

Hickory Elementary School
2800 W. 227th St.
Torrance, CA 90505
(310) 533-4672
www.hickoryelementary.com



CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

JANUARY 7, 2010

DATE		UPCOMING ACTIVITIES
Fri	January 8	Science Fair applications are due for project
M-T	January 11 -12	Talent Show Auditions, 3:15 pm
Thurs	January 14	ELMAC Meeting 9:15 – 10 am in Room 30 PTA Board meeting, 7 pm
Mon	January 18	Martin Luther King Jr.'s Day – HOLIDAY – NO SCHOOL
Thurs	January 21	Family Math Festival
Fri	January 29	NO SCHOOL – Student Free Day
Mon	February 8	Lincoln's Birthday — HOLIDAY – NO SCHOOL
Tues	February 9 thru Feb 12	Take Your Family to School Week
Thurs	February 11	PTA Board Meeting
Mon	February 15	President's Day — HOLIDAY – NO SCHOOL



HICKORY'S NEW YEAR NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2010

HAPPY NEW YEAR

MRS. SCHUMACHER



Welcome Back to School! We hope all of our Hickory Families enjoyed a wonderful Winter Break with family and friends.

LOOKING BACK...

The first trimester at Hickory went very well. Students had many opportunities to participate in classroom activities and projects. The PTA, Student Council, and the Staff at Hickory provided educational as well as community focused events and activities. Many students continued to do their best at school by being prepared and ready to learn. We are very proud of these students. Congratulations also go out to students who had perfect attendance! We also acknowledge that there is much to be said for students who consistently put forth a positive effort to do well in school. Congratulations to all our Hickory Hounds.

I want to thank all our parents for taking time to meet with your child's teacher and discuss his/her progress during conference week. As you are aware, conferences provide a great opportunity for you and your child's teacher to share insights and information about the progress your child is making. Thank you for helping us to make education a priority.

Upcoming Events.....

- 1/7 Site Design Team Mtg.
- 1/6 **PLC Early Out 2:28**
- 1/14 PTA Board Mtg
- 1/14 ELMAC Meeting 9:00
- **1/18 MLK Day NO SCHOOL**
- 1/21 Family Math Festival
- 1/25 School Site Council
- **1/29 Student Free Day**
- **2/3 Soup Plantation Restaurant Night... 4-8 Please join us.**

SBRC... STANDARDS BASED REPORT CARDS

While the format is a little different from last year, a little more streamlined, teachers reported that most parents appreciated the information that the new report cards offer. The format gives parents very specific information that allows them to focus in on areas that need additional support. Grade Level Expectations should also be very helpful to parents and students informing them of academic standards that will be covered each trimester. One of the biggest pitfalls remains to be the tendency to compare the new marks (1-4) with the traditional (A-F). We all realize this will take time, but our hope is that the new report card will indeed give you information on how your student is doing in regards to his/her mastering of the standards and not necessarily how he/she is doing in comparison to other students. We encourage you to set goals with your child for the new trimester based on the Grade Level Expectations.

WRITER'S WORKSHOP...

The teachers and I realize that a comprehensive and school wide writing program at Hickory is a valuable investment for all students. Recently, our 4th and 5th grade teachers completed district training. At this point all the teachers at Hickory have received district training and continue to be supported by district personnel and each other. You may have had the opportunity to share in classroom celebrations when student pieces are published and shared with each other; this is an amazing opportunity you should not pass up when the occasion arises.

One of the most important aspects of Writer's Workshop, is to write! You can partner with Hickory by encouraging your student to write everyday! Keeping a journal is a terrific way for students to keep their writing pieces on hand and available to revisit. Here are some other ideas for parents to plant in their child's mind :

Follow the alphabet. Suggest that your youngster write each sentence of his tale so that it begins with a different letter of the alphabet. He can write the letters down the left side of a page and then fill in the lines. Examples: An ant went to a picnic. "Boy, am I hungry!" it said. Or he could think of words starting with each letter and write a story that uses all 26—in any order.

Conduct an interview. An interesting conversation can provide story ideas. Your child might ask a grandparent about his most prized possession or find out how his music teacher chose her job. Then, he can create characters and make up a story based on his interview.

