

Gecko Gazette

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MYRON B. GREEN ELEMENTARY ACADEMICS & ATHLETICS MAGNET SCHOOL • OFFICE (619) 460-5755

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER • Volume 10, Number 2 & 3, November/December 2006

Calendar of Events

November

- 7** PTA Meeting 6:30 pm
- 9** Student Council Assembly
- 10** Veterans Day-NO school
- 14-17** Parent/Teacher Conferences. Early dismissal everyday @ 11:20 am
- 16-17** Turkey Trot (see page 4)
- 17** Box Tops Due
- 20-24** Thanksgiving Vacation
- 28** SSC 5:00 pm
- 29** Gecko Pride Award Assembly:
1st-3rd @ 7:35 am
4th-5th @ 8:35 am
- 30** PAC 2:30 pm

December

- 6** Holiday Sing
Grades K-2 @ 6:30 pm
- 13** Holiday Sing
Grades 3-5 @ 6:30 pm
- 14** St. Dunstan's Chorus
- 12/18-1/07**
Winter Break

Please check latest info on our web site www.greengeckos.com

A note from our Principal, Mr. Dale -

What a wonderful school Green is! October was filled with learning. Our Kinder and 1st grade students visited the pumpkin patch. 2nd grade students spent a day at the San Diego Zoo absorbing all they could. Student Elections are underway with 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students campaigning for seats on the Student Council. Gymnastics is in full swing with students learning new skills on various pieces of equipment. And last but not least the always fun Fall Ball! Green truly is a school where exciting things are taking place all the time!

With November comes parent conference week (Nov. 14-17). I encourage every parent to make every effort to meet with your child's teacher to learn of the progress your child is making in meeting the California Educational Standards.

As I mentioned at our Back to School Night this year Green along with a handful of school across the district is trying out a new report card format. This new format is reflective of the California Educational Standards. It is our hope that these standards based report cards will empower parents with greater specificity in terms of what your child is expected to learn and how they are



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Hey, it's your PTA!

by Michele Simon

This is my 4th year as a parent here at Green Elementary (in my infancy compared to some!), and I have been part of the PTA since my son started Kindergarten. Those of you who have come to Green since that time are probably unaware of the recent history of our PTA and how it has evolved over the past few years.

During the 2003-04 school year, the PTA Board was comprised of a small, dedicated group of parents who met at the same time as the general PTA meetings. The general meetings that year involved a lot of discussions that frequently became long-winded and didn't accomplish much. The big issue toward the end of the school year was the possibility that we would lose our Swim and Water Safety program. This issue generated a lot of interest, and the parents mobilized to ensure that this \$10,000.00 program would be saved. Money raised by our first Jog-A-Thon was dedicated to pay for the program for the 2004-05 school year.

For the 2004-05 year, Shari Duran was elected

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Principal....Continued from page 1

doing in meeting these expectations.

Report Card grades have also changed to become more in line with the State. No longer will students be receiving a 1-5 as a grade. Instead in keeping with the State's rating system students will be receiving Advanced, Proficient, Basic or Below Basic.

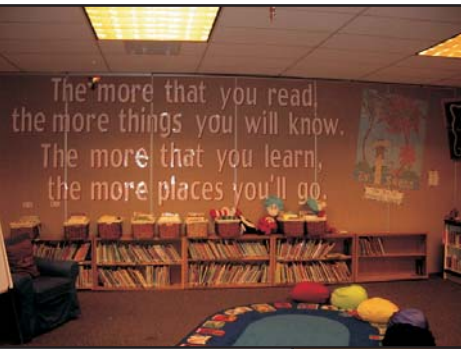
The new report cards are designed with the parents in mind. Please let us know what you think of the new report cards. I will forward your opinions to the district to inform them in their decision making.

November also brings us to the annual Turkey Trot! This will take place on Nov. 15. More information will be coming out shortly about the Turkey Trot. Good luck to all of our students as they strive to bring home the turkey.

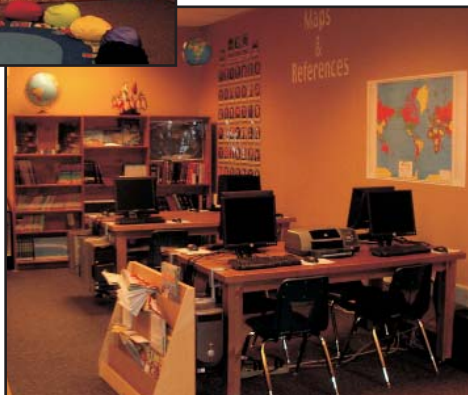
December is just around the corner. Our Holiday Sing for our K-2nd grade students is scheduled for Dec. 6 at 6:30pm. On Nov. 13 the 3rd-5th grade students will be having their Holiday Sing at 6:30pm. I can't wait to see you all there!

