

Principal's Newsletter

March 2009

Dear Parents,

On behalf of the teachers and staff at Glenwood School, I would like to extend my appreciation to all the volunteers who work in the classrooms, on the playground, and during after school hours for Glenwood School. Parent and grandparent volunteers transform Glenwood School from a great school to one of the best schools in the state. With volunteers, we are able to differentiate instruction in the classrooms, undertake classroom projects that require extra adult support, more closely monitor our children on the playground and, in general, provide more guidance, instruction, and caring for our students. Thank you to all the volunteers for enhancing the school experience for all our students. To show our appreciation for our volunteers, we will host a volunteer luncheon on Thursday, April 9th from 12:00 to 1:00. We hope you will join us!

Our annual STAR testing for grades 2-5 begins on April 28th and extends to May 26th. Students will be doing the majority of the testing during the first two weeks of the testing window (from April 28th to May 8th). Please be aware that it is more important than ever for your children to have a good night's sleep and a good breakfast on the days of testing.

Our Golden Ticket behavior award system has been a huge success. Students have been receiving tickets for good behavior such as playing nicely, sharing, solving conflicts on their own, and being quiet in line. Golden tickets are collected each week in the office and on Friday we draw names from the jar and select five winners. These students win a gift and a certificate for their good behavior. We are keeping a record of the number of Golden Tickets earned by individual students and will honor those students who have won several tickets with special prizes at the end of the year.

The next few months always begins to bring questions about student classroom placement for next year. Students are placed at Glenwood School with a great amount of professional planning, discussion and judgment on the part of the current teacher, next grade level teachers, the principal, and any other professionals who have been working with your child or his/her classroom. We take into consideration:

- Academic balance in the classroom
- Balance of behavior difficulties
- Social balance of the classroom
- Ethnic balance
- Leadership within a group
- The child's learning style
- The teacher's style of teaching
- Special needs (physical, learning)
- Instructional grouping
- Gender balance
- The child's peer group (some children do not work well together)
- Avoidance of known family-teacher conflict

We consider the needs of each individual child when we determine your child's placement. All the above-mentioned items will be taken into consideration with the final determination made by the professional staff of the school. If you have important input to this process that you would like to

have considered, please write this input down and send it to the Principal by April 14th. Because some teaching assignments could change next year, please request the qualities you want in your child's teacher and not request a teacher by name. The final decision about class placement will be made by the staff. Thank you for trusting us with this important decision.

Our Auction Committee is hard at work on preparations for our April 25th Auction. A big thank you to Mark Piersante, Nicolle Dougherty, Sue Gess, Celeste Wilson, Rachelle Larson, and Michelle Shilstone for all their work. Please remember to buy your tickets for the live auction and participate in the online auction by going to www.Glenwood.cmarket.com.

You are invited to attend either of two Community Forums offered by San Rafael City Schools for updated information on the impact of the state budget on the San Rafael Elementary School District. Results from recent surveys will be shared at these meetings. The community forums will be held on Thursday, April 2 at 7:00 pm at the Davidson Middle School Library and on Monday, April 6th at 7:00 pm at the Bahia Vista Multipurpose Room. For questions, please call the San Rafael City Schools Business Office at 492-3205.

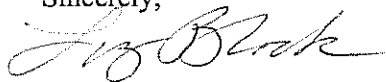
On behalf of the PTA and Foundation, we want to thank the Pocock Family and Ken Miller/West Coast Sign Works for their generous donations of time, effort and money in getting our new "Working Together for our School!" sign created, paid for and installed! We also want to thank Jackie Astle for another visually appealing and creative design!

Now that the temperatures are rising and we have the opportunity to enjoy the outdoors, I would like to remind students and parents that scooters, bicycles, and skateboards are prohibited on school grounds, even after the school day. Thank you for reinforcing these rules with your children.

Would you like to get paid for doing some permissible spying of your children on the playground while at the same time helping Glenwood School???? If so, please talk to me about our paid yard duty supervisor position. Hours are 11:40 to 12:30 Monday through Friday. We would consider breaking up the days of the job for applicants who cannot work everyday. If you are interested, please call, visit, or send me an email. Glenwood School needs you!!!

Once again, it is my pleasure to work with all of you and your children at Glenwood School. Please contact me if you have concerns or questions about Glenwood.

Sincerely,



Liz Block
Principal
Glenwood School
lblock@srcs.org

Future Dates to remember:

County Science	Fair April 2
Spring Break	April 7-11
Oskar and the Big	
Bully Battle Assembly	April 21
Star Testing	April 28- May 26
Open House	May 15