

Elliott Ranch Elementary

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Principal
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The Ranch Roundup

February 2013

Issue 5

Principal's Corner:

I hope you are well and that your family has enjoyed a little extra “down time” due to our recent Monday holidays. Report cards and parent teacher conference week are slowly sneaking up on us, followed by Spring Break and STAR testing. I don’t know if you can relate, but the pacing of life these days never ceases to amaze me. We are already almost 2/3 of the way through the school year! We live in a world of “4G speed” and immediate gratification. Remember that our kids learn more by watching what we adults do than by what we say. This issue is never more apparent to me when I see parents speeding to school to make it “on-time”, completely ignoring traffic laws and student safety (just this morning a blue Acura sedan pulled into the parking lot exit (east side) and came dangerously close to someone- if we tell our kids to “follow school rules” and “listen to your teacher”, but we ourselves don’t practice respect and responsibility, we should expect no different from our children.....

Reminders:

We are currently applying for a NASA downlink! If we are chosen, our site would be the recipient of a live video chat with astronauts on the International Space Station! If you have any experience with grant writing, engineering, the aerospace industry, etc. that you think would benefit our application, please contact the office- our application is due March 1st.

Our DPX dance crew will be performing at the COHS men’s basketball playoff game on February 20th! Come out to support our regional feeder high school teams and our fabulous DPX crew. See you there

You will notice a little different setup in the front office for visitor sign-in and student early dismissal. We have been able to work with “Ident-a-kid” software to implement an on-line check-in process. You will now be able to log in to a desktop computer instead of signing in to a binder. If you are checking your child out early, you will enter your info and the system will log your sign-out. If you are coming to visit, volunteer as a WatchDOG or literacy circle help, you will log in and it will print out a detailed badge for you. We are gradually getting to know the system and hope to streamline the process.

Have a great month and please contact the office if you have questions or concerns!

Mr. MacNeill

Upcoming Events

Feb 20	<i>ATS Testing</i> 9:00AM
Feb 28	<i>Awards Assembly</i> <i>3rd - 4th</i> 8:55AM <i>5th - 6th</i> 9:40AM
Mar 1	<i>Spirit Rally</i> 1:30PM
Mar 4 - Mar 8	<i>Minimum Day Parent Conferences</i> <i>Kinder Regular Schedule</i> <i>1st - 6th</i> 8:00 - 12:20
Mar 11	<i>Spring Picture Day</i>
Mar 11	<i>PTO Meeting</i> 6:30PM MP Room

Our 8th Annual Penny War March 11, 2013 - March 22, 2013:

Bring in your spare change to fight cancer. All pennies will be credited to your grade level; bring all silver coins to attack your opponents. Pennies will be counted as positive income; silver coins will be counted as negative income. The winner will be announced the week of April 1, 2013... So empty your pockets, search the couch, and start bringing in the change!

School Accountability Report Card Available:

The current School Accountability Report Card (SARC) is available online at the Elk Grove Unified School District website at <http://www.egusd.net/schools/sarcs/index.cfm>. Both a long detailed format and a short executive summary are posted for parents to learn more about the schools in our community.

Each school's SARC summarizes the school's mission, goals, accomplishments, and highlights the school's unique programs. In addition, state law requires that the SARC contain all of the following: demographic data, school safety and climate for learning information, academic data, school completion rates, class sizes, teacher and staff information, curriculum and instruction descriptions, postsecondary preparation information, fiscal and expenditure data.

The federal No Child Left Behind law requires that SARCs contain reports concerning the "adequate yearly progress" of students in achieving state academic achievement standards; Title I Program Improvement status; graduation rates at the secondary level; and the extent to which "highly qualified" teachers are teaching core academic subjects.

A hard copy of these reports can be requested by visiting your child's school office. Additionally, these reports have been translated in Spanish and Hmong at schools with large populations of families who speak these languages. Any questions regarding the SARCs can be answered by your child's principal or by contacting Learning Support Services at 686-7712.

Elliott Ranch PTO:

Yearbook: The deadline to pre-order your ER yearbook for \$18 is **Feb. 22, 2013** (forms should have come home with your students already). A very limited number of yearbooks will be sold for \$25 each when the books arrive in May.

Message from Your Rocket Run Chairs

Save the date ...Friday, April 26, for the new and improved "Crazy Fun Rocket Run.

Elliott Ranch PTO is always looking for 'prizes' to give as incentives for our fundraisers. Our next **FUN**draiser coming up is Rocket Run/ Walk on Friday, April 26th. If you own a business or have a 'connection' with a business and are able to donate a prize, please contact rocketrun@elliotttranchpto.com Thanks so much in advance for your help & support !

ER Eats Out: Thank you ER Families for all your support! At our January event at Sol Mexican Restaurant, we raised \$400 for our school....WOW!!! That is fantastic!

Our next event will be Thursday, February, 21st at Chick-fil-a. Hope to see you there! A portion of sales will be donated to our school. In addition, take a spin on the Spinning Wheel for \$1 a spin. You will win Chick-fil-a coupons and our school receives 100% of the proceeds! More information on this exciting event will be coming home in backpack mail. Thanks again ER for your continued support!

Staff Appreciation: Staff Appreciation week will be Monday February 25th to Friday March 1st. We plan to demonstrate our gratitude for our fabulous teachers and staff with daily treats and other surprises. Please stay tuned for more details. We are now asking parents for any donations of gift cards to use for prizes and raffles during the week. Gift cards can be as small as \$5. Perhaps you may have some unused gift cards that you received and never used? Please leave them in the PTO box for us. Thanks so much and let's show our support for our staff!

If anyone has ideas for the week or would like to get us the gift cards directly, please contact us at: Elisa: nickand-elisa@comcast.net or Jane: janetroglia@yahoo.com

Ink Cartridge Recycling: Please, turn in your used ink cartridges to the office, so they can be recycled at Staples. Any size cartridges are accepted. Money earned goes back into the PTO funds.