

Wolverine News

Sutter Creek Elementary

Sean Snider, Principal
Upper Campus 257-7200

May 2010
Primary Campus 257-7100

Principal's Message

Notes from Mr. Snider:

May is upon us, and the springtime weather couldn't be better. As long as it continues to be nice on the weekends and rain during the week, I'm fine with it- we need the rain. It's hard to believe how quickly this school year is winding down. Only 27 more days and we'll be packing our bags to go home for summer vacation, but who's counting? I know our four teachers who are retiring at the end of this year are. Please read the newsletter carefully so you are up to date with what is happening in this very busy month at the school.

Some of our upcoming events include awards assemblies for both campuses, the third annual Track 'n' Field Day, a band concert, field trips, and classroom celebrations. Your child will appreciate your attendance at these events and so will you. Bring your camera and enjoy!

There will be one more newsletter the last week of school to update you on summer activities and reminders about start up dates for next year.

It continues to be as important as ever for you to be in contact with our local legislators regarding the budget reductions that have been made to education. As we finish out this school year, the reality of class sizes of up to 30 students in grades K-3 starts to set in. We have to continue to hope that our voices will make a difference and possibly help us prevent this.

Thanks for your continued support of the staff and students of Sutter Creek Elementary School!

Sincerely,

Sean Snider



Sutter Creek Elementary Open House

**Sutter Creek Students will proudly display
their work for community viewing on
Tuesday, May 18 from 6:00-7:30 PM.**

Fifth grade parents will be starting the evening with a BBQ at 5:00 at the Upper Campus as a fundraiser for science camp.

***Don't miss this wonderful end of year
celebration!***

Distinguished School Selection:

It's official! I am very pleased and proud to announce that Sutter Creek Elementary has officially been selected as a California Distinguished School by the California Department of Education! This prestigious honor is given to schools that demonstrate academic excellence across all subgroups of students. The award is based on our STAR test scores from last spring (2009). There are a total of 5,764 elementary schools in California and Sutter Creek was one of only 484 selected. Using those numbers, it would mean that Sutter Creek Elementary is in the top 8% of all elementary schools in the state-pretty impressive! This is a recognition that we should all feel very proud of and celebrate as a symbol of our success.



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Thank You!!!

A special **Thank You** to those parents that are using our **Attendance Hotline**. It is a state requirement for the parent/guardian to contact the school within 24 hours of their child's absence.

Upper Campus 257-7244
Primary Campus 257-7144

Teacher Retirements:

Please join me in congratulating the following teachers on their decision to retire at the conclusion of this school year: Maxine Kirkpatrick, Cindy Carder, Janie Brown, and Connie Grady. Combined, these teachers have more than 94 years of service to our school district! Their years of experience and love for the children will surely be missed next year and in the years to come. Be sure to congratulate them the next time you see them!

Book Fair

The Scholastic Book Fair will be available to your students from **May 13th through May 18th**. Each class will have time slots allocated for them to buy books. Parents and families will be able to visit during Open House until 7:30 as well.



Dress Code:

The weather is warming up and students are getting out their summer clothes. Please remember that only shoes with backs on them are allowed at school. Shorts and skirts need to be no shorter than the child's fingertips with their arms fully extended at their side. Tops need to cover the entire torso, and no cut off sleeves or thin "spaghetti" straps.



Lost & Found

Please stop by the school to look for your child's lost clothing items. Our racks are overflowing with sweaters, coats and lunch pails.

Possible Help for You and Our School:

As economic conditions change and more and more families find themselves looking for ways to save a few dollars, I would like to encourage you all to fill out a free and reduced price lunch application. Not only could this help you save money on your child's lunches, but it could also bring \$20,000 – \$30,000 in additional funding to our school. The federal government determines Title I funding for schools based on the percentage of families that qualify for free and reduced priced lunches. Schools with over 40% of their families qualifying receive these Title I funds. Our current percentage is 31%, so we have a ways to go, but if we can get there, it would help us be able to offer more services to the students of Sutter Creek Elementary.



