

California Distinguished School Validation

We are pleased to inform you that our application to be recognized as a California Distinguished School has been approved and raised to the Validation level. Our visitation day is scheduled for 4 March. We eagerly await the *Validation Team's* visit and are more than confident they will be pleased and excited with what they see at Stonegate.

Stonegate School Dedication

We look forward to the Dedication Ceremony of Stonegate which will be held in the Multi Purpose Room at 9:00a.m. 10 March. We hope to see you there.

IPSF & Budget Update

The state budget crisis continues to take its toll on public education, creating a \$23.8 million shortfall for the Irvine Unified School District alone. In response, the nonprofit Irvine Public Schools Foundation has launched a five-week campaign to raise money for classroom support in 2010-11.

IPSF has announced that all funds collected between now and March 1 will be used to lessen the impacts of class-size increases. While the Board of Education would make the final determination as to how the dollars would be used, a similar effort two years ago empowered schools to provide direct support in the form of classroom aides and additional teaching hours.

Unfortunately, there isn't much time to act this time around. Because IUSD and the Board are facing critical budget deadlines, the funding must be in place by March 1.

Remember that the Irvine Public Schools Foundation is the only organization with the resources to impact every school in our district. Moreover, IPSF is underwriting the cost of this latest fundraising effort to ensure that 100 percent of the dollars go directly to support students.

Parents and community members are encouraged to learn more about the foundation and its five-week campaign by logging on to www.ipsf.net.

Parking Lots

When dropping off your children in the morning, it is logistically and courteously important to pull completely forward in the loading zone. Often students are being dropped off just inside the driveway. Invariably, when this happens traffic gets backed up unnecessarily.

Compounding the morning traffic problems are students not having their backpacks and other belongings ready to exit the car. When students have to retrieve backpacks from the backseat or trunk of the car, time is wasted and traffic continues to back up. Please see that your child is ready to leave the vehicle once it has stopped in the loading zone. Also, students should exit the vehicle from the passenger side only.

Pulling completely forward in the yellow zones and having your child ready with their belongings to leave the car will help alleviate morning congestion and reduce frustration/aggravation. Please remember to be patient and considerate of other parents. Also, getting to school earlier to miss the rush will help significantly. Never lose sight of the fact that our primary concern is the safety of our students. The parking lot can be a dangerous place if we're all not careful. Your support is essential. Therefore, slow down, turn off the cell phone and stay alert. Lastly, you may not leave your car unattended in the yellow zones. Your daily cooperation and adherence to the rules of parking lot safety is fully expected and greatly appreciated.

Parent Volunteers

Strong parent participation has always been a hallmark of Westwood and Stonegate. Our supportive and active parent volunteers help significantly in the successful education of our students. If you are not already, I strongly encourage you to discuss with your child's teacher how you can take part and be involved. Parents are always welcome at Stonegate and we look forward to and sincerely appreciate your continued support.

Science Fair

A word of recognition to all our students who partook in the school Science Fair this year. Their efforts and the learning they've achieved are to be applauded. Our science teacher, Ms. Scott, will be accompanying our Stonegate students at the IUSD Science Fair at Northwood High School on 3 March. Good Luck to all our Hawks:

Stephanie Banh, Jordan Dayer, Justin Miller, James Lu, Pooja Athalye, Amanda Hittelman, Allie Pai, Eric Schwegman, Ashwin Ramaswamy

New Student Registration for Fall 2010

Have you informed the office if you have a child who will start Kindergarten in September, 2010? Please come by our office to fill out a card so that we may plan for the fall.

FOR FAMILIES REQUESTING A TRANSFER FROM OTHER IUSD SCHOOLS: We are now accepting "School Choice Request" cards for **K-6th families** who live outside our designated neighborhoods (Portola and Stonegate) and attend other schools within the district. Cards need to be turned in **BEFORE Noon February 26th** in order to participate in the lottery. Cards turned in after 26 February will be placed on our "first come, first serve" list.

Also, if you are new to the Stonegate/Portola neighborhoods, please drop by the office to inform us that you intend to register for the fall.

Current students do not need to re-enroll for next year. This spring we will send out a school survey asking whether your child will be returning to Stonegate in the fall in order to plan for the coming year.

Couple of notes:

- On line enrollment for brand new students to the Irvine Unified School System will begin March 5th – <http://www.iusd.org/enrl>
- There will be a "Welcome to Kindergarten" presentation on 2/10/2010 and 3/8/2010 at 7:00 p.m. at the Irvine Civic Center to provide information about Irvine's kindergarten program.
- Kindergarten round-up at Stonegate will be on Thursday, April 29th in the MPR. This is an informational night for parents only.
- More information will follow regarding registration packets.

Jump Rope For Heart

Our Jump Rope for Heart program began last Monday and will continue through Friday, 12 February. Last year we are proud to have earned \$3,500.00 for the American Heart Association. We're out to top last year's total. The primary and upper grades classes that have the highest participation and earn the most money will earn a Subway sub party. The 2nd place classes will have a frozen yogurt party.

Jump high and often – Go Hawks!
