

# The CLOVERLEAF

Newsletter of Clover Avenue School

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Sharon Fabian, Principal ☞ Lisa Yamashita, Assistant Principal ☞

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**FEBRUARY 2007**

## Calendar of Events



## FEBRUARY

- 10 **NO SCHOOL/Veterans' Day**
- 15 PTA/Booster Mtg.  
2:45pm in Library
- 16 Campus Tours - 8:15am
- 17 Picture Make-up Day
- 23&24 **Thanksgiving Holidays**
- 11/27-12/1 Parent/Teacher Conference - Minimum Days-1:25pm
- 30 LEARN/Site Council Mtg Mtg. in Library

## THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Dear Clover Families,

It is hard to believe that 2006 has gone by so quickly and we are now in 2007!

As we move forward in this New Year, I want to take a moment to thank all of our parents, but especially our hard working volunteers, for the support and energy you bring to our school and our programs. As we gear up for all the activities rushing towards us as we get closer to end of yet another wonderful school year at Clover, the staff and I are reminded again and again of the important contribution all of you make to Clover. We truly appreciate everything that you do.

This new year offers a special opportunity for us all to pause and reflect upon the blessings that each of us has in our lives. It is a time to hold families and friends just a little closer – to give a few extra hugs and share a few more laughs.

Life gets so busy that sometimes it is easy to

forget to let people close to us know how much better our lives are because of them. It is a special opportunity for us all to pause and reflect upon the blessings that each of us has in our lives.

We look forward to working with you and your families during this exciting time of the year, preparing for the school-wide assessment tests, parent-teacher conferences, field trips and the fun-filled activities that are planned by the PTA/Booster Club.

All of us wish you a wonderful, happy New Year. May 2007 be a healthy, productive, and peaceful year for us all.

Warmly,  
Sharon Fabian, Principal



## **ASST PRINCIPAL'S CORNER**

Dear Clover Community,

This month I wanted to share some research I thought you would find very interesting.

The Search Institute has surveyed over two million youth across the United States and Canada since 1989. Researchers, one of whom is named Clay Roberts, have identified "40 Developmental Assets" as the building blocks of healthy development. Results show that the greater the numbers of Developmental Assets that are experienced by young people, the more positive and successful their development. The fewer the number of assets present, the greater the possibility youth will engage in risky behaviors such as drug use, unsafe sex, and violence. So, according to the Search-Institute these "developmental assets" help young people grow up to be healthy, caring and responsible individuals. Of course... we want all of our Clover boys and girls to grow up to be healthy, caring and responsible citizens.

Although I don't have room here to list all 40 Developmental Assets (you may find more information online at [www.search-institute.org](http://www.search-institute.org)), this is the perfect time of year to focus on building a number of the 40 assets. For instance, Developmental Asset #9 is "Service to others-young people serving in their community." For example, the holiday break would be the perfect time to help your child

volunteer at a food bank, convalescent home or other community outreach program. Volunteering would also be building asset #27 "Equality and social justice-Young people placing high value on promoting equality and reducing hunger and poverty."

Another asset building activity would be goal setting for this New Year. You could have your child write out 1 or 2 new goals to focus on this year to build asset #40 "Positive view of personal future-Young people are optimistic about their personal future."

I know the beginning of the year is a hectic time for everyone. But I believe there's always time to teach our children to be compassionate because it will help them to make better choices in the future.

Best wishes for you and yours.

Fondly,  
Lisa Yamashita  
Assistant Principal

## **PTA/BOOSTER LEADERS...**

### **PTA**

Hello Clover Family,

I want to start by giving a big thank you to all of the parents, students and staff that came out for our first School Beautification Day of the year. A lot of work got done in preparation for our new and improved Learning Garden. A second thank you goes out to all of the parents and staff who became members of the Clover Ave. PTA. If

you have not sent in your \$8 dues yet, you still can, our membership drive is an ongoing project.

I have a few announcements for things upcoming. If you haven't already, you should be receiving a zip-lock bag with a letter regarding the school "Earthquake Pack". I ask that you complete your child's pack as soon as possible and return it to your child's teacher. I am proud to announce that the "Valet Drop-Off Program" is scheduled to return on Monday November 13th. I encourage you to use the drop-off in the morning as a safe way to leave your child at school. The program's success relies on the participation of all Clover's parents, so I ask that you give us one morning when your class is scheduled. Lastly, on Thursday November 16th we will be having an evening PTA/Booster meeting followed by a presentation on Financial Planning for College. The meeting will start at 6:30 in the auditorium and we will be providing child-care.

Talk to you next month,  
Steve Marquez, PTA President

## **BOOSTER CLUB**

Dear Clover Parents,

I have good news, Clover Community! We have begun what could be a record-breaking year of fundraising for Clover. This means that we may be able to do something wonderful for our students, like provide state-of-the-art computers for the computer lab! Our children need to have access to the latest computers and computer programs that will help them gain the skills they need to succeed in our technological world. With your continued support, the Booster Club can provide this. There are many ways that you can help us reach our goal.

