



Hickory Elementary School

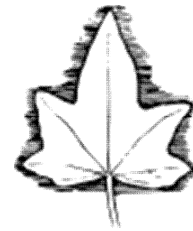
2800 W. 227th St.
Torrance, CA 90505
(310) 533-4672

www.hickoryelementary.com

Calendar of Upcoming Events

November 5, 2009

Date	Upcoming Activities
M-F November 2-6	Food Drive, Week 2 (last week)
Fri November 6	Reflections Contest deadline, 3:30 pm
Sat November 7	Hickory Family Portraits Fundraiser at Manhattan Beach
Wed November 11	No School — Veteran's Day Holiday
Thurs November 12	PTA Board Meeting, 7 pm
Fri November 13	Volunteer Picture Day
Sun November 15	Hickory Family Portraits Fundraiser at Malaga Cove Library
M-T November 17 & Nov 18	King's Hawaiian Restaurant Fundraiser
Fri November 20	Student Make-up Pictures
W-F November 25 thru Nov. 27	No School — Thanksgiving Holiday
Wed December 2	Holiday Room Rep Rap Session, 9 am in Cafeteria
Fri December 4	Book Fair Kick-Off

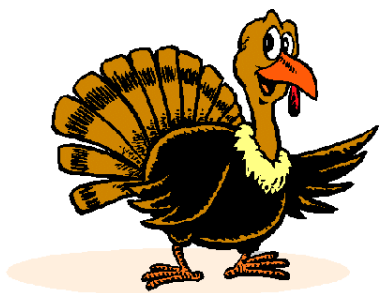


Hickory Elementary School Newsletter

Principal's Newsletter
November 5, 2008

Edna Schumacher, Principal
Pam Williams, Asst. Principal

"An Adventure in Learning~A Place in the Sun for Everyone"



Principal's News

October was a very busy month for students, parents, and teachers. Students have been working hard and most classes have had several sets of assessments, reports, or reviews on which their Progress Reports were based. Teachers are working collaboratively to align assessments with our new Standards Based Report Cards that will be coming out in December.

We had a nice turnout for our Parent Education Night that featured well known speaker, Peggy Tremayne. I thought the discussions were meaningful and helpful for the parents from Adams and Hickory who attended. Ms. Tremayne has many insightful suggestions to help parents in their efforts to raise positive and successful children.

I want to thank all the students and parents who attended the Annual School Beautification Day. Mr. and Mrs. Gee again organized a very fun and

productive community work day! Please stop by school to admire the new garden outsider Rm. 8, the world map on the playground, and all the clean windows and painted walls.

Dr. Mannon and Dr. Kim both visited Hickory during the month of October. I am again pleased to share that they had wonderful visits. We walked through every classroom and observed students actively involved in learning. We saw "Writers Workshop", problem solving in math, and oral reading in science and social studies. I shared some of the goals we have set for Hickory for the 09-10 school year and some of the accomplishments we made last year. A huge Thank You is owed to our teachers who work tirelessly on behalf of our students.

Lastly, thank you to all the parents and teachers who joined the PTA during the month of October. PTA sponsors many activities that enrich our rigorous curriculum.

November Events

2...Owl Assembly

5...ELMAC 9:15 am

7...Family Portraits

11 Veteran's Day Holiday

13...Volunteers'Picture Day

15...Family Portraits

17-18 King's Hawaiian Restaurant Nights!

20...Picture Make-Up Day

25-27 Thanksgiving Holiday-Enjoy!

Upcoming Events

- ◆ Report Cards- Dec. 11
- ◆ Dec. 4-11 Book Fair
- ◆ Parent Conf. Week Dec. 14-18 Early Dismissal
- ◆ Winter Break Dec. 21-Jan. 4

Hickory Teachers and 21st Century Technology!

Last year Karen Kasper won the 21st Century Grant sponsored by Torrance Ed. Foundation and that started it all! Hickory teachers were so excited by the possibilities that many have attended district trainings on the effective use of technology in the classroom to enhance learning and understanding. With the support of our PTA we have been able to furnish all 4th and 5th grade classrooms with SmartBoards (interactive whiteboards), document readers, projectors and wireless internet access. We have also purchased a Netbook Cart that holds 32

Netbooks for student use.

