

Station 15 News

Student/Parent
Newsletter for
Mr. Snapp's
5th/6th Grade
Class

Issue Number Four

September 28, 2008



Congratulations to Us!

We are one of the classes to get at least 80% of our families to join the Baywood PTA. That means we will be receiving an apple pie and ice cream party. I'll announce the date of the party as soon as the PTA lets me know.

I'm a big supporter of the PTA because I see firsthand the wonderful things they do for our students. Kudos to the Station 15 families who have already joined. If you haven't yet, it's not too late!

Sweet Springs Afterword

We had a wonderful walk to Sweet Springs. The sun was out and the weather was perfect! All the trails were open, so we were able to explore the whole park. The California Conservation Corps was hard at work clearing the new acreage that has been added. When it's open to the public, Sweet Springs will almost double in size. It's very exciting!

The kids' behavior was excellent throughout the trip. I had very little occasion to admonish any of them, which made the trip most enjoyable for me. I had a great time!

I also have to commend the kids for their willingness to pick up trash on the walk back. Los Osos is a cleaner place because of their efforts. Everyone pitched in and we filled up at least four garbage bags!

Thank you to Rene Delk for accompanying us and helping watch the kids. Thanks also to Brad Delk for dropping in on us while we were there.

Worm Duty

October is our month to help with recycling and composting at lunchtime. (We just call it "Worm Duty".) I had too many volunteers, so I had to draw sticks to determine who would do it. Thanks to all who raised their hands.

Progress Reports, Conference Week, Etc.

Conference Week will be here before we know it. **The last day to turn in work for the 1st Trimester will be Thursday, October 30.** Friday, October 31 will be a Teacher

Work Day. **Conference Week will be the following week, November 3-7.**

Today is the start of the 6th week of school. There are only 10 weeks in the first trimester, so we're already more than half finished.

I try to send home progress reports around the halfway point in the trimester, and I will be doing so soon. However, before I send them home I show them to the kids and give them the opportunity to do any missing assignments, locate any lost ones, and re-do any for which they'd like to raise their scores.

For about half the class, this has been their first experience with me as their classroom teacher. I think some had to get used to how picky I am about having their work done properly (headings on papers, legible handwriting, capital letters where they belong, periods at the ends of sentences, commas on large numbers in math, including the units in story problems, etc.) I let them know my expectations before I started marking things wrong, but it takes some kids a few missteps before good work habits become ingrained in them.

If I was to fill out report cards this week, some of them (and you) would not be too thrilled with the results. However, there is time to raise low scores. For several kids it will mean doing work they neglected to do. There are also papers which were turned in on time, but which, for whatever reason, were done poorly and the scores were very low. I will allow kids to raise their scores in both instances, up to 75%, which will help their averages a lot.

My biggest problem with creating progress reports is that all the homework has to be corrected. Papers that were turned in on time are finished, but those that were turned in late – either because the child was absent, or because he or she just didn't finish it on time – tend to pile up and I correct them when I can. I spent several hours trying to get caught up this weekend. I'll get everything corrected before I send home progress reports – probably by the end of this week, or next Monday at the latest.

I hope you have kept all your child's corrected papers (in "The Box") like I requested at the beginning of the trimester. If there are any mistakes on your child's progress report you'll be able to help me correct them.