

Springbrook Elementary School

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In this newsletter you will find details about:

- *Haiti Relief Efforts*
- *IPSF 5 Week Campaign for Class Support Deadline March 1st*
- *Montessori Enrollment for 2010-11..... Deadline February 26th*
- *Korean Cultural Week February 22nd - 26th*
- *School Site Council Meeting February 17th*
- *Recycling Contest February 22nd – March 24th*
- *February Spirit Days*

Haiti Relief Efforts: This week our Student Council has been selling heart lollipops to raise funds for Haiti with our *Hearts for Haiti* program. We have already raised almost \$300; funds raised through this campaign will be given to the Clinton Bush Haiti Fund to support extended relief efforts. Special thank you to Lisa Ruef for coordinating our Shoe Drive and dropping the shoes off at Sports Chalet; we collected barrels of shoes!

IPSF 5 Week Campaign: 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 non-profit 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.

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For more information on the state budget and its impact on IUSD, use the following link http://www.iusd.org/budget_watch/index.html.

Montessori Enrollment: We are currently accepting interest cards for the 2010-11 school year for the Kindergarten Montessori Program and the Montessori Elementary Program. Interest cards are available in the front office and will be accepted until the fourth Friday of February. This year's deadline is February 26th. On Wednesday, February 10th at 6:30pm our Montessori staff will present an overview of the program and enrollment procedures. A parent night for the Kindergarten Montessori program will be held the following night, February 11th at 6:30pm in the MPR. These meetings are mandatory for those applying for the programs for the 2010-11 school year.

Korean Cultural Week: I'm looking forward to our Cultural Week this year; it is scheduled for Feb. 22nd – 26th. This year we will highlight Korean culture. The teachers are signing up for time frames to visit the interactive stations on different aspects of Korean culture. Parents love to volunteer with their children's classes, please email Jean Lee at naya.jean@gmail.com to coordinate a time to volunteer. We will end the week with an assembly at 8:15 on Friday morning - including a Tae Kwon Do presentation. If you are inspired to assist with Cultural Week next year, don't hesitate to contact a PTA board member.

School Site Council Meeting: Our next School Site Council Meeting will be held on February 17th at 7:30 in the morning in the library. These meetings are open to the parent community and focus on the overall Springbrook program and its effectiveness for students.

Recycling Contest: We have a great way to encourage recycling while supporting Springbrook and continuing our support of Haiti. From February 22nd through March 24th we will collect recyclable plastic bottles and cans. We will keep track of students, classes and grade levels that contribute recyclable materials and these will be converted into incentives and class parties for those bringing in the most recyclable materials. Please crush and separate the plastic bottles and cans. Bring them to school in 13 gallon trash bags labeled with your name and your teacher's name. Of the total amount earned through recycling, half of the money will go directly to Springbrook and its students; 10 % will be donated to Haiti relief efforts, the remaining amount will offset time and efforts for collecting and redeeming the recyclable materials. You may drop off the bags near the recyclable material dumpsters.

February Spirit Days: February's Spirit Dress-Up Theme is **Exercise Your Heart**. You may wear Workout Clothes or Valentine colors each Friday, you can also wear Springbrook Spiritwear or colors. I look forward to seeing you all Friday morning for the Pledge of Allegiance at the picnic tables.

Bob Curley