

Linscott News

www.LinscottCharterSchool.org

November 2007

Upcoming Events...

November:

5th -9th – Scholastic Book Fair in Library
 5th – 8th: Parent/Teacher Conferences
 HALF DAYS – School out @ noon
 6th: SMT Meeting @ 5:30
 12th: Veteran's Day
 NO SCHOOL
 13th – K-2nd & RBR Parent Night Meetings 6:30
 Discovery Room @ 6 pm
 19th & 20th – NO DISTRICT LUNCHES
 20th – 3rd-5th Parent Meetings @ 6:30
 21st-23rd: Thanksgiving Break NO SCHOOL
 27th – Middle School 6th-8th Meetings @ 6:30

Parent Conferences: November 5-9 parent conferences will be held. We will have a noon release time all week so that teachers can meet with parents and discuss their student's progress. Make sure that you sign up **now** for your appointment. Here are a few tips to help you prepare for the meeting.

- Prepare ahead of time for the conference.
- Look over recent assignments and test grades so that you know how your child has been performing in class. Look through books and see what your child is learning.
- Ask your child questions, such as what is their favorite subject, what are they having a difficult time with, what subject do they find easiest, and who are their friends at school.
- Write down questions you have for the teacher so you will remember what you wanted to ask.
- List your child's strengths.

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Recently the San Francisco Chronicle ran an article about children detaching from the natural world. The according to their findings 30% of parents surveyed said their child participated in no outdoor activities such as camping, hiking, etc. during the summer and 11% did not even ride a bike or swim! The idea of participating in these activities is becoming alien to young people according to many polls used for this article. The young people today are not only avoiding wilderness areas, which they deem boring, but fewer are also engaging in activities such as digging holes, building tree houses or catching frogs.

The result of the decreased outdoor time is what the article called "a nature gap" and it is found all over the country. The reasons given for the gap range from increased urbanization and technology to too much homework. Environmentalists are concerned that this will lead to apathy toward the natural world.

I was particularly interested in this article because of emphasis we place on the outdoors and the environment here at Linscott. Our students participate in gardening throughout the year giving them ample opportunity to dig in the dirt and watch the results of caring for the plants. Every classroom takes part in multiple outdoor field trips from apple orchards to the Catalina Island Marine Institute. Watsonville is considered an urban area and we certainly embrace technology. Our students own ipods, cell phones and play video games but by the time they leave Linscott they have also harvested vegetables, picked apples, visited a slough (and probably replanted native plants), skied in the Sierras, hiked to Vernal Falls at Yosemite, and snorkeled with bat rays in the Pacific Ocean!

According to the article in the Chronicle as the vast majority of our country moves to cities and suburbs, the children of our country are succumbing to a "nature deficit disorder". While I find that troubling, I'm very happy and relieved to know that this is one disorder our Linscott students will never experience.

♥Robin

DEADLINES:

December Newsletter Submissions:
 Due November 26th
Independent Study Packets
 DUE to the office by
 November 5th @ 9 am

Class representatives:
What is a class representative? Does your classroom have a parent representative to the Site Management Team? Do you need one? If you don't know, ask your classroom teacher.

Environmental Challenge of the Month:

This will be a new feature in our newsletter. Each month I will issue a new challenge to students, families and classrooms. We will collect data and report back.



For the month of November I challenge each classroom to reduce its daily amount of trash by 25%. As a class decide how you will meet this challenge. In December I'll announce which classrooms met the challenge.

--Robin



Staff Lounge from 8:45-10:00 a.

Come and join me for coffee, tea and conversation. I am very interested in discussing your thoughts and ideas – or just chat!
 I hope to see you there.

–Robin

The world is but a canvas to the imagination.

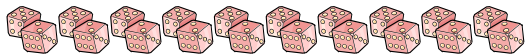
--Henry David Thoreau

FUNDRAISING!!!



www.LinscottCharterSchool.org

**All proceeds benefit
our school!**



Get lucky this Valentine's Day

Join us at

"Heart's of Fire"

Casino Night and Silent Auction

A benefit for Linscott Charter School

Saturday, February 9, 2008

SAFeway eScrip:

With the closing of Albertson's we are losing a lot of scrip funds. Those of you who shop at Safeway can help bring in scrip by registering with the eScrip program. It is so easy and will make money for our school. If you are registered, but haven't used it for a while you will need to reactivate your account. This program also allows you to register Visa or Mastercards as well as other retail stores. See the enclosed flier or go to www.escrip.com.

