

# FLOWERY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL RAP – MARCH 2010

## Principal's Message

February 26<sup>th</sup> marked the end of the second trimester. Staff members are completing second trimester assessments and preparing report cards for parent teacher conferences in the coming weeks. The second trimester conference is an opportunity for parents and teachers to discuss student progress and how best to support the learning at home as we move into the final semester of this academic year.

Flowery's School Accountability Report Card (SARC) is now available in the office for parents to review. This School Accountability Report Card provides information that can be used to evaluate and compare schools. State and federal laws require all schools to publish a SARC each year. The information in this report represents the 2008-2009 school year, not the current school year. We present our school's results next to those of the average elementary school in the county and state to provide the most meaningful and fair comparisons.

Flowery students will be taking two important tests in the coming months. All Dual Immersion students in grades 2<sup>nd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> will take the APRENDA test in Spanish to measure academic achievement. The APRENDA will be administered Monday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> through Friday, March 26<sup>th</sup>. In addition, all students in 2<sup>nd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grades will take the California Standards Test or CST in mathematics and reading language arts. The CST measures a student's understanding of the grade level standards in English. This test will take place Monday, April 27<sup>th</sup> through Friday, May 7<sup>th</sup>. Please mark these dates on your calendar now that your child will not miss school during these important testing periods. Also, please avoid scheduling appointments or trips during this time period.

You can help your child prepare for these tests by encouraging them to read, attending Breakfast Club before school if they need homework help, and working with them on improving their math skills and reading comprehension. Please make sure your child is fed, rested, and on time to school during testing. Thanks you for your support!

– Esmeralda Sanchez Moseley

## PTO News

Please join us at the PTO meeting on **Tuesday, March 2, at 4:30** in the cafeteria. Superintendent Louann Carlomagno will be present to meet with Flowery parents and obtain feedback regarding how to best serve our students. This is a great opportunity for parents to engage in a dialogue about what is working in our District and what can be improved to benefit all students. In addition, we will be discussing the organizational structure of PTO and how to work together as a community to support the wonderful programs and events at Flowery School!

Tuesday, 3/2 4:30

**PTO Meeting**

Tuesday, 3/2 6:00

**ELAC Meeting**

Wednesday, 3/10

**Annual Jog-a-thon**

Monday 3/8-Friday 3/12:

**Parent Conference Week**

**All students dismissed at 12:40**

Tuesday, 3/23 3:15

**SSC Meeting**

March 29-April 5<sup>th</sup>

**Spring Break/NO SCHOOL**

Classes resume on Tuesday, April 6<sup>th</sup>

## LifeSkills

For the month of March we are focusing on two LifeSkills, the first of which is **FLEXIBILITY**. According to Sue Pearson, author of *Tools for Citizenship and Life*, "*Mastering the LifeSkill of flexibility allows us to adapt to changes, problems, and unexpected situations without undue emotional strain and unpleasantness for ourselves and those around us*" (16.1). Students show that they are flexible when they ask their classmate for help when their teacher is busy with another student, when students help solve problems with friends by negotiating resolutions, or even when they try a new activity at recess. Here are some ways to further develop the LifeSkill of flexibility in the home: family members reacting positively when plans change, giving your child the opportunity to make age-appropriate choices, and understanding that life is always changing and this can be exciting rather than stressful or uncomfortable event.

The second LifeSkill for this month is **SENSE OF HUMOR**. This LifeSkill is defined as being able "*to laugh and be playful without harming others... and enables us to experience joy and laughter even when faced with misfortune*" (27.1). Having a sense of humor helps us by reducing stress and makes us feel better emotionally and physically when stressful events occur. Students will feel more confident, self-assured, and when they can make others laugh it in turn makes others feel that way too. Here are some ideas to further enhance your child's sense of humor at home: enjoy watching funny movies, plays or videos together, tell jokes or riddles while riding in the car, read the comic section together in the morning paper, or simply laughing at silly things that happen throughout your days.

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## Jog-A-Thon

The Jog-a-thon is scheduled for Wednesday, March 10<sup>th</sup>. This event will help raise money to support the 5<sup>th</sup> grade outdoor education program and to fund classroom supplies for teachers. Outdoor education is a culminating overnight field trip for all students at Flowery and would not be possible if not for important fundraisers such as the annual Jog-a-thon. We are asking students to begin seeking pledges from family members (grandparents, aunts, uncles, etc.), friends and neighbors over the next couple weeks. This fundraiser also promotes healthy habits by encouraging physical activity through running and walking. Teachers will be recruiting parent volunteers to assist the day of the jog-a-thon. Please contact your classroom teacher if you are interested in assisting on March 10<sup>th</sup>.

## Flowery Book Fair

The Scholastic Book Fair will be at Flowery School during conference week, Monday, March 9<sup>th</sup> through Friday, March 12<sup>th</sup>. Students will visit the library during their assigned time and it will also be open after school until 2:30. This is a wonderful opportunity for students and parents to purchase books to support reading at home. Karina Pulido, Flowery's Library Media Specialist, is coordinating the Book Fair. We are in need of parent volunteers to help throughout the week. Please contact Karina Pulido or let your classroom teacher know if you are available to assist.

## Library Volunteers

Flowery is in need of parent volunteers to work week to week in the library. Specifically, we are looking for parents who can help with shelving books to ensure all books are readily available for student check out. Please contact Karina Pulido if you are interested in assisting in the library.

## Parking Lot Safety

Please remember that cars may not park in front of the school in the red zone. Please use this area to drop off and pick up your child without parking and leaving your vehicle. Also, the area in front of the Flowery School marquee is not a parking space nor is it intended for student drop off or pick up. When dropping off students in front of the school please be sure to drop them off at the curb and not in the middle of the road. Please use parking lot spaces to park your vehicles if you prefer to walk your student to their classroom. We appreciate your attention to these important safety measures at Flowery.

## Wellness Policy

Just a reminder that sodas should not be brought to school for lunch. We want to encourage consumption of healthy foods and drinks and we appreciate parent support in this process. In addition, foods brought for classroom parties must be trans-fat free (the label says 0.4 grams or less of trans-fat in order to qualify).

## Family Valentine's Dance

Thank you to those of you who were able to join us at the Valentine's Dance on Friday, February 12<sup>th</sup>. Special thanks to **Veronica Hernandez, Alma Delia Morales** and the **Hernandez-Contreras** families for assisting with the planning of this event. Thank you to all parent volunteers who helped the day of the event with set up, clean up, and selling tickets. These community events would not be possible without the assistance of our wonderful parent volunteers!

## Brown Baggers of Sonoma Valley

The Brown Bag Café is now serving **Soup for Supper** every Friday night. Please join us at La Luz Center 17560 Greger Street, Sonoma between 4:30PM & 6:00PM for soup, bread & dessert — **FREE**. Bring your family, your friends & your neighbors — we'd love to share our dinner with you — and with one less meal to cook, you can spread your grocery dollars further.

## Sonoma Valley Parent Support Group for Parents of Children with Aspergers Syndrome, Autistic Spectrum Disorders and similar profiles

Location: Schantz Conference Room at  
Sonoma Valley Hospital (conference room is  
located directly across from the hospital cafeteria)

**1st Wednesday of each month from 630pm-8pm**

**MARCH 3**

**APRIL 7**

**MAY 5**

**JUNE 7**

Support and Resources, sharing and conversation  
for parents of special needs children. Meetings are  
facilitated by a group leader for parents with  
children and adolescents.

PLEASE RSVP before each meeting.  
Call or email **Dmitra Smith** at **SVASD@sonic.net**

Unfortunately, translation services are not available.