

Lion's Den Newsletter

December, 2014

NORDSTROM ELEMENTARY 1425 E. DUNNE AVENUE 408-201-6440

Principal's Message

The Spirit of the Holidays

While shopping for holiday presents, a woman noticed a small girl with her father looking at dolls. Every time she saw a doll that she liked, she asked her father if she had enough money to buy it. Dad usually said, "Yes."

Nearby, a mother and her young son were also looking at toys, but every time the boy noticed something he wanted to buy, his mother sadly told him he didn't have enough money. The boy looked longingly at an action figure toy, but ended up selecting a book of stickers.

The girl, meanwhile, had settled on a Barbie doll, but when she saw the boy and his mother start toward the checkout, she put her doll down and snatched up the action figure. At the cash register, she quickly paid and then whispered something to the cashier, who smiled and placed the action figure in a bag behind the counter.

When the boy and his mother were ready to pay for their purchases, the cashier produced the bag and told the boy that he was the store's 100th customer that day. When he looked in the bag and found the toy he'd wanted, the little boy's face filled with joy.

When leaving, the woman overheard the little girl talking to her father. The Dad asked why she'd bought the toy for the little boy. The girl said, "Well, Grandma and Grandpa sometimes buy me things to make me happy, don't they? I just wanted to do the same thing."

We hope that this holiday season you experience the "Spirit of the Holidays" and have a chance to share your time and treasure with others around you.

May you have a wonderful, safe and joyous season!

Mrs. Neal

New Student Council Classroom Representatives

We have added a new position to our regular Student Council this year. In addition to the three Student Council Officers who ran for office in recent elections, we now have a classroom representative from each of the 5th and 6th grade classrooms. The reps will be liaisons to the council from their respective classrooms. Congratulations to the following class representatives:

Room 9 Lindsey Martin Room 13 Danielle Hobbs

Room 11 Alexandria Staehr Room 14 Alexandria Purtell

Room 12 Tejal Oza Room 15 Olivia Milner

The Christmas Basket Project

We cordially invite you to be part of the District's Christmas Basket Project by donating non-perishable items only. The barrels will be placed in the hallway entrance to the MPR. There is also a need for volunteers to donate their time on Friday, December 19th from 3:00 PM to 7:00 PM at P. A. Walsh Cafeteria preparing baskets, and on Saturday, December 20th from 8:00 AM to 11:00 PM distributing baskets to the families. On behalf of all students and families we would like to thank you in advance for helping to make this project a reality!

Vacation Drop-off and Pick-up Assistance

As minimum days roll around and the holidays tie up our extra hours, parents may often utilize a friend, grandparent or other relative to pick-up or drop-off a child before or after school. On occasion this can cause a kink in the 'controlled chaos' of our drive through system if a new driver does not understand our flow-through pattern.

We would like to tackle this problem by asking the parents who usually pick-up/drop-off to appropriately 'coach' the friends/grandparents/relatives who are not the students' usual transport. Please let your helping hands know that the parking lot becomes a drive-through in the AM and PM and at these times there is no parking in those north facing spots. The cars driving west on Dunne enter campus through the bus loop and the cars driving east on Dunne, proceed across Dunne and then enter through the parking lot loop.

Respectful Behavior in the Parking Lot

As a school-wide initiative, we teach and model 9 different core values during the year with our students, two of which are Respect and Teamwork. What examples are modeled for students when they observe adults leaving their car, walking up to other cars and yelling at other drivers?

I had several conversations and emails last week from parents who are concerned about certain behaviors being displayed by just a few people in the traffic flow. First let me clearly state that 99% of our parents and families are very respectful, patient and caring. So to all of you, I say thank you on behalf of the parents, students and staff.

To the other few adults, we would ask that you please understand that we are a large school on a busy street. We have utilized the services of the City of Morgan Hill traffic engineers on numerous occasions to analyze our traffic flow. Our current pattern was a design suggested by the city's engineers with the high traffic flow on Dunne Ave. as part of the consideration. At the pick-up/drop-off time we use both the bus lane and the north parking lot side for drive-through service. Students currently have access to the passenger side of their parent's car and need not compromise their safety by walking between moving cars.

As the weather changes and more students are driven to school we know that traffic will increase in the parking lot. Everyone's goal is to drop off and pick up children with their safety being of the utmost importance. We hope that a level of respect, consideration for others and patience will be practiced by all adults and appreciate your thoughtful support of the entire Nordstrom community.

No-Extra-Cost-to-You Fundraising for Nordstrom

Did you know that shopping at Target stores and using a Target REDcard (either debit or credit) will earn money for Nordstrom? Target helps their local schools by donating 1% of your purchases at Target stores or Target.com when you use the Target REDcard as part of the "Take Charge of Education" program from Target. In addition, when you use your REDcard you get 5% off of your purchase. It's a win-win partnership. So please consider opening an account or registering your current REDcard to our Nordstrom School by going online at www.target.com.

Here is another math source to help parents understand how to help their children. Go to the following link and scroll down to the grade and unit. <http://commoncore.org/parents>

December Events:

12-1 School Site Council 2:15 PM
 12-5 HSC Meeting 8:00 AM
 12-6 HSC Holiday Boutique 9:00-1:00
 12-11 Principal's Coffee - 4th grade 7:50 AM
 12-22 thru 1-4 No School - Holiday Vacation

January Events:

1-5 School resumes
 1-9 Principal's Coffee - 5th grade 7:50 AM
 1-12 ELAC - 2:15 PM
 1-26 School Site Council 2:15 PM