



May/June 2009

Principal's Message



Lynn Dann: Northwood Parent Volunteer of the Year

By Dr. Payne

American Anthropologist Margaret Mead, once famously remarked, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed individuals can change the world. In fact, it's the only thing that ever has." With respect to volunteerism, Lynn Dann is one of those extraordinarily committed individuals that Margaret Mead was describing. Lynn's expansive heart knows no bounds, and her love of community is felt by all. Simply put, Lynn is a giver who gives countless hours of her time and energy to Northwood

Elementary School. As PTA President, Lynn Dann has nurtured school-to-community synergy, that yin yang essential to creating a gold medal school environment. Lynn has not only been a mover and a shaker, but a partner in transforming Northwood Elementary into to a nationally recognized Blue Ribbon School. Lynn exhibits a rare combination of creativity, intelligence, an extraordinary work ethic, and a charismatic laugh that lights up the room. Be it a Blue Ribbon Barbecue, our Silent Auction, the school Carnival, a parent excursion to the Price is Right, or a Sixth Grade Promotion Ceremony, when the going gets tough, Lynn gets it done. One can only marvel at the precision and calm Lynn displays when planning and holding these major events at Northwood.

Lynn's contributions to Northwood as the PTA President over her past two years have also been noteworthy. As the PTA President, Lynn Dann immediately set about recruiting new PTA committee members, growing PTA membership, increasing parent participation in extra-curricular events, and involving parents in fundraisers and family-night-out activities. Because of Lynn's efforts, parent support at Northwood Elementary is at an all-time high. To rattle off an itemized list of all Lynn's accomplishments as PTA President would be extremely time-consuming and would require a chapter not a page. Put another

way, Lynn's accomplishments are extraordinary and her efforts have made both a quantitative and qualitative difference in the lives of IUSD's children, parents, and staff members.

Suffice it to say that Lynn Dann is a giver and an exceptional human being. This year, I was elated to see little Chloe, the youngest member of the Dann Clan, enroll as a kindergartener at Northwood for 2008-2009. Chloe's enrollment ensures that Lynn will more than likely be serving the children and parents of Northwood for another seven years! Congratulations on your Parent Volunteer award from the Irvine Public Schools Foundation on June 4, 2009. Lynn, your contributions are priceless and immeasurable; the Northwood Elementary community of learners loves you!

Kindergarten News

The kindergartners have been very busy these last few months. We had a great time being farmers for a day on our field trip to Centennial Farms. We saw horses, pigs, lambs, llamas, ox, vegetables and goats. The student's had an opportunity to plant their own radishes.

Our mothers had an early Mothers Day celebration. They were invited to a Mother's Day Tea complete with treats, songs, and a few tears.

We are chirping with excitement over our newly hatched baby chicks. The students waited patiently for 21 days and were thrilled to see something other than eggs! We look forward to the continued symphony of the chicks throughout the day.

First Grade News

First grade is wrapping up an exciting year! In April, the students went to the Long Beach Performing Arts Center where they were able to see some of their favorite stories brought to life. Some of the stories included [If You Give A Pig A Pancake](#), [How I Became A Pirate](#), and [Diary of A Worm](#).

In May, the first grade students presented their country reports. They were excited and eager to share what they learned. All of the students did a fabulous job!

Open House was here before we knew it! The students were thrilled to showcase their hard work and creativity. They did an excellent job guiding their parents around the classroom. It was a treat for all to see!

Here's to the end of a fabulous year! Best of wishes for a successful year in second grade!

Second Grade News

Second graders have been busy writing Fairy Tales using the "Step Up to Writing" learning. They made a graphic organizer to plan out their fairy tale and then added details, adjectives, noise words, correct use of quotation marks, and similes to spice up their stories! They are writing stories with many paragraphs now. Our Painted Lady butterflies arrived as tiny caterpillars. The transformation into cocoons and butterflies happened before the children's eyes. Parents were able to view the butterflies at Open House. The Memory Books which contain writing and art samples from the beginning of the year are being completed and sent home. Each second grader has a wonderful compilation of their second academic grade growth in this book of memories. Our end of the year party will be filled with games offered by the "Game Master" wh will organize more than an hour of games and relay fun. This will be a wonderful culmination to a year of good learning by our communities of learners.

