

PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

September 26, 2008

Dear Parents,

It was wonderful to see nearly 100% participation of our families at Back-to-School Night. Parent involvement in our school programs helps make Glenwood an exceptional learning environment for our children. I hope that you received the information necessary to support your child/ren through a successful year of school. Teachers are always available to talk to you about any classroom questions or concerns you may have during the school year.

Conference Week is scheduled for the week of October 6-10th. During conference time, teachers work collaboratively with students and parents to create Personal Learning Contracts for each child. These fall parent conferences offer a unique opportunity to begin this process by reviewing each child's progress to date and by setting goals for mastery of curricular standards. This process will familiarize you with district standards and provide for open communication between you and your child's teacher about your child's progress toward meeting or exceeding district standards. If you haven't set up a date and time to meet with your child's teacher, please do so as soon as possible. The schedule for the Conference week is as follows:

Mon., Oct. 6	Non-Student Day (teachers will be conducting conferences all day)
Tues., Oct. 7-10	MINIMUM DAYS – DISMISSAL AT 12:10 (teachers will be conducting conferences in the afternoon)

Our **Gift Wrap** sale will begin on September 25th and ends on October 10th. For those of you who are new to the school, the profit generated from Gift Wrap sale go towards a week of Outdoor Education at Walker Creek Ranch in Marshall for all fifth grade students. Outdoor Education is a unique and memorable learning and social experience for those who attend. Our students go with students from two other San Rafael schools, giving them the opportunity to meet other students they will be attending school with at Davidson the following year. The cost of the week is approximately \$275.00 per student and is expected to be covered by this and other fundraising activities. Fifth graders who personally sell the gift wrap get credit on their account. The money generated from the rest of the school sales go into a pot where it is divided among the number of students in the fifth grade. This year, we are offering easy, on line sales. More information about the Gift Wrap sales will be coming home this week.

Come and join the fun at our 3rd annual **Hoe Down** which will be held at the San Rafael Community Center on B Street on Friday, October 17th from 6-9 pm. This family event includes barbequed food, square dancing with a professional caller, and a hula hoop contest. Please remember that children must be accompanied by an adult at this event.

Throughout the school year, we have several **Principal Tours** for potential parents at Glenwood School. Future tours will be held on:

Friday, Oct. 17	Friday, November 14th
Friday, January 9 th	Friday, February 13
Friday, March 13th	Friday, April 10th

All tours will begin promptly at 9:00 am. No appointment is necessary. Please pass on these dates to any neighbors or friends.

We have three upcoming events which will help us reinforce the adventure and fun of reading. Our **Read-a-thon** starts October 1st. To participate in this event, students read books and keep track of the number of pages and books they read during the month of October. For information about this event, please contact Lisa Ghio Salomon. On October 10, author Robert San Souci will be speaking to Glenwood students about his development as an author and the writing process. A selection of his books will be available for purchase before the event.

Finally, our **Book Fair** will be held during Oct. 20th – 24th in our Multipurpose Room. This is a great opportunity for you to add to your children's selection of books and give them more opportunities to enjoy reading. Come and browse through the wide selection of books that are available starting October 20th.

Thanks to the generosity of last year's fifth grade class, we have a new bike rack which we are installing in the back of the school. The location of this bike rack makes biking easier and safer for students, especially those students who approach the school from Main Drive. Thanks to the organizing work of John Monitto, our new bike rack will be installed by the Glenwood **Dad's Club** at the beginning of October.

Thanks to dedication and hard work of Dana Clark, Betsy Nakamura, and Mark Kyle, our **Safety Patrol** will be up and running next week. Safety of our students as they approach the school is a number one priority. Please help keep our streets safe by following directions of crossing guards, driving cautiously, and saving your phone calls for after you leave the school grounds.

Every Day Counts: Our attendance figures from September show that our attendance for the month of September was 98.07%. Although this percentage is high, we would still like to improve our attendance at Glenwood. When students miss school, they miss the instructional program being delivered by a professional educator. They also miss out on the dialogue generated by their peers and classmates revolving around the lesson for the day. In addition to the lost experiences for your child, Glenwood lost \$4,305.00 as a result of student absences during the month of September. Please try to help us out by having your child attend school on a regular basis. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Liz Block
Principal