Please let me know if you work for a company that would match donations and help us raise funds for technology. Perhaps you have connections that would help us get a great "deal" on new computers and monitors. One Clover parent, Peter Diamond, is already working with us to find the right vendor for new computers. If you would like to join

us in this search, I would welcome the help.

Continue to be generous and support every fundraiser, large and small. You will receive flyers for our Island's Restaurant fundraiser and the Schools Rule fundraiser at our local malls. Our pledge drive raises the most money for us, and it's the easiest. You just write a check, of ANY amount, to the Clover Booster Club and send it to school with your child. It's never too late to do this. This simple act can make a huge difference for our Clover students.

Come to our evening PTA/Booster Club meeting on Thursday November 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 P.M. We will discuss important financial information that night. You will gather information from a financial expert about how to plan your personal finances. After this discussion, I will present the financial "state of the Booster Club" and ask for your input and ideas. Your thoughts and opinions matter so much, and they help us tremendously. This is also a chance to ask questions you may have about the school, the PTA, and the Booster Club. You won't want to miss this meeting!

I hope to meet each and every one of you. Please contact me ANYTIME with your thoughts and questions.

Sincerely,  
Kristen Baldrige, Booster Club President  
[kebaldrige@ca.rr.com](mailto:kebaldrige@ca.rr.com)  
310.475.7153

## **HELPFUL TIPS FROM THE CLOVER STAFF**

As springtime approaches your child will probably be going on a few field trips with his/her class. It is always one of the most memorable things about the school year. There is some preparation you can do at home to make the most of your child's fieldtrip experiences.

1. Always take the time to fill out the fieldtrip slip

completely- The information on the slip is critical for legal and safety reasons and if you don't fill it out then the teacher or office must complete it for you.

2. Make sure your child gets lots of rest the night before the fieldtrip- Your child will have a better time and learn more if they are well rested.
3. Make sure your child is dressed appropriately for the weather and event- Most fieldtrips require extra walking so comfortable shoes are always a must. Also check the weather forecast or ask the teacher if your child needs a jacket, sunscreen or a hat.
4. Follow the teacher's directions about what special items your child should or should not take on the fieldtrip- In some cases the teachers specifically do not want your child to bring cash. If you have questions always ask the teacher. Sometimes cameras for the children are appropriate. So again ask the teacher for more information.

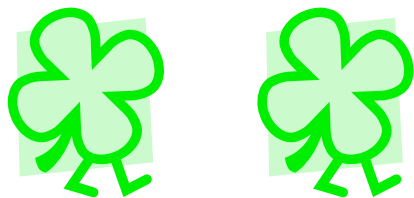
5. Preview and review curriculum content for the fieldtrip-Prior to

the fieldtrip discuss with your child what things to expect or see. Ask your child how this fieldtrip experience fits in with what they are learning in class. If you have previously been to the location, you may talk about or look at pictures from your last trip there. After the fieldtrip discuss what new things were learned or make a visual reminder from the trip with a journal entry or scrapbook- like page.

6. Preview your expectations for your child's behavior on the fieldtrip-Remind your child to follow the directions of the adults. Also remind them to stay close to the group and refrain from speaking with adults they don't recognize. If your child is younger or has anxiety, reassure him/her that she/he will have a wonderful time, go over the events of the trip, and let him/her know exactly when you will see them again.

Fieldtrips and special events are a great thing about school. Your attention given to some of the items listed above will ensure your child is safe, has a great time and learns a great deal.

*Clover staff members*



**SCHOOLS RULE...  
HELP OUR SCHOOL  
WIN BIG**

Don't forget that for every dollar you spend it turns into cash for Clover. Please be sure to turn in all your receipts to the mall's information booth as you shop this holiday season. The dollar amounts are recorded and points are given for every receipt recorded from that mall.

You can turn in your receipts either at the mall or in the school office. We get points for shopping at the Westside Pavilion and Santa Monica Place.

Also, if you go to Kids Club at the Westside Pavilion on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of every month and sign in with your family's last name and the school you belong to and Clover will also get points for that.

Contact Ronnie Galvan [ronniegalvan@yahoo.com](mailto:ronniegalvan@yahoo.com) or call 310-470-1531.

**5<sup>th</sup> GRADE YARD  
SALE, JOB WELL  
DONE...**

Thank you Levy family and all those who contributed to the fundraising efforts of the 5<sup>th</sup> grade in support of their anticipated Astrocamp overnight trip this May. As usual, the Clover community came together and not only donated really nice items to the "yard sale" but the turn out was

also a grand sight to see. Thank you for helping us raise funds needed to cover some of the travel expenses and Culmination costs in June.

5th Grade Committee

**BOX TOPS FOR  
EDUCATION**

Much appreciation to our Clover families for saving Box Tops and helping Clover earn an easy \$306.70 this semester! This is such an easy and no cost way to bring in some extra money to our Donation Fund. Keep those Box Tops coming in!