

February 2008

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Up-Coming in February

Mon. to Fri., Feb. 4 - 8

Free Ice Cream for School Year Raffle Begins

Tuesday, Feb. 5

Election Day (Remember to vote)

Wednesday, Feb. 6

PTA/Booster Mtg, Library - 2:45 PM

Thursday, Feb. 7

ELAC Mtg, Staff Lounge - 8:20 AM

Monday, Feb. 18

NO SCHOOL, Presidents' Day

Wednesday, Feb. 20

PTA/Booster Mtg, Library -2:45 PM

Monday, Feb. 25

Math-a-Rama Begins

Principal's News

Sharon Fabian, Principal
Lisa Yamashita, Assistant Principal

Dear Clover Families,

In this issue of the *Cloverleaf*, I would like to discuss parent involvement because of several issues that have arisen recently. It is clear that the staff and I need your understanding and support in order to ease some of our concerns.

I believe that the teachers at Clover are very approachable. By and large, we all enjoy a rather easy rapport that encourages dropping in to chat about children. Somehow, in a growing number of cases, this has gotten to a point where it is beginning to interfere with teachers conducting their instructional program. Dropping in at 8:05 a.m., for example, to discuss any concern about your child's progress is not a good idea. The bell rings at 8:10, and just as you are rushed in the morning, so are the teachers. There are always a myriad of last minute things that must be done before the children arrive. Conferences squeezed in where they shouldn't be always leave many things unsaid, to say nothing of the stress created by the rushing it causes. Please write a note or call ahead to arrange a time that works well for everyone. I have asked teachers not to have these kinds of conferences in the morning because it is unproductive for all concerned.

Your teacher is not only your primary source of information about everything and anything you might want to know, they are also a critical part of the solution to

An increasing number of parents seem to want to talk to me before they talk to the teacher. The staff here is talented, professional and dedicated to the education of your children. They deserve to be the first part of the planning process when there is a problem. Actually, it goes a bit deeper that that...it is insulting to their professional integrity when they are bypassed. I know that in many cases it is unintentional, so I thought I would remind us all of the process when you have concerns.

This next issue is something that I feel very strongly about. Any person who volunteers in any way at school – classroom-based, field trip driving, library, etc.– must preserve and protect the right of privacy for each and every child. Every child at this school has the right to expect confidentiality from the adults in his or her world. I have been involved in education since 1983, and being a mother myself, I am aware that “gossiping” is a part of any school's “culture”. Given that, let's all take the time to verify what we hear once or twice removed before it is repeated. I promise to check directly with the source. I would hope that you will do the same.

Sincerely,
Sharon Fabian, Principal

**The Next Cloverleaf
Deadline is Wednesday,
February 20th 2008**

From the Booster Club President

Happy New Year to all Clover Families!

It's hard to believe that we're into the second half of the year already. We had some very successful fundraisers during the first half of the year, and I feel confident that our upcoming fundraisers will also do very well.

I am occasionally asked why the Booster Club has so many fundraisers. Of course that is a valid question. The wonderful parents who continue to support our school, financially, should want to know what and how their contributions are used. The answer is simple. The school district does not provide funding to cover the cost of many programs and activities that are so important to our children's educational experience here at Clover. We need, then, to pay for these things ourselves. Many parents may not realize all the things the Booster Club pays for.

Last year, we gave the school more than \$15,000 towards the upgrade of our computer lab. The lab turned out amazing, and the children and teachers are enjoying it very much. The Booster Club also pays for a Computer Lab Aide at an annual cost of \$17,000.

We have a fantastic physical education program – at \$17,000 per year – again, funded by the Booster Club. And last year, we gave each grade level \$25 per student for supplemental resources to augment their curriculum –

A Note From the Assistant Principal

Dear Clover Families,

What happens on the playground can be very instrumental to your child's success or failure at school. Although recess time is not counted as instructional minutes- it is where your child will learn how to make and negotiate friendships and how to deal with conflict and anger. Friends are very important to children because they can help children feel confident and good about themselves. According to research, children who have friends are less lonely and depressed and will do well in school. For these reasons, it is important for adults (both at home and school) to help children learn to be good friends as well as keep good friends.

One critical skill in making friends is cooperation. To cooperate well with other kids, your child needs to be good at and practice the skills of sharing, asking permission, making suggestions, and finding alternatives.

Children need to be good at sharing. This means they need to be good at waiting to get their turn and learning how to give up their turn or toy so other children can participate in the fun.

They also need to know how to ask permission to join in with a friend. They need to understand that when they push their way into an activity, it is most likely going to end in an argument. Bossy children are not liked by other kids

From the Desk of the PTA President

Hello Clover Families,

Happy New Year to all of you. I first want to start off by saying thank you to all of the families who supported the Clover Ave. PTA by sending in their membership dues and/or purchasing a "Westside Saver Card". For those of you who would still like to order a "Westside Saver Card", there are order forms available in the office or you can send me an e-mail at cloverpta@yahoo.com.

As we start the New Year, I would like to remind everyone about traffic and pedestrian safety around Clover Ave. During the months of January and early February, Queensland Ave. will be closed at times for roadwork. We all need to take this into consideration when dropping our kids off at school. Please give yourself a little extra time to get to school in the morning to deal with the street closure or added traffic. I ask that during this difficult time, and throughout the year, we all are courteous with our fellow drivers, pedestrians and neighbors.

(cont'd pg 3)



Booster Club President (cont'd)

We provide \$7,000 per year to help fund class field trips. Also, we try to give each classroom \$200 at the beginning of the year to buy supplies for the class. The list goes on. As always, if you have questions, please feel free to contact me at (310) 390-5513 or at jami.kaltman@ca.rr.com.

