



The Pirate News

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

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September 2009



Welcome to a new school year at Stevenson!



Welcome Back Picnic

Stevenson marked the start of another school year with the annual back to school picnic.

It was lovely to see so many new and old faces and it was heartening to see how many people were discovering the school with their Stevenson passports. We can all be encouraged by how many of our new Kindergarten parents were keen to get involved.

So whether you were relaxing with family and friends, or rocking to the music, we hope you enjoyed yourself and are ready and raring to go for the new school year. See you at Boo Bash!

Gareth Simpson, PTA



Wish you were here... **SCHOLASTIC**

BOOK FAIR

Books take you places near and far... You're invited to come visit our Book Fair!

OPENING TIMES
 Monday 1.30 - 5.30pm
 Tuesday 1.05 - 5.05pm
 Wednesday 5.30 - 8.30pm
 Thursday 1.30 - 5.30pm

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We are so excited to invite our Stevenson families to our annual Book Fair. This is a great opportunity to pick up affordable, quality books for the whole family and support your library at the same time. We look forward to seeing you there!

The Fair will be open each day after school from **September 14th through September 17th.**

The Book Fair will be open late on Back to School Night, **Wednesday September 16th from 5.30pm until 8.30pm** for an evening of child free shopping.

As part of the Book Fair, we are once again supporting the "One For Books!" program. This year every dollar raised will go directly towards purchasing books to add to our classroom libraries. Scholastic Books will match all monies raised with a donation of books to non-profit organizations dedicated to helping kids and families in need. This is a fantastic way to help our school and the wider community at the same time.

Do you have a business where we could place Book Slips or a One for Books loose change donation jar?

If you can help please contact Emma (818) 861-7139
emma@xurple.org

HELP OUR KIDS Reach For The Stars!

Join us at our PTA & FFS meeting
Thursday, September 10th 7:00pm
 in the Library **PTA**
 Refreshments & Childcare Provided *everychild.onevoice.*

FAMILIES FOR STEVENSON
 MEMBER ORGANIZATION

Read in-depth articles online: www.stevensonpirates.net

It's Easy Being Green!



Welcome back everyone! I hope you had a fantastic summer! It's hard to believe that school is already in session. But here in California, I'm afraid we still have plenty of hot days ahead of us.

I was fortunate enough to spend the month of July at my cabin on Lake Superior in Northern Michigan. They don't recycle there as much as we do. It's not as easy for them as it is for us. We are so lucky here to have the utility companies and the City of Burbank help us to make a difference. And now with the Stevenson Green Team, we're going to make it even easier for you to "Go Green!" Contact Tiffany Bakas at tnt@illumina.net if you'd like to get more involved.

This article is going to be about water. Looking out onto Lake Superior every day, I really thought about water. Superior is the largest fresh-water lake (by surface) in the world. It's one of the cleanest too. But it is in danger. The nitrate levels are rising. Over-fishing has become an issue. (I think that's partly due to the amount my family eats when we're there!) Then there's the temperature increase (Global Warming). If trends continue, Lake Superior, which freezes over completely once every 20 years, could routinely be ice-free by 2040. That's not very far off. And it's a problem.

On a more personal note, I'm allergic to chlorine – and we have a pool. Chlorine contaminates the earth's soil and water and it evaporates into the atmosphere where it eats away at the ozone layer. I've recently started looking into alternative ways to make our pool cleaner and safer to swim in. If you have a pool and are interested in moving away from chlorine then check out our school website. I've done some research and have some great alternatives listed there for you.

Another "type" of water I've thought about recently is "Greywater." That includes any and all wash water that can be collected – from showers or leaky faucets to when you empty out your partially consumed water bottle. Here are some ways you can use "Greywater" in your home:

- While you're waiting for the shower to heat up or daydreaming under the spout, place a big bucket in the corner to collect the extra runoff from going down the drain. Use greywater to hydrate your plants or lawn.
- If you plan on upgrading your home and are willing to make more of an investment, a greywater system is the perfect fit for an eco homeowner.
- State-of-the-art systems filter used water from the shower, bath and laundry and then reuse it in the toilet's flushing system.
- When emptying out your ice chest after a trip to the beach or camping, put it in your flower bed. You can try lowering usage in other ways too. Run the washing

machine and dishwasher only when they're completely full. Don't forget to change your sprinkler system timer too. You're allowed to water on Monday and Thursday for 15 minutes per zone. And only late in the evening or at night. Don't hose down your driveway or sidewalks, sweep them. We all must do our part!

I'm thirsty. Gotta go. Until next month, remember, it is easy being green!

Jennifer Jesperson

p.s. If you would like to be involved in our first ever Green Team! contact Tiffany Bakas: tnt@illumina.net



Tuesdays 8.30-10.30am From September 8th



This year we are asking for volunteers to make our 2009 Holiday Boutique extra special! We are looking for parents and family members who would be interested in attending Craft Club. Each week we will work on simple crafts that can be sold along with other merchandise at our holiday store.

