

The CLOVERLEAF

Newsletter of Clover Avenue School

11020 Clover Avenue ☞ Los Angeles, CA 90034 ☞ (310) 479-7739 ☞

Sharon Fabian, Principal ☞ Lisa Yamashita, Assistant Principal ☞

Kristen Baldrige, Booster President ☞ Steve Marquez, PTA President ☞

Tonya Hollis-Theus, Editor ☞

NOVEMBER 2006

Calendar of Events



NOVEMBER

- 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's hard to believe, but parent-teacher conferences are right around the corner. During the week of Nov. 27th, you will have the opportunity to meet with your child's teacher. This is one of the best ways for you and the teacher to establish and reinforce a partnership, so the two of you can work together for your child's success. Your knowledge of your child and your point of view are important to the teacher. And the teacher's professional viewpoint and advice are important to you. The conference is the time for this important exchange of information to take place. Here are some tips from the California State PTA Handbook on Effective Parent -Teacher Conferences.

Before the Conference

Be sure in your own mind about the purpose of the conference. Whether the conference is one in a regularly scheduled series of meetings to discuss your child's academic progress or report card or has been requested to discuss a problem or concern. Remember that you and the teacher meet as adults mutually concerned about your child's achievement and well-being.

Talk With Your Child Before You Go

Ask what they like about school, what they dislike or would like changed. What are their feelings about the teacher, the class environment, themselves?

Write Down Things That Would Be Helpful For The Teacher To Know such as:

- Any unusual stress at home.
- Your child's relationship with brothers, sisters, and others at home.
- Organized activities in which your child participates.
- Your perception of your child as a learner and as a person.
- Previous school experiences, if you think it would be helpful.

Write Down Questions You Have For The Teacher

- How much homework will my child have? How should I help?
- How are grades decided?
- What is the classroom discipline policy?
- What kinds of tests are given? What do they mean?

Write Down Questions You Have About Your Child

- How is my child doing in reading, math, and other subjects compared to her potential; compared to the norm at her grade level?

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- How is my child doing socially? Does he get along with others?
- What does she like to do? What does she not like to do?
- Does he seem happy in school? Are there any problems?

During the Conference

If you do not understand something, immediately ask to have it explained.

Ask the teacher what specific activities you can do at home that would help our child's progress

Sometimes an "action plan" can be worked out to tell you what to do to help your child at home and what the teacher will do at school. Make sure it is clear who is to do what and when; what has been agreed on for the teacher to do, the parent to do, and the student to do; and how you will stay in contact.

Take notes during the conference so you can remember what was said

Assure the teacher of your continued support

State your appreciation for the opportunity to discuss your child's education.

After the Conference:

Share what occurred at the conference with your child by

- Stressing positive points brought out by the teacher
- Giving praise for achievement.
- Discussing the action plan on which you and the teacher agreed.

Follow through with the action plan, keeping in touch with the teacher.

Armed with all this information, I know that you will continue to forge strong parent-teacher partnerships. Happy conferencing!

Warmly,
Sharon Fabian, Principal

ASST PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Dear Clover Community,

What a wonderful month we've had at Clover. October was filled with many great events including Red Ribbon week assemblies about making healthy choices and the fantastic Halloween Hurrah!

I know homework has been an area of concern at many of the parent meetings I have attended. So I wanted to share some information with you that I have copied from the U. S. Department of Education website at www.ed.gov.

Here at Clover, we hope homework is a chance for your child to review/practice concepts they are learning as well as serve as a window for you into the classroom curriculum. Most research suggests that homework is most effective when 1) it is limited to an appropriate amount of time for the age of the student, 2) the expectation for the quality of work are clearly outlined, 3) there is a routine time and place that homework takes place.

GENERAL HOMEWORK TIPS FOR PARENTS

- **Make sure your child has a quiet, well-lit place to do homework.** Avoid having your child do homework with the television on or in places with other distractions, such as people coming and going.
 - **Make sure the materials your child needs, such as paper, pencils and a dictionary, are available.** Ask your child if special materials will be needed for some projects and get them in advance.
 - **Help your child with time management.** Establish a set time each day for doing homework. Don't let your child leave homework until just before bedtime. Think about using a weekend morning or afternoon for working on big projects, especially if the project involves getting together with classmates.
- **Be positive about homework.** Tell your child how important school is. The attitude you express about homework will be the attitude your child acquires.
 - **When your child does homework, you do homework.** Show your child that the skills they are learning are related to things you do as an adult. If your child is reading, you read too. If your child is doing math, balance your checkbook.
 - **When your child asks for help, provide guidance, not answers.** Giving answers means your child will not learn the material. Too much help teaches your child that when the going gets rough, someone will do the work for him or her.
 - **When the teacher asks that you play a role in homework, do it.** Cooperate with the teacher. It shows your child that the school and home are a team. Follow the directions given by the teacher.
 - **Help your child figure out what is hard homework and what is easy homework.** Have your child do the hard work first. This will mean he will be most alert when facing the biggest challenges. Easy material will seem to go fast when fatigue begins to set in.
 - **Watch your child for signs of failure and frustration.** Let your child take a short break if she is having trouble keeping her mind on an assignment.
 - **Reward progress in homework.** If your child has been successful in homework completion and is working hard, celebrate that success with a special event (e.g., pizza, a walk, a trip to the

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park) to reinforce the positive effort.

