

# The CLOVERLEAF



Newsletter of Clover Avenue School

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MARCH 2007

## Calendar of Events



## MARCH

- 7 PTA Booster Meeting  
8:15am Staff Lounge
- 6-7 4<sup>th</sup> Grade CST Writing  
Assessments
- 8 ELAC Meeting 8:20am  
Staff Lounge
- 8 PTA/SAS Mtg 6:30pm -  
*Meet the Middle Schools*
- 13 Election Day – Bake  
Sale
- 15 Campus Tours – 8:15am
- 21 PTA/Booster Meeting –  
2:45pm Library
- 23 Awards Assembly
- 26-30 Parent-Teacher Conf /  
Minimum Days - 1:25pm
- 29 LEARN/School Site  
Meeting 2:45pm Library
- 30 Report Cards Go Home



## THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Dear Clover Families,

I have just held quite a few parent conferences regarding the issue of time management for children. Parents of fifth graders with all the middle school worries seem to be the most affected right now, but it is only a matter of time until you are all the parents of fifth graders! I thought I might devote this column to the discussion of this recurrent problem for our children. . . . and often for ourselves, too. I know that as I look at everything I have to do between now and the end of the school year, I am wondering just how good my time management skills really are.

Time management experts tell us that children aren't just born with good time management skills; they learn how to fit it all in by watching their parents. The big question seems to be what can parents (and teachers) do to help children figure out how to make the best choices, set priorities, get done what needs to get done, and still have time to be a child? Fundamentally, this whole notion of time management is a learned skill. Children learn what they see. According to experts, even toddlers can learn how to manage their time. "Can you finish getting those blocks into the box by the time your favorite song is over?" As children get older, they can begin to understand time constraints.

They can't be at two birthday parties at once. "Do you want to leave one party early to go to the other party or just pick one?"

Starting as early as first or second grade, every child should have a calendar. The calendar should be big enough so that the parent or the child can write in all the things that need to get done. Professional organizers believe that everything should have its place and everyone should have their own space for clothes, backpacks, keys, etc. I believe that too – it is the "how" of it that seems to create confusion. The key seems to be lots and lots of baskets, boxes, or containers that house specific objects only.

Patience is of particular importance while building time management skills in children. This isn't going to happen right away. A parent needs to help, in an easy way, to keep the child on track. This can take the form of asking a question rather than making a demand. If the desired outcome is achieved for a period of time, celebrate the achievement with a reward. I hope the reward is the gift of your time – play an extra board game, go for a hike, go to the park. This gift of time speaks directly to other significant issues that deal with leisure time. Our children need the opportunity to play and relax and be spontaneous. Certain things should be organized and managed while other things should not be . . . like daydreaming. I must remember these things as I race through the next several weeks!

Warmly,

Sharon Fabian, Principal

**ASST PRINCIPAL'S CORNER**

Dear Clover Community,

Great News! I would like to take this opportunity to introduce our newest staff member. Danielle Baltazar is the Speech and Language Therapist assigned to Clover Elementary for the remainder of this school year. She is a fabulous and highly qualified addition to our Special Education Team.

Danielle has both a Master's degree and holds a language and speech license. She has over 10 years experience working in the school district; currently we share her with Mar Vista Elementary. She was born and raised in nearby Westchester and attended Los Angeles Unified Schools throughout her youth. If you have occasion to welcome Danielle to Clover you may want to ask about her young son Quinn. In her free time, Danielle is an amateur photographer, likes to go camping and frequents the movies.

Please greet and welcome Danielle to our great school!

Fondly,  
Lisa Yamashita  
Assistant Principal



**PTA/BOOSTER LEADERS...**

Hello Clover Family,

As we head into the second half of the school year, I want to encourage everyone to become more involved in your child's education here at Clover Ave. There are many opportunities to get involved, such as in the classroom, with the PTA and Booster club, attending field trips or with school programs and events. There is something for everyone. We don't expect you to be at school every week, but if you can give a day or even an hour a month, it all helps. Active parent participation is one of the reasons Clover Ave. is one of the finest schools around. The hardest part is getting started, the rest is easy.

