

The Sutterville Slate

A Publication of the Sutterville Elementary PTA

March 2005

In This Issue

- Family Art and Science Night
- Help! Volunteers Needed
- Lounge Chair Lady
- Mr. Carnie's Class Update
- PTA Membership Meeting Notes
- Striders Running Club
- Sutterville Beach
- Sutterville Recycles
- Sutterville Stampede
- Wanted: Slate Staff

Dates to Remember

- **March 13**
Kings Fundraiser – Arco Arena
- **March 17**
Cookie Dough Pick-up
2:00 - 4:00 p.m. Multipurpose Room
- **April 29th**
Sutterville Stampede/Jog-a-Thon
- **May 13th** (tentative)
Spring Art Day
- **May 21st**
Family Fun Day

2004-05 PTA Board

- Denay DeGuzman, President
- Lindsay Nevis, Vice President
- Denorah Hall, Vice President
- Mary Whisten, Vice President
- Susan Yee, Treasurer
- Becca Gonzales, Secretary

The President's Message

Hello Everyone:

Spring is the air, the leaves on the trees are coming back, our school year is starting to wind down, and your PTA is still hard at work!

For all of you **6th grade families**, we will be having a graduation-planning meeting in April to discuss everything that will need to be done to make this day very special for the kids. We will need a lot of parent help both before the event as well as on the morning of graduation. Some of the jobs that will need to be done are the set-up of chairs in the courtyard grass area, rental of pop-up tents for shade and color, ordering and picking up balloons, stage decoration purchase and set-up, cake and punch purchases, special banners need to be made with all of the 6th graders' names on them, etc.

During this meeting we will also be deciding on a location/activity for the EOY 6th grade party - which must be fully funded and chaperoned by the students' families. You will be notified of the meeting date via a notice in your child's backpack the week before Spring Break. We will be looking for a 6th grade parent to prepare a slideshow presentation for the graduation, and we will be asking parents to send in pictures of their child and classmates that were taken on field trips, class activities, etc. from kindergarten through 6th grade - so please start thinking about which pictures you would like to contribute.

I hope you and your family have a most wonderful Spring Break! See you in April.

If you would like to contact me, please send your e-mail to: DenayDeGuzman@yahoo.com.



Yum...The Cookie Dough is Here!

The Cookie Dough has arrived and will be distributed on Thursday, March 17, 2 - 4 p.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room

Parent Balloting – Need Input

Parents of Sutterville! Here's your chance to put in your 2 cents and more! The Sutterville PTA is crafting a parent ballot to find out what programs, assemblies, events and fundraisers you enjoy. Let us know what you want to see on the parent ballot, to be distributed in April, by contacting our parent ballot coordinator, Lindsey Nevis. She can be reached at 453-0518 or pgnevis@sbc.global.

Nominating Committee

The Sutterville PTA is seeking a nominating committee to elect new members for the 2005-2006 PTA Board of Directors. In accordance with our bylaws, we are seeking three parents to form a nominating committee to prepare for our April election. The nominating committee will consist of a committee chair and two members. The committee will be responsible for accepting nominations for the various board positions (see below), composing the election ballot, and finalizing the election results. If you are interested in chairing and/or being a part of this committee, please contact Becca Gonzales no later than March 14.

Nominating Continued page 2

Nominating

Continued from page 1

The following officers constitute the PTA board. Time commitments range from 8-40 hours per month depending on the position and include attendance at one two-hour evening board meeting per month. In addition to holding office, PTA board members either lead or volunteer to help on a number of specific fundraisers, events and projects throughout the year. Some of the hours listed below are an "average" and may fluctuate from month to month. Board members serve from July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006. Newly elected members are invited to assist the current board in planning the calendar and crafting a budget for next year. These planning activities will take place in May and June. The board will be using results from a recent teacher survey and an upcoming parent survey to guide its planning activities.

President - Coordinates the work of the board; presides at all meetings; member of all committees; serves as liaison to national, state, council and district PTAs; works closely with the school principal.

