



Principally Speaking



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IRVINE PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOUNDATION

Parents Appreciating Teachers and Staff (PATS)

Teachers and school staff play a special role in the lives of children and their parents. IPSF offers parents a meaningful way to show their appreciation each spring by making a donation in the name of a teacher or staff member.

Each teacher or staff member honored receives a small gift and a card acknowledging the giver and the important role the teacher or staff member has played in their lives. Tax-deductible donations go directly back to the classroom through IPSF's Innovative Teaching Award Program (ITAP).

For more information about IPSF, go to www.ipsf.net.

PTA President's Message



Happy New Year! I hope that everyone enjoyed the winter break and is rested and motivated for 2012.

There are only 22 weeks left in the school year!

Greentree will host its first Family Fun Night at Lamppost Pizza located in the Heritage Shopping Center (Walnut and Culver) on Tuesday, February 28. We hope everyone can make it. A certain percentage of what you spend will come directly back to our school!

Our next PTA meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 7th at 6:30pm. Please join us.

Respectfully yours,

Kristen E. Apgar
 PTA President

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Jan 25— Mid-Winter Music Concert

Location: Little Theater
 8:15 - 8:40 - 4th Grade
 8:45 - 9:25 - 5th Grade
 9:30 - 10:10 - 6th Grade

Jan 28— Astounding Invention contestants at Irvine Valley College (see page 2 for details). Awards at 1:00 P.M.

Feb 13—NO SCHOOL (Lincoln's Birthday Observance)

Feb 20—NO SCHOOL (Washington's Birthday Observance)

Mar 2—On-Line Registration begins only for NEW students in the 2012-13 school year. After you register your child on-line, all required paperwork must be brought into the school office before registration is complete.

Mar 22—Kindergarten Round-Up, 6:00 P.M.

Pajama Drive

Thank You!

Over 75 pairs of new pajamas were donated this season by our Greentree families for children in need. Scholastic Book Clubs will match every pair with new books!

Thank you so much for helping us share the gift of a good night's sleep and a bedtime story.

Sponsored by Greentree Student Council and Scholastic Book Clubs



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Astounding Inventions Student Invention Competition

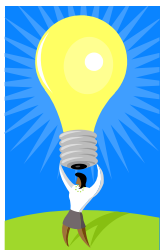
Thank you to all Greentree students who participated in the Astounding Inventions competition.

- Mrs. Miller -1st grade: Rio M.
Mrs. Kimpler - 2nd grade: Maya V.
Mrs. Vedell -2nd grade: Sarah A.
Mrs. Darwish & Mrs. Patterson - 2nd grade: Bala J.
Mrs. Hogan - 3rd grade: Nathaniel C., Ethan C., Wyatt M., Cynthia J.
Ms. Collier - 3rd grade: Natalie M., Dua S.
Mr. Abshier - 4th grade: Eissa A., Akshita A., Yari D.
Ms. Walsh - 4th grade: Kalen H., Michaela C., Dylan V.
Mrs. Dayton - 5th grade: Abigail H., Zainab M., Nicholas M.

The following 11 students will represent Greentree at the "Astounding Scientists" competition at Irvine Valley College Saturday, January 28th!

- Rio M. - "Dog Advent Calendar"
 Sarah A - " Magic Glove"
 Dua S. - "Cyclocharger"
 Cynthia J. - "Water Exercising Shoe"
 Kalen H. - "Trash Out Arm"
 Dylan V. - "Automatic Toilet Cleaner"
 Eissa A. - "Temper Controller"
 Michaela C. - "The Jacket Bag"
 Zainab M. - "The Utensil Dispenser"
 Nicholas M. - "Cup Scan"
 Abigail H. - "Lunchbox Talk"

Contestants will meet with the judges for an oral interview at Irvine Valley College the morning of January 28th. Inventions will be judged on originality, usefulness, written description, research performed, and illustration of the invention.



Award winners will be announced at 1:00 PM.

Thank You and Good Luck to All our Astounding Inventors!

California's Occupant Protection Law

As of January 2012, California law now requires all children be properly secured **in the back seat** in a proper child restraint system **until they are at least eight years old.*** Additionally, all children under age 16 must be properly secured in either a proper child restraint system or seat belt. On a first offense, a child passenger violation will cost a minimum of \$475 with penalty assessments. A second or subsequent offense carries a minimum cost of \$1,055. If the parent is not in the car, the driver gets the ticket.

Estimates from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) indicate that 33 children age four and under would have been saved in 2008 in California had they been properly restrained in a child safety seat.

**NHTSA recommends all children 12 and under ride in the back seat.*

Making and Keeping New Year's Resolutions

With the start of a new year comes the urge to start fresh and make changes. But before you get carried away, decide whether you're making a wish or a resolution. If the changes you want to make are difficult, make only one or two resolutions. Trying to change too much at once is less productive, and it will probably result in failure.

A study by psychologists at the University of Washington shows that most people keep the promise they put at the top of their list, at least for a month or two. People who thought seriously about their resolutions were more successful than those who came up with them at the last minute.

Work your number-one resolution carefully. For instance, instead of saying you are going to relax more, say you are going to explore different ways of relaxing. You are likely to fulfill the resolution by experimenting with techniques.

Columnist Ann Landers came up with a big list of "good" resolutions. Here are a few you might like to try:

- *Lighten up. Ask yourself, "Will it matter a week from today? Or next year?"*
- *Be a friend. We need each other.*
- *Don't discourage a beginner.*
- *Walk tall and smile more.*
- *Don't be afraid to say "I love you."*
- *Don't give up your principles.*