Fourth Grade News

Dear 3rd graders,

We want to tell you about 4th grade. This year you were in a class with only 20 kids. Next, year your classroom will have as many as 35 kids in it. These are some of the Social Studies projects you will be doing during the year. The first project you will be doing is a California Regions postcard project. You will be illustrating each region

and describing them. Another project is a California Mission project. In this project you will pick a mission and write a report on this mission. During this project you will visit an actual mission. The mission is.....A SURPRISE! The last project you will be doing is a Saturday Night Activity (not on a Saturday). This project is done while you are studying the California Gold Rush. You can choose from doing a video, a slideshow, a power point, making a model, or writing a story. In Language Arts, you will be doing book reports. Science is really fun in 4th grade. You get to go to Science lab with Mrs. Lund and do many fun projects and experiments with her. One project is a circuit board. There is a lot to do in 4th grade so good luck!

Sincerely,
The 4th graders

Fifth Grade News

“Yankee Doodle went to town, riding on a pony.....” If you happened to pass through Northwood’s Multi-purpose room on April 23th, you may have thought you had been transferred through time back to the revolutionary period. You may have seen Betsy Ross sewing the flag, or Thomas Paine passionately telling colonists about his pamphlet “Common Sense.” You may have seen the battle of Yorktown with General Washington leading his troops into the final battle. As exciting as it may have been, it was just our fifth grade students participating in the travelling field trip Walk Through the American Revolution. Students memorized parts for historical people such as Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, Crispus Attucks, John Paul Jones, Deborah Sampson, and many more. This activity, paid for by Northwood’s PTA, allowed our students to actively participate in learning about this important time in U.S. history.

In addition, the fifth grade students also went on an actual field trip to the Orange County Water District’s Water Festival held at the Richard Nixon Library. The Festival was presented by the Orange County Water District, Disneyland Resort, National Water Research Institute,

Municipal Water District of Orange County and the Orange County Water District Groundwater Guardian Team. More than 6,000 students from Orange County attended the festival, which is recognized nationally as the largest event of its kind. The mission of the Festival is to educate students about water-related and conservation issues that correspond to California Science Standards. The Festival teaches youth that they can make a difference in protecting our water resources for today, tomorrow and future generations. (www.ocwd.com) Students participated in events such as making mini-aquifers, filtering oil out of water, and learning how sweat impacts the body by playing hockey with the Anaheim Ducks.

In other academic endeavors, students also became experts on states as they researched and presented a state report. All together the states made a beautiful quilt that was proudly displayed at Open House. Students also learned how to write a response to literature essay, learned the fifty states and capitals, worked on multiplication and division of fractions, solving ratio and proportion problems with factor puzzles and many more activities. We are finishing off the busy year by making dream catchers in a fashion similar to the Native Americans. All in all, it has been a wonderful year for our fifth grade students.

Sixth Grade News

The end of elementary school is just around the corner for Northwood’s 6th graders. Many exciting activities and field trips that the teachers a PTA have planned got the students ready for middle school. Our first field trip of the year was the Bower’s Museum. There we learned about the fascinating terra cotta warriors the Chinese used. Before the trip, we studied about Chinese history and the many dynasties of Ancient China. To remind us of the great times we had at Northwood, we took a panoramic picture of the whole 6th grade and the teachers. There we can never forget the friends we had and the great teachers. In the picture, all of the students

wore their very own "Class of '09" t-shirts and sweatshirts. Just recently, we graduated from our Drug Abuse Resistance Education or D.A.R.E for short. Everybody pledged to be drug-free in their own special way. Throughout the year, we had visits from Mrs. Cosgrove, our art teacher, where she taught us different methods of art. A few weeks ago she took some pictures from our class to be in "The Second Annual Night of The Arts". Soon, we will be performing our musical talents at a Spring Concert. The Winds, Strings, and Vocals will be performing. The most exciting trip we will have in elementary school is going to be Outdoor Ed. We are all looking forward to it.

By:
Tyler Duong
Jessica Kim
Samantha Lee

Box Tops for Education

4406 box tops – Oct 08
2850 box tops – Feb 09
977 box tops – May 09

Mrs. Fritsch 121 box tops
Mrs. Catalano 319 box tops

Mrs. Nakano 292 box tops
Ms. Kretsinger 114 box tops



Amazing artists

Color It Orange Exhibit

Congratulations to Grace Kim 3rd grade and Mouncelf Lazim 6th grade. Their work was chosen for the Color It Orange Exhibit and attended a reception on March 15th.

We are very proud of you!