Start in the middle. Have your youngster think of an event in his life (camping trip) and tell you about it. Encourage him to pick an unusual or exciting part (a downpour in the middle of the night) and begin his story there. He'll see

that starting in the middle and writing about one small moment or event can be more interesting than simply telling the whole story from beginning to end.

FAMILY MATH FESTIVAL!

Thanks to a grant from Dow Chemical and the Hickory PTA, Hickory will be participating in our 2nd Family Math Festival on January 21. The students will visit the cafeteria throughout the day to attend a short math presentation. They will then be able to visit several math centers and participate in math activities. The centers are designed to promote exciting high level thinking in the area of problem solving. Families will then be invited to return in the evening with their students to participate in more of the same type of activities. We are very excited to provide this type of family event that promotes interest in math in a fun and engaging way.

Attendance to the evening event will be by reservation only on a first come first serve basis. Please look for more information to follow.



SOUP PLANTATION RESTAURANT NIGHT FEB. 3

Soup Plantation, on Restaurant Row, will be hosting a fundraiser restaurant night on Wednesday, February 3. Hickory will receive 15% of the sales for the night. Please continue to support our school by attending these fun restaurant nights. We will have to take the flyers with us in order to receive credit for Hickory. It is always fun to get together and see families at these restaurant nights. I

hope to see many of you there on February 3!

HICKORY RECEIVES COMMUNITY SUPPORT!

Some of you may not know, but Hickory has been very lucky to receive monetary and supply donations from community members, local business, and school families. In these difficult times, with school budgets continuing to be cut, our community continues to support us. We have recently been the recipient of a \$2000.00 grant from Hitachi Automotive, USA towards a future assembly focused on science, technology, engineering, and math. I am so very appreciative to Hitachi for keeping Hickory students in their plans. This month thanks to our other business partner Dow Chemical, and our PTA we will be having another "Math Festival". This was a wonderful event last year and we look forward to another engaging night of "Math Challenges".

Some of our Hickory families have helped us out by donating cases of copy paper, Kleenex, disinfectant wipes, and office supplies. The donation of used ink cartridges has also been very helpful, we earn up to \$30.00 a month towards school supplies when we recycle these at Staples and Office Depot. Keep sending in used ink cartridges and toner cartridges to the office. Every little bit helps!



VALET PROGRAM AVAILABLE FOR PARENTS....

Thanks to our 4th and 5th grade students and Mrs. Rita Paul, Hickory has a very efficient and effective VALET Drop-off and Pickup program. Students volunteer to help in the mornings starting at 8:30. They give up their morning recess time to help with the drop-off program. They open car doors, help with backpacks, and wish you a nice day.

It is very important that parents, caregivers, afterschool tutoring companies who are picking up your students abide by all traffic laws and school rules. Jaywalking, double parking, parking in the STAFF ONLY LOT, parking in the red or in the valet line, are some of the traffic rules that seem to be consistently ignored by some parents.

I am again asking you to set a good example for our students and keep safety your priority.



ATTENDANCE INFORMATION

With the conclusion of the first trimester, the issue of attendance needs to be addressed. We all realize that the H1N1 virus and an unusually difficult flu season has made perfect attendance difficult but it is still important for students to be in school everyday on time.

Our district dictates that schools need to monitor excessive tardies and absences for the good of the student and for the financial good of the school. If you have excessive absences or tardies you will be receiving a letter from me requesting an appointment to address our concerns. We take your student's attendance at school very seriously as it most certainly impacts their learning.

If your child is absent for illness, you may request classwork and homework by calling the school office before 10:00am. The work will be available for pick up in the office at the end of the day.

ON ANOTHER NOTE...

The school day begins at 8:50 and 8:59 am. The playground opens at 8:30 for grades 1-5 and 8:45 for kinders. Please do not drop off students before their scheduled times.

The school day ends at 1:59pm for kinders and 3:12 for grades 1-5. If students are routinely picked up at or near 4:00 pm, we will be forced to call our School Resource Officer to deal with the matter.



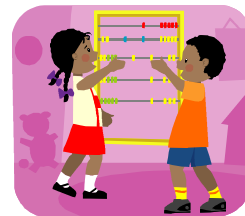
MATH AT HOME!

