

# Pioneer Elementary School

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April, 2010

Dear Parents,

It is hard to believe that we are so close to the end of school year! The time is flying by and many exciting spring activities are coming up, including the annual California STAR testing for students in grades 2-6. These tests were developed specifically to assess students' knowledge of the California content standards. The State Board of Education adopted these standards, which specify what all children in California are expected to know and be able to do in each grade. If you have a child taking the test please encourage them to do their best on this test and ensure that they have a good breakfast and get plenty of sleep the night before. The STAR test will be administered to grades 2-6 beginning on Tuesday, April 20<sup>th</sup>. There are a number of important factors you can help your child with to prepare them to take the STAR test. Here are just a few things that all students can do to prepare themselves:

1. **Be at school!** STAR testing is not a good time to have doctor and dentist appointments. Try to avoid having any appointments that keep you out of school during testing.
2. **Be on time!** It is important to come to school on time and be focused and ready. Give yourself some more time in the morning if you think you might be late.
3. **Get a good night's sleep!** A good night's sleep the night before each test will help you think more clearly and focus on the questions. If you are up late watching TV, playing video games, or on the computer you will not get enough rest. This is the one time of the year that getting a good night's sleep is so important!

4. **Eat a good breakfast!** No need to overdo it, but taking time for breakfast can help you think more clearly. A growling sound for the duration of the test may have you concentrating more on food than the test questions!

Sincerely,

Donna Custodio, Principal

[dcustodio@amadorcoe.k12.ca.us](mailto:dcustodio@amadorcoe.k12.ca.us)

### Garden Work Day.

First Tuesday of every month.

The next date is:

April 6<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 - 4:00



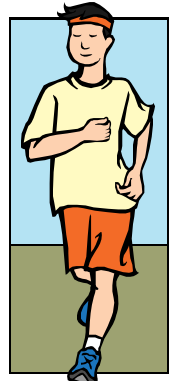
### PPTO

The Pioneer Parent Teacher Organization meets every second Wednesday of the month to plan and implement various fundraising programs and exciting family activities for our school. They are solely responsible for providing the funds for our incredible physical education specialist.

The next meeting will be on **April 13<sup>th</sup> @ 2:20 in the Library**. Please contact Tina Hall at the PPTO voice-mail number 295-6555 if you are interested in joining this group.

**PPTO 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Walk-Jog-A-Thon**  
Friday, April 30<sup>th</sup>.

This year's theme is **BLOCK THE SUN, NOT THE FUN!** Please help your child obtain pledges for this year's fundraiser and plan on attending this fun family day. There will be music, snacks, games, prizes and a great barbeque



## California Young Readers Medal Winners

Pioneer Elementary students  
voted for the following  
nominated books:

Primary (K-3)

*Velma Gratch and the Way  
Cool Butterfly.*

Picture Books for Older  
Readers (4-6)

*Owney: The Mail-Pouch Poach*  
Intermediate (3-6) Novel  
*Crooked Kind of Perfect*



Do you have a child who will be attending our **kindergarten** program in the fall? Do you know of a relative or neighbor who has one? We'd sure like to know about it as soon as possible.

**Moving?** If you know that your child will not be attending our school in the fall, please call our office and let them know. This information is vital for our planning for next year.

## Kindergarten Registration

The Amador County Unified School District will begin the process of registering Kindergarten students for the **2010-2011** school year. If your child will be five on or before December 2, 2010, your child qualifies for Kindergarten.

What you need to register:  
\*\*County Birth Certificate  
\*\*Immunization records  
\*\*Proof of residency

If you have questions, contact the school office.



## Absences:

It is *extremely* important to remember that if your child is absent you must send a note to school explaining why, or call the attendance line, 24 hours a day, at 295-6500 #1 to leave a message. The District has modified their policy about absences and the time allotted to clear them. You are given **5 days** to clear any excused absence, after which it will be counted as an unexcused absence. The office will no longer alert you of un-cleared absences by phone or

letter. You will be contacted by the Connect-ed system, which is our automated calling system. Students with poor attendance can be retained if they miss more than 10% of the school year. Ten percent equals about 19 days of school missed all year.

***Please join us on Thursday evening, April 1<sup>st</sup> at 6 PM in the café for the "Community Meeting" to discuss the BUDGET CRISIS with our Superintendent. Please bring any questions you may have, too!***

## Pioneer Site Council

So you've heard a lot about budget cuts and are wondering how they affect your child's education and what you can do to affect **some** change. The best way is to attend meetings of the site council. They are the governing board for our school. The site council takes the money given to us by the district, state and federal government and decides how best to spend it to meet the needs of our school and students. Our next meeting is: **Tuesday, April 27th @ 2:20 in the Library**

## **Watch the Mail! The 2010 US Census is in Your Hands!**

- February-March 2010: Census questionnaires are mailed or delivered to households.

- April 1, 2010: Census Day

- April-July 2010: Census takers visit households that did not return a questionnaire by mail.

You can make a difference! Census data directly affect how more than \$400 billion per year in federal and state funding is allocated to communities for neighborhood improvements, public health, education, transportation and much more. That's more than \$4 trillion over a 10-year period. Spending just a few minutes to fill out your census form will help ensure your community gets its fair share of federal and state funding.

