

The Sutterville Slate

Newsletter of the Sutterville Elementary PTA

October 2003

In This Issue

- Beautification Day
- Classroom Wish Lists
- Courtyard Gardens
- Fall Festival
- Parent Resource Library
- PTA Meeting Minutes
- Poetry and Song Concert
- School Cents Race
- School Holiday Schedule
- Support Sutterville While Shopping
- Sutterville Shirts Now Available
- The Principal's Office
- United Way Donors
- Welcome from the PTA President

Dates to Remember

- **Oct. 11th**
Beautification Day
9:00 a.m.- 3:00
- **Oct. 13-16th**
Poet-In-Residence
The Work of E.E. Cummings
- **Oct. 23rd**
Poetry & Song Family Night
6:00 p.m. – Multipurpose Room
- **Oct. 24th**
Fall Festival & Pizza Dinner
5:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.
- **Oct. 27-Nov. 3rd**
Shortened Days
Parent Teacher Conferences
- **Nov. 12th**
PTA General Meeting
6:45 p.m. – School Library

2003 PTA Board

- Kirstie Wilson, President
- Denay De Guzman, Vice President
- Jenny Hitchings, Vice President
- Mary Whisten, Vice President
- Lindsay Nevis, Treasurer
- Becca Gonzales, Secretary

Welcome from the President of the PTA

On behalf of the PTA Board, I'd like to belatedly welcome all our families to Sutterville Elementary School. By now I hope everyone is "back in the groove" of school routine! This is my eleventh and final year here and it's been a great decade for my children and me, thanks to so many of our dedicated parents and teachers, and particularly our principal, Diane Shada. She is always one of the PTA's biggest supporters!

Next year many of our Board members will either "graduate" or reached their "term limit". The best way to learn about what your PTA does and how you can help is to come to the bi-monthly general meetings. Our next meeting will be Wednesday, November 12th, at 6:45 in the School Library. One of our main agenda items will be to fill a Nominating Committee, whose purpose will be to scout out potential Board members for next year.

Continued on pg. 2 **President's Welcome**

Beautification Day

The weather is finally changing and this year's Fall Beautification Day is Saturday, October 11th.



Teachers, staff, parents, and students will come together to beautify the campus - inside and out. We have a donation of 12 trees and lots of mulch, plus many dirty windows to wash, lots of fallen leaves to rake, wily weeds to pull, seeds to collect, etc., etc., etc. You get the idea.

Please join us - 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Poetry and Song Concert

Oct. 23rd – 6:00 p.m.
For details, see page four.

Fall Festival

Get ready for a night of fun and fright Oct. 24th. The evening starts at 5:30 with pizza dinner in the cafeteria.



Enjoy the many fun activities like Trick or Treat, games, and the popular costume parade/contest. This year we will have the Monster Mash, a family dance with a DJ and Karaoke machine.

It should be a spooktacular evening!

The Principal's Office

What a great beginning we have had for our new school year! Staff and parents are working hard to provide students a challenging and enriching year.

The campus is looking great thanks to our custodial staff and the hard work of our parents. We hope that you will join us for our first "Beautification Day". It will be fun and rewarding!

Please welcome our new teachers: Michelle Apperson, 6th grade GATE; Maria-Renee Grigsby, 5th grade; and due to Mrs. Washington's bereavement leave, Danny Roller, 4th grade long-term substitute teacher.

Parent/teacher conferences will begin at the end of the month. The conferences will provide a review of your student's progress and to plan for the rest of the school year. Teachers will begin scheduling in the next few days. Oct. 27 – Nov. 3 will be short days with dismissal time at 1:50 p.m. for first thru sixth grades. Kindergarten will be on their regular schedule.

We look forward to discussing your child's progress and becoming partners in educating your child.

Diane Shada, Principal

United Way Donations Help Support our School

The PTA sends out a big "Thank You" to those parents who designated their United Way Contributions to the Sutterville PTA. Over \$2,300.00 was contributed to the United Way through the annual State Employees Charitable Campaign and the California Capitol Region Campaign.