I encourage each of you to get involved. By attending Booster Club meetings, you can provide input towards our priorities and our annual budget. Our school is fortunate to have so many families supporting these important programs through our vital – and FUN – fundraising efforts.

From all of us at the Booster Club, thank you and we hope you'll continue to make this new year a wonderful one for our Clover children!

**Jami Kaltman,
Booster Club President**

PTA President (cont'd)

We continue to have our Valet Drop-Off program available each morning to assist you in safely dropping your children at school. I encourage you all to take advantage of this service. While on the other hand I need to ask that our Clover parents DO NOT jay walk your children across the street, double park your car or block driveways of neighboring homes. These all create very dangerous situations and generate complaints from our neighbors. If

questions regarding the traffic safety around Clover, feel free to contact me and let me know.

With that in mind, our Valet Drop-Off program can not operate with our parent or student volunteers. If you are able to volunteer 30 minutes a week to assist with this important safety program, please contact our Valet Drop-Off coordinators, Alicia Russo ajrusso11@yahoo.com or Haruko Takeshita harucarlo@yahoo.com.

FYI, on the school calendar for Saturday February 2nd, we had scheduled a Pancake Breakfast and Safety Fair. This event has been canceled and will hopefully be rescheduled later in the year.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please e-mail me at cloverpta@yahoo.com.

Steve Marquez, PTA President

Assistant Principal (cont'd)

Encourage your child to express their ideas, but show them how to suggest rather than give orders.

While children are playing conflicts may arise. Your child must learn to find ways to solve disagreements appropriately. Also, sometimes children get too competitive. They will often turn games into contests and always try to dominate.

Children need to be reminded how much fun it is to play and cooperate. Don't ask who is winning or losing but instead ask how well they worked together

with the other children to make the game fun and go smoothly!

You can help your child learn all these skills necessary to get along on the playground.

First observe your child during play and pick out the situations where your child has difficulty. Then have discussions about their current behaviors and the behaviors you want them to learn.

Next, they need to practice these new social skills. First, they can practice in make-believe situations with you or their siblings. Next, is to practice with friends.

Obviously, change will not come about immediately and you will probably need to talk several times about their successes and failures. With your support and practice at home your child will be happier on the playground.

If you want more information or suggested discussion questions or activities you can find it on the internet. Most of the information presented here was from "Helping Children Get Along with Friends" by Dr. Robert Hughes at the University of Missouri-Columbia.

Lisa Yamashita, Asst. Principal





Clover Ascending! Make Schools Cents—Shop Westside Pavilion!

Clover has been a School Cents winner the last few years and, as of January 15th, we have gone from number 8 in November to NUMBER 4! (And, at 839,000+ points we are only about 20,000 points out of the No. 3 position.)

During this month season, Clover can earn a lot of points towards needed school equipment and supplies. Parents and Friends of Clover (I had a friend buying furniture from Macy's drop off a few years back) can log in their receipts at the their receipt Customer Service desk on the 2nd floor. Or, should you forget, you can put your receipts (originals, please!) in the Schools Cent's box in the school office. (If you want your receipts back put them in an envelope with their child's name and room number on them and School Cents Guru Ronnie Galvan – ronniegalvan@yahoo.com 310-470-1531 – will return them to your child.)

Westside Pavilion Mall rewards schools with the most receipts turned in on their behalf. We earn points for every dollar (or, better, use scrip you purchase at Clover) you spend at the mall.

Let's try to pass the million point mark this month!

Mikel Around & About Asahi Ramen - Tastes Like Japan



[Editor's Note - Asahi Ramen is part of the historic Japanese-American neighborhood in West Los Angeles on Sawtelle Blvd, roughly between Olympic and Santa Monica Blvds.)

It includes Japanese-oriented markets and restaurants, several plant nurseries, karaoke bars and shops. "Ramen" is, essentially, a noodle soup that originated in China but has become popular in Japan and here in the U.S. and Mexico as a cheap instant soup.]

I've always wanted to visit Japan (even though I'd have to learn Japanese). Just a small taste of Japan would satisfy this hunger for adventure. And I got my wish. Well, I didn't exactly go to Japan. You could say I tasted it. What do I mean by "tasted it"? I mean one day when my Dad was driving my two siblings and I around, he boldly proclaimed we were going to eat ramen once a month (but since we didn't go the month before we went this month).

Where we ate the delicious ramen was Asahi Ramen along the . Unfortunately, we didn't have the most timely of schedules, so we were one of the last people in line for the big bowls of noodle soup.

My Dad went inside the Asahi Ramen restaurant and booked us behind many hungry people. So we looked inside some Japanese stores. (Two cat statues, one

of what I saw. I think they represented the yin-yang symbol.)

When we got back, it was our turn. As soon as we stepped inside, we were greeted with soothing aromas from different arrays of ramen.* We ordered the Wonton Ramen with a side of dumplings. Mmmmmm! Asahi Ramen tastes like Japan.

* Almost every locality or [prefecture](#) in Japan has its own variation of ramen, from the *tonkotsu* ramen of [Ky_sh_](#) to the *miso* ramen of [Hokkaid_](#) - from Wikipedia.



Asahi Ramen – 2027 W. Sawtelle Bl
Phone: (310) 479-2231

Win Free Ice Cream for the Remainder of the School Year

The 5th grade class will conduct a raffle, where three Clover students will win a free ice cream every Wednesday and Friday after school for the remainder of the school year. Raffle tickets will be sold everyday before school and after-school from Feb. 4th through Feb. 8th. The three winners will be announced on Monday, Feb. 11th. Proceeds from this raffle will assist in paying for 5th grade culmination activities.

Remember Box Tops For Education

Cut out BOX TOP coupons from General Mills products you already buy. Put them in the designated box on the Clover Office counter (or give to Janet