



# Turtle Rock Times

Turtle Rock Elementary School, 5151 Amalfi Drive, Irvine, CA 92603, (949) 936-6250

Karen Catabijan, Principal • Keith Corpus, Editor

*"Providing the highest quality educational experience we can envision."*

## Principal's Letter — Jan./Feb. 2011



Greetings Turtle Rock Parents,

I am often asked many great questions by parents. For instance, parents sometimes wonder why a teacher may be out for a couple of days, and if everything is OK. Frequently our teachers miss class for professional development. In fact, in mid-January, sixteen teachers and I attended a wonderful two-day conference called "Best First Instruction." Led by the dynamic Dr. Anita Archer, an educational consultant on effective instruction, teachers learned and practiced strategies to better engage students and improve learning.

Our teachers have been working to make learning a more active process. For instance, Response to Instruction (RTI), an hour-long block of language arts for all grade levels, is one way of achieving this. Dr. Archer presented exciting ways to get not just a teacher's five most vocal students involved, but the entire class. She encourages teachers to move away from what can be an overreliance on workbooks, and strive for methods that generate lively discussion and deeper thinking. Our teachers truly appreciated what Dr. Archer offered because they see it as a way that enhances, rather than replaces, what they currently teach. Indeed, a number of our staff had high praise for the workshop, and have already implemented a few practices.

Fifth grade teacher Amber Smith noted that her teaching team came back to school and immediately moved their desks to better formations so that all of the kids were facing forward and had designated partners with which to work. They also "changed the way they question kids to make better use of time in the classroom." Janine Sanchez, also of the fifth grade, appreciated "strategies for using partners in class" and some of the tips to make vocabulary more efficient.

Second grade teacher Eileen Klinger was also enthusiastic. She found methods such as "look, lean, whisper" and "choral responses" terrific ways "to get students more actively involved in learning."

So if you were to walk into a classroom today, you may see practices in place to more deeply engage students. Certainly implementation of the many approaches learned will be gradual. Our teaching teams will continue to identify what works best and how to improve or revise some of these methods. We have a range of learners at Turtle Rock, and it is important we have ways of reaching all of them. Our hope is to develop engaged 21st century students who have a love of learning.

With warm regards,  
Karen Catabijan

### PTA Web Site



You can get lots of great shopping done through the Turtle Rock PTA Web site: [www.turtlerockpta.org](http://www.turtlerockpta.org). Get books, shop for someone's birthday, and more. Vendors include Amazon.com, Entertainment Book and Target. Sales with these vendors bring in commissions to help the PTA.



# PTA Announcements



## Fun Times at Stonefire Grill

Thank you to all those who were able to participate in the January 12 Dine Out Night at Stonefire Grill! It was a festive time, as dozens of families enjoyed pizza, pasta, chicken and more with good friends. Turtle Rock raised \$370! A special thanks to Isabel Juliana Yepes for her expert organizing of the event and handling all the details. Thank you, Isabel!

*Dozens of families came out to Stonefire Grill in mid-January to enjoy good food and friends. Thanks for your support!*



## Two Movie Nights in February!

Two fun family nights are coming!! Please join us for this unique and entertaining occasion for students and parents to get together and enjoy some free popcorn, drinks and more. They are evenings not to be missed!

- Grades K-2 movie night is Friday, February 18, 7:00-9:00 PM featuring *Toy Story 3*.
- Grades 3-4 movie night is Friday, February 25, 7:00-9:00 PM featuring *Up*.

Both will be in the Multipurpose Room. We hope to see you there. All children must be accompanied by a parent and are welcome to dress in pajamas and bring blankets and pillows.



## PTA Board Election – March 9, 6:30 PM

Please attend the PTA General Assembly meeting Thursday, March 9 at 6:30 p.m. in the MPR to participate in the election of the 2011-2012 PTA Board. The slate of candidates will be published in the ROCKS Connection or the PTA web site. We look forward to seeing you there, and appreciate your participation!