WE'RE ROCK-N AND READ-N

We Did It! Our fundraising efforts paid off and we have something to show for it. Our library has been completed with its new look and we have a brand new rock wall for our athletic magnet program finally installed on our school playground. Thank you to all who helped raise money for these projects and who helped put these two things together. Many, many families were involved in these processes, but a few names need to be mentioned; Cindy Clippinger and Heather Williams pulled off the Library Make-Over and Shari Duran worked tirelessly with the SD school district to finally get this rock wall installed. Thank you Green School Families! *Rock Wall pictures on page 4*



Green
Library/Media Center



PTA.....Continued from page 1

PTA President. She, along with another very dedicated, but larger, group of parents on the PTA Board, organized themselves and envisioned the PTA as providing educationally enriching experiences for ALL students at Green. This involved sponsoring an art program for every class each month, bringing the La Jolla Playhouse to the school, and more.

I was elected PTA President for the 2005-06 school year, and our focus was on continuing the work that the previous Board had started and making the dream of a rock wall a reality. This group of parents worked very hard, as did the previous Boards, to ensure the very best learning situation for the students. We placed a tremendous effort into fundraising, and tried to shift our efforts to no-cost fundraisers (plastic bag recycling, Box Tops, E-scrip, etc) so that everyone could contribute, regardless of household circumstances. The efforts that went into refurbishing the Library were incredible, from the painting, decorating, donations of books, to the purchasing of 8 new computers. No less impressive was the outpouring of support from our families for the unbelievable "Extreme Makeover" of the Staff Lounge for Staff Appreciation Week. Our rock wall is now a reality due to the amazing commitment to our athletic magnet.

We have now evolved to our current position. This year's Board is even larger, with more and more parents wanting to become involved and attending the monthly meeting. This has been a trend over the past few years, and we'd like to continue that trend. We are now offering morning meetings, trying to include more parents and families in response to your request. THIS is what the PTA is all about! We are a school community. We are not here just for our kids, but for ALL kids. I would like to see this year's PTA focus on cultivating our community, but we can only do that with everyone's help. There is a place for everyone... everyone has a different talent, and no talent is unimportant. You may not be able to attend the PTA meetings, but as a parent your voice is no less important. The PTA minutes are circulated to all members, and are posted on our website as well. If you have questions or comments or suggestions, take a few minutes and call, e-mail, or send a note to me via your child's folder. I have a "mailbox" in the Teacher's Workroom that I check daily.

This school is made up of incredible teachers, wonderful students, and a great array of parents with so many talents! Let's all come together and make this an even BETTER school year!! Thank You!

Thank You, Thank You!!!!

We have a sprinkler system watering the garden next to the library! David Preciado, a kinder parent, is also a landscape architect who donated parts and labor for the student gardeners of Room 11-who will now have a much easier job keeping their plants happy. We love our garden volunteers!



A HUGE round of Thank You's for everyone who donated their time, auction items, and more for our first Fall Ball at Casey's Place. A warm thank you to Jan and Casey Kinslow, of Casey's Place, for donating their business for this event. Lots of fun was had and the Silent Auction a hit. A special flyer reporting about the evening will be coming home soon so keep your eyes open. Thank You, Thank You!!



To get the latest information at school about Green and the PTA, stop by and check out our new display cases. On the wall, to the left of the front office and nurses office, we will post calendars, fundraising effort updates and more.

Please Remember...

by Front Office Staff

...JUST A QUICK REMINDER TO PARENTS OF STUDENTS THAT TAKE THE BUS... If your student will NOT be riding the bus home, please notify the office in advance. ALL busses are required to remain in the loading zone until all of the riders are present and accounted for. If we do not know if your child is going home by some other means, we hold all busses from leaving the school grounds. Thank you for your cooperation.

School Tours...

by Norma Swenson

...All school tours for prospective parents will be held only on Fridays at 7:30 am. If you have a friend or neighbor that is interested in seeing our wonderful school/campus, please have them set up an appointment by calling the front office at (619) 460-5755.

PTA Membership News...

by Cindy Clippinger, Membership Co-Chair

...What a great success this years membership drive was - there are too many families to list so we would like to say a big THANK YOU to everyone who joined!! Remember, you can join at any time for only \$10 per member and be a part of something great at Green. But don't forget, to vote on an issue or to vote for a new officer in the Spring, you must be a member for a minimum of 30 days (California PTA by-laws). Membership forms are available in the office. Once again, THANK YOU!

NEW Afterschool Program...

by MaryAnn Oliveira, Founder 619-698-3078 or mo@athletickids.org



...Athletic Kids Association is a new non-profit youth athletic organization in San Diego. Our goal is to promote healthy, active, positive lifestyles to kids ages 5-12 by providing youth sports programs to our community. Our mission is to "Build Young Leaders Through Athletics."