First Vice President/Fundraising Coordinator - Presides at meetings in the absence of the president; oversees the fundraising calendar; broadly coordinates fundraising activities. (Position filled through '06.)

Second Vice President/Volunteer Coordinator - Broadly coordinates volunteer recruitment for PTA-sponsored events.

Third Vice President/Student Activities - Broadly coordinates student activities with a particular focus on assemblies and student enrichment activities. (Position filled through '06.)

Nominating Continued next column

Nominating

Continued from previous column

Fourth Vice President/Social Activities Coordinator - Broadly coordinates parent and student social events and teacher/staff appreciation activities.

Fifth Vice President/Parent Program Coordinator - Broadly coordinates communication with PTA membership as well as all parents, teachers and students.

Secretary - Prepares minutes from all board meetings, prepares necessary correspondence, prepares notices of upcoming PTA meetings.

Treasurer - Keeps financial records of the PTA, leads preparation of annual budget, receives all money, pays all bills, prepares all required financial reports. (Please note this is a labor-intensive position that requires many hours per month.) (Position filled through '06)

Interested? Questions? Feel free to contact Becca Gonzales for further information or to toss your hat into the PTA ring. Becca can be reached at 457-6325 or rgonzales@cbp.org.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU! Arco Volunteers...

Sutterville earns over \$1000.00 each time we work the Arco Concession Fundraiser. We work hard, but it is a fast and fun atmosphere! Here's a quick **thank-you** to all the volunteers that have committed to helping Sutterville on Sunday, March 13th. Deanna Hose, Helen Burns, Lisa Stie, Mary Whisten, Karen Uyeno, Erma Gather, Gerald Yee, Marcia Washington, Charmaine Quiros, Todd Carter, Stephanie Stultz, Becca Gonzales, Kelly Johnson, Laurie Hensley, Diane Mitchell, Stacie Pradie, Julie Stehr, Duncan Young, Cindy Marler, Mark Sumner, Pancho Pacheco, Billy Adlyett, Leslie Loflin, Sylvia LeBlanc, Cindy Reigert, Marcie Smith, Samantha Jordan, Kim Turner, Christian Turner, Anabel Coblan, Liz Stehr, Julie Sabala, Franz Haidinger, Mele Kilokihakaufisi, Kathleen Sullivan, Paul Sabala, Robert Cortez and Lisa Bowen.

Sutterville Stampede

For the time being it's time to stop thinking of us as Stingrays, and start snorting and kicking up dust like a bull! The 2nd Annual Sutterville Stampede is coming on Friday, April 29th.

This health and fitness fundraiser will occur during school hours. Like last year, each student will receive a Stampede t-shirt and a bib number. The Romo family is donating \$2,000 for the t-shirts! They are such a nice and generous family.

Every student (and hopefully teacher, staff member, friend and relative) is expected to walk or run the official 1/4 mile loop as many times as he/she can in 45 minutes.

Keep a look out for the Stampede pledge form. Last year we raised close to \$10,000! Can we beat this? Yeah!

Questions? Contact Jenny Hitchings, 454-9300 or ajhitchings@sbcglobal.net, or John Blue, Laurie Hensley or Roy Modar.



Wanted: SLATE Staff

The PTA Board is looking for a new production team! Our wonderful editor and production team (Mike and Mary Whisten) are retiring! The position requires a home computer and printer, word processing and home publishing programs as well as access to e-mail. You would be responsible for collecting all information for the newsletter, formatting the information into newsletter, copying, collating, distributing and managing an operating budget.

Need Info? Contact Mary Whisten, 443-0284 or mherw@hotmail.com.

Mr. Carnie's Class Promotes Environmental Issues

Mr. Carnie's class has spent a good part of the school year focused on the environment. Here is the song the class composed and entered into the Jiminy Cricket Environmental Challenge. In addition to writing the song, the students composed a CD, posed for wacky pictures, wrote articles about their experiences creating this project and topped it off with a storybook scrapbook. The class should hear in the near future if it has won the prestigious environmental award. The video was recently unveiled at a PTA meeting. Parents can see the production at Open House in April.