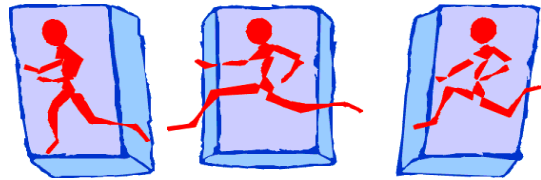
# PTA Announcements



## Meet IUSD Board Member **Michael Parham!**

IUSD Board Member Michael Parham will be at our March 9, PTA General Assembly meeting to discuss education issues in Irvine and to answer your questions. Mr. Parham is our school site liaison and has been on the Board since 2004. His strong interest in going green has provided leadership in energy conservation and education. He has been an active PTA member and served as the president of the Plaza Vista PTA.

*Meet IUSD Board Member Michael Parham at our March 9 PTA meeting. Learn about the search for a new IUSD superintendent, Irvine's review of its homework policy, and other issues that affect Irvine's schools.*



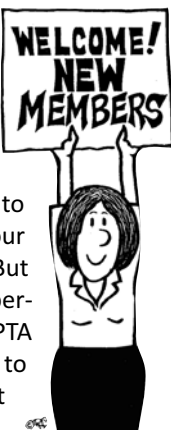
## Jogathon on the Horizon!

Mark your calendar! Jogathon 2011 is quickly approaching! The fundraiser is scheduled for Thursday, March 17 from 8:30-noon. This is one of two fundraisers the PTA sponsors every year and is sure to be great fun for the students. This year we have prizes that ROCK!! Students who work hard to get PLEDGES and run laps will be able to win many NEW Turtle Rock Elementary collectibles! Also, Turtle Rock will provide great sports clinics the week before the event.

Our goal is to have each student get pledges of \$100.00 or more to further support the Art Masters program, school site improvements, the Health Clerk, physical education, teacher classroom accounts and all the other family-oriented events the PTA sponsors, such as the Fall Festival, Talent Show, Movie Nights and Book Fair. In fact, our hope is to have NO EMPTY JOGATHON ENVELOPES. You can even start planning and budgeting now: forego a couple of stops at Starbucks; save change in a jar; hold a garage sale. Given the continued budget issues, the work of the PTA is even more important.

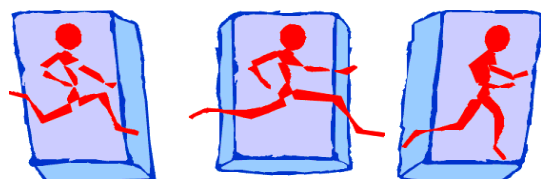
## Winter PTA Membership Drive

Are you a new family to Turtle Rock? Did you miss the PTA Membership Drive in the fall? You can still become a Turtle Rock PTA member! The PTA supports numerous important programs, such as primary music, physical education, the school nurse, Art Masters, classroom accounts (over \$900 per teacher), Movie Nights, Talent Show, and much more. Your membership and contribution not only allow us to offer these many great programs, but you also get a school directory! Dues for each PTA membership are \$10.00. If you would like to contribute to our Pledge Drive, our target pledge is \$220 per child. But any amount helps! The membership form can be found on the PTA Web site and can be returned to your child's teacher or the front office.



## VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!

Contact Jodi Field at [jdfield@cox.net](mailto:jdfield@cox.net) if you can help. Stay tuned for more announcements and be sure to get out there and start running to prepare for this annual fundraiser!



## Principal Scott Bowman Meets with TR Parents

At the January 26 General Assembly meeting, Principal Scott Bowman of Rancho San Joaquin Middle School met with about 70 parents to talk about the transition to middle school. Mr. Bowman answered many questions about the curriculum, schedule, clubs and programs at Rancho. He commented on the challenges of middle school, noting that it can be tough for kids to go from having one teacher to six. "Students will get lost. They will struggle." A strong advocate of kids, Mr. Bowman emphasized it is important to empower them as they go through this process, not enable them. He likens it to teaching your child to ride a bike. You can't hold on to the bike forever. You eventually have to let go, and when you do they may fall a little. But soon they can ride with you, and can even decide where they want to go themselves!

