

From the Principal  
12-11-06

## **Sounds of Music**

Tis the season for the enjoyment of music. This week our students either enjoyed or participated in several musical concerts.

On Tuesday, the Los Altos High School Main Street Singers entertained our entire student body. This concert was particularly special because several former Springer students are members of the Main Street Singers. The concert was a delight for all.

On Thursday, The Springer Singers arrived to school early to prepare for our CARING Assembly. The singers dedicated their song to the many efforts of caring taking place during each day at Springer. The concert was also a chance for this wonderful group of First through Sixth Grade students to show an act of caring for their fellow classmates. A special note of appreciation goes to Linda W.-W., Anna M., and Claire H. for directing and managing the Springer Singers.

On Friday, the Kindergarten through Third Grade students were entertained by the Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth Grade students in both choral presentations as well as the Grade Five and Six band and orchestra presentations. Later in the day, the upper grade students performed again for their parents and friends. A special recognition goes to Mr. John B., Vincent L., Ginger A., Craig W. and Wendy L. for their fine instruction this year.

## **Teachers + Teaching + Libraries = Reading**

The following article is an excerpt from the DEAR TEACHER column in the December 10 edition of The Argus (an East Bay Newspaper).

*Q: How can parents judge the quality of their children's reading instruction? I definitely know how important it is for children to be good readers, and I worry my children might not be receiving good instruction. However, I don't want to jump to conclusions because I really don't know how to judge the reading instruction they are receiving.*

*Signed, Worried*

*A: According to the International Reading Association, judging the quality of reading instruction is something parents can begin to do when attending open house or during parent teacher conferences. Effective reading programs provide the following:*

- Good teachers: *The more teachers know about reading instruction, the more children succeed. Your school should be proud of its professional development program and the support it provides to teachers in keeping up with the latest practices and research findings.*
- Mixed Instruction: *Anyone who works with children recognizes how rarely they are on the same page at the same time. Moving from whole class instruction to small groups and one -one attention every day gives each student the chance to stay on track.*
- Great classroom and school libraries: *... and time to use them. Even the best textbooks can't hold a student's attention forever. All children need easy access to an array of interesting books, magazines, and other reading material. Research shows the amount of time spent on instruction is the most important variable in students' learning to read and write. Generally speaking the children who get the most reading instruction do the best.*

*by Peggy Gisler and Marge Eberts*

I wanted to bring this article forward because it is important for parents and community members to understand the quality of Language Arts instruction delivered at Springer Elementary School. Over the next three weeks, a section of this Principal's corner will be dedicated to reviewing in detail the three elements of quality reading / writing instruction at Springer.

By the way, please set aside the evening of Tuesday, January 9 at 7:00 to attend the Springer PTA Meeting to gain first hand experience with the Step Up To Writing Program.

### **Want Ad**

\* The Springer After School Academy is in need of adult volunteers who could provide one hour of tutorial service to our students Monday through Thursday from 3:00 - 4:00. Make a difference, support the Academy. Please call Connie I. in the school office if interested.

\* Springer students are looking for an interested adult athlete who could set up a running club to begin a conditioning program to prepare our upper grade students for Junior Olympics. The club would meet mornings before school at 8:10. Call Connie Ingram in the school office if interested.