



JACK L. WEAVER
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

LOS ALAMITOS UNIFIED PTA COUNCIL
4TH DISTRICT, CCPTS

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News and Information from the Weaver Elementary PTA

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MEET THE MASTERS

Have you had a chance to see your little artist's masterpieces yet? Thanks to Meet the Masters, a PTA-funded hands-on art appreciation program, parent volunteers are bringing the artistic styles and techniques of the some of the great art masters to your child's classroom. So far this year, Weaver students have painted like true impressionists in the style of Claude Monet and learned some of the abstract techniques of Paul Klee.

master artists from different backgrounds and artistic periods. In addition to Monet and Klee, Weaver students will also learn about Andy Warhol, Leonardo da Vinci, and Gustav Klimt later this year. Keep an eye out for these upcoming works of art from your children!

This wonderful program provides students with lessons in art appreciation and art history through informative and visually-rich assemblies about each of the highlighted artists. Parent volunteers are also trained in an art project reflecting the style of the artist featured in the assembly. Then, students get to put their knowledge to use and let their creativity shine as they experiment with the varying styles and mediums of each artist through volunteer-led classroom instruction. Meet the Masters provides an educational program for students and lets them embrace the inner artist inside themselves!



Each year, students are introduced to an eclectic array of



If you would like more information about the program or would like to join the volunteer team, please contact Lisa Massoumi at massoumi5@gmail.com or Sara McCarthy at itspossible@myarbonne.com.

Weaver Wear

Weaver Wear is a great way to show your school spirit each week for the flag ceremonies! All profits from Weaver Wear are used to fund the many programs supported by the Weaver PTA.

We sell royal blue, navy, and pink t-shirts in youth and adult sizes, as well as a light blue ladies v-neck shirt. Sweatshirts are available in navy pullover and royal blue or pink zipper styles. We even sell cozy flannel pajama pants! The pajama pants are perfect for the upcoming 5th grade science camp!

Youth t-shirts come in XS (2-4), S (4-6), M (8-10), L (12-14) and only shrink a small amount. Sweatshirts are available in Youth S-L. Adult t-shirts and sweatshirts, with the exception of the ladies v-neck, are all men size S-XXL.

Weaver Wear is sold once a month, before and after the flag ceremony, in the quad next to the media center. Upcoming dates include: January 13, February 10, and March 16. Order forms are also available in the office and on the PTA website. Orders can be placed in the "WEAVER WEAR" box in the office and will be delivered to your child's classroom.

If you have any questions, you can contact Rachel Sandoval at thesandovalfamily@sbcglobal.net or Natalie Gould-Chang at davenatalie.chang@yahoo.com.

READING INCENTIVE

The PTA encourages every child to read for knowledge, fun, and relaxation, and "Weaver's Rockin' Reading Program" is the theme for the Reading Incentive program. In order to be considered a "Reading Rock Star," students must read and record at least 400 minutes per month. The program runs from September 2011 through April 2012. All Reading Rock Star students for the month are eligible for a drawing. The Reading Incentive Team holds the drawings monthly during the flag ceremony, and each classroom has one name drawn. Winners receive a rockin' prize and the opportunity to select a new book. All students that achieve Reading Rock Star status every month will receive a grand prize at the end of the year.

Class incentives are also offered to classes that have 100% participation (i.e. every student turns in a completed calendar to the teacher by the deadline). Kindergarten through second grade classes receive a special visit from the Reading Incentive Team in which the Team reads an interesting book to the class. Third through fifth grade classes receive an extra 15 minutes of recess.

Calendars are available on the Weaver PTA website at http://weaverpta.org/Reading_Incentive.html. Students must return the calendar, completed with minutes totaled, on the specified due date, to his/her teacher to receive credit. Calendars left in the office, media center or elsewhere will not qualify, although exceptions may be made for students who are sick/absent on the date the calendars are due. Thank you for supporting the reading incentive program and for encouraging reading!

Box Tops

Last year American schools earned more than \$49 million from Box Tops, while Weaver earned \$1,248. This year the Weaver PTA has established a goal to earn \$2,100 from Box Tops, and you can help Weaver reach that goal!

