



The Pirate News

Robert L. Stevenson Elementary • A California Distinguished School
3333 West Oak Street, Burbank, CA 91505 • (818) 558-5522

Volume 24, Issue 2

October 2008



Boo Bash is Coming!

~ ATTEND IF YOU DARE ~

Friday, October 24th

Hauntings going on from 5-9pm!

WE WILL HAVE:

A Costume Parade, Games, a Bake Sale, BBQ,
Hair Coloring, Face Painting, a Cake Contest

AND two all new things:

A PHOTO BOOTH & A SPOOKY MAZE!

Friday, October 24th is our annual **Boo Bash** (formally known as 'Fall Festival'). In order to make our Boo Bash the best ever we have a Wish List! Any contributions made to Boo Bash would be greatly appreciated!

Please contact **Tiffany Bakas** at tnt@illumina.net or **(818) 843-4446** if you can make any contributions to this year's Boo Bash! **Thank you!!!!**

OUR WISH LIST - YOU CAN HELP BY DONATING:

DECORATIONS:

- ✧ Purple Or Orange String Lights
- ✧ Any Halloween Decorations
- ✧ Mannequins
- ✧ Large Roll Of Black Sheathing (Any Building Supply)
- ✧ Fake Cob Webs
- ✧ Pumpkins

FOR FUN:

- ✧ Glow Sticks
- ✧ Spray Wash-Out Hair Color
- ✧ Halloween Tattoos

FOOD:

- ✧ Bake Sale Items (Individually Wrapped)
- ✧ Gift Card To Super Market

MUSCLE POWER:

- ✧ Dads To Help Barbeque! *Really Needed!*
- ✧ Electrical Set Up
- ✧ A Little Construction Work (Building Props)

MISC:

- ✧ 4x6 Kodak Printable Photo Paper
- ✧ New Or Used Books (For The Book Sale)

WELCOME ROOM REPS!

Stevenson PTA proudly presents **55 new RRs this year ~ an all time high!**

Room Reps are assigned to every classroom. Hopefully you got a chance to meet them and give them your contact information. Room Reps are in charge of sending out emails and newsletters keeping you in the 'loop' of things going on in your child's classroom. Be sure to supply them with that information if you haven't already! Watch for the flyer going home. Also, be sure to sign up to help at our Boo Bash - Room Reps are in charge of a booth at the Bash. For those of you who are Room Reps a BIG THANK YOU for stepping up and becoming involved!!!! **You all have already been AWESOME!!!!**

~Tiffany & Tish



Walk Your Child To School Day
Friday, October 10th, 2008

Walk To School With Your Child,
Family And Friends! Refreshments
Will Be Served Before School!

From the Principal's Desk

Dear Parents,

One of the most important components of a good school is the partnership between the school and the parents who work together for the best interest of children. The close partnership between home and school is one of the exceptional strengths of Stevenson Elementary School.

Stevenson Elementary School has a strong tradition of supportive, hard-working parents. Throughout the year parents have the opportunity to develop that partnership in a wide variety of ways. Parents join the PTA, volunteer in the classroom, help at various school events, attend School Site Council meetings, read to their children, and help in many other ways. It is important to your child that you are involved in some way at school. It's a way to let your child know you think his or her school is important.

As we begin a new school year, we find teachers establishing school standards and rules. In the most successful classrooms, teachers have established specific routines for the children to follow. This means giving the children a specific place to find and keep materials, a set schedule for classroom instructions, etc. These routines, blended with the teacher's consistent standards, form a smooth running classroom where the children have the security of understanding their environment and are reinforced positively for their contributions.

At home, it is also important to provide routines. Many families build a daily "quiet time" when the television is turned off. This quiet time provides students the opportunity for completing schoolwork or for recreational reading. Routines can also make completing chores easier for both children and parents. If children are consistently expected to complete a routine household duty at the same time on the same day in the same place, it makes it easier and they soon begin to develop a responsibility for their commitment and contribution to the family.

Commitment to the best for our children on the part of parents, students, and staff is the key to our success with the children we teach. The school and home can work together to build skills and knowledge, reinforce values, and develop a strong sense of self worth. We must invest our time and energies in our nation's most valuable resource--our children.

Sincerely,

Debbie Ginnetti, Principal



Change Is "Good" !

I am very excited to announce that the Families for Stevenson Booster Association has a new leader for the 2008-2009 school year - Carrie Brown! Due to an opportunity that I could not pass up, I have resigned as the FFS president - but lucky for us, Carrie, has stepped into the role and Stevenson is very lucky to have her.



Carrie is a founding member of FFS and has served as the FFS Secretary for 4 years. Carrie brings a true passion for the mission of FFS to the table and her kindness, organization and ability to motivate the troops, will be a great thing for Stevenson!