The following parents participated last year: Benden Blue, Mark Cashatt, Happy Chastain, Max Cheeseman, K. Correia, Lori Epsteinterris, Dinora Hall, K. Lin, Roy Marsh, Doug McCarley, Yoko Mooring, Jennifer Young, Janus Gustafson, Lynn Luperini, and Principal Diane Shada.

Thank you for your generosity!



Sutterville Shirts and Sweatshirts Now Available

If you missed buying your Sutterville shirts and sweatshirts, now's your chance. Order forms went home in your children's backpacks recently, but if you can't seem to muddle through the mess, forms can be found in the front office, or call Jenny Hitchings at 454-9300.

The shirts have the same Stingray logo as last year (\$10.00) and the new sweatshirt design has "Sutterville Stingrays" written in the upper left corner (\$20.00). Remember, Sutterville spirit isn't just for kids; parents can wear their own shirts with pride! Order now, while they last!

Jenny Hitchings, 454-9300

The Great \$2,000 School Cents Race



Sutterville Elementary is currently in second place in the School Cents race for the first-place prize of \$2,000.00! Our major competitor is Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary - its PTA members were shocked that we took first place last year during our very first year of participating.

So what is the School Cents program you ask? Well, if you shop at Arden Fair Mall, please stop at the information desk in front of JC Penney's on the first floor of the mall and write down the totals of your receipts - each dollar spent will give us five points. Last year, we earned over 2 million points and the top prize of \$2,000.00.

Kim Woodruff, School Cents Coordinator
452-8770

President's Welcome

Continued from page 1

If you haven't filled out and returned the PTA assistance forms, please do so as soon as you can! We need parents to pitch in so that all the work the PTA does on behalf of the students is spread evenly. The Board can't "do it all"... we do have obligations ourselves outside of the school sphere.

If you have any questions about the PTA's activities, don't hesitate to call any of the Board members. Also, Helen Burns at the school office is a veritable encyclopedia of information on Sutterville's PTA (she was President herself for two years!).

The PTA can't provide all the extra educational and fun activities that your child deserves without **your** help! Elementary school is a time in a child's life when attitudes toward education become engrained...the Sutterville PTA works hard to enrich and expand your child's educational experience. And, as an extra bonus, they take a **lot** of pride in knowing that you're helping their school!

See you around school!

Kirstie Wilson, President

Classroom Wish Lists

Kindergarten PM (R. Jan-Johnson):
Snacks, large glue sticks, Windex wipes

1st Grade - (J. Greene):
Pencils, black dry/erase pens, facial tissue

2nd Grade - (K. Fox):
Pencils, astrobright paper, individual cassette headsets

2nd Grade - (S. Leonard):
Facial tissue, red or blue correcting pencils, hand sanitizer, disposal cameras, snacks, wide rule spiral notebooks, 42 legal size colored file folders, 3-ring binders with inside cover pockets

3rd Grade - (L. Loflin):
Books about the solar system, city wildlife, light & color

3rd Grade - (M. Smith):
Facial tissue

5th Grade - (P. Woltering):
facial tissue, pencils, binder paper, copy/printer paper

6th Grade - (G. Sekikawa):
Black fine-tip felt pens, oil pastel crayons (6 boxes), Crayola colored pencils (12-pack, six boxes)

6th Grade - (M. Apperson):
Facial tissue, marker pens, glue sticks, colored pencils

5th Grade - (M-R. Grigsby):
Hanging maps of the U.S. and world, dictionaries and thesauruses

Prep - (J. Tudesko):
200 sketchbooks

Speech Office - (L. Mohrmann):
Address labels for a computer printer

Office - (Erma, Helen and Kim):
Paper towels, snack size baggies for making "owie" bags, oral and ear thermometer covers, long-reach stapler, heavy-duty stapler (for thick packets)

See What Really Happens at a PTA Meeting – Read the Meeting Minutes!

If you ever wondered what the Sutterville PTA does...here is a glimpse into the last general meeting. These meetings are open to all and you are strongly encouraged to attend. The PTA is working hard to provide the students and teachers everything they need to have the best learning experience possible. To make all of these activities happen, it takes money and volunteers. Please help in any way you can...with your time or your contribution.

We hope you will read the minutes to see all of the activities that are in the works.

Meeting Date: Sept. 16

Board Members attending:
Kirstie Wilson, President
Denay DeGuzman, Vice President
Mary Whisten, Vice President
Lindsey Nevis, Treasurer
Becca Gonzales, Secretary
Diane Shada, Principal
PTA general membership: 7 attended

Meeting opened at 6:30

Direct Donations are doing better than this same point last year. It was suggested that we have a PTA table at the fall festival soliciting direct donations and PTA memberships. We received a \$200 check from Target.

PTA Budget - Kirstie explained to the general membership that our costs have increased this year because we are now paying the full cost of the librarian's salary plus the cost of the poet-in-residence program has increased. With these and other factors, we are projected to be in the red by over \$7,000 unless we raise more money.

Fall Festival - We discussed the fall festival, to be held on Friday, October 24. The main needs at this point are for someone to volunteer to do publicity. Several people volunteered to organize the decorations. This year in the multi-purpose room we are planning to have a "Monster Mash" family dance with a DJ and a Karaoke company, which have already been contacted.

Katy Spanos agreed to be in charge of the crafts and Colleen Thomson will organize the costume parade and contest. Colleen will also be in charge of raffling off her quilt. Mary Whisten will head up the games and Becca Gonzales and Denay DeGuzman will head up the Pizza dinner. Denay will find out if 4th R is interested in running a snack booth. Katy suggested that we use student volunteers from Kennedy and McClatchy High Schools.

Slate - Mary Whisten announced that the Slate will go out in early October and that they will continue to come out monthly.

Diane Shada thanked the PTA for the teacher care packages and put in a request for the PTA to replenish the emergency supplies we gave the teachers last year. The reason for this is that many of the snacks and the bottled water have reached their expiration date. Mary suggested that once the supplies are inventoried that she would put a request in the Slate for parent's to donate supplies to the classrooms. Mrs. Shada also mentioned that our enrollment is up so that we shouldn't have any problems with not being able to keep one of our classrooms, as was the fear last year.

PTA Assistance Forms will be resent since many people did not seem to see them. Once we have a good list, Denay can use her automatic phone assistance tree to send out calls to help organize volunteers.

Art Program - Katy Spanos has applied for a grant from the Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission to help establish a program for the second and fifth grades. Our proposal was accepted and we are waiting to see if they have any money! This fall, the art program will focus on illustrating stories. Katy is applying for other grants.

Craft Fair- There will be a PTA sponsored craft fair in early December. It was decided that it would only be for kids to sell their wares since they didn't want the competition from the adults.

In order to sell their crafts, the tables will be "sold" for \$5 with the proceeds to go to the children.

Other Events - We briefly discussed other school events such as having international dance groups perform at night and combining this with the sixth grade international cuisine event. In the past, 6th graders held their event during the day, but it was suggested that this could be a nighttime activity.

Back-to-School Night - It was suggested that next year, we have 4th R watch the kids since this year, in many families; only one parent attended the event instead of two. We could also bring back the Pizza Dinner, which is a PTA or a grade level fundraiser. Mrs. Shada did express that this year's event was much calmer than year's past where the children were on campus. Others suggested that we have a PTA sponsored assembly for the kids while the parents visit the classrooms. Denay suggested the Fantasy Theatre could perform for the kids and we could charge admission.

Field Trips - Due to the budget situation, Kirstie doesn't think that the PTA will be able to subsidize field trips this year. Katy asked if there is a policy for when classroom field trip fundraisers can be help. Kirstie said that there is no policy and that parents should feel free to hold fundraisers for their child's classroom at any time. Katy and a few other parents expressed the desire to have some larger field trips for the intermediate grades that are shared by all the classes in that grade level. For example, the 4th graders could go to Marin Headlands, 5th grade could go to space camp, and 6th grade continues to Sly Park. It was decided the PTA's role to support field trips needs more discussion but Katy will continue to organize trips for classes that need help.

Yearbook- Colleen suggested that there be a contest to design the cover of this year's yearbook. The contest will be open to the intermediate grades.

Next Meeting: Nov. 12th
6:45 p.m. - School Library



The Courtyard Gardens

There has been much activity in the Courtyard Gardens since the start of this school year. Six classrooms, in addition to the Girl Scouts and several families, have chosen garden plots in which to practice their gardening skills! Each classroom has provided artists to paint a stepping-stone for its plot. Students have also been making flowers from plastic cups and wooden skewers to provide more color among the plants.

The students are **very** grateful to Stuart Noda (Sophie's dad) for donating a huge beautiful, hand-painted umbrella to our gardeners - it gives us a nice spot of shade to rest, discuss gardening, and work on projects.

We received another big donation in September. Our Master Gardener Judi O'Toole (grandmother of student Amanda Grove) brought us over one hundred plants - Agapanthus and Dietes (AKA, Fortnight Lilies). These have been planted along the street-side of the cafeteria and multi-purpose room, along the east end of the Courtyard, beside Room #24, and along both sides of the fire lane next to 4th R. These will provide lovely flowers next year during the summer and early fall. Over the years, as they multiply, we will be able to divide them and hold plant sales for these and other self-propagators!

Kim Woodruff, Courtyard Gardens Coordinator 452-8770

Sutterville Website



Hats off to Denise Modar for all of her hard work on the Sutterville website. It is impressive to see so much school information available online. Keep up the good work Denise!

<http://schools.scusd.edu/sutterville/index.htm>

Support Sutterville School While You Shop

How? Sutterville PTA purchases gift certificates from a number of stores - including grocery and department stores, restaurants, gas stations, and hotels - at discounts ranging from 2% to 20%. The PTA sells these gift certificates, called "Scrip," at face value. The scrip is just like cash; it can be used for shopping and also makes great gifts!

Last year's PTA scrip programs earned about \$5,000 for Sutterville, and scrip supporters did not spend a penny beyond their usual monthly budgets.

Scrip for Raley's and Macy's is always available from the 4th R office or from Linda Ching, Director of Apron Sales.

Watch for the next order form (due on October 13, with receipt of scrip by October 17). We are still waiting for Raley's/Bel Air to roll out its paperless scrip program - we have been unable to purchase paper scrip from Raley's since Labor Day!

Parent Resource Library

Sharon Leonard, Room "lucky" 13, has established a Parent Resource Library in her classroom. The books cover a wide range of topics including gifted education, parent advocacy, parenting of boys, girls, preschoolers and teens, divorce, multiculturalism, creativity, brain research, OCD, ODD, and bipolar children.

For those looking for less "heavy" topics, the library offers titles such as Tuesdays with Morrie, Chicken Soup for the Woman's Soul, and Keeping Life Simple. All Sutterville parents and guardians are welcome to stop in to peruse the books.

What a great resource! And it's free!

You Can't Go Wrong With Poetry And Song

Once again, the Sutterville PTA presents the Poetry and Song Concert, Thursday, Oct. 23rd at 6 p.m. in the multi-purpose room. Hosted by John Allen Cann (Wizard of Poetry) and Ken Cooper (Traveling Troubadour), this year's program features the creative work of poet E.E. Cummings and songwriter John Sebastian (of the Lovin' Spoonful). Sutterville's student poets will also be reciting the original poems they created during Mr. Cann's residency. The featured song will be "Do You Believe in Magic?" introduced during Mr. Cooper's classroom visits.

Admission is free and all are invited.

School Holidays

- Veteran's Day
Tuesday, Nov. 11
- Thanksgiving
Wednesday, Nov. 26-30
- Winter Break
Monday, Dec. 22-Jan. 4
- Martin Luther King, Jr.
Monday, Jan. 19th
- Lincoln's Day
Monday, Feb. 9
- Washington's Day
Monday, Feb. 16
- Spring Break
Monday, April 5-11
- Memorial Day
Monday, May 31

Shortened School Days

- Oct. 27-Nov. 3rd
Shortened Days
Parent Teacher Conferences
Grades 1-6 will end at 1:50 p.m.