We all shop for groceries, and now you can turn your shopping trip into easy cash for the school. Simply purchase products with Box Tops logo, clip the logo, and send it to the school's Box Top Coordinator. Each Box Top logo is worth ten cents for the school. The Box Tops site also offers coupons for Box Top products.

Would you rather shop online? Over 100 retailers award eBox Tops to the school when you shop online at the

Marketplace. For example, Barnes & Noble and Box Tops have teamed up to make it easy to earn cash for Weaver. You can earn up to six eBoxTops with every qualified \$10 purchase.

Bonus Box Tops are another easy way to make a big difference. Each month, you'll find special promotions and sweepstakes where you can enter for a chance to win thousands of Bonus Box Tops. This month you can earn five Box Tops, and a chance to win 250,000 Box Tops, by watching a two-minute Ford video.

Visit the Box Tops website at <http://www.boxtops4education.com/Default.aspx> to learn more about the offers mentioned above as well as other ways to earn cash for the school.

Legislation / Advocacy

Advocacy Roundtable

The Fourth District PTA Advocacy Team will be holding its next Advocacy Roundtable on Friday, December 9, 2011 from 10:30am to noon at the Capistrano Unified School District Education Center at 33122 Valle Road, San Juan Capistrano, California. Don Wagner, Assembly Member of the 70th District, and Rick Simpson, Deputy Chief of Staff to Assembly Speaker John Perez will be speaking at the roundtable. All PTA members are welcome to attend the roundtable.

Mid-Year Budget Cuts Are Still a Possibility

California is not collecting as much tax revenue as projected and this could trigger mid-year budget cuts.

Lawmakers and Governor Jerry Brown developed this year's budget on the assumption that state revenues would increase by \$4 billion. For the first three months of the fiscal year (July to September), the state took in \$705.5 million less than anticipated.

Officials at the Department of Finance say it remains possible that the \$4 billion increase will come later in the year. They also say that recent tax changes have made revenue projections less reliable. The budget agreement states that budget cuts will be triggered if the state Director of Finance determines on December 15 that revenues will not meet certain targets.

If the anticipated revenues are between \$87.5 billion and \$86.5 billion, there will be specific cuts, totaling \$600 million, to higher education, social services, prisons, and other agencies.

If tax income falls below \$86.5 billion, there will be an additional \$1.9 billion reduction that would cut \$1.5 billion from K-12 education. The budget agreement included legislation that allows school districts to reduce the school year by up to seven days to achieve the mid-year reduction. In addition, \$248 million in funding for home-to-school transportation would be eliminated.

Community colleges would lose \$72 million in addition to \$30 million lost in the first round of cuts.

Lawsuit is Filed Against State Budget Agreement

A coalition of California education groups has filed a lawsuit against the state, claiming that the current budget violates Prop. 98 and denies public schools \$2.1 billion that they should receive this year.

So far, K-12 schools are receiving about the same amount of funding as last year. However, the state is expecting an increase in tax revenues, and Prop. 98 requires 40 percent of that to go to education.

Instead, state legislators and Governor Jerry Brown agreed to divert \$5.1 billion in sales tax revenues to counties to pay for inmates who are being shifted from state prisons to county jails, among other costs. The legislature passed AB 114, which the Governor signed, requiring school districts to maintain current staffing and program levels for the 2011-12 school year, effectively blocking teacher layoffs. In the same bill, lawmakers agreed to seek new revenues on the 2012 ballot and to repay the \$2.1 billion over five years if the ballot measure fails.

The lawsuit was filed in San Francisco Superior Court by the California School Boards Association, the Association of California School Administrators, and the Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Turlock unified school districts.

In addition to objecting to the withheld funding, coalition members are concerned that the budget sets a bad precedent and that state leaders may use similar maneuvers in the future to pay schools below the Prop. 98 requirements.

Prop. 98 generally guarantees that K-12 public education will receive 40 percent of each year's state budget. In actuality, that has happened only twice since the measure was approved by voters in 1998. During a fiscal crisis, lawmakers may use other formulas (called tests) to determine the level of education funding, or may suspend Prop. 98. The money that should have gone to education in that year becomes a debt, known as the maintenance factor, which must be repaid at some point. The maintenance factor currently stands at about \$9.5 billion.