Other advice included attending the May 12 Open House (5:30-7:00), consider having your child take enrichment classes at Rancho over the summer, which also helps them learn the campus, and stay tuned for information about tours that are offered to new families. We appreciate the time Mr. Bowman took out of his schedule to talk to our parents. It was extremely helpful!



*Principal Scott Bowman of Rancho San Joaquin Middle School spoke to TR parents about Rancho's curriculum, academic programs, sports, lunch, and more at the January 26 PTA General Assembly meeting.*

**RANCHO**  
MIDDLE SCHOOL



## Yearbook Announcements

**Pictures Needed:** Hello shutterbugs! If you have any photos from school activities (Fall Festival, Movie Night, Walk to School Day, Book Fair, Assemblies, Potluck, etc.), please share them for the yearbook. You can e-mail the photos to Tracey Nie at [nie92612@yahoo.com](mailto:nie92612@yahoo.com). Or you can copy them onto a disc and leave it in the yearbook mailbox in the TRE office. Thank you for your help!

**6th Grade Baby Photos:** Attention 6th graders! Your baby photo with quote is due on February 18. Please turn it in to your teacher as soon as possible!

**Orders and ads:** IT'S NOT TOO LATE... We are still taking orders for the yearbook and ads. If you need extra forms, you can download them from the PTA web site: <http://turtlerockpta.org/>. Do not miss all the excitement!



## Yearbook Art Cover Winners

The winner of this year's yearbook cover design is Dana Choi from Mrs. Keegan's 4th grade class. Our runner-up is Kenna Uyesugi, a 6th grader in Mr. Hofseth's class. Congratulations to both! Their artwork will be featured on the front and back covers of the 2010-2011 yearbook. And thank you to the more than 30 students who submitted creative, impressive designs!



*Dana Choi (left) and Kenna Uyesugi will have their artwork featured on the front and back covers of the 2010-11 yearbook. Dana's design earned first place among over thirty submissions, and Kenna was runner-up.*

## Turtle Rock's Got Talent!



Turtle Rock truly has many talented students. In fact, FOUR separate Talent Shows had to be scheduled to accommodate over 50 different acts! All of the performances were terrific with over 100 audience members enjoying each of the shows. The variety of performances was also impressive: blues guitar, dancers, martial artists, yodeling, whistling, singing, piano, violin, poem recitals, a fashion show, comedy skits, and even a hula hooper.

Behind the talent is a host of important people to thank. We appreciate the MANY parent volunteers who assisted with the bake sale, organized students, and helped get their children ready for the big night. We also had wonderful student stagehand helpers.

A special thanks to 4th grader Grant Sheen for his professional MCing of all the shows, and to Mrs. Diaz for her backstage work and Mr. Joe McKenna for his help. Mr. David Diiorio was a spectacular and invaluable coordinator of all the musical and technical needs. Thank you, Mr. Diiorio, for sharing your many talents!

And of course a very special round of applause, indeed a standing ovation, goes to Susan Cha for corralling and organizing all this talent! Susan worked many hours on putting together sign-up sheets, e-mailing families, overseeing auditions, getting the stage ready, and much more. She is truly talented herself! Turtle Rock has not had a talent show in a number of years, and seeing the many students share their abilities and take pride in what they do is quite wonderful and meaningful. Susan gave our students the opportunity to do that, and for that we are truly appreciative. Thank you, Susan! Encore! Encore!