LUNCH IOUs:

There will be no IOUs allowed for students starting Friday, May 21. Snacks will be provided for these students. Please make sure to plan ahead so that your child has enough money in their account to take them through the rest of the school year. Any money left in your child's account at the end of the year will be carried over to next year.

2010 - 2011

Kindergarten Class

You're not too late to register your child for next year's kindergarten class. You will need to call the primary campus at 257-7100 ASAP. This will help us with the number of students to expect. Packets are ready for you to pick up and then you can return them the next day with your child's birth certificate, immunization record, doctor's physical report and proof of residency.

Wolverine News

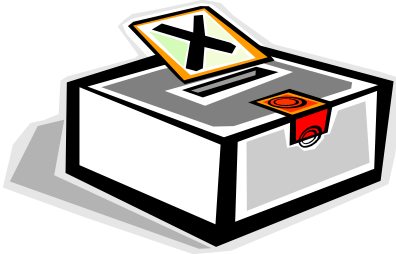
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SITE COUNCIL ELECTIONS:

Site Council is a group of parents and school staff that make decisions regarding the use of certain State and Federal funds. The council also gives direction to the school staff regarding the Single Plan for Student Achievement. We are looking for parents who may want to serve on next school year's site council. We will have four openings. If you are interested or know someone who may be interested, please submit his or her name to Mr. Snider in the school office. An election will be held in August.



nutrition and fitness. With child obesity on the increase, it is especially important that we relay the message to youngsters about how to keep their bodies healthy...starting now. In an effort to keep their bodies healthy, first graders have enjoyed a variety of physical fitness activities and have promised to never be "couch potatoes".

We would like to remind everyone that Open House is Tuesday, May 18. Please mark your calendars and come enjoy your child's classroom and the Book Fair on this special night.



UPPER CLASS OF THE MONTH:

Mrs. Tone's 5th Grade

Here we are in the last stretch of our 5th grade year and it feels like we've just begun. We have learned so much math this year that we could probably get into any college of our choice, right now.

Ask us about the periodic table, the human body systems, or how electricity works, and we've got those subjects covered too.

We have a pretty good understanding of how our government works, as far as democracy and the three branches of government go, and soon we'll be on the Oregon Trail to experience how our pioneer ancestors arrived out west.

STAR testing is this week and we feel like we're ready.

We had a terrific field trip to 3 of the UC Davis Science museums and have 2 more field trips coming up: one to Calaveras Big Trees, and one to Kennedy Mine. We also have some Civil War experts coming to our classroom in May.

The "Heroes" art project that we all participated in was fantastic. We hope you were able to view our work in the District art show.

Next week we complete our 5th grade physical fitness test. We've been preparing for it by running a mile at least 3 times a week for the past few weeks. We'll be measured, weighed, do push-ups, sit-ups, and a few other feats to see how fit we are. We have a pretty healthy class so Mrs. Tone is confident that we'll do fine.

Come and visit our classroom at Open House night and smell our delicious dirt that we made out of our compost!

We can't believe we'll technically be in 6th grade in a few weeks. We've come a long way and worked hard and are proud of it!

PRIMARY CLASS OF THE MONTH:

Mrs. Thomas' 1st Grade

The first graders in Room 3 seem to be learning something new each day!

As the school year progresses, so do the children's reading skills. They have spent eight months trying to master things like long vowels, short vowels, digraphs, prefixes, suffixes, and vowel combinations. Their reading skills have improved tremendously. Now they are each working hard to improve fluency and comprehension. Have a first grade friend or neighbor? Ask them to read to you. We think you'll be surprised! Math is especially challenging in first grade. Once the children develop the skills to do basic addition and subtraction, it's "off to the races" to learn a variety of other math concepts. Time and money have been especially fun! Place value can be challenging, but with a great deal of effort, ones, tens, and hundreds are making a lot more sense for everyone.

Mrs. Tone continues to do science lessons with all the first graders. The effort she has put forth in our garden lends itself to so many valuable science lessons.

Because of her, the children are more aware of what our environment has to offer us and how important it is to care for it properly. Three cheers for Mrs. Tone!

Lifetime fitness is the theme of our P.E. program this year. It is never too early to start teaching children about