The success of FFS over the past 4 years is overwhelming to me. We set a mission and we succeeded! There are many, many people responsible for that success, some are still at Stevenson, some have moved on. I know that the mission to bring "The Arts" back to Stevenson will continue and I can't wait to see what's next for FFS and PTA!

Warmest regards,

Jessica Good

Special Thanks

**to Jessica Good for
4 outstanding years of
dedication to FFS!**

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**Thank you to our
Pirate News Sponsor!**





Help Our Kids Reach For The Stars!

Join us at the second PTA & FFS meeting



everychild.one voice.

Thursday, October 16th

6:30pm – Library

Come at 6:15pm for refreshments!

Refreshments & Childcare Provided



FAMILIES FOR STEVENSON BOOSTER ASSOCIATION

Please note: Our November 13th meeting will be at 8:30am in the Library.



PTA Membership Drive in Full Swing!

As I write this, Mrs. Auproux's class is in the lead followed by Mr. Sommerville's class then Miss Blackson's class.

Our Membership Drive kicked off with two assemblies for the students. A special, command performance by Sleeping Dog (the fabulous Paul Bond), kept the children entertained and the teachers, well 'entertained' probably isn't the right word. "Curious" maybe?

We had a great response at the picnics and I'd like to thank everyone who joined and everyone who helped me out at the table.

I think it's important to let parents know that joining doesn't mean you have to volunteer. It simply means you support those who do! Of course, we'd love to have your input and ideas, but we also understand that not everyone is able.

DON'T FORGET TO TELL YOUR FRIENDS, RELATIVES AND NEIGHBORS THEY CAN JOIN TOO!

The cost of joining PTA is only \$5.00.

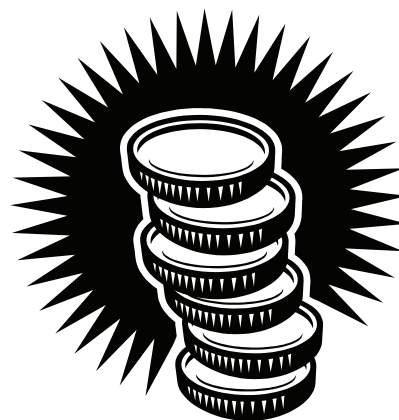
There are envelopes in the office if you don't have one and you can join anytime throughout the year.

Thanks so much to all of you who have already joined! And thank you to those of you who have helped me to make this membership drive a success!

~Jennifer Jesperson, 1st VP

Help Stevenson Go For The Gold!

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at Jennifer.Jesperson@mac.com or at **818-752-3133**



PTA President's Message



WOW! What an awesome turnout for the “Welcome Back” picnics, our first PTA/FFS meeting of the year and our “Room Rep” program meeting!

A huge “THANK YOU” goes out to everyone that made the picnics a great success! (FFS/PTA and Miss Ginnetti)

In addition, I would like to give a special “behind the scenes” thanks to our amazing custodians, Edgar (our evening custodian) and Oscar (our daytime custodian).

After reviewing the sign up sheets from the picnics and PTA/FFS meeting, it is great to see that all you wonderful parents are interested in getting involved! If you signed up for a committee or to work/volunteer at an event, someone will be in contact with you.

Making a difference and building a community is much easier when you have hardworking parents like **Tiffany Bakas** (tnt@illumina.net) and **Tish Hicks** (tishhicks@tishhicks.com), who are our “Room Rep” coordinators. This program is up and running and its goal is to help inform all you parents on what is going on in your child’s classroom along with encouraging you to be involved.

I would like to take a moment to thank Jessica Good for all of her hard work and dedication, over the years, as the FFS President. She has played a large role in helping to make Stevenson what it is today - a wonderful school for all the students, faculty and staff. As many of you know from the picnics and PTA/FFS meeting, Carrie Brown will be taking over duties as the FFS President – please take a moment to welcome her into her new role if you see her around campus.

This month’s PTA/FFS meeting is **October 16th @ 6:30pm** – we look forward to seeing you there!

Remember if you see me around town or campus, feel free to stop by and introduce yourself. Let me know what you like or dislike about what we are doing here at R.L. Stevenson. Thank you to all of you parents that have already come up to me and talked to me – all your input helps!

Feel free to call (or email me) anytime and I look forward to making a difference – with your help!
(818) 726-2285 / wilson419@hotmail.com

Cheers, *Rick Wilson*



From Our FFS President

Dear Stevenson families,

Like many of you, I was sad to hear the news that our fearless leader, Jessica Good, was resigning. Under her leadership for the last four years, our booster association has grown from a rag-tag group of dedicated parents (yours truly being one of them) wanting to raise money for arts education, to a thriving, successful volunteer organization that supports dance, visual arts, and music education in our school. (Let’s not forget the library remodel, too!). Jessica, thank you for helping us reach for the stars!

