

From the Principal

March 3, 2008

Technology Showcase

The Parent Teachers Association (PTA) invites you to attend an evening exploring the many technology applications used in the Springer Elementary School instructional program. Over the past few years, the PTA working in coordination with the School Site Council and the Springer Technology Committee has gone to great lengths to budget funding to purchase the necessary hardware and software to bring state of the art quality instructional tools into our classrooms.

On Tuesday evening, March 11th, you will have an opportunity to see and in some cases try the technology our teachers and students use to learn. Each grade level integrates forms of technology to support learning. You could easily read the district and school plan to familiarize yourself with our goals. But, to really develop a firm understanding of the effectiveness of our technology application, you have to see it in operation.

On Tuesday evening, several students will be demonstrating the integration of laptop computers in the classroom. Others will show presentation software. Grade One students will take you on a tour of Read Write and Type. Our primary students will preview the use of Alpha Smarts in the classroom. A few sixth grade students will present a skit showing Springer Channel 3, the Monday morning newscast. A teacher will present a model lesson that exhibits the many uses of our new document cameras. Throughout many of these demonstrations, you will see how the recently purchased HP Parent supported digital cameras are integrated into everyday learning. The showcase will conclude with a walk through the grade level sample student products that apply the California Standards, and a Power Point presentation that shows a day in the life of a learner at Springer.

I hope to see you on Tuesday evening to celebrate the community support for the use of technology at Springer Elementary School.

Integrity and the Earth

The month of March has arrived. With the beginning of a new month, comes the introduction of a new LifeSkill.

What does INTEGRITY have to do with the earth? Well, over the past few months, I have watched our wonderful sixth grade students become more and more engaged, and more and more effective at making a difference in world affairs through the *World Citizen Group* Program. Since the sixth grade students study an in depth curriculum on World History, they also are learning how to make a difference in soon to be historical events.

One such area the World Citizen Group is addressing is the environment. They ask the question, "*What can they do now in the Springer Elementary School Community to make a positive contribution to the protection of their environment?*"

Based upon some of their work, the entire school will now become involved in learning to develop the integrity to take some actions to make that positive contribution. *First*, the students will be encouraged to purchase and use cloth bags to take shopping with their parents or when they go shopping by themselves. Each plastic or paper bag not stuffed at the store or market

makes a difference. *Second*, the school has purchased new recycling bins. Working in coordination with a sixth grade World Citizen Group member, Springer students will learn how to actively recycle plastic containers, plastic utensils, aluminum, and glass. The staff will be on the lookout for recycling behavior and award students with INTEGRITY tickets. Money earned from recycling for the month of March will be used to purchase drought resistant plants and shrubs for the planter boxes in front of the school. Third, the playground will now take on a simulated role as the planet Earth. Each grade level will be responsible to maintain the quality of life of their region. It will take a high degree of INTEGRITY to spend time to assure this assigned region is free of litter, trash, utensils, and non recyclable materials.

Each day the grade level regions that are **Earth Wise** will be recognized and awarded with a plaque to be hung on the ECOLOGY FLAG POLE. Our goal is to have a model earth that is cared for at the 100% level.

Can we do it?

Can we afford not to?