

## February 2012 Monthly Letter to Parents

### Calendar of Events for February:

.02/01	6-8 p.m.-Family Literacy Night(auditorium)-Yeon Cha, teacher in Rm. 11 in charge
.02/7, 2/14, 2/21,	1:30 p.m. – Early Dismissal All Students - Banked Time for Staff Development
.02/03	7:00 a.m. SSC meeting; Agenda: SPSA 8:15 a.m. PTA/FOT meeting
.02/06	2 <sup>nd</sup> semester begins
.02/09	8:15 a.m. ELAC- Attendance and SPSA-Rm. 33
.02/20	Presidents’ Day ( <b>School Holiday – No School</b> )
.02/24	African American Heritage Month Assembly – auditorium (Dr. Fulton in charge)
.02/28	<b>NO</b> Early Dismissal Day-Regular 2:30 p.m. dismissal
.02/28	6 p.m.-Parent Education Seminar by Mr. Nathan Levy on “How to Help Children to be Better Learners”-Library

### Coming in March:

.03/06 & 03/07	Grade 4 CST Writing Test
.03/02	7:00 a.m. SSC meeting 8:15 a.m. – PTA/FOT meeting
.03/19 - 03/23	2 <sup>nd</sup> Reporting Period (12/5/11 – 3/16/12: 58 days) Report Cards sent home 03/23/12. Parent conferences as <u>needed</u> per teachers’ discretion. Regular session – 2:30 p.m. dismissal.
.03/27	<u>Open House:</u> 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. K-2 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. 3-5
.03/28	9:00 a.m.. Prospective Kdgtn. Parents Orientation/Tour – Library
.03/30	<b>No School-</b> Cesar Chavez Day

### Other Important Dates/Holidays:

.04/02 – 04/06	Spring Break ( No School)
.04/09 – 04/11	5 <sup>th</sup> gr. To Astro Camp (Non-participating students must come to school-Rm.13)
.05/07 – 05/25	California Standards Test (CST) (Gr. 2, 3, 4, 5)
.05/28	Memorial Day
.06/07	Spring Concert- 6:00 pm
.06/14	Science Fair
.06/18	5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Luncheon
.06/19	5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Culmination
.06/19	Last Day of the School Year for Students

\***REMINDER:** Please mark your calendar and make the necessary child care arrangements.

\***REMINDER:** Please do not make family travel plans while school is in session.

### **Dear Parents,**

We are almost entering our second semester; but it is hard to believe that we are already halfway through the school year! Now is the time to assess our first semester’s progress and establish goals for the second semester.

### Staff Changes

1. Pat Powell, RSP (Resource Specialist Program) Teacher will be retiring as of 2/3/12. She has been working at Third St. School for 20 years and the school district for 32 years. She will be greatly missed at Third Street. We wish you Godspeed and an adventurous journey as you transition into your retirement in Utah!
2. Mr. John Nunez, teacher in Rm. 22, is on medical leave for the rest of the school year. We have hired Mr. Christopher McNeela, a credentialed and experienced teacher to teach that class the rest of this school year.

### A Very Special Speaker, Nathan Levy, Educator from New Jersey Comes to Third Street School

Mr. Nathan Levy has been an educator for the past 35 years. He will be presenting to all of our parents (not just parents with gifted students) on Tuesday, February 28 from 6-7 p.m. in the library. His topic will be “How to Help Children to be Better Learners” Please attend this Parent Education workshop.

### **Student Emergency Information Form**

Parents can now download the school forms in the desired language, complete the form on a computer, print, sign, and return to the school. The Student Emergency Information Form provides the school with the required contact information for your child. It includes home/business telephone numbers and addresses, emergency telephone numbers of relatives or friends who are authorized to care for the student in an emergency situation and authorization for emergency medical treatment. If your child's emergency information has changed, you can update this online. The information is not automatically transferred to the school! You must print it out and turn it in to the office. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Kim Thomas, SAA, *School Administrative Assistant*.

### **PTA**

It's the start of a new year and a chance to thank some people who have given their time and energy to help our school.

Our toy drive was a huge success. Alexandria House and Good Shepard Shelter are grateful for all the wonderful toys. Thanks to everyone who contributed. A special thank you goes to parent Wendy Hopkins and 5<sup>th</sup> grader Hop Hale who coordinated the entire effort.

Family Night was fun and warm thanks to Alice Fries and HJ Paik getting us heaters for the first time. The In-N-Out Truck served up tasty fare and families gathered under the heaters to eat, peruse the drawing items and listen to Mr. Mason's Orchestra.

The Book Fair was the greatest one yet thanks to so many people volunteering for a shift. We raised over \$5,200 for Third Street's library and reading programs. We'd like to shine a light on Kim Wright, Roy Forbes, Cynthia Roberts, Julie Kim and Fred Echeverria who worked multiple shifts selling those books and erasers. And words cannot express our gratitude to Sean Hunter whose daily presence and Star Trek costumes kept us laughing. We're looking forward to next year and hope to see you there!

Please join us at our next PTA event in March "Art in the Park" - a showing and reception for all Reflections participants with Mr. Lawton's Concert in the Park series. Sadly, the talent show will have to be pushed to next year. Thank you for your understanding.

Deanna Hughes, PTA President

### **FRIENDS OF THIRD**

Friends of Third is looking for a few interested and involved parents who want to be on the organization's board. If you're interested in learning more, either drop a note in the Friends of Third box in the administration office or send us an e-mail at [friendsinfo@friendsofthird.org](mailto:friendsinfo@friendsofthird.org).

At the risk of sounding like a broken record, if you haven't done so already, please, please, please give to the **Annual Giving Fund Drive**. Our Annual Giving Fund Drive is the single most important fundraising activity we do here at the school and **we are still \$40,000 short of our goal**. It provides over half our annual budget. We're asking each family to consider making a \$625 donation per child at the school. If you can do more, we certainly appreciate that. If that isn't within your budget, we are grateful for whatever you can do. But please try to participate at some level. **100% of donations to Friends of Third is deductible off your taxes**. If you prefer to make your donation in installments, go online: <http://www.friendsofthird.org/support-us.html>. A very big THANK YOU to everyone who has taken the initiative and already made their donation.

Thank you to Claudia Rips and all the children and parents who participated in the Big School Clean-Up in January. This massive effort was as fun and rewarding as it was an important family activity that improves the school environment for our children.

For the latest Third Street information, blogs, calendars, and more, go to [www.friendsofthird.org](http://www.friendsofthird.org). We're constantly updating it with lots of information about what's going on at school. For more information about the music program Mr. Lawton has created for our children, check out his blog: [www.thirdstreetmusic.blogspot.com](http://www.thirdstreetmusic.blogspot.com). For info about what's happening in the Tech Lab, check out: [www.friendsofthird.org/technology-center.html](http://www.friendsofthird.org/technology-center.html). The next Friends of Third/PTA meeting is on Friday, February 3 after drop off. Hope to see you there.

Jennifer Rissier & Roy Forbes, Co-Presidents, Friends of Third

*Sincerely,*

Dr. Suzie Oh, Principal

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