These are some big shoes to fill, but I am inspired to continue the great work of Jessica and so many others to keep arts education alive and well at Stevenson. We can no longer rely on state funding to meet all of our school’s needs. As a 5th grade parent, I have been volunteering in various capacities over the last five years and have had the pleasure of working with many of you. For those who don’t know me very well, I encourage you to email or call me with any questions, ideas, or, dare I say it, criticisms. Like many of you, I am passionate about providing our children with the best education experience possible, and I believe that artistic expression is important to a child’s development. I’m honored to be working alongside the FFS Board, PTA, Miss Ginnetti, and our incredible staff to make our award-winning school a fun, safe, and nurturing place to learn. Your input and support are invaluable to our success.

There are a lot of exciting things planned this year and I encourage parents to get involved in some way. I know it’s not easy juggling work, family, and school, but it feels good to make a difference in the life of a child. You won’t forget it, nor will our children. I look forward to making a difference together.

In closing, I want to thank De Eldridge for taking over my previous role of producing the “The Pirate News.” I have had the pleasure of working with co-editor Felix Chamberlain for the last four years and I’m thankful that he will continue working with De to gather articles and publish our monthly newsletter.

~ *Carrie Brown*

Carriebrown1@earthlink.net / 818-415-2254





Welcome Back Picnic Fun!



**Turn Your Child's Artwork into
Treasured Holiday Gifts
WITH
Original Works**

Our new Original Works fundraiser will allow your child's artwork to be transformed into beautiful, personalized gifts for family and friends. Using artwork created in the classroom, parents will be able to order note cards, totes, personalized calendars, mugs and many other one-of-a-kind gifts.
Begin your holiday shopping early!!!

Your Room Reps will be scheduling time with each classroom to create their masterpieces. The artwork will be sent home along with the Original Works catalog and order form no later than Friday, October 10th.
All orders will be due in the office by Wednesday, October 24th.

Thank you to all of our Room Reps for helping with this new FUNdraiser.

If you have any questions, please contact Debbie Collura Kalisz at debandtim1@charter.net / **818-955-7730** or Vickie Whitecotton at burbie2764@aol.com / **818-433-7042**.

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**DEADLINE
TO PLACE ORDERS:
October 24th!**

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What's Black and White and "Read" All Over?

YOUR USED BOOKS!

Stevenson PTA is collecting all types of books to be sold at the Boo Bash on October 24th. ALL proceeds go to our library! We will accept the following donations:

- **Books for all ages**
- **Magazines**
- **Cookbooks**
- **How To books**
- **Crafty books**
- **And more!**



Turn your books into your teacher or to the front office.

Deadline is October 17th. But, don't delay; de-clutter all those books that are just taking up space TODAY!!!

Thank you!

BURBANK PUBLIC LIBRARY PRESENTS

Family Night @ the Library

**A FREE Cultural Event with
Magician B.J. Hickman
Tuesday, October 7th, 7pm**

Buena Vista Library Branch
300 N. Buena Vista St. • 818-238-5630

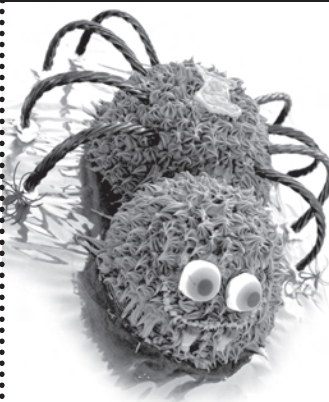


MY SCHOOL IS COOL

(Formerly Cash Back for Schools)

Please save your receipts from Burbank Towne Center and surrounding stores. Each dollar you spend counts towards money back for Stevenson. Drop off your receipts in the office. Further details will follow.

For more information please contact Felicia Cain at:
818.557.1305 or feliciacain@yahoo.com



Cake Decorating Contest at the Boo Bash!

*Will yours be the Spookiest? Cookiest?
Or Scariest of them all?*

All cakes must be dropped off at school between 8:30am and 4pm on Friday, October 24th.

Cake pans and plates must be disposable OR be clearly marked with your child's name and room number if you want it returned to you.

After 4pm please drop off your cake at Cake Decorating Contest table on the playground. *(It will not be included in the contest but can be donated to the Cake Walk as a prize!)*

More info to come!

WOW! IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN...

Get an early start on

REFLECTIONS!

Reflections is a nationwide arts program sponsored by PTA. The program "provides opportunities for students to express themselves and to receive positive recognition for their artistic efforts."

The theme for Reflections is "WOW"!

Every student is invited to enter as many or as few of the eight categories as they would like (only one entry per category, each entry is the work of only one student).

