picking up a form to request an absentee ballot from any school site office. Whatever your position on the ballot issues, please take the time to vote on June 6th!

**MONTH AT A GLANCE**

<b>April</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>Flag – Special Recognition Pioneer Days (hands on workshops), grades K-5</b>
	<b>22</b>	<b>Carnival District Bike Rodeo</b>
	<b>24-24</b>	<b>Multiculture Week</b>
	<b>25</b>	<b>Kindergarten Round-Up, by appointment only</b>
	<b>26</b>	<b>School Site Council, 3:00 PM</b>
	<b>27</b>	<b>ELMAC (5:30- Library) and Family Pot Luck (6:00 – Café)</b>
	<b>28</b>	<b>Progress Reports go home</b>
	<b>May</b>	<b>1-5</b>
<b>1</b>		<b>TUSD Board of Education Meeting, 7:30 PM</b>
<b>3</b>		<b>Kindergarten Round-Up, by appointment only</b>
<b>4</b>		<b>PTA Board Meeting, 6:30, Cafeteria</b>
<b>5</b>		<b>Flag Animal Guy assemblies, grades K-5</b>
<b>8-19</b>		<b>State Mandated Testing (STAR) grades 2-5</b>
<b>12</b>		<b>Flag – Math Wiz</b>
<b>15</b>		<b>TUSD Board of Education Meeting, 7:30 PM</b>
<b>19</b>		<b>Family Party</b>
<b>20</b>		<b>Armed Forces Day</b>
<b>22-26</b>		<b>Blue Ribbon Week</b>
<b>25</b>		<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Grade to Zoo</b>
<b>26</b>		<b>Flag – Special Recognition Kgn. to Zoo</b>
<b>29</b>		<b>Memorial Day Holiday</b>
<b>31</b>		<b>School Site Council, 3:00 PM</b>