



# PIONEER PRESS

Pioneer School: [http:// www.djUSD.k12.ca.us/Pioneer](http://www.djUSD.k12.ca.us/Pioneer)

Pioneer PTA: <http://www.pioneerelementarypta.com>

Volume 6

October 31, 2011

1:30 Dismissal Every Wednesday for 1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grades



## UPCOMING EVENTS

Tues. Nov 1: Climate committee meeting; 3:30 in the library  
 Thurs. Nov 3: Picture Retake day  
 Fri. Nov 4: NO SCHOOL  
 Fri. Nov 11: NO SCHOOL  
 Nov 14-18: Conference week-dismissal for Grades 1-6 @ 1:30pm  
 Nov 14-18: Book fair week  
 Nov. 21-25: Thanksgiving Break-NO SCHOOL  
 Mon. Nov 28: Back to school  
 EVERY FRIDAY: SPIRIT DAY-remember to wear school colors

For additional information, please see online calendar at:  
[www.pioneerelementarypta.com](http://www.pioneerelementarypta.com)

## CONFERENCE WEEK 11/14-11/18

The week of November 14<sup>th</sup> is Conference Week. During Parent Conference Week, students in **first through sixth grade will be dismissed at 1:30 p.m.** to provide time for our teachers to meet with their students' parents/guardians (our kindergarten schedule will not change). Conferences present a great opportunity to focus on your child's academic progress to this point in the year. During this time, the teacher can share valuable information about your child's progress. In the twenty minutes of sharing that you will have with the teacher, the following ideas might help to make the conference more valuable for both you and your child.

### **Before the Conference**

Talk to your child about the conference and decide whether there are questions or concerns to be conveyed. Prepare for the conference by writing down questions you would like to ask your child's teacher.

### **During the Conference**

- Determine whether your child is working up to his/her potential. Ask how you can assist your child at home.
- Ask which instructional techniques have been most effective with your child.
- Determine how your child interacts with other students and whether he/she is following behavioral expectations. If your child is having problems, ask how you can work together with the school staff to turn negative behavior into positive behavior.
- Ask about areas of the curriculum that you wish to know more about.
- Express concerns in a positive way.

### **After the Conference**

Share information with your child. Point out strengths and give encouragement in specific areas. Develop a plan immediately if follow-up action is necessary. Make sure your child understands that you and the teacher are working together. Stay in touch with the teacher. Follow-up to determine what progress is being made. Your attendance is most important to insure a strong, positive program for your child. Please help us by keeping your conference time so that our teachers have an opportunity to meet with each child's parents/guardian. Thank you for your commitment to your child and his/her educational program!

## PRINCIPALS MESSAGE

### **Teaching Independence at Home and School**

In a time and world that has so many unknowns it is easy to pull our children in close to us to protect them, or do many of the things they are capable of doing or completing so as to speed them up or give them more time to play. But children can become dependent rather than grow. At home and school we all need to work together on teaching student independence so they can begin to develop self-confidence, self-reliance and begin to challenge themselves.

This starts even before kindergarten and is especially important during these first years of elementary school. We all need to encourage our students to try new things, to resolve problems, and empower them to cope with different situations. Students that feel confident in new situations, and understand it is ok to make a mistake will find they are ready to meet the academic and social challenges of school.

So what can we do to encourage this path of independence? We can model self-reliance in our own behavior, share how things get done step by step, always offer words of encouragement, let them fail and learn from their failure, and encourage them in their endeavors. Having journeyed through 40 years of parenting and grand-mothering I can say for sure that the gift of independence, the gift of growth, which we give our children here at school and at home, will lead to a self-confident and self-reliant adult ready for any challenge.

Deborah Brayton, Principal

## GATE TESTING: 3<sup>RD</sup>, 4<sup>TH</sup>, AND 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADES

Testing to determine GATE eligibility will be offered to any interested student at the DJUSD District Office, 526 B Street, for the following grade levels:

3<sup>rd</sup> graders: Only if absent during Universal Testing, new to the district, or who live in the school district but do not attend public schools, may test on Jan. 11<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm.

4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders: Nov. 16<sup>th</sup>, Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, or Jan. 18<sup>th</sup>, at 2:00pm

If a student is already qualified for GATE they do not need to requalify.

To register, parents should contact Cindy Hoffart, GATE Secretary, at [choffart@djUSD.net](mailto:choffart@djUSD.net) or phone (530) 757-5300 x 146.

The Pioneer Press is published twice monthly during the school year by the Pioneer PTA. The bi-weekly deadline to submit articles is Tuesday at 2:30 PM.

Submit articles to Denise Johnson at [kdwdjohnson@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kdwdjohnson@sbcglobal.net)

Pioneer Elementary School – 5215 Hamel Street – Davis, CA 95616 – Phone 757-5480

Deborah Brayton, Principal – Betsy Hyder, PTA President – Tracy Soeth, School Site Chair – Nadia Battistoni, Editor

## **StreetSmarts is Calling All Artists!**

Street Smarts is again holding its annual elementary school traffic safety poster contest and kids can win great prizes like gift certificates to Alphabet Moon, karate lessons, a brand new Wii system, and more!! The contest is open to kids in K-6<sup>th</sup> grade. Entries are due by Nov. 10<sup>th</sup>. ALL entries will be included in an art show at the Davis Art Center for 10 days in December, and winning work will be used on posters, bookmarks, and other surprises around Davis next year. Visit the Street Smarts website at [cityofdavis.org/streetsmarts](http://cityofdavis.org/streetsmarts) for more information, to download an entry form or to see examples of winning work from past contests. Good Luck!