Teachers can access online information to support learning and deepen understanding. The students can access safe and secure sites to provide background information, instruction videos and more. We are truly excited about the possibilities that this technology offers to our students and teachers.

Two third grade classrooms also have SmartBoards and all 3rd and 2nd grade classroom have document readers and projectors. Our goal is to continue to equip all our classrooms.



*If we learn how to
give of ourselves,
to forgive others,
and to live with
thanksgiving, we
need not seek
happiness----it will
seek us.*

09-10 School Site Council Nominations

There are two openings on this year's School Site Council. The SSC is an advisory and governing board that oversees the school's student achievement plan. The plan, including budget, is recommended and approved by the SSC members. They have an ongoing responsibility to review with the principal and teacher members the plan and its effectiveness. Modifications and improvements to the plan are approved or disapproved by the members. Members are selected by the community and serve a two year term. SSC meetings are held on the last Monday of the month 5-7 times a year.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Hickory School Site Council, please submit your name to Mrs. Schumacher by Nov. 13. Thank you in advance.

YMCA Offers a variety of Childcare Programs

Dear Hickory Parents,

We understand during this economic crisis finances are limited. The YMCA wants to be able to accommodate your different needs. The Hickory YMCA gives you peace of mind to know that your child is in nurturing hands and is in a supervised, safe, and organized program. We offer many programs to accommodate your needs. We have **AM ONLY Care** (6:30-until school starts), **Kinder Program** (after school-3:00), **After School Only Care** (dismissal time-6:00), **Part Time** (3 days) and other options. We provide homework support for all grades, exciting crafts and cooking projects, fun youth fitness games, incorporate "The Six Pillars of Character" and tons more! If you have any questions please feel free to call the site.

Thank you,

Brigitte Kaninda Site Director

(310) 530-9381

From Mrs. P. Williams

Dear Hickory Parents,

Thank you for welcoming me to Hickory Elementary School. I am enjoying the many opportunities to meet your children, as well as my work with the wonderful Hickory staff and PTA. There is definitely "*A Place in the Sun for Everyone*" at Hickory!

On Monday morning, at our FLAG Assembly, I photograph our outstanding *Hickory Hound Weekly Award Winners*. Look for their class photos outside our school office.

I also had the distinct pleasure of hearing the creative speeches of our many students running for Student Council offices. They **ALL** did a great job! Congratulations!

Special thanks to Mrs. Kasper and Ms. Poling for their hard work and dedication!

Students Help Out at School...

Part of our mission at Hickory is to develop responsible citizens. Our 4th and 5th grade students are developing a sense of responsibility by helping out in our school cafeteria and with our before and after school valet program.

The students assist our cafeteria supervisor by helping with the lunch lines, serving food, and filing lunch cards. These jobs help the lunch process move quicker for 500+students that buy lunch daily.

Our valet volunteers greet students and parents as they arrive at school; they make sure the valet line is flowing smoothly and efficiently. The students help to ensure safe arrivals and departures for all our students arriving by car. THANK YOU to our student volunteers!

Please show your support and appreciation by obeying all safety rules.

Hickory Election Results

Hickory held its Fall Student Council Elections a few weeks ago and as a result we have a new set of student council members. Again, the campaigning was exciting and the speeches were exceptional. A hearty congratulation should be extended to all the students who participated in the process by running for office. The winning candidates are as follows:



President: **Karina Rodriguez**

Vice President: **Nathan Gottlieb & Duke Trinidad**

Secretary: **Stacy Kim**

Treasurer: **Nico Evans**

Historian: **Kristi Kim**

Comm. of Pep: **Ruka Nagashima, Amanda Mendoza**

Comm. Of Publicity: **Miki Kono**

Boy Athletics: Asst.

Girls Athletics: Asst. **Jami Chung**

Lower Gr. Activities: **David Moon and Julie Kaplan and Cindy Takigawa**

Hickory Family Portraits Fundraiser!