Speaking of helping out here at Clover Ave., I want everyone to save Saturday, March 17<sup>th</sup> on their calendar for our next "School Beautification Day". We will be doing some major work on our Learning Garden, adding benches to the quad area and cleaning up the handball backboards. There is a lot of work to be done, so we need everyone to help. We will be getting started around 8:00 a.m. and working for a majority of the day. Whatever time you can spare will be greatly appreciated. Let's keep Clover looking great!

Also mark Thursday March 8<sup>th</sup> on your calendar for our next evening PTA

meeting. We will be presenting "Meet the Middle Schools". This is an opportunity for our parents to find out about the local middle schools and ask some questions. Scheduled to come talk are Webster, Emerson, Palms, New Roads, Revere and Westside Leadership. It is never too early to start thinking about middle school. The meeting will start at 6:30 p.m., refreshments and child-care will be provided.

If you haven't received it already, you will be receiving an order form for the "Westside Saver Card". This is a card that can be purchased to provide discounts at many Westside businesses, such as Robek's, The Coffee Bean, Hamburger Hamlet, Subway, Baskin Robbins, and many more. The card will pay for itself within the first few purchases. You can purchase the card for \$10 by returning the order form with the amount of cards you would like to purchase. Buy one for your family members, friends or neighbors; everyone will appreciate a "Westside Saver Card". The proceeds support the Clover Ave. PTA and its programs.

If you have any questions, concerns, comments or ideas feel free to contact me at [cloverpta@yahoo.com](mailto:cloverpta@yahoo.com) or (310) 210-1422.

Talk to you soon,  
Steve Marquez, PTA  
President

## **MEET THE MIDDLE SCHOOLS!**

Save the date! March 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in the Clover Auditorium, our evening PTA meeting will focus on the local Middle Schools and information needed to better equip our children as they prepare for the next part of their academic lives.

Some of the schools scheduled to share in this very informative discussion will be Webster Middle, Palms Middle, New West Charter, Westside Leadership, Emerson Middle and Paul Revere Middle Schools.

It is never too early to begin learning what is necessary to help your child(ren) be successful in Middle School. This meeting will save you hours of research and legwork as you will receive timely information from the various representatives first hand as they review school policies, code of conduct, homework policies, school functions, activities, etc.

**DON'T MISS THIS IMPORTANT PTA MEETING!**

## **PARENT WORKSHOP AT CLOVER!**

Please join us March 7<sup>th</sup> at 12 p.m. for a fun-filled "Free Toxin Awareness" workshop. Space is limited! For more information on this event, please contact Keren Berman at [kerenberman@yahoo.com](mailto:kerenberman@yahoo.com)

## **PARENT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR CLOVER'S GARDEN COMMITTEE**

We are in need of a few parents to get involved with the Clover Ave. Garden/Beautification Committee. This committee will be responsible for keeping the Clover gardens looking beautiful all year long. The committee will plan and organize the annual Clover "School Beautification Days" and implement new and exciting beautification projects for the school.

It is a great opportunity to meet other Clover families, work outdoors, and volunteer some of your time to Clover.

For more information, please contact PTA President, Steve Marquez at (310) 210-1422 or [cloverpta@yahoo.com](mailto:cloverpta@yahoo.com)

## **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, Clover will also get points for that.

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

## **BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION**

Much appreciation to our Clover families for saving Box Tops and helping Clover earn easy money! 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!

Janet Brown, Coordinator

## **CLOVER OPENS IT DOORS!**

Clover will be opening its doors to a few lucky non-residents next school year!

Tell a friend about this exciting news! If you know of any families that are looking for an outstanding public elementary school for their children, please invite them to attend Clover's New Student Round-Up meeting on April 18<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m. in the auditorium.

We look forward to seeing everyone there.

The Clover Staff