Young Masters™ Art Show

The 19th annual Young Masters™ Art Show presented by Assistance League® of Irvine, a local nonprofit volunteer organization, was on Saturday, May 2, 2009. Presented in conjunction with the Irvine Unified School District and the City of Irvine as part of Imagination Celebration of Orange County, the Young Masters Show consists of one exceptional piece of art from each elementary classroom in the District. In total, 556 works of art were displayed inside City Hall through May 14th, 2009. Emphasis is in the importance of visual arts in our children's education. Assistance League of Irvine is one of 120 chapters of the national Assistance League whose volunteers donated 2.6 million service hours to their communities last year.



Imagination Celebration Gallery

Northwood Students: Beth Moore, John Snytsheuvel, Justin Dang and Sydney Huynh artwork were displayed at South Coast Plaza, Crate & Barrel Wing
May 5 - May 17, 2009

Schools First Credit Union

Kathryn Miller (5th grade) and Arisa Sugiyama (2nd grade) will have their artwork displayed at SchoolsFirst Credit Union located at 5305 Alton Parkway, Irvine.
Their work will be displayed from May 21 – August 31, 2009

Honors Concert Groups

The following students represented Northwood Elementary and went to Disneyland on May 4th

Elementary Honor Chorus

Samuel James

Flute

Deanna Pyeon

Cello

Samantha Lee

We are proud of you!

Astounding Scientists



Northwood students did a great job at the District Science Fair.

The three first place winners are eligible for the County Science Fair. Keep those ideas coming!

1 st Place at District	Sydney Saxton Saiki	How Pure is Your Water?
1 st Place at District	Deanna Pyeon	3,2,1, Launch
1 st Place at District	Abby Shobe	Bye, Bye, Bacteria
Honorable Mention	Sam Kim	Maximum Load
Honorable Mention	Eric Li	The Ramp and Distance
Honorable Mention	Tyler Duong	Plop, Plop, Fizz, Fizz
Honorable Mention	Caroline Nguyen	Make Your Mark
Honorable Mention	Andy Kim	Music + Plants = Science
Finalist	Lauren O'Neill	Ready, Set, Run
Finalist	Julie Choi	Fly High

Family Night Out

Thank you Northwood Families for supporting your school. We have collected: Chick-Fil-A \$350.00, Dickey's BBQ \$198.44 and Northwood Pizza \$240.07. The funds are used to provide transportation for field trips.

We could not do it without you!

Bike Rodeo

Northwood Elementary's First annual Bike Rodeo was a success with over 25 students going through the Bike Safety Program. On Thursday, June 4th all students from grades 2 – 6 were invited to bring their bikes and helmets. The Irvine Police Department Crime Prevention and Jax Bicycle Center conducted a bike safety check along with instruction on Rules of the Road. Each participant came away with their bike licensed.

Information regarding the next Bike Rodeo will come in fall.

Active Kids

Nurse Vicki News

EATING BREAKFAST IMPACTS TEST SCORES

Studies show has shown that eating a good breakfast (one that includes protein, carbohydrate & fat) will enhance a student's test scores. Dieticians and educators alike have known for years that children who eat a good breakfast are more attentive and do better in school.

Planning ahead the night before can avoid those rushed-no-breakfast mornings. Involve your child in the planning. Be creative! No need to limit the morning meal to traditional breakfast foods.

Quick ideas include:

- Keep pancake or waffle batter in the refrigerator, ready to pour on the griddle.
- If you like to bake, you might keep a supply of muffins in the freezer, ready to warm in the microwave.
- Store bought bars or try making your own nutritious granola and granola bars.
- Quesadillas or breakfast burritos just might appeal to the "grab-it-and-run" types.
- Pizza for breakfast? English muffin pizzas sprinkled with cheese and microwave are a hit with most kids.

- Almost anything can be sandwiched in a biscuit; scrambled eggs, sausage patty, a small chicken patty, or a slice of ham with cheese melted on top are just a few ideas.
- Dinner leftovers
- Breakfast drink- blend fruit, milk or yogurt

Adapted from Back to School Breakfast Recipes and Ideas
<http://southernfood.about.com/od/backto-school/a/aa080400a.html>



Upcoming Events

Complete Calendar available
www.iusd.org/nw

Minimum Day June 16, 17, 18
 Gr. 1-2 1:16, Gr. 3 1:20, Gr. 4-6 1:35

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL
 6th Grade Promotion June 18

Have a wonderful summer!

See you on

Thursday, September 10th!