## **COLLECTION FOR STEAC**

Today through **Wednesday, November 2**, personal care items will be collected to donate to the STEAC closet. Unopened containers of travel-sized shampoo, soap, lotion, toothbrushes and toothpaste, deodorant, mouthwash, are needed to help those less fortunate. This community service project is being completed by Carl Csaposs, as part of a commitment to test for his Black Belt at Baciari's Martial Arts.

## **THANK YOU PTA CLASSROOM REPRESENTATIVES**

I just want to take a moment to send a HUGE Thank You to all of our fabulous Classroom Representatives who have volunteered this year! We rely on you to keep the lines of communication open and know that you are an integral part of that process. Thank you so much for all of your efforts, thus far, in getting the school year off to a great start. I look forward to a fantastic school year working with each and every one of you!!!

Annemarie Zurborg  
Classroom Rep Coordinator

## **Fun Festivities at the annual Fall Festival**

Wow! What a fun Fall Festival that was! So many of you came to enjoy the wonderful weather and good, old-fashioned fun. We offered just about everything with the face painting, clown, pocket-ladies, tie-dying, Haunted House, pumpkin and scarecrow patch, carnival games, rummage sale and Band-Uh! The bake sale, food vendors, popcorn, hot chocolate and coffee added the smells that enticed us all. There was even a surprise appearance by both Gunrock and our very own Pioneer Prairie Dog!!!

As I looked around, I saw nothing but big smiles and laughter from every corner of the school. Community spirit like that is what makes Pioneer, and all of Davis, such a great place for us all.

Thank you to you ALL for the part that you played in making this such a successful event. Whether you volunteered your time and efforts, if you baked a treat, donated something, or if you simply showed up to enjoy it, you were an important part of the day!

If you had a favorite part, please let us know so that we can make sure it comes back next year! Email Heather Rauch at [rauchen98@gmail.com](mailto:rauchen98@gmail.com).  
With sincere thanks,  
Sally McGowan and Heather Rauch

## **YOPLAIT YOGURT BOX TOPS FOR CANCER RESEARCH**

Pioneer Student, Sophia Wold is collecting pink Yoplait yogurt lids as a Girl Scout service project to benefit the Susan G. Komen cancer research fund. Please leave pink Yoplait yogurt lids in the box provided outside the Pioneer Office. Yoplait will donate 10 cents (up to \$2 million) to the Susan G. Komen for the Cure® for each pink lid redeemed by December 31, 2011.

## **CULIEN ORTIZ**

### **Teacher Spotlight...2nd GRADE Pioneer Teacher 10 Things You Don't Know About Me**

1. I am the mother of Jordan and Nate...a hair stylist and football player.
2. I was born and raised in Bishop, California... Mule capital of the world!
3. I love to ski, play soccer, trail run, dance, and read... and I don't have a T.V...
4. I adore ice cream and Thai food and loathe zucchini.
5. My favorite color is red and my favorite number is 5
6. I am afraid of scary movies and small spaces.
7. I went to School in the Netherlands for my 7<sup>th</sup> grade year.
8. I got to work in the flower fields in a village in Oaxaca Mexico for Dia de los Muertos .
9. My mom's first language was French and my dad is Bilingual English-Spanish.

## **Box Tops Campaign a Huge Success!**

Our fall Box Tops drive has yielded unprecedented results- the numbers aren't finalized yet, but so far 2011-12 is shaping up to be the best Box Tops year on record! Even though our first turn-in deadline has passed, the next one is just around the corner ... each entry turned in by Friday, February 17 will earn a Box Tops Buck AND will count as a raffle ticket in our huge spring drawing. Best of all, if your child turns in at least five completed entries by the February deadline, he or she will win a certificate redeemable for a free kid's meal at either Davis Dos Coyotes location. Wow!

Please remember that even if your family doesn't use many participating products, lots of your friends, family members, neighbors and coworkers do. Think about distributing a few friend-and-neighbor invites (available in the school office or at [www.pioneerprimarypta.com/Boxtops.html](http://www.pioneerprimarypta.com/Boxtops.html)). Or turn a shoebox or coffee can into your own collection container and set it out at your place of business. Virtually every man, woman and child in our community uses Box Tops-bearing products, but only a select know the real value of these happy pink coupons ... so please spread the word and help our school earn much needed cash.

Questions? Please contact Michelle McKim at [damckims@pacbell.net](mailto:damckims@pacbell.net)

## **PRIDEWEAR**

It's here; it's there...Pioneer PRIDEWEAR is everywhere. Have you walked on campus on Spirit day? It's amazing to see the vast color of Gold and Green and all the fun pride wear shirts from year's past. Keep up the Pioneer School SPIRIT!

## **SCHOOL PICTURE RETAKE DAY**

Don't fret over bad school pictures! Picture retake day will be on **Thursday, November 3rd**. Order forms will be in the office soon. Please don't forget to send back the original picture package with your child to school on retake day. Retakes will not be taken without the first package(s) being submitted. Thank you!