Celebrate with Books

You can celebrate ANYTHING with a new book! The PTA's Celebrate with Books team visits classrooms periodically throughout the year. The team places a dedication to your child in the book, "celebrates" with your child's classroom, and reads the book to the class. Simply visit the front desk in the Media Center to select an available book and complete a form. Books are \$15/each.

Your child has the opportunity to be the first to checkout the book from the media center. When it is returned, it will be available for all students. This is a great way to celebrate any occasion and build up Weaver's library of books! If you have questions, contact Celebrate with Books chairperson Catherine King at californiakings4@me.com.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Why should you join PTA?

According to California State PTA, research shows that when parents are involved in their students' education, those students generally have higher grades and test scores, better attendance, and more consistently completed homework.

Weaver PTA provides many opportunities for parents to get involved in their children's education. You can witness this wonderful education first-hand by helping out in your child's classroom or volunteering for programs like Meet the Masters, Reading Incentive, or Book Fair. Or you can be involved "behind the scenes" by simply donating classroom supplies or attending the many social events like the Weaver Carnival, Talent Show, and Ice Cream Social.

At it's most basic level however, when you join the Weaver PTA you help provide crucial support to students and teachers. Funds raised by WEAVER PTA enhance the educational experiences of our children by supporting the Media Center, providing assemblies and field trips, providing teacher development opportunities and much, much more! On the bigger picture, each membership strengthens our numbers from a legislative point, providing an opportunity to protect children's rights at the state and national levels.

If you have not done so yet, please show your thanks and support for the opportunities available to your child by joining the PTA. It costs just \$10.00.

Please join us. Make the choice to lend your voice.

Thank you for your time,
Jennifer Flaherty
j4flaherty@gmail.com

Calendar of upcoming events

- > 12/5-1/2: Off Track
- > 12/10: Deadline to order greeting cards
- > 1/3: Students return
- > 1/16: MLK, Jr. Holiday
- > 1/19: Meet the Masters – Warhol
- > 1/24: PTA meeting (7:00 pm)
- > 2/10: Weaver Wear for sale
- > 2/16: Meet the Masters – DaVinci
- > 2/17: Student Holiday (staff development)
- > 2/20: President's Day Holiday
- > 2/21: PTA meeting (7:00 pm)
- > 2/23: Open House (6:30 pm)

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED - CHRISTMAS TREE LOT

Each year the Weaver PTA partners with the Los Alamitos Youth Center to run their Christmas Tree Lot located at Ganahl Lumber on Los Alamitos Boulevard. In exchange for supplying volunteers, Weaver earns \$500. On December 17, the PTA needs to fill three shifts: 8:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., 12:45 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., and 4:45 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. The PTA needs four people per shift, with at least two strong dads in each shift. Please contact Nicole Nixon at nbnixon@ca.rr.com if you are able to help. If you can't volunteer but would like to buy a tree, please mention Weaver Elementary when you checkout and Weaver will receive \$5 per tree purchased.

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

Weaver Elementary School volunteers play a critical role in the success of Weaver's children and staff. Each year, the Weaver PTA honors dedicated volunteers for their service through the Honorary Service Award Program.

Please help the PTA identify and recognize the special people that have gone beyond the ordinary in their service to our students, teachers, and school community. Too often, these extraordinary people go unrecognized because we expect someone else to nominate them. Please be that someone else!

Take a few minutes to fill out a volunteer nomination form available from Trisha Morris at somethingobvious@hotmail.com.

Submit your nomination form to the Weaver Office by January 20, 2012. Thank you for your help.



Volunteer Corner

Thank you for assisting with the following:
Ambassadors, Big Red Bucket, Book Fair,
Halloween parade, Meet the Masters, Reading Garden,
Red Ribbon Week, Reflections, Weaver Wear, Whale Mail,
Yearbook.
Whale of a thanks to the hospitality crew who helped make our Veterans Day Reception and Staff Holiday Luncheon so wonderful!

Erin Kominsky
Principal
562-799-4580

Jennifer Flaherty
PTA President
714-229-8474



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