While I am thinking about and very much looking forward to our 2nd

Family Math Festival, I would like to share some ideas about math at home. School age children can use math skills in the home in many ways:

1. Use calendars to plan activities
 2. Have them practice telling time using analog clocks
 3. Use allowances to learn money management skills.
 4. When taking a family trip, ask children to keep records of expenses and figuring gas mileage.
 5. Have children estimate grocery bills at the market. If it is 2 for 1, what is the price of 1? 4?
 6. Have them pay for items and count change.
 7. Compare prices
 8. Let them help in the kitchen.
- Measurement and fraction skills will both be used.

There are numerous applications for math skills at home. Have fun with numbers!



1ST GRADE NEWS!!!

With the first trimester and the holidays behind us, we are ringing in 2010 in fabulous First Grade style! As we build reading and comprehension skills, fine-tune our writing and begin to master math facts, we are learning that character truly counts in developing well-rounded students. As we look to the year ahead, we are learning to set new goals, make

resolutions (and stick with them!), and plan for upcoming events like our 100th day of school celebration next month.

During the coming weeks our first graders will be busy...counting to 100 by 2s, 5s, and 10s

- *spelling 100 words
- *reading 100 books
- *writing stories with hundreds of descriptive words
- *recycling hundreds of scraps
- *making 100 healthy choices
- *doing 100 kind deeds

One hundred cheers for First Grade!



Dear Hickory Families,
Thank you so much for your support at home with the Read To Achieve Reading Incentive Program sponsored by the Los Angeles Clippers. Beginning Monday, November 2nd through Friday, December 11th, Hickory Elementary School students in grades Kindergarten through 5th grade began tracking their reading minutes, both at home and at school, with the hopes of gaining recognition through the Clippers Basketball Team's Read To Achieve Program.

Here are our outstanding results:
Hickory students read a total of 505,188 minutes in just 5 weeks! Thanks to our wonderful and dedicated librarian, Laura Fischer, and her team of library volunteers who calculated our students'

weekly reading minutes. It was a daunting task that could not be accomplished without their assistance. On Monday, Dec. 14th, the top readers, top classes, and top grade levels were recognized at our FLAG Assembly. In addition, we are hopeful that our school will be awarded the top reading award – a visit from a Clippers Basketball player! The top 5 students that log the most reading minutes will be drafted to the Clippers Student All Star Reading Team. These students and a guest will be invited to attend the Clippers Community Kids Awards Ceremony. However, more importantly, our students demonstrated their enthusiasm for reading through the Read To Achieve Program. Based on the number of minutes read each week, Hickory students in kindergarten through 5th grade averaged 100 – 200 reading minutes each week!

Although the incentive program has ended, please continue to support your child's reading progress and success. As kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grade students learn to read, it is crucial that they also enjoy hearing stories read aloud to them. 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students begin making the transition from "Learning to Read" to "Reading to Learn".

Reading is the key to academic success and Hickory Elementary School students are unlocking the door to their future academic achievement by reading and learning each day.

Thank you so much for your support at home.

Mrs. Pam Williams

Dear Hickory Families and Friends,

Happy New Year! I wish all of you the very best in 2010. Thinking about the school year and what is in store for all of us in the remaining months, I thought I would share some ideas about the parent-school partnership.

All parents want their children to be successful in school. But most parents don't realize that their involvement and support in their child's education is the *most critical factor in determining whether their child will be successful in school*. Parental influence has a greater impact on student success than the school they attend or the quality of instruction they receive. Parents are a child's first teacher, therefore, the partnership between them and their child's teachers is an important link to ensuring success in school. Working in partnership there are many things parents can do at home to help their child succeed in school. Every child in every family has the power to succeed in school and in life, and every parent, grandparent and caregiver can help.

Success in school takes hard work, planning, a few basic skills, and the will to want to succeed. What we know about success in school is a combination of common sense mixed with new ideas about learning.

We know the following:

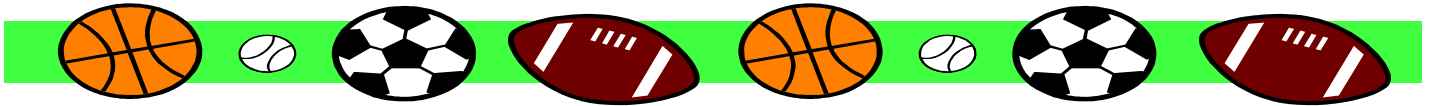
1. **Where our children learn is important.** Home, school, community and outside involvement in learning experiences help strengthen our child's interest in learning.
2. **What our children learn from us is important.** What we say and do can build their maturity and self-confidence.
3. **How our children learn is important.** All of us teach our children every day, whether we realize it or not. We can offer them a variety of activities that promote learning in different ways. This also stresses to our children the importance of ongoing learning throughout our lives.