This is a great way to meet other parents and become more involved in your child's school.

In addition we would love to hear from crafters who are interested in donating homemade items to the boutique - scarfs, aprons, etc... would be greatly appreciated. Or if you have a business or connections that would enable you to donate goods to the boutique we would love to hear from you too.

No craft skills are needed!

Visit our school website to find out more or contact Emma Clarkson: (818) 861-7139 emma@xurple.org
Emma Clarkson



This year we will, of course, continue with our very successful RR Program. Each class K-5 will have Room Representatives. There will be a "Head" RR that will act as the liaison between PTA/Families for Stevenson and the teacher, as well as the very important link for the parents in their classroom who want to know what is going on in their child's class.

Responsibilities vary but may include the following:

- Assisting teachers with informing parents of classroom news.
- Sending out notices to parents of classroom supplies that are needed.
- Encouraging classroom parents to join and participate in PTA/FFS.
- Encouraging and contacting parents to help with upcoming events and fundraisers.
- Creating a classroom directory of phone numbers and e-mail addresses (training will be provided).

A new addition to the RR Program - This year each class at R.L. Stevenson Elementary will have its own section on the website www.stevensonpirates.net and our wonderful RR's can regularly maintain a blog to keep parents informed and maybe even entertained.

Applications went out and were due back on August 28, 2009. If you overlooked the application and are still interested in being a part of this program please contact Cassandra Brennan at 818-943-3221 or Wendy Pennings at 818-842-8111.

If you are thinking about participating this year or in future


Thank You Garden Project Volunteers!

Stevenson would like to recognize the hard work of all of garden volunteers this summer. We really do appreciate your green fingers! **For more garden news check our website! We're looking for volunteers for our first ever Green Team!**



Read in-depth articles online: www.stevensonpirates.net

educate · motivate · vaccinate
Let's Fight Flu Together!



Time: October 10th from 9.30am
Location: Stevenson Elementary

Stevenson PTA is committed to helping keep children, parents and our local community healthy throughout the influenza season. That is why we are partnering with Flu Busters and Novartis Vaccines to provide convenient access to affordable influenza vaccinations for all members of our community.

Families should consider receiving an annual vaccination as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention now recommends that all children from six months to 18 years of age should be vaccinated against influenza.

For the 2009-2010 flu vaccination season, the cost of injectable vaccine for those who pre-register is \$25 each, and a "walk-in" will pay \$27. **More information and registration forms will be sent home in your child's backpack soon.**

Nancy Malone





Visit our school website to find out more.

years please note that RR's do not have to be moms, dads are welcome too, and they do not have to be non-working parents! RR's can do most of the responsibilities from home on their own time! You don't have to work in the classroom. With a team of RR's, responsibilities can be divided up to make the job even easier.

RR's are greatly appreciated by teachers, parents, PTA/FFS and students alike. We hope you will join us in making a difference for our school.

Cassandra Brennan

R.L. STEVENSON ELEMENTARY - SEPTEMBER 2009

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
31	1 *TUESDAY HOURS	2	3	4
7 LABOR DAY NO SCHOOL	8 *TUESDAY HOURS CRAFT CLUB 8.30-10.30AM VISIT STEVENSON'S WEBSITE TO FIND OUT MORE	9  PICTURE DAY EARLY/LATE BIRD BEGINS	10 7.00PM FFS/ PTA MEETING LOCATION: LIBRARY REFRESHMENT & CHILD CARE PROVIDED	11
14	15 *TUESDAY HOURS CRAFT CLUB 8.30-10.30AM VISIT STEVENSON'S WEBSITE TO FIND OUT MORE	16 *TUESDAY HOURS BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT	17	18 DRESS LIKE A PIRATE! 
SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR				
21	22 *TUESDAY HOURS CRAFT CLUB 8.30-10.30AM VISIT STEVENSON'S WEBSITE TO FIND OUT MORE	23	24	25
28	29 *TUESDAY HOURS CRAFT CLUB 8.30-10.30AM  NORTH END PIZZA NIGHT	30	1	2 




Let's Fly the Flag For Our School!

Are you interested in submitting an article for the newsletter and website?

Contact: Emma Clarkson
(818) 861-7139
emma@xurbie.org

PIZZA DOUGH RAISER


Order From Our Friends At North End Pizzeria!



Use a Stevenson Coupon on September 29th & 20% of the Order Value Will Go to Your School.

(818) 557-8325
212 East Grove Ave.
Burbank
CA 91502

Coupons are available on our school website.





PLEASE RECYCLE YOUR NEWSLETTER!

Remember it's Easy Being Green!

*** TUESDAY HOURS**

KGN Early Bird 8:30-1:05
KGN Late Bird 9:30-2:05
1st - 5th 8:30-2:05



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