WE NEED HELP!

If you are able to help us put together our
2007-08 LINSKOTT YEARBOOK
Let us know!

Show your Linscott Spirit!

Purchase your Linscott t-shirt or sweatshirt TODAY!

T-Shirt: \$11.00 per shirt (all sizes)

Hooded Sweatshirt: \$20.00 each (child), \$25 (adult)

Crewneck Sweatshirt: \$17.00 each (child), \$20 (adult)

AFTER SCHOOL OPTIONS:

DROP~IN ART CLASSES

Mondays & Wednesdays - \$10 per session OR 6 for \$50

MUSIC LESSONS!

Huzur Coughlin is offering lessons in wind instruments and beginning drums/percussion here at Linscott on Fridays after school. For more info, call him at 427 0416.

**Save your box tops and turn them in to
Lorraine Stern – Staff Box in the Lounge!**

Please put them in a zip lock baggie ☺

Attention Fundraisers!

**MAKE SURE TO EMAIL ALL YOUR INFO TO
webmaster@linscottcharterschool.org, IN
ORDER TO FEATURE YOUR FUNDRAISER
ON THE WEBSITE**

School Lunch Fundraisers throughout the week!

****Mondays: Mexican Food ~ Lion's Lair 7th & 8th**

Tuesdays: Spaghetti (Preschool)

****Wednesdays: Salad Bar ~ 4th & 5th**

****Thursdays: Tostadas ~ 6th**

****Fridays: TBA**

→ **Linscott for Kids Lunch Cards: \$25/10 lunches****

Please make checks payable to Linscott for Kids or LFK

→ **PVUSD Lunch Cards \$50/20 lunches** (see menu in parent boxes at the beginning of each month...these lunches are provided by the district and come from Watsonville High)

Please make checks payable to PVUSD

→ **Preschool Spaghetti lunch cards \$25/10 lunches**

Please make checks payable to: WCP

All lunches are \$2.50

CLASSROOM REPORTS...

Phoenix Hall

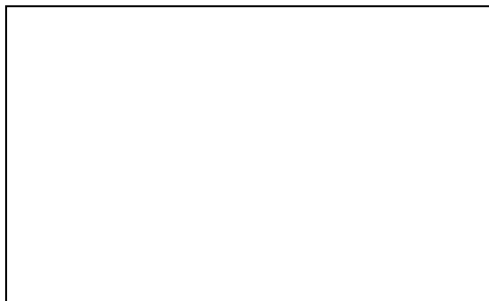
We've been busy exploring and learning about our community, the Ohlone and native plants. We have gone to the New Brighton History Center, Pinto Lake County Park with Ohlone elder Patrick Orozco and The Natural History Museum along with a beach clean-up At Seabright. Whew! Jakob discovered that Telly will eat big, fat, juicy slugs. Yum!

NO DISTRICT LUNCHES THE WEEK OF THANKSGIVING NOV. 19 & 20

Fridays are SPIRIT days!!!

Every Friday, show your spirit by wearing purple and gold or your Linscott t-shirt/sweatshirt!

OCTOBER 'FUN FRIDAY' SUPER SPIRIT GOES TO Phoenix Hall AND Heart Room WITH 18 STUDENTS WITH CRAZY HAIR!



Honorable Mentions: Discovery Room & Rainbow Room with 16 in each class!

LINSKOTT COMMUNITY CURRICULUM

This semester we will concentrate on

RESPECT

I am respectful when I treat others as I would like to be treated

SPECIAL THANKS

Fire Captain Fernando Tapiz certified Linscott staff members last month in both CPR and First Aid. Also, a huge thanks goes out to Linscott parent, Cheryl Selden, who set up our training and assisted in the classes.