Four to Help with the Earth's Survival by Mr. Carnie's Class

Chorus: Reduce, Reuse, Rot and Recycle
Four ways to help, With the Earth's survival,

Reduce. Cancel magazines that you don't read. Reduce the packaging that you don't need. Buy in bulk at the grocery store and we won't need landfills anymore

Chorus

Reuse. Cut your old cloths into rags
And reuse canvas shopping bags
Repair appliances that have broken
The time is now - we're not joking.

Chorus

Rot. Let old food rot in the compost heap

Throw in some worms and While your asleep. The worms start crunching
And munching down Then out comes new soil.

Rich and brown

Chorus

Recycle. Paper, plastic, glass or cans
Don't give them to the garbage man
Take them all to the recycle station
It's one more way to assist our nation
Chorus Chorus Chorus Chorus Chorus

Sutterville Janitorial Staff Now Using a Recycling Cart

While on the topic of the environment, Mr. Carnie's class learned that the Sutterville janitorial staff didn't recycle or use a recycling cart; they just dumped all of Sutterville's trash in a trashcan. Mr. Carnie's class set out to locate and purchase not just a recycling cart, but an organizer with pockets to store all of their cleaning supplies in (thanks to Juliana Blue and Monique Lotto). The students worked with the PTA and received a \$150 donation in matching funds towards the purchase. The class is currently accepting donations. Please donate to our cause-not a whole bundle of dough, just some loose change lingering in your pockets.



Lounge Chair Lady Gives While Grocery Shopping

Are you passionate about pickles, crazy about carrots, charmed by cheese, or mad about maple syrup? If you are anything like the lounge chair lady-a self-proclaimed foodie-you are spending a lot of time wandering the aisles of your favorite grocery store. If that store happens to be Raley's/Bel Air, you can satisfy your gourmet or gourmand cravings and send money Sutterville's way at the same time. The Quality of Life card is an electronic wonder designed by Raley's and available from Sutterville's front office. Stop by the office and ask our friendly staff for your very own. Not only do you get the credit card sized version, there are two copies of the key-ring size to keep you from forgetting to use it. Activate your card by visiting Raleys.com and designate Sutterville as your school. Every time you shop at Raley's or Bel Air, ask the checkout clerk to scan your card. Sutterville earns a percentage of your purchase.

Lounge Continued next column

Lounge

Continued from previous column

The best part - you pay nothing extra! Last year, the Raley's card earned Sutterville \$3,400 and was our fourth largest fundraiser. With stronger participation, we can eliminate some of our more volunteer intensive fundraisers and reduce our requests to parents to dig into their pockets over and over again. The more parents participate, the more time (and money) they have to spend on other things-such as lounging.

Sutterville Beach

I'll bet you didn't know that in the middle of this rainy season we have a Sutterville Beach. Yes, right in our foyer you can take a break by gazing at Isabella and Patrick Powers' beach scene in the display case. Kudos to Room 4 first grader Isabella and her dad Patrick for creating a serene landscape for all of us to enjoy.

Slate Article Submission

The Slate staff asks that any articles to be considered be submitted by the first Friday of each month. If all goes as planned, we will distribute The Slate on the second Friday of each month.

The next submission date is April 1st. Please send any articles, comments or ideas to Mike & Mary Whisten, mherw@hotmail.com.

Help! We need Volunteers!

Please contact Mary Whisten if you are able to donate or help at the following school-wide events.

1. Kings Concession, March 13
2. Sutterville Stampede, April 29.
3. Family Fun Day, May 21

Mary is a volunteer coordinator for these events and can be contacted at 443-0284 or mherw@hotmail.com.

PTA General Membership Meeting, February 17, 2005

Members Present: PTA President Denay DeGuzman, Vice-President Mary Whisten, Vice-President Lindsay Nevis, Vice-President Kelley Tracy, Treasurer Susan Yee, Secretary Becca Gonzales, Site Council Rep. Genevieve Guerrero, Site Council Rep. Benden Blue, Four general members present.