I hope your family can incorporate some of these suggestions into your homework routines and that in turn will help your child be even more successful at school!

Fondly,
Lisa Yamashita
Assistant Principal

**SUBMISSIONS FOR
THE NOVEMBER
CLOVERLEAF ARE DUE
NOVEMBER 27, 2006
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 16th 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
310.475.7153

**HALLOWEEN
HURRAH 2006**

Hurrah! What a success. This year's Halloween Festival was one for the record books. What a huge turn out from our community. Thank you to all of our Clover parents, volunteers, staff and teachers who worked together to make it a magical evening for all. A special thank you to our Halloween Committee members for your dedication to this event!

Special thanks to Robyn Horton, Kristen Baldrige, Jaimie and Keith Reiley, Diana Gazzo and family, Ronnie Galvan, Mary Albright-Smith, Holly Cantos, Jami and Todd Kaltman, Aida Preciado, Isela Sanchez, Haruko Takeshita, Carline Jorgensen, Kim Amer, Sally Lynn James, Steve Marquez, Kurt Weir, Xantipa Reed, Rachelle Galasko, Ammie England, Tonya Theus and many more.

We would also like to thank all those parents who helped with set up, clean up and for those of you who dedicated your valuable time working the many new game booths. A special thank you goes out to those of you who worked long shifts or covered for those who were not able to work their shifts. The games can not run without volunteers like you. All of our children thank you for making that commitment.

Thank you to Robyn Horton for having the vision and creative talent to design all the new games this year. The children loved them!

The Staff Auction was another big success and it was wonderful to see so many families support their teachers in such a special way. Both magic shows were sold out and enjoyed by many. The fifth grade fair style food was a hit and we thank you for supporting the Class of 2007.

Congratulations to all our raffle winners. Thank you to all of you who donated prizes, gift baskets, bags of candy and pumpkins. With a special thank you to Ron Deutsch for donating an entire case of pumpkins for our pumpkin patch.

Sharon Fabian and Lisa Yamashita were the coolest! Thank you to all our teachers who worked the booths and ticket sales. We loved your costumes and are forever grateful for your assistance.

Last but not least we would like to mention some of our community partners who donated items including Vons, Albertsons, Trader Joes, Michael Haddad, Barbara Wynn, Ron Deutsch, Terrence Junn (State Farm) and more.

Clover is such a special school because of the wonderful group of parents, students, teachers, volunteers and businesses who participate so willingly to make all of our events a success. Thank to you all!

Jennifer Thompson,
Halloween Chair

Halloween Committee

**PTA/BOOSTER MTG
FEATURES TIPS FOR
SAVING FOR
COLLEGE -
NOVEMBER 16th**

Save the date for a special evening PTA/Booster meeting at 6:30pm on November 16. Guest speaker, Ameriprise Financial Advisor and Clover parent, Lars Jorgensen, will provide practical tips, tools and advice on the important topic of Saving for College. Learn how to juggle this goal with other financial goals and easy ways to start saving early.



**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.

**Island's Night on Tuesday,
November 21st**

Join us for night of fun at Island's Restaurant on Pico Blvd. We earn 20% of the total sales that night. Jami Kaltman (the Scrip Lady) will be selling Island's scrip as a double bonus for Clover which you can use that evening. See you there!

**Clover supports Santa Monica
Holiday Toy Drive**

As a part of the Schools Rule Holiday Gift Program, Clover is participating in the 2006 Toy Drive. For every new toy that we donate, Clover will receive 1000 points for Schools Rule. We have the opportunity to earn a lot of points. Students can bring their toy(s) and place them on the cart in the office. The Toy Drive will end Wednesday, November 22nd. The toys will be taken to Santa Monica and distributed to needy families. **PLEASE no stuff animals!**

**Friends and Family Discount
cards**

Ronnie Galvan is selling Friends and Family discount cards used exclusively for the Westside Pavilion for only \$10.00 each. Some of the participating stores offer very special discounts to cardholders (see guest services for details) so purchase your card today. Also Clover will earn triple points for every receipt that is logged the weekend of December 2nd only at guest services on the second floor.

Contact Ronnie Galvan
ronniegalvan@yahoo.com or call
310-470-1531.

**COMMUNITY
SERVICE IN
ACTION, JOB WELL
DONE...**

Congratulations to Room 29 who raised over \$200 at a Red Ribbon Sale, which will be donated to a local drug/alcohol rehabilitation foundation.

The students conceived the idea, made the crafts, got food donations, and sold it all with only a little help from their teacher, Ms. Nancy Vinicor. Clover is very proud to have such class and a community that supports their efforts!