

From the Principal

12-18-2006

Happy Holidays

Happy Holidays from the Springer Elementary School Staff. We hope your holiday season brings peace and joy to your family. We continue to appreciate your support of our staff and our program. We look forward to the students' return on Monday, January 8, 2007.

Kindergarten Orientation

Our kindergarten orientation for students entering the 2007 - 2008 school year will take place in the Springer multi - purpose rom at 7:00 P.M. on Tuesday, January 23, 2007. This year's program will take a little different format, as each of the six elementary schools will make separate presentations highlighting their own school communities. There will also be a presentation for the Full Day Kindergarten program at Bullis -Purissima School at 7:00 P.M. on Tuesday January 30, 2007. Please let friends and neighbors who have kindergarten age children know of these important dates.

Teachers + Teaching + Libraries = Reading

Last week I shared an article that introduced the elements that form the foundation for an excellent Language Arts / Reading Program in an elementary school. The first point of the article emphasized the more teachers know about reading instruction, the more children succeed.

Our school and district is very proud of the background, experience, and training of our instructional staff. Many of the teachers on staff have Master's Degrees in the field of English or Language Arts. Primary teachers are required to participate in a summer training in the Orton - Gillingham multi - sensory approach to early reading instruction. Over the past year the entire staff was trained in the instructional program offered by Houghton Mifflin Publishing, the authors of our new Language Arts program. In addition, over a year ago, the Springer Staff embarked upon a training goal that allowed the entire Springer Staff to develop the instructional application skills in teaching Step Up To Writing. This past Fall, our staff received two days of further specialized training in this new writing program. The emphasis continued with the Los Altos School Board approving three minimum days to implement the final stages of this high quality, integrated writing program.

We highly value selecting the strongest Language Arts teachers for our leveled program. In addition, staff development is ongoing because of the incredible collaboration that exists among our grade level instructional teams.

Step Up To Writing

Please set aside the evening of January 9th. Attend our PTA meeting and participate in a first hand writing experience with our staff and the Step Up To Writing Program. See you on the evening of January 9th !

Congratulations

Congratulations are in order for our fifth grade teacher, Ms. Megan Rice. Last year, Megan spent several months working on a portfolio to become a Nationally Board Certified teacher. The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards was created over twenty years ago in order to create national standards for excellence in the teaching field. The board has a training and evaluation program that is equivalent to graduate level course work, and requires teachers

to plan and demonstrate teaching that meets the strict standards established by the national board. Megan had to write several papers, evaluate student work, collect artifacts and affidavits that supported her claims. She was also video taped and evaluated while teaching in the classroom.

This past weekend Ms. Rice was notified by the board that she successfully accomplished the national criteria and indeed is a National Board Certified Elementary Teacher.