*Dancing and intergalactic whistling were just some of the many talents on display at the Turtle Rock Talent Show. There were over 50 acts, including rappers, martial artists, and musicians, to name a few.*



## CURRICULUM IN FOCUS

### Turtle Rock's GATE Program



In a group of three 4th grade students, a boy asks the girl next to him to explain what a moral code is and how it applies to the character Karana in *Island of the Blue Dolphins*. Another student asks for evidence of how Karana is brave. Interactions that demonstrate critical thinking and cooperation are frequent in Turtle Rock's GATE (Gifted and Talented Education) program. GATE-identified students are clustered into different upper grade classrooms at Turtle Rock, which has one of the larger GATE programs in Irvine. GATE enriches learning and challenges students in order to better meet their academic needs. Teachers stretch and develop these students with in-depth assignments and projects that require higher order thinking, exploration, responsibility, and time management.

The most common way to qualify for GATE is with the California Standards Test (CST). Scores of at least 460 in both language arts and math qualify students. (For other ways to qualify for GATE, visit the IUSD Web site and look under Parent Resources.) In Irvine, GATE uses "cluster grouping," according to Beth Andrews, IUSD's GATE/APAAS Coordinator. Academically talented students are placed together in different classes with designated GATE-trained teachers. Aside from Response to Instruction (RTI), which is a one-hour language arts block, GATE students are mixed into the same classroom with other students. The same curriculum is provided to all students, but expectations may be different for each student.

Vocabulary development is a critical part of the instruction throughout the curriculum. Students build their vocabulary with a number of activities to help them learn the parts of speech, definition, and usage of words such as "tithe," "miser" and "alight." They also ponder the relationship between words and study analogies. Literature study is often designed to push students to synthesize, analyze and evaluate. For example, some 4th grade students probe and explore ethical issues in *Island of the Blue Dolphins*, or take multiple perspectives when debating a topic.

In social studies, the 4th graders use current events articles on a local or national issue, such as the removal of wildlife to build a power plant, to evaluate different points of view.

Math enrichment entails additional math problems that require a high level of logic, precise reading skills, and multiple steps. (Richard brings 150 baseball cards to a convention, triples his total with \$100, and then sells half his total for \$200. How many more cards does he have than what he started with?)

The 5th grade GATE curriculum is an extension of the preceding year. The language arts program often includes robust and energetic debate about the books they read. The vocabulary curriculum continues to develop word usage, with an emphasis on multiple meanings of a word. With literature studies, students choose their own level-appropriate text and are encouraged to select from a range

of genres. They explore central conflicts and analyze themes, using examples and quotations from the text to support their analysis. They examine foreshadowing techniques and connect the text to their world. One girl, for example, recently analyzed a character's honesty, and discovered insights about herself in the process.

For social studies, students select an issue current within the past couple of weeks, write a detailed summary that includes different "sides," discuss it with their parents, and then must analyze the importance or significance of the event to the student or the community he or she lives in. One student may look at the contentious "chocolate milk in schools" debate, while another may explore more serious issues between North and South Korea.

Fifth graders receive math enrichment, sometimes done in class and sometimes done at home. The students are quite adept at working with and helping each other, often tutoring one another. One teacher recently watched two students working on a word problem. Each solved it a different way, and thought theirs was correct. After more discussion they realized each had tackled it their own way, with both getting the correct answer. It was a great chance for them to see and share the different ways of approaching a problem.

In 6th grade, the overall curriculum is similar for all students. GATE students are given an opportunity to explore topics and units in more depth. A high level of instruction is maintained for all 6th graders, and GATE allows for enrichment.

In language arts, most of the GATE students are clustered in one RTI class. They also use other enrichment resources to meet students' needs. In social studies, all 6th graders have the same content and projects, although GATE students may be required to do more thorough research or address more complex questions. Math instruction and assessments are differentiated for students based on their level of achievement.

GATE challenges students to achieve their full potential. It gives them an opportunity to grow beyond the formal curriculum and become more involved in their learning. As one 4th grade teacher points out, "GATE raises the level of expectation, and students rise to the challenge." It is, says one 6th grade teacher, a program that "enriches learning for all."