Teaching and learning are not mysteries that can only happen at school. They also happen when parents and children do simple things together. As a parent you can awaken your children to the joy of learning by encouraging their imagination and challenging their natural curiosity in the world around them. By doing things together, you will show them that learning is fun and important.

We are looking forward to some great learning opportunities at Hickory in the coming months, and we hope to see many of our Hickory families at our upcoming Math Festival and our Science Night.

Here's to an exciting 2010 in the area of learning and growing!

Mrs. Schumacher



From the Desk of the President.....

Dear Hickory Parents:

I can't believe that the holidays are over and we are headed into the 2nd half of the year.

Thank you Jason Atkinson for heading up our 1st Family Game Night-it was a fun night and we even made a little bit of money to help fund future PTA events.

There are a few important things happening that you need to be aware of:

Honorary Service Awards-this is the highest award that PTA can give its volunteers. Who do you think deserves it? Look for the nomination form in the Communicator and fill it out. It doesn't have to be a PTA board member. We have a lot of "behind the scenes" volunteers that deserve this award. Thank you Malaea Coleman and her committee for all the work you're doing on this to make it a memorable event for the honorees.

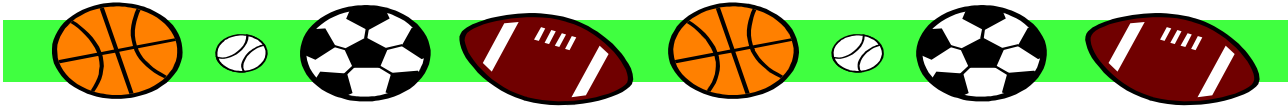
It's that time of year again when we have to select the PTA leadership for next year. The **Nominating Committee** is looking for suggestions for talented people who would like to support the school by serving on the PTA Executive board. There are several positions open, please keep an eye out for the nomination form in the Communicator.

We are also hosting our 2nd **Annual "Math Festival"** It was a fantastic event last year, and I know that Rhonda Carroll and her team are working frantically to make it successful this year. The concept this year is Algebra. We do need volunteers to make this event, please see the flyer in the Communicator and volunteer! RSVP's are requested so that we can plan accordingly.

Brought to you by your PTA this month:

- 2nd Annual Math Festival
- Adventures in Art
- Kids Into Science
- Library
- Copy Center
- Class field trips
- Website

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



Hickory PTA

All Parents...One Team

Honorary Service Awards

It is time to nominate those outstanding volunteers who contribute to our students here at Hickory. "The Honorary Service Award (HSA) program seeks to honor and recognize deserving PTA, school and community volunteers for outstanding service to children and youth." Hickory is well known for its many dedicated volunteers, please take a moment to consider nominating a fellow volunteer who has gone above and beyond and thus deserves our recognition.

Good luck to all and thank you for your nominations!

Malaea F. T. Coleman
HSA Chairperson

Honorary Service Awards

2009-2010

Please complete this form and return to the drop box in the Hickory School office or to your teacher in a sealed envelope by **January 15!**

I would like to nominate: _____

Reasons this person deserves special recognition:

...use backside if you need more space to write...

Your name: _____

Email: _____ Phone#: _____

What does **MATH** look like...

California
Mathematics
Council



...when it takes over your **WHOLE SCHOOL?**

We would like your help as a volunteer when we hold our school's CMC Math Festival on Thursday January 21st, 2010. The Math Festival is a fun program that will help students learn and enjoy mathematics, and it will be the same kind of experience for you!

You **DO NOT** need to be an expert at math to volunteer to help students at the Math Festival. You will learn **EVERYTHING** you need to know **BEFORE** the first students arrive. We ask that you arrive 20 minutes before the first student Math Festival session. During that time, the Math Festival leader will give you an overview of the festival, and information about the activity where you will be assisting students.

You will not be acting as teachers, but will give students simple assistance helping them read and understand the directions at one Festival Station activity. After the first session, you will be an "expert" at your activity! You need not to be a fluent English speaker to help; other languages can be of great help to students whose primary language is not English.