The meeting began at 6:05 p.m.

Susan Yee gave the Treasurer's report. She reported that the fall cookie dough sales went well and that the Direct Donation/PTA membership has raised over \$5,000.00. So far the PTA has raised \$22,759.00 this year and our expenses have totaled \$11,967.00. Sue reminded everyone that we have some major expenditure's left this year such as the Sly Park deposit for next year and graduation expenses.

Denay DeGuzman then gave the President's report. She reported that the PTA Board has been busy revamping the PTA budget. The board felt that it had been a long time since we re-evaluated the fundraisers that we conduct every year and examined the programs that we fund. There is a general consensus that we conduct too many separate fundraisers each year and that certain expenses, such as paying the school librarian's salary, need to be re-evaluated

In order to help next year's board determine the will of the school community, the PTA has developed a teacher's ballot to determine what programs the teachers feel benefit the school community at large. The PTA is also planning to develop a parent's ballot to be distributed at Open House and to be published in the slate. It was also explained that most fundraisers are conducted in the fall to pay for the school year expenses.

Minutes Continued next column

Minutes Continued from previous column

Mary Whisten then gave an update on the Sutterville Stampede since Jenny Hitchings was unable to attend the meeting. The board decided to pay for the snacks and various supplies needed for the stampede, such as the runners bibs. We also had a general discussion on how best to spend Stampede funds. This discussion will be continued with the organizers of the Stampede.

Mary also mentioned the Kings game on Sunday, March 13 and the need for more volunteers in order for the event to run smoothly. Denay also asked for more volunteers to help with cookie dough distribution on Thursday, March 17 from 1 – 4 p.m.

Mary then talked about the Sutterville Spring Fling. This will be organized as a "thank you" to the school community for another great year so it will not be a fundraiser-- but we will try to cover our costs. Plans include Ken Cooper conducting the Kindergarten chorus, Mr. Greene's class putting on a musical performance, the orchestra and band will be asked to perform and Katy Spanos will organize multi-cultural dancers. Also planned are police cars and fire trucks plus representatives from parks and recreation to tell parents about summer programs for their children. The tentative date for this event is May 21. We may also have a cash raffle at this event.

Ms. Le Blanc presented the teachers report. She reported Mr. Doolittle was requesting a storage unit for PE equipment. He researched the cost and estimated that it would be \$2,000.00. Also mentioned at the teacher's staff meeting that there might be a request for the PTA to buy computer desks in the future.

Denay then talked about PTA board meetings off the school site vs. general PTA meetings.

Minutes Continued next column

Minutes Continued from previous column

The PTA heard that some folks wondered why the PTA would conduct meetings at places other than the school.

It was explained that the only time we meet off campus is for a board meeting, which is only for internal board business. PTA general meetings are always conducted at school and are advertised to the school community ahead of time, usually in the Slate, the parent newsletter, and the school marquee if possible. This month, 4th R made signs about the meeting.

We also talked about the need to conduct nominations for next year's board. We will need a nominating committee to solicit candidates for next year. There will be more information in upcoming editions of the Slate on this process.

The meeting closed at 7:30.



Spring Break

Sutterville Elementary students will have no classes March 21-25th. See you back on Monday March 28th!

3rd Grade TV Stars

Four of Ms. Loflin's 3rd graders will be featured on KOVR 13 to showcase their inventions. The spot will air March 25th at 6:45 a.m. on channel 13. Be sure to check that news worth watching!

Family Art and Science Night

Once again, the Family Art and Science Night was a great success. Students and their families were able to wander around the exhibits at their own pace. There were activities for the very young and very old. There were 19 activity stations which included laws of motion (domino theory and Newton's Cradle, magnets, bones and dinosaurs, pantomimes (if you don't know what it means, come next year) and pattern blocks. Special favorites were the Big Izzi Blocks on the floor and Spin Art (think of the heavens). People could try their hand at the snowflake puzzle – it was not easy, origami or fingerprint animals.