*Beth Andrews, the IUSD GATE/APAAS Coordinator, recently spoke to Turtle Rock parents about Irvine's GATE program. By 8th grade about 25% of Irvine's students qualify for GATE. Mrs. Andrews said GATE emphasizes higher order thinking skills that stretch and push students.*





## Helping Children in Afghanistan

The clothing drive the PTA held in the Fall to gather gently-used coats and jackets to send to children in Afghanistan was a huge success! We mailed 170 coats and jackets, plus lots of mittens and hats, to Master Gunnery Sergeant Ed Maxian, USMC. Ed and his fellow Marines are posted near the Afghan/Pakistan border to help train the Afghan National Police. The families in their area are struggling to overcome decades of war and successfully build a new life. The coats and jackets that we sent are much appreciated because of their cold weather. Ed and his colleagues are working to get the clothes to families in need. Attached are two photos of some of the first families to receive the clothing. Can you spot in the photos a jacket or hat that you used to own?

The Afghan children and their parents also are enjoying the letters and drawings that were made by the children in Mrs. Seibert and Mrs. Yates' first grade class. We have some wonderful artists and story tellers at Turtle Rock.



*Turtle Rock Elementary donated over 170 coats and jackets to children in Afghanistan. The families greatly appreciate the clothes, as well as letters and drawings made by first graders in Mrs. Seibert's and Mrs. Yates' class.*

The PTA sends a hearty thank you to all the TR families who participated in the clothing drive! We also thank St. Michael and All Angels Church in Corona del Mar for paying for the postage. It's amazing what a positive difference we can make in the world just by sharing the things we have outgrown and by taking the time to get it to children who really need them. It truly is a small world these days, and there is much we can do to help other children – even if they live all the way across the globe.



If you are interested in learning more, feel free to contact Tammy Smecker-Hane, PTA VP for Programs ([tsmecker@cox.net](mailto:tsmecker@cox.net)).



## A Message from Families Forward

December 13, 2010

Dear Friends at Turtle Rock Elementary School,

On behalf of the families we serve and all of us at Families Forward, we want to thank you for your generous support of our food bank and to our 2010 Thanksgiving program. With your help, 710 families had a joyous holiday season. On top of that, we have been able to serve over 100 families a week from our food assistance program through the fall.

As a partner in our food assistance and Thanksgiving program, we would like to remind you of the year-round services Families Forward offers, helping families in need move beyond overwhelming circumstances and achieve stable, healthy homes for themselves and their children. They include housing assistance, career coaching, case management, financial education, and food distribution.

You have been an instrumental part of our work! We could not do it without you!

Thank you so much for your support!

Sincerely,  
Debbie Regele  
Community Outreach Coordinator

***Sharon Curl***  
**Spanish Tutor - All levels**  
 Credentialed – 17 Years Experience  
 Familiar with junior and high school curriculum  
**(949) 559-1678 or (714) 608-0396**  
 References available



## 6th Grade Outdoor Education



The sixth grade had another terrific trip to Big Bear last January. Students had a great time at Camp Edwards in the San Bernardino Mountains. In a program run by High Trails, an outdoor science school, the students participate in a number of activities. Two of the favorites are rock climbing and archery. Another popular activity is skit night, where each cabin of 12 students does a short performance. Students were also busy with an adventure hike, a night-time astronomy hike, reptile study, and exploration of conservation issues, with an emphasis on food waste. There was plenty of snow on the ground so students reveled in the opportunity to make snowmen and throw snowballs. It was a fun, educational four days that students will certainly remember.





## 6th Grade D.A.R.E. Graduation

On January 27, 6th graders participated in a D.A.R.E. graduation ceremony. Each student publicly pledged to remain drug free. The ceremony is the culmination of an eight-week program that teaches students about making good choices and living healthy lives.



## ROCKS Stars for CHARACTER

Congratulations to the ROCKS Stars for Character! Our Character Stars were recognized in November for their perseverance and honesty. They are patient, good sports on the playground, recognize when they have made a mistake, and demonstrate integrity.