This after school program is available to Green Elementary students. The Basketball session will start 10/30 thru 12/15. Mondays and Fridays from 2:30-3:30pm. We will offer more sports in the future. The price is \$65 for a 6-week session, twice a week. Our sign-up forms are located in the office or you can go to our website: www.athletickids.org

WANTED!

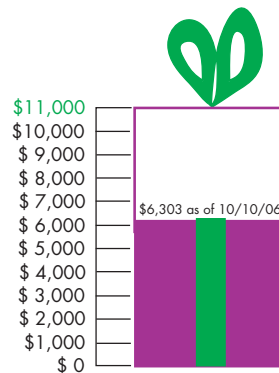
Gazette Spanish Editor

We are looking to add a Spanish insert into our Gazette. If you are able to translate our newsletter into a one-page Spanish insert, please contact either Heather Williams at williams795@cox.net or Cathy Northcutt at c.northcutt@cox.net Thank You!

Yearbook Pictures & Photographers !!

We need pictures!! If you have any digital pictures from Spring Swim/Jog-A-Thon, recent Fall Field trips, and Fall Ball please send them in. Heather Williams at williams795@cox.net Thank you!
Upcoming events for Photographers: Turkey Trot, Gecko Pride Awards, and Holiday Sing

Sally Foster Goal



Free Funds for Green

Information as of 10/26/06



Collected 1006 box tops=\$100



Collected 10 Labels



Collected \$118.20



cell phone & ink cartridge recycling

Need more Information on these programs? Please visit our web site for complete details. www.greengeckos.com

MS. TINER'S TIPS FOR PARENTS

By Cathleen Tiner, District Counselor

Banana Splits

(Divorce/Separation Groups for Kids)

Ms. Tiner will soon begin guidance groups for students whose parents are divorced or separated. These groups are called "Banana Splits" and will include such topics as:

Ideas & feelings about divorce • Living with one parent • Why parents divorce or separate
Having two homes • Living with a step-family • Celebrating birthdays & special occasions

After being in the group, students come to realize they have experiences comparable to others in similar situations and often feel less isolated in their feelings. The groups will meet weekly (for about 8-10 weeks), at a regularly scheduled time during the school day, for about 30 minutes. While most children enjoy this type of group experience, some find it's not for them and are free to discontinue the group at any time.

Teachers will be asked to provide the names of potential group members. Please contact your child's teacher if you do NOT want your child to be considered for the Banana Splits group. You may also contact your child's teacher or Ms. Tiner if you want to ensure your child is included on the list of potential group members.

Ms. Tiner will send home permission slips with those teacher-selected students who have expressed an interest in being part of the Banana Splits group. Please feel free to contact Ms. Tiner on Thursdays at (619) 460-5755 should you have any questions.

Turkey Trot November 16th & 17th

The Green School Turkey Trot is an approximate one mile road race around the campus. The boys and girls with the fastest times in their grade level receive a nice, big, frozen turkey. Second and third places will receive pie certificates to one of our nearby restaurants. All students receive a souvenir turkey token, jolly rancher candy, and a chance to win some healthy snacks in our raffle after the run. We are in need of 12 turkey's and 24 pie certificates for this event. If you would like to help with the event or donate a turkey or pie certificate please call or email the Physical Education Department and let us know. Thank you for your support! Come join in the fun! The dates and times are as follows:

Thursday, November 16th

7:35 - 8:20 Grade 2

8:30 - 9:15 Grade 1

9:45 - 10:30 Kindergarten

Friday, November 17th

7:35 - 8:20 Grade 5

8:30 - 9:15 Grade 4

9:45 - 10:30 Grade 3



Green Elementary's Rock-n Wall

Running Club News

25 miles! Congratulations to the following running club students:

Kacey Payson, Ethan Payson, Spencer Katz, Nick Atchison, and Jacob Rosenberg

See you on the track!



Student Council

Elections for student council are being held in November. Posters (like the ones below) are being displayed in the multi-purpose room. Each candidate will



give a speech to the student body. Final results will be posted after this press time. Check our web page for winners. Good Luck To Everyone!

The Gecko Gazette is a monthly publication of the Myron B. Green PTA, a member of the San Diego Unified Council of PTAs, Ninth District, Inc. CPTS. Green Elementary, a 10/10 distinguished school and the only Athletic Magnet Elementary in the State of California is located at 7030 Wandermere Drive, San Diego, CA 92119 • (619) 460-5755

Principal: T. Chip Dale PTA President: Michele Simon Newsletter Editors: Patti Rios, Heather Williams, and Cathy Northcutt

Submissions welcome: Please submit to williams795@cox.net or c.northcutt@cox.net by **January 8th, 2006**

All articles must be accompanied with phone number for verification and are subject to approval and may be edited for content and space.