This year, for the first time, the exhibit was open during the school day. Classes could sign up for 50-minute segments – and almost all classes did. This made it possible for all students to benefit and gave some an extra opportunity to spend more time at favorite stations or visit new ones.

The family night also included the Scholastic Book Fair Open House. Parents and students could browse and purchase. A percentage of all purchases can be used to get books for the library. The Book Fair was also open for two weeks during the day for students and their families.

In addition to the Science and Art Exhibit, students and their families were able to sell and buy goods at the Student Craft Fair. There was lots of good food and articles that celebrated spring and Valentines Day. There were over 15 sellers this year – a high point.

Coming up is **Spring Art Day** scheduled for May 13 or 20. Last spring the students went to an Assembly that featured masks.

Several weeks later, stations were set up outside the classrooms and each class made a mask. The completed masks were displayed at Open House.

This year we have or will have several assemblies featuring puppets and each grade level will make a different puppet during Spring Art Day.

We need lots of parents to make this work – ideally two parents from each class. There will be a workshop for parent helpers on May 6 from 9-1 and then parents can choose from an 8:30-11:00 or 11:00-1:30 shift on the day of the event. Please look for a notice coming out after Spring Break asking for helpers.

Special thanks to Ron and Delva Kremer (Ron taught for many years at Sutterville and the Kremers produced the first Art and Science Night held at Sutterville – Helen Burns was also a critical figure) for their consultation and advice, for developing the posters and stations and for donating over half of the special items. Thanks to Katy Spanos who coordinated the event – she will be looking for some co-chairs next year. Thanks to Melissa Shifflett, Stephanie DuBois and Lisa Swanson for coordinating the dinner and to Laurie Epstein-Terris and Michelle Embree for cleaning up. Thanks of course to Creighton and Al for making sure that everything worked. Thanks to the Mrs. Anderson and the orchestra and the band, Mr. Doolittle, Ms. Tedesco and Cheryl in the kitchen for letting us use their spaces. Thanks also to Crystal from 4th R for getting extra tables and to Ashley from 4th R for the posters.

Many thanks to the following people who helped with set up, staffing and clean up of the art and science exhibit, the Art of Pasta Dinner, and the Craft Fair: Ron Kaldor, Kelli Hirabayashi, Kathy Correia, Mary Wandschneider, Jenny and Andy Hitchings,

Family Continued next column

Lounge

Continued from previous column

Jamie Masuda, Faith Lambert, Laura Ly, Becca Gonzales, Julie Savala, Nanette Wong, Ann Soloway, Cristina Sanane, Vincent Montes, Teresa Zuber, Flor Guterrez, Sandra Lo, Lindsay Nevis, Stacie Prado, Julie Baumhof, Mark Sumner, Laura Carrasco, Cynthia Silva, Glenn Fujii, Linda Maloney, Sara Nichols, Roy Modar, Charlie Hammit, and Lana Hom.

Thanks to the following students: Nicole Nugent, Exie Frazier, Jasmine Rodriguez, Kristen Cooper, Brittany Jackson, Maddy Serephan, Tranice Perry, Eleni Spanos and Aristomenes Spanos.

All this activity calls for food and there was some great food to enjoy. The Art of Pasta dinner included a choice of three kinds of pastas. Proceeds from the dinner support the Art and Science Exhibit and Open House.



Come Join the Club!

The Sutterville Strider's Running Club will have a second session starting Monday, March 28 and will conclude Wednesday, April 27th (before the Stampede). We will meet every Monday and Wednesday from 3:30-4:15. This is a great way for the kids to get in shape for the Sutterville Stampede and any other spring sports. The cost is \$5.00 per child. Please discuss with your child if he/she is interested in RUNNING before you sign up. Hope to see lots of you there!

Contact Jenny Hitchings for questions, 454-9300 or AJHitchings@sbcglobal.net.