Hickory Teachers have volunteered to organize a **Family Portraits Fundraiser** this year! This popular fundraiser has not been done for the last few years and we are excited to bring it back. We have arranged to have the event take place at local locations on two different weekends to accommodate as many families as possible. We know how busy we all are with family events on the weekends, but we hope you can make arrangements during one of the weekends. Please

look for the flyer in this week's Communicator and consider participating in the event to help our school and to have some very nice, high quality photographs taken of your family. Feel free to pass on the info to friends and neighbors! We know you will not be disappointed! All photos will be ready for the holidays.

ENGLISH LEARNERS MULTICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ELMAC)

**MEETS NOVEMBER 5th in the
Hickory Cafe from 9:15am -
10am**

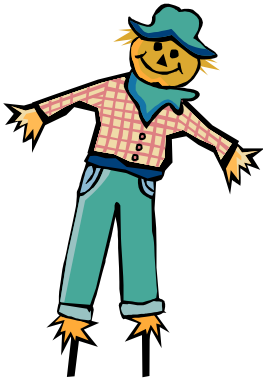
Parents of identified second language learners will receive an invitation to this meeting from your child's classroom teacher. However, all parents are invited to attend. At our ELMAC meetings you will have an opportunity to learn more about our ELD (English Language Development)

program and how you can support your child's development of important language skills. It is also a great time to meet other parents who share your cultural background, and a chance to make new friends!

The English Learners Multicultural Advisory Committee (ELMAC) will meet four times during the school year. Future meeting dates will be scheduled at our first meeting. I look forward to meeting more wonderful Hickory parents at our first meeting.

Mrs. Williams





Hickory Discipline Plan...

At Hickory Elementary School, we believe that the role of the school, in conjunction with the home, is to provide firm, but kind, guidance and discipline that will assist children toward the development of self-discipline. Through the combined efforts of students, parents, and teachers, we believe that children in their young and formative years require positive guidance coupled with well-defined limits of behavior. The observance of these limits gives the child a sense of inner security and contributes toward the formation of strong moral character.

Each child must learn that he/she will not be allowed to harm others, or the property of others. Also, no child will be permitted to interfere with the learning process, or the learning of his/her peers.

However, when a child does not abide by these limits, he/she must be prepared to accept the required consequences. Detention is a consequence for unacceptable behavior in the classroom, on the playground and in the cafeteria. By law, all adult supervisors on our campus serve in the absence of parents, ensuring safety and security for all students at Hickory.

On the Homepage of our website, under the Administration tab, you will find detailed information regarding School Safety as well as our School Rules and Behavior Policies. Please take a moment to read these. You may also want to visit the Torrance Unified School District Website at www.tusd.org to read the district's Discipline Policies.

Always giving our best lets our dedication shine through.

Caught YOU Being Good!



We will begin our *Caught You Being Good* program in November. Students who go out of their way to make great choices are often *Caught Being Good* by a teacher or staff member. They are rewarded for their great choices with a CYBG slip.

When a student collects 5 slips, they will staple and place them in a raffle box for an opportunity to have lunch or dessert with the Principal. I have the honor of choosing 4 winners at our Monday morning assemblies...I can't wait.

Safety First and Always...

Our teachers, Mrs. Rita Paul, and our dedicated valet student-volunteers are working hard **to keep traffic flowing swiftly and safely everyday.** We ask **you to** continue to follow traffic rules and use the crosswalk when crossing the street. **The valet line is for Loading and Unloading from 7am-9am and 2-4 daily.** We want to keep our students safe at all times. Your patience during our busy arrivals and dismissals is greatly appreciated.

Please be considerate of our teachers as well by NOT parking in the Staff Only parking lot during the hours of 7:30-4:30 ALL SPOTS ARE ASSIGNED.



Dear Hickory Families and Friends,

November is an exciting month for all of us. We are looking forward to the Thanksgiving Holiday and all that this implies with families and friends.

Teachers and students have been busy working on their curriculum and getting ready for Progress Reports and Report Cards (Dec. 11). Our 4th and 5th grade teachers are deeply invested in Writers Workshop. We hope parents in these grades have seen some of their student's writing selections.

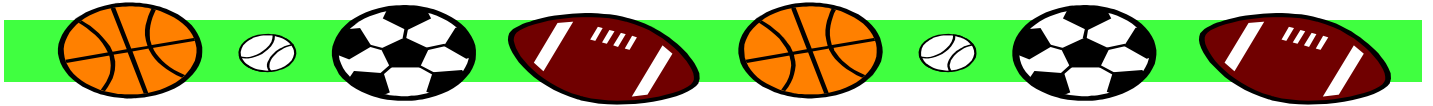
We will be hosting our first restaurant night on two nights this year. We will be at King's Hawaiian on the 17 and 18th. Please consider joining us on either night. We have arranged for our primary grades to take advantage of the .99 cent meal on Tuesday and our upper grade students on Wednesday. We hope the wait line is shorter this way, we want to see many of you at Kings!

The Hickory teachers have brought back the "Family Portrait" fundraiser during the month of November. We know this is a popular activity and hope many of you take advantage of this great opportunity! The end results are high quality and beautiful pictures. Thank you in advance for your support.

November is a good time to discuss "Building Character" in our students. It is important for home and school to work together to build strong character in our children. Clearly, when it comes to character building, the family is key. There is no substitute for a family who forms a loving and supportive atmosphere, to provide guidance that defines standards of good conduct and strong character. At Hickory we believe that we have a strong supportive role to play in character building. We believe that we must not only help our children academically, we must also help them develop the capacity to be responsible and demonstrate good problem solving skills in situations that call for strong character. At Hickory, we seek to stress the universal character traits in the daily lives of our students. We focus on responsibility, caring, respect, trustworthiness, kindness, and fairness. We believe these character traits will enable them to be successful in life while living in a way that calls on their strong sense of character.

Before I close, I want to thank the PTA for organizing several events last month. The School Beautification Weekend was quite successful. Thanks to Mr. Gee and all the families who participated. The Korean Parent Network had a successful "Garage Sale" and donated the proceeds to the school. Thank you to Jenny Whang and her committee members. Patti Lopez has been busy organizing our annual food drive for the needy, thank you for helping our students recognize the need for us to act with kindness and generosity towards others.

Mrs. Schumacher



From the Desk of the President.....

Hello Hickory Families,

There's been so many things happening since school started and since November is the time of the year we give thanks, here's just a few I need to do:

- ☺ Harumi Komatsu, Maggie Nemoto, Makiko & Akimasa Miyake, Masami, Takumi & Yuto Hagihara, Yoshiko & Luna Komuro and Yuki Yokawa for helping put the first Communicator packet together this summer. They came in the week before school started to create the packets with all the first day info.
- ☺ Rhonda Carroll and her team for a FANTASTIC Family Welcome Back Night. If you didn't come and watch "Monsters vs Aliens" with us, you missed a great evening.
- ☺ Rita Paul and the copy center crew-opened the Copy Center to take care of all the teacher's copy needs, leaving them more time to teach
- ☺ Liz Saunders-Our Webmaster Extraordinaire! Makes sure that our website is the best in Torrance, and that it is always updated so you can get the latest and greatest info in a timely manner.
- ☺ Sue Berliner and Reflections- Kicked off last month. This takes many hours of preparing, sorting and making sure our children have the opportunity to express themselves.
- ☺ Brian and Grace Gee – School Beautification- What a successful day and so many families attended. The school really did shine afterward.
- ☺ Jill Galdones and Lani Almero – Healthy Choices/Red Ribbon Week – A great week planned to help our children learn to make good food and exercise choices and why to say "NO TO DRUGS".
- ☺ Laura Fisher and her team of fantastic Librarians – After many hours of cataloging, inputting and getting ready, opened the Library.
- ☺ Janis Sakasegawa and the Membership team-Thank you for the hours of inputting you do of the new members.
- ☺ Heidi Stephens and Kari Mendoza – Adventures in Art- For the time they take to organize the docents and teach the children about the importance and the beauty of art.
- ☺ Patty Lopez- for organizing the Food Drive to remind us to teach our children that there are people less fortunate that we can help.
- ☺ Sharyl Yamada Oda and her "Kids into Science" team-once again, spent hours organizing the kits, sorting out the used product, created new kits so that our kids can experience hands on science.

And to those many that are not specifically mentioned, for all the support and time dedicated to helping it can't be done without you.

Brought to you by your PTA this month:

- Food Drive
- Owl Assembly-2nd Grade
- Adventures in Art
- Kids Into Science
- Library
- Copy Center
- Class field trips
- Website

Kelly Gottlieb
Hickory PTA, President
"All Parents.....One Team"

Thank You, Thank You!

I just wanted to send a big thank you out to all the people that came out and volunteered for the

Movie Family Fun Night

It would not have been such a big success without the wonderful parent volunteers we have at Hickory.

I want to send a special thanks to Chris Baker, Kathleen & Brian Bade, Johnson Tsai, Mitzi Calhoun, Paige Oshan, Rita Paul, Laura Fisher, Ian Yakata, Jason Harris, Barbara Whitman, Roxanne Arroues, Leslie Grange, Kelly & Steve Gottlieb, Mylee Tynen, and Mrs. Schumacher. I do hope I included all my helpers names but if not I am sorry and I did appreciate each and every one of you.

It was nice to see some of the teachers there like Mrs. Tynen, Ms. Tabush. & Ms. Pendrick. So thank you for coming.

Sincerely,

Rhonda Carroll

**Have an extra coat
in your CLOSET?**

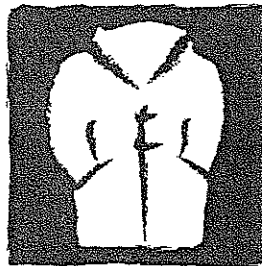
Brownie Troop 975

**is collecting clean, reusable coats,
sweaters, sweatshirts, hats & mittens
(in all sizes)**

Nov 9 thru 13

**Collection boxes located outside the
Hickory office**

on behalf of Harbor Interfaith



ONE WARM COAT®

www.onewarmcoat.org

Sponsored by Girl Scout Brownie Troop 975

EGS

**NEW SESSION
STARTS
NOVEMBER 17th**

Hickory PTA Fruits and Vegetable Fundraiser



Tanaka Farms Produce Delivery delivers
farm fresh fruits and vegetables to you each week!
8 WEEKS FOR \$200

Pick up on Tuesdays, each week, November 17th – January 19th (except Winter Break)

Two Choices: GO “ORGANIC” or choose “FRUIT BOX” ONLY!!

- 1. Locally grown, organic vegetables and fruits -- \$25 per box**
- 2. Conventionally grown fruit box (no veggies) -- \$25 per box**

Buy one, buy both OR alternate between the two every other week!

WHAT YOU GET:

- **A fresh, handpicked box of organic fruits and vegetables (designed for kid appeal!) AND/OR a conventionally grown box of fresh fruits each week. You simply pick it up at Hickory every TUESDAY after school.**
- Healthy eating for your family each week—produce is often harvested the morning of delivery
- Organically grown produce with no synthetic pesticides or fertilizers.

WHAT HICKORY GETS:

- The opportunity to offer more PTA programs and events for our kids with the money we raise--\$5.00 per box per week) while promoting healthy eating for our children.

DETAILS:

- Cost is \$25 per box per week. You must order and pay for 8 weeks in advance (\$200.00). **NO LATE ORDERS ACCEPTED.**
- Tanaka Farms selects the produce you receive each week, “requests” are not taken. Produce not picked up will not be refunded.
- **If you love this idea but think that your family might not be able to eat all of the produce, consider “sharing” a weekly box with another family. You take the box one week and your partner takes the box on alternating weeks.**

For more information or questions contact: Alissa Materman at alissaanddan@netscape.net

Return to PTA Box in School Office with payment by **Thursday, November 12th**

Please make check payable to Hickory PTA

Delivery dates are: Nov 17, Nov 24, Dec 1, Dec 8, Dec 15, Jan 5, Jan 12 & Jan 19. No delivery Dec 22 and 29.

Organic Produce Box (\$200) Fruit Only Box (\$200) Both weekly (\$400) Organic Produce/Fruit Every other week (\$200)

Parents' Name: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Childs Name: _____ Teachers Name: _____

Please deliver my box to the YMCA each week (PTA not responsible for baskets after drop off)

Thank you for your support—we will run this program throughout the year with a minimum number of subscribers.