**Kindergarten:** Nathan, Choi, Alexander Cobb, Lea Rocheteau, June Su, Hayden Vogelmann

**1st Grade:** Summer Craft, Jessica Guo, Jeong Yup Kim, Jeffrey Lane, Grace Lee, Joey Lewis, Serafina Martinez, Maggie Konecky, Aarushi Shankar, Katie Tenaillon, Kate Thayer, Andrew Wong, Aaron Yan

**2nd Grade:** Rowan Corpus, Declan Edwards, Vernetta Huang, Henry Jia, Kavin Krishnam, Arne Noori, Audrey Ragan, Mirarmeen Seyyedy, Gavin Stark, Ty Tassinari

**3rd Grade:** Tyler Chang, Anuradha Krishnan, Valerie Nguyen, Rahul Pal, Ana Salas, Gabriel Toea

**4th Grade:** Oliver Corpus, Dakari Harris, Nicholas Poon, Gagandeep Singh

**5th Grade:** Ann Daley, Julia Freeman, Christian Go, Esther Hendrix, Amina Khelif, Sierra Spinella

**6th Grade:** Aurnov Chattopadhyay, Madison Wakita, Sam Winder



## ROCKS Stars for KINDNESS

In December we recognized our ROCKS Stars for Kindness. These students are polite with their peers and respectful in the classroom. They work well with others, are good at greeting and welcoming people, include others on the playground, and offer a hand to help.

**Kindergarten:** Enrico De Flaviis, Elise Feuerborn, Yi-Ning Li, Luca Rignot, Yousef Syed, Jadyn Wakita

**1st Grade:** Nycolas Antonio, Megan Bee, Sasha Cahill, Kailene Figueroa, Rey Hoshi, Hannah Kim, Hannah Lee, Pranav Moudgalya, Mya Nyangweso, Kayla Rezazadh, Nahyun We, Ethan Yang

**2nd Grade:** Andrey Chernyshev, James Cutting, Rachel Dennin, Alana Hardy, Molly Hoffman, Kaya Hoy, Hasun Lee, Christina Malikyar, Caroline Mumm, Chamidu Sagara, Ila Youssefi, Hirotooshi Zusho

**3rd Grade:** Reema Alhussien, Sara Arabzadeh, Max Daucher, Christina Denlinger, Brianna Diiorio, Ethan Doan, Kennedy Janto, Jessica Lion, Ray Rizzo, David Shiokari, Sofia Stirone

**4th Grade:** Dana Feng, Michelle Hong, Brian Li, Ainslie Matthew, Alexis Wascher, Kento Zollinger

**5th Grade:** Anita Garg, Serena Huang, Hun Tae Kim, Benny Monuki, Talitha Sargazy, Ryan Sargenti, Alan Wong

**6th Grade:** Kate Brown, Janine Bryant, Ohshue Gatanaga, Glayol Kashani, Hayato Kato, Rithika Rajendran Nair, Brooke Su, Kenna Uyesugi

## Recycle Mondays! Help Raise Funds for TR!

In an effort to raise more funds for the school, we are asking parents and students to recycle their plastic and aluminum drink cans and bring them to the school every Monday morning. Bring the recycled items in a plastic bag and toss them into the dumpster area near the bike racks. We will have helpers there every Monday morning to accept your bags. The district will provide pick-up service and take the donations to the recycle center. This is an easy way for each family to help raise funds for TR. We truly appreciate your support.



## Toys for Tots Program THANK YOU!

In December students and families donated approximately 100 toys for the Toys for Tots program. Thank you for your generosity! Many less fortunate children enjoyed the books, games, dolls, and toy cars that were donated. Also, thank you to the Girl Scout and Cub Scout students who held signs in the morning to remind families about the program.

## ROCKS Assemblies

There is a ROCKS assembly each month, and families are encouraged to attend. They are now on WEDNESDAYS and begin at 8:00 a.m. Each assembly has a theme and is led by one of the grade levels. Here is the schedule for the remaining assemblies this year:

2/23	Respect, