

From the Desk of the President.....

Dear Hickory Parents:

Since this is the month of love, I need to start by spreading some around.
Thank you to:

- ♥ Samantha Atkinson for taking on the Talent Show. This is a great event scheduled for March 5, along with the PTA Association meeting, elections, and we will honor our Honorary Service winners.
- ♥ To all the volunteers who silently go about making Hickory the best school in Torrance, the Adventure in Art docents, the Copy Center volunteers, the Library volunteers, all the parents that help in the classrooms everyday. All of you are the backbone of our volunteers. We couldn't do it without you!

Join us on Friday February 12 for Family Bingo Night. This is a special event in honor of National PTA's "Take Your Family to School" Week. Please remember this is **NOT THE TIME** to visit your child's classroom. In addition, the Math Festival has been rescheduled for March 8. Please make sure to mark your calendars.

Most of you know by now that the budget situation in CA is dire. I would like to share with you information from our Superintendent, Dr. Mannon: TUSD has already reduced its budget by 35 million in the past two years. The specific programs, services, and stuff they have had to cut have been devastating to the community. They have been forced to lay off over 258 full-time positions, which include 160 certificated teaching positions. This translates to 12% of the number of certificated positions, without any reduction of the number of students. They have been forced to increase the class sizes at all K-12 levels. The K-3 classes are now 24-1; while 4th and 5th grade average 33-1, and the average middle school classrooms have had the daunting challenge of accommodating over 38 students.

In the coming weeks and months I will continue to keep you informed of any budget updates. We cannot allow Sacramento to compromise the educational futures of our children.

Brought to you by your PTA this month:

- "Take Your Family to School" Event -we will be hosting a family bingo night!
- 2nd Annual Science Night
- 4th Grade "Walk Thru California"
- Adventures in Art
- Kids Into Science
- Library
- Copy Center

- Class field trips
- Website
- Communicator

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



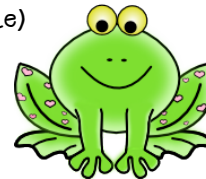
Hickory Elementary School

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS



FEBRUARY 11, 2010

DATE		UPCOMING ACTIVITIES
Fri	February 12	Take Your Family to School Week, Family Bingo Night 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm in Cafeteria
Thurs	February 11	PTA Board Meeting
Mon	February 15	President's Day — HOLIDAY - NO SCHOOL
Wed	February 17	PTA Founders Day
Thurs	February 18	Mad Science Family Night, 6-8 pm in Cafeteria
M-T	Feb 22 & 23	Walk Thru California (4 th grade)
Thurs	February 25	Vision & Hearing Testing
Fri	February 26	Student Council Elections Last Day to turn in Box Tops for Education
Fri	March 5	Talent Show, 6:30 pm at Torrance High Auditorium
Mon	March 8	Math Festival
Fri	March 12	Deadline for Yearbook Orders Jog-A-Thon



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Volunteers are needed for Heroes Week (formerly Blue Ribbon Week). During Heroes Week, we show our support and appreciation for the heroes in our community. This is mainly for the police, fire department and military. It can, however, include Search and Rescue, doctors & nurses, teachers, FBI/CIA, etc.

Volunteers will:

- create and distribute invitations
- call the various "heroes" to arrange visits
- create and execute activities for the week (i.e. making signs, etc.)
- plan a short presentation (about 10 minutes) for Monday's assembly
- award heroes with a token of appreciation (small donation from Hickory)

Be in charge of the whole week or just one day. Heroes Week is May 10 – 14. Please contact me if you are interested in coordinating something for the week/day. Thank you in advance for your help.

Lani Almero-Schrunk
Cell: 310.619.6911/e-mail: lahulagirl@netscape.net



Jog-a-thon

It's that time of year again! The Jog-A-Thon is coming! This year it will be on Friday, March 12 from 9-11:30 A.M. Each child will have 20 minutes to run as many laps as they can and earn money for our PTA. Last year Hickory raised over \$15,000. This year will be just as fun with many exciting incentives. We are looking for volunteers from each classroom to help set up, clean up, punch lap cards and cheer for the kids. Look for pledge forms and more information in the next few weeks. If you would like to help with this fun event I can be reached at poshan@socal.rr.com. Thanks for supporting the PTA!

Paige Oshan
Jog-a-thon chair

HICKORY PTA JOG-A-THON - MARCH 12, 2010

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The Jog-a-Thon will be Friday March 12, 9-11:30 and it will be lots of fun! D.J. Steve Irons, Kings Hawaiian and Randy's produce are contributing to our exciting event. The Jog-A-Thon raises money for our PTA: Adventures in Art, Science Kits, Computer Lab, Special Assemblies, field trips and more. Thanks to you, last year we exceeded our goal! This year's goal is \$10,000. As before, the children can sign up pledges for donations or for convenience you may make a **\$12 flat donation** per child payable to Hickory PTA. If everyone donates we will attain our goal. The children may earn the following:

- 1) Each classroom with 100% participation (every child in the class present and with at least 2 laps (except for health reasons) and pledges in by **March 31** will get a **NO HOMEWORK DAY** and an **EXTRA RECESS**.
- 2) The top donation earning classes from each group: K-3 and 4-5 (two classes total) will get a **"special party"** provided by our principal.
- 3) The top 2 lap runners of each classroom will be recognized at the assembly and their names will be featured in the Communicator. Ties will be recognized.
- 4) Students will be eligible to receive a free Claim Jumper Kids' Meal.

To be counted toward the awards pledges must be turned in before March 31!!! Schedules, pledge forms, envelopes and volunteer information will be out soon. Extras will be in the Hickory Office. Thanks for your help! Paige Oshan
poshan@socal.rr.com.

Family Bingo Night



When: Friday February 12

Time: 7:00-8:30 PM

Where: Hickory Café

Play Bingo with your sweetie!



Cookies and Hot Chocolate

Prizes

DID YOU MISS THE SPIRIT WEAR SALE LAST FALL?

All remaining Fall Spirit Wear will be available for purchase on following dates and times:

WHEN

8:45 am – 9:15 am, Monday, Feb. 22, 2010
3:00 pm – 3:30 pm, Tuesday, Feb. 23, 2010
2:15 pm – 2:45 pm, Wednesday, Feb. 24, 2010
8:45 am – 9:15am, Friday, Feb. 26, 2010

WHERE

ROOM 31 (across from the school office)

Limited selection and sizes available.

*Please **do not** send in an order form with money.
No Spirit Wear delivery will be made to your child.*

VOLUNTEER TODAY



Spring is around the corner, and with spring, comes Teacher's Appreciation Week. We are looking for a volunteer to head up our Multi-Cultural Luncheon on Thursday, April 22. If you, or you and a friend are interested, please let me know.

Let's make this the best
Teacher's Appreciation Week
ever!

Thank you,

Roxanne Arroues - Volunteer Coordinator
roxannearroues@sbcglobal.net,
310.787.9657(hm), 310.710.5323(Cell)