A Math Festival is possibly the least threatening math experience you will have; in fact it is a situation where both students and parents can have a good time doing math together. Please complete the lower portion indicating your time preference, detach, and return it to your child's teacher as soon as possible. The assembly will go throughout the day with 6 sessions, 35 minutes each, the first one beginning at 9:05 A.M. To contact me Rhonda Carroll at drkcarroll@aol.com or (310) 594-3861 for more details.

I would like to help at the Math Festival:

Name: _____ Phone# _____

Morning _____ Afternoon _____ Evening _____ email _____

California Mathematics Council

Math Festival

Hickory's PTA will be sponsoring a Math Festival on Thursday January 21, 2010 from 6:00 to 8:00. We would like to invite parents and their kids out to this fun and educational evening. Space is somewhat limited so we would like you to fill out the R.S.V.P. form and send it back with your student.

Any questions please contact Rhonda Carroll At drkcarroll@aol.com or (310) 594-3861.

R.S.V.P. Form

Yes, we plan to attend the evening Math Festival on Thursday, January 21st beginning at 6:00 P.M.

Name

Phone #

E-mail

Teacher/ grade level

of adults/ # of children



PERFORMING ARTS WORKSHOPS AT: HICKORY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

WINTER TERM 2010

Visit us online at: www.performingartsworkshops.com

(310) 827-8827

Children meet our teacher in our assigned room! Classes are held in the Cafeteria.

MARY POPPINS

“Practically Perfect In Every Way” - the only way to describe being in the musical **Mary Poppins**. Young actors are welcome to come join us and shine on stage performing beloved scenes and songs from the hit show **Mary Poppins**! This class has something for everyone, first timers and advancing performers alike. Discover the joys of acting, improv, voice and speech, theater games, choreography and dance! Develop self confidence and team spirit.

*At the conclusion of **14 lessons (Winter + Spring Terms)**, parents and friends of our students are invited to enjoy a special workshop presentation which will showcase the process our students went through and the skills they will take away with them.

*** CLASSES BEGIN: JANUARY 19 ***
HELD: Tuesdays 3:15 - 4:15 Grades 1 - UP

*** VERY IMPORTANT ***

- Parent responsible for class start date and attendance.
- To receive class / sign-up confirmation, parent must call us.
- Parent must pick up student promptly after class.
- NO CLASSES** on pupil free days or holidays.
- Space is limited. There is a \$15 processing fee for refunds.
- To drop a course, call **BEFORE** the second class meeting.
- Absolutely **NO** refunds after the 2nd week has passed.
- There are no credits or refunds when children miss class.
- Questions? Call (310) 827-8827



READ THIS!!

Because classes meet only 1 time per week, it will take both the Winter 7 weeks & Spring 7 weeks (14 class hours) to assemble the Class presentation.
Tuition can be paid one TERM at a time. The show is held during our regular class time at the end of the Spring Term.

- - - One child per form! - - - REGISTRATION DEADLINE = JAN 14
MAIL: 13428 MAXELLA AVE. #436, M.D.R., CA. 90292 **FAX:** (310) 827-1310 **ON-LINE:** www.performingartsworkshops.com

Student's Name _____ hm phone (_____) _____

Address _____

Parent's Name _____ wk/cell phone (_____) _____

[] DRAMA WINTER Term: 7 classes \$84



A great way to remind your child to go to class!! (Only \$12.50 + \$5 shipping)

Checks Payable To: Performing Arts Workshops Ed. Inc. (Not responsible for lost cash)

[] VISA [] MC # _____ Exp. _____

Card Holder: _____ Signature: _____

Course Tuition Total	\$ _____
[] Optional T-Shirt @ \$17.50 <u> </u> S <u> </u> M <u> </u> L	\$ _____
After school insurance - required	\$ <u> 8.00 </u>
[] Scholarship Request	TOTAL DUE \$ _____
<i>Tuition is due with the application</i>	

By submitting this form it is understood that I have read and agree to the information regarding: dates, Winter & Spring Term commitment (14 total lessons) for participation in class recital, rules, refund and company policies and I authorize my child to attend.

HICKORY ELEMENTARY Initial here to give your child permission to walk / bike home after every class.