



Notes from the Principal

DECEMBER 15, 2011

MS. LINDA McDANIEL

December Celebrations



Sandpiper School Show Choir for Grades 4-5

Director: Susie Jimenez and Choreographer: Brandy Mieszkowski

At our Monday morning assembly, we were treated to holiday music by the boys and girls in the Show Choir. These students have been coming to school at 7:30 a.m. on Tuesday morning for rehearsals with the Show Choir Director Susie Jimenez. Susie is assisted by Brandy Mieszkowski for their spectacular moves on stage. The Show Choir will perform in the spring and it is one show you won't want to miss.

In the classrooms at Sandpiper, this is the time of year we discuss the different celebrations in our local community and around the world. The activities our staff has planned for your children during this time are invaluable in developing a true appreciation and respect for the diversity around us. Whether you celebrate one, some, or none of these holidays, I hope you talk to your children about the differences and similarities that unite us. At Sandpiper, our

vision is to provide a high quality educational program that allows students to meet their academic potential in an environment that inspires a love of learning. Opportunities for your children to internalize our school vision are more frequent during the holidays when they participate in activities to show their appreciation and generosity for all you give to them. Every year, I enjoy reminding our school community about one of my favorite holiday recipes...

A Recipe for Holiday Happiness

1/2 cup Hugs	1 tbsp Holiday Spirits
4 tsp Kisses	2 cups Goodwill Towards Man
4 cups Love	1 Sprig of Mistletoe
1 cup Special Holiday Cheer	1 medium-size bag of Sandpiper
1/2 cup Peace on Earth	Snowflakes (<i>the regular kind won't do!</i>)

Mix hugs, kisses, smiles and love until consistent.
Blend in holiday cheer, peace on earth, Holiday spirits
and goodwill towards men.
Use the mixture to fill a large, warm heart,
where it can be stored for a lifetime,
(*it never goes bad!*)
Serve as desired under mistletoe,
sprinkled liberally with special Sandpiper snowflakes.
It is especially good when accompanied by holiday songs
and family get-togethers.
Serve to one and all
Enjoy!



The holidays can be stressful times for all of us. Each family in our community has identified celebrations that give meaning to life and determined how to make the celebrations special so that twenty years from now your children will have special memories for the holiday season. A few important reminders about this time of year for children are:

- * making sure you give them attention by spending *time* with them;
- * being an active and reflective listener;
- * being consistent with limits;
- * establishing a predictable routine;
- * preparing your child for change or transitions; and,
- * being parents who don't get exhausted.

Notes from the Principal...continued

As this year draws to a close, I want to sincerely express my gratitude and appreciation for all the work that every member of the Sandpiper community – staff, students, and parents – contributes to making this a great school! No matter how large or small the contribution, it makes a difference in creating a school environment that fosters caring, compassion, commitment and striving for excellence. I would like to especially thank the PTA Executive Board and committees, the School Site Council members, and all the parent volunteers who have spent hundreds of hours in the classrooms and coordinating fundraising activities. If you are still looking for a last minute way to contribute to our school this year, please consider making a donation to School-Force or seeking a matching donation from your company for our school. Your School-Force donation directly supports our school with personnel costs for science and music. We recently received several smaller grants to support our after school enrichment program for the Homework Club and math. As we do our part, to reduce our spending due to the budget crisis in the state, we will need donated funds to continue to support our program for students. Our staff is in need of additional LCD projectors and document readers available for instruction. The wish list for classroom technology includes these items to enhance the instructional program for all students. If you would like to make a donation to Sandpiper School specifically earmarked for one of our programs, please see me.

I am proud to be part of the Sandpiper School team, because we are all winners. For two weeks after our return from the Thanksgiving holidays, toys were dropped off in the office to support the holiday toy drive for the children at Family Service Agency. We want to send our sincere appreciation to Tracie Pon, our PTA Community Outreach Coordinator, for giving our children another opportunity to show how much they care for others. To me, one of the most important life skills is to teach our children by our own example. Enjoy the winter break and I will see you in the new year!



Don't forget that we will collect three new coupons for Cool the Earth on Friday, December 16. The coupon collection will be for Lighten Your Footprint, My Way, and Buddy Up to After School Clubs. If your children did not turn in coupons last month, they should bring them to school on December 16. Cool the Earth is designed to educate students and their families about global warming and inspires them to take simple, energy-saving actions at home to reduce their carbon emissions. This program is one of the responsibilities of our Student Council. I am proud of our school community for continuing this effort. In addition to our students learning about solutions to global warming, they are learning responsibility, citizenship and caring – values our students will carry with them for life.



Do you have holiday lights that are no longer working or broken? If so, the Student Council will continue to collect lights from January 3 through January 6. The lights collected and will be taken to Carlmont Ace Hardware. They recycle the lights for the copper and donate the money to cancer research for children. All lights should be taken to Room 17.

Notes from the Principal...continued

Kindergarten Visitation for Incoming Parents

There will be several opportunities for parents with students who will be entering kindergarten in 2012-2013 to visit Sandpiper classes. The first visitation will be on Thursday, January 12, at 9:00 a.m. in the multi-use room at the Sandpiper Community Center. The next visit is scheduled for Tuesday, January 24, at 9:00 a.m. Parents will have an opportunity to learn about the program offered at Sandpiper and visit the classrooms. If you have neighbors who have kindergarten aged children (must be five years old by November 1) for next year, please let them know about these visits. Also, I will have information about the transitional kindergarten program offered by the Belmont-Redwood Shores School District.



Don't forget to mark your calendar for the PTA meeting on Tuesday, January 17, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the library. We need your support for the winter and spring programs. Come and bring your ideas to sustain the many programs for Sandpiper parents and students.

Reminders ...

- ✓ **December 19-January 2 – NO SCHOOL – Winter Break**
- ✓ **Tuesday, January 3 – School Resumes**
- ✓ **Wednesday, January 4 – Walking School Bus**
- ✓ **Monday, January 9 – School-Force Reading Power Kick-off Assembly**
- ✓ **Thursday, January 12 – Incoming Kindergarten Parents' Visit, 9:00-10:00 a.m., MUR**
- ✓ **Friday, January 13 – Reading Power Packets Distributed**
- ✓ **Monday, January 16 – NO SCHOOL – MLK, JR. Holiday**
- ✓ **Tuesday, January 17 – PTA Meeting, 7:00-9:00 p.m., Library**
- ✓ **Wednesday, January 18 – Walking School Bus**
- ✓ **Thursday, January 19 – Field Trip Grade 3 (Steiger) to Woodside Store**
- ✓ **Friday, January 20 – Field Trip Grade 2 to Davies Symphony Hall, San Francisco**
- ✓ **Tuesday, January 24 – Incoming Kindergarten Parents' Visit, 9:00-10:00 a.m., MUR**
- ✓ **Thursday, January 26 – Field Trip Grade 3 (Bjorkquist) to Woodside Store**
- ✓ **Friday, January 27 – All Pro Dad Breakfast, 7:30-8:15 a.m., MUR**
- ✓ **Tuesday, January 31 – Field Trip Grade 3 (Watson) to Woodside Store**
- ✓ **Thursday, February 16 – Jump Rope for Heart**
- ✓ **February 20-24 – NO SCHOOL – Mid-Winter Break**
- ✓ **March 6-13 – Early Release Days for Parent Conferences**
- ✓ **Tuesday, March 6 – Grade 4 STAR Writing Test**
- ✓ **April 2-6 – NO SCHOOL – Spring Break**
- ✓ **Thursday, April 26 – Open House, 7:00 p.m.**
- ✓ **May 1-11 – Grades 2-5 STAR Test**
- ✓ **Monday, May 28 – NO SCHOOL – Memorial Day Holiday**

Notes from the Principal....continued

A Reminder from ...

Telisha Brent

Sandpiper Youth Club Director

K-Play for Kinders!

Kindergarteners! Now is your chance to experience your OWN fun afterschool club! Play games, make crafts and projects, work together and get your energy out! This pilot program will run prior to Sandpiper Youth Club on Tuesdays & Thursdays from 12:30-2:30 p.m. It will give parents some extra hours after school, or help to bridge the gap between multiple student pick-ups. Our experienced staff will pick children up from class and walk them to Sandpiper Community Center. Come Play!

Session 3

1/3-3/29

\$315

Sandpiper Youth Club

If you want to be a part of a fun after school club, then the SYC is for YOU! We will play games, sports, do crafts, learn life skills, join clubs, have special visitors, and more! Children will also have homework time during the program. Sandpiper Youth Club Staff are courteous, professional and most importantly, fun! Come check us out! MAXIMUM ENROLLMENT 120, so sign up early! (Due to the growth of this program and the number of children, the discipline policy will be closely monitored for your child's safety and enjoyment.) Sandpiper School students have first priority. We will accommodate all Sandpiper School minimum days. Payment plans are available, strict rules apply. Priority registration is given to continuing students.

Session 3

1/3-3/16

\$509

For more information, contact Telisha Brent, Sandpiper Youth Club Director at

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