

It's Elementary

A Putnam Valley Elementary School Newsletter
November, 2008

A Note to Parents from Jamie Edelman

As we end the first trimester of the 2008-09 school year, I would like to take this opportunity to share some information about your child's report card and up coming parent-teacher conferences. The purpose of the report card is to provide you with information about your child's performance. The parent-teacher conference is an opportunity for the teacher to elaborate on that information and for you to share your insights and ask any questions that you may have.

Since these conferences are brief, preparation may reduce anxiety and make the experience more rewarding. Here are some guidelines that you might find useful:

Before the Conference - Ask your child if he or she has any concerns that he/she would like you to communicate to the teacher. Review the report card and jot down notes if there is anything you do not understand or find confusing. You might also want to prepare a list of questions about your child's behavior and progress. Here are some possible examples:

- How well does my child get along with others?
- What are my child's strengths and weaknesses?
- Is my child working up to his/her ability?
- Does my child participate in class discussions?
- Is he/she able to settle conflicts verbally?
- Is he/she a leader, follower or combination?

During the Conference - Ask the teacher your questions beginning with those that are most important to you, just in case time runs out before you can ask them all. Be sure to ask for specific suggestions for ways to help your child do better. If anything is said that you do not understand, do not be shy and ask for clarification. It is always helpful to conclude by summarizing what was discussed.

After the Conference - Discuss the conference with your child when you get home. Share the positives first and be specific. If there are areas of concern, share the strategies for improvement you discussed with the teacher and see if the child has any input. It is also important for the child to know that both the parent and teacher are committed to helping him/her improve.

Remember, our goal, like yours is to ensure that your child gets the best possible education. These meetings will help to build strong home-school partnerships that are essential in reaching our goal.

Happenings

BoxTops for Education

Please continue to cut and collect BoxTops for Education. Each box top is worth 10 cents to the school district. When you have collected a bunch bring them in to your child's classroom. Go to the BoxTops for Education website - www.boxtops4education.com for more information and a product list.

Caring, Sharing & Giving Project

This was the third year of our Caring, Sharing, Giving Project that was developed to teach our students about giving to others. Each class collected the food for a traditional Thanksgiving dinner. Thanks to the kindness and generosity of all, we were able to provide over 30 dinners to members of our community through our local food pantry.

Bus Behavior

On the first day of school we sent home a bus behavior contract for you and your child to sign. This contract stated the expected behavior on the bus. Please take a few minutes periodically to review these rules with your child. This will help to make the bus ride a more pleasant experience.

Attendance

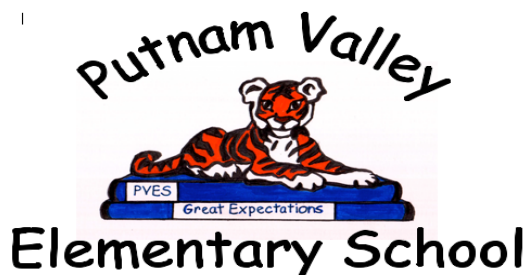
If your child is absent from school, it is very important that you call the attendance voicemail to report the absence. It is equally important to remember to send in a note with your child when they return to school.

Thursday Distribution

It is important to check your child's folder every day for correspondence from the school. We do our best to send the majority of our information on Thursdays.

Upcoming Events

December 4	12:15 Dismissal - PM Kindergarten Attends No School for AM Kindergarten Evening Parent Teacher Conferences
December 5	School Closed Parent Teacher Conferences
December 12	12:15 Dismissal - AM Kindergarten Attends No School for PM Kindergarten Staff Development Day
December 24 - January 2	Holiday Recess
January 12-14	New York State ELA Assessment (Grades 3&4)
January 19	School Closed Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday



Kindergarten Reminder

December is a very busy month, please mark your calendars...

Thursday, December 4 12:15 Dismissal - PM Kindergarten Attends*
No School for AM Kindergarten
Evening Parent Teacher Conferences

Friday, December 5 School Closed
Parent Teacher Conferences

Friday, December 12 12:15 Dismissal - AM Kindergarten Attends*
No School for PM Kindergarten
Staff Development Day

December 24 - January 2 Holiday Recess

*Please note that on the days your child attends he/she will arrive at 9:05 and will be dismissed with the rest of the school at 12:15.

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2008/2009 PTA MEMBERSHIP FORM

Welcome back to the beginning of a new and exciting school year! Our children are able to experience many wonderful programs and activities due to families contributing to our annual membership drive. Your help has always been appreciated and we urge you to continue the support you have shown in the past.

Becoming a member helps provide additional funds necessary for such programs as Cultural Arts, Faculty Mini Grants and many of the year's activities. In addition to programs and activities, membership entitles you to vote on important issues. Membership dues for the year are \$8.00 per member. Moms, Dads, Teachers, Grandparents, Aunts and Uncles are urged to join and support our school as well.

When the PTA gets involved, children benefit.

When you get involved with the PTA, the child who benefits most is your own.

Please fill out the form below and return it in an envelope marked "PTA Membership" to your child's teacher.

Make checks payable to PUTNAM VALLEY PTA.

If you have any questions regarding membership, please contact Desiree Narciso at (845) 528-2543 or des0219@gmail.com

2008/2009 PTA MEMBERSHIP

Member 1) Name: _____ E-mail Address: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

Member 2) Name: _____ E-mail Address: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

Member 3) Name: _____ E-mail Address: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

Total number of members: _____ X \$8.00 = \$ _____ Total Due PTA*

**Please make checks payable to PUTNAM VALLEY PTA.*

**Child's Name: _____ Grade: _____ Teacher: _____

*** Please indicate the child that you would like your membership card sent home with. (Elementary or Middle School only.)
Reminder: Please return in an envelope marked "PTA Membership" to your child's teacher.*

For more information: www.pvcsd.org or email: pvpta@pvcsd.org