Check out our Linscott Website!!!
www.LinscottCharterSchool.org



SMT CONNECTION

As another month zips by, I wanted to take a moment to talk about the Town Hall Meeting we had and send out my appreciation, on behalf of the SMT to all those folks who attended and got involved in the discussion about renewal of our charter. That said, I was struck and a little disappointed it must be said, by the fact that only about 30% of our total parent body was represented. I know that everyone has busy lives but it concerns me with such a low turnout people may not be feeling as involved or even understand how they are part of the fabric of the school. I also understand that we live in a country at large where we can feel lost and that our vote won't make a difference.....that should not be the case at Linscott. The beauty of our model is that you can have your say and although immediate change may not result every time, your opinions are valued and will be heard.

On the SMT we are dedicated to continuously looking for opportunities to improve, not just the policies and operations of our school but how we do business as a board. As a result, I want to encourage folks to send me an email at jmcguire@cruzio.com and let me know how you are feeling about the way the school is structured. I also want to encourage everyone to take a look at the parent survey results we did at the end of last year and see what others are saying about our programs.

I want to leave you with our mission statement which sums up so eloquently who we are. Remember we are not just another public school - you are our school and you have a say in it's direction.

Linscott Charter School is a parent participation school, collaboratively governed by parents and staff. Dedicated teachers and supportive families provide individualized, active, hands-on learning that fosters each child's academic success, encouraging excellence. Students become self-motivated, critical thinkers, demonstrating creativity and confidence. Our focus on community, in and out of the classroom, allows students to gain social and environmental awareness.

Johnny McGuire, SMT Chair



At Linscott Charter School we expect students to use their hearts and minds well. We work together in supporting the development of the following habits of mind:

- Persisting
- Thinking and communicating with clarity and precision
- Managing impulsivity
- Gathering data through all senses
- Listening with understanding and empathy
- Creating, imagining, innovating
- Thinking flexibly
- Responding with wonderment and awe
- Thinking about thinking (met cognition)
- Taking responsible risks
- Striving for accuracy
- Finding humor
- Questioning and posing problems
- Thinking interdependently
- Applying past knowledge to new situations
- Remaining open to continuous learning



Town Hall:

Make sure and take a look at the entry bulletin board. These are the notes from the Linscott town hall meeting. We will be adding some blank sheets soon so that you can give us your thoughts about our future needs and priorities. Make sure and let us know what you think. We will be discussing these issues at our SMT meetings for the next few months as we prepare to submit our charter renewal. Also, for those who have not seen the results of last year's parent survey, it has been posted on the SMT bulletin board since the school year began. This survey is also part of our charter renewal process and was reviewed by the SMT at their July meeting.



Health News: *MRSA in California*

What is MRSA? Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus is a type of staph that is NOT killed by penicillin and similar antibiotics. About 1 out of every 100 people carries MRSA without making them sick. In California over half of all the staph infections are caused by MRSA.

What do STAPH and MRSA Infections look like? Common skin conditions caused by staph and MRSA may look like the following: u Sores that look and feel like spider bites (but are not), u Red painful bumps under the skin, called boils or abscesses u A cut that is swollen, hot and filled with pus u Blisters filled with fluid or red skin with a honey-colored crust (usually on the face) u Red, warm, firm skin area that is painful and getting larger. **What do I do if my child might have this?** Take them to the doctor for treatment. **Can my child return to school with MRSA?** Unless the doctor advises not to attend school, children should be

SAFETY STUFF

From Jeff

OK...Kids out of car.....Check! Stuff I need for class today.....Check! Put all of valuables out of sight so they can't get stolen.....Check! Avoiding the Inconvenience of a broken car window.....Priceless!

Please make sure that all spray bottles used in classrooms are properly labeled and contents within matches label. If you have

What am I thankful for?

Jeff: "I'm thankful that I have a job that I really enjoy"

Mo (4th Gr.): "I'm thankful for the fact that we have school, because without school we wouldn't be able to learn and we would go without any knowledge"

Robin: "Grandsons!!!!"

Jorge (8th): "For having such great teachers that teach us a lot of stuff"

Bianca (5th): "A home and wonderful parents"

RJ (4th): "For the school, for people and for all my friends"