The categories are:

- Literature
- Photography
- Dance
- Theater
- Musical Composition
- Visual Art
- Film/Video
- 3-D Art

Reflections entries are due in November. There will be more info to come.

Any questions contact Maxine Kobin:
Ilovepotatoballs@hotmail.com



**CONTACT KAVITA
TO SEE HOW YOU CAN HELP
AT THE NEXT EVENT!
rkavitag@yahoo.com**

Welcome Back Tea - a Success!

Hi all,

As the 2nd VP of the Stevenson PTA I am in-charge of hospitality and communication, translated into simpler words it means I take care of the tea/coffee and food for various events mainly the PTA meetings. So for all of you who have come to the meetings and the coffee was not good you can blame me and for those who have never been there please come and try it once it's really good!!

Well, in the beginning of the school year i.e. on the August 25th, 2008 we had the 'Welcome Back Tea' and though it says only tea we had coffee too accompanied by juice, bagels, muffins and what not. PTA does this for ALL the parents 'every' year, it's a nice time to relax and meet the other parents right on the first day of school. So all of you parents who missed out this year remember there is always a next time...in this case...next year!

At this point I want to thank all the PTA members who brought in food (it is totally voluntary), thanks a ton.

A big Thanks to you Renee Kregler for helping setup the tea and for making everything so easy for me since I took up this role from you. I want to thank everyone in the PTA who thought me capable of this role. Thank you Miss Ginnetti for the kind words of appreciation and encouragement you offer from time to time.

Last but not the least thanks to my husband Gopal for helping me bring in all the stuff every time.

So once again I remind you and extend an invitation from the PTA, for next year please come over for some tea/coffee after dropping off your kids for their 1st day of school.

~ Kavita Bhadoria



Take off 10 before the Holidays... from the Wellness Committee



It's hard to believe that the Holidays are less than 10 weeks away. That wonderful season where we all celebrate the year that is coming to an end and probably loosen our belts a little to make room for those seasonal favorites that we so enjoy. I recall reading once that the average American can gain as much as 10 pounds between Thanksgiving and New Years due to extra calories consumed at parties and family gatherings and exercise routines abandoned to make time for these events. Amidst a sea of theories on exercise and weight loss, one truth consistently floats to the surface. When calories ingested exceed calories expended, the typical result is weight gain. This is why the Holiday season can pack such an effective one-two punch against our battle of the bulge.

Rather than surrender to this seemingly unavoidable circumstance of holiday celebration, we all retain the power within to launch a preemptive strike against unwanted weight gain! In the current issue of Shape magazine (I read it for the articles), Brooke Shields explains how she entered both of her pregnancies and a recent foot surgery in the best shape of her life. She knew that these would be challenging periods during which her established day to day routines would be challenged. By losing weight before these major events, she gave herself a cushion of sorts and came through them all with minimal weight gain. For any of you who have seen her cover picture on Shape magazine, the results speak for themselves.

It seems to me that we might well employ Brooke's strategies to navigate our way through the holiday season without necessitating the need for a new wardrobe in the New Year. By losing just a pound a week between now and Thanksgiving, we will create a little wiggle room should we choose to indulge a bit over the Holidays. Even better, we might sustain the weight loss through the festive season and triumphantly enter the New Year a size or two smaller than we are now. For some of you, a 10 pound weight loss might be all it takes to make you a perfect "10." For the rest of us, it might prove to be a significant drop in our body mass that triggers an overall improvement in our health.

I would love to hear stories from any of you who choose to accept this challenge as your successful strategies might prove to be excellent blueprints for others to follow as they look to improve their health.

~ Paul Bond





Stevenson Elementary - October 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30 * TUESDAY HOURS <i>KGN Early Bird 8:30-1:05</i> <i>KGN Late Bird 9:30-2:05</i> 1 st – 5 th 8:30-2:05 Domino's Night	1	2	3	4
5	6	7 *TUESDAY HOURS Family Night @ Buena Vista Branch Library – 7 PM	8	9 Yom Kippur	10 Walk Your Child to School Day	11
12	13 'WOW' REFLECTIONS Kick Off Columbus Day	14 *TUESDAY HOURS	15	16 6:30 PM PTA/FFS Meeting - Library 	17 <i>Last Day for Used Book Donations for BOO BASH</i>	18
19	20	21 *TUESDAY HOURS	22	23	24 <i>Last Day for Original Works Orders</i> School Picture Day BOO BASH 5-9 PM	25
26	27	28 *TUESDAY HOURS	29	30	31	1
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; margin: 5px auto; width: 80%;"> ~ RED RIBBON WEEK ~ </div>						
		Domino's Night	Firehouse Safety (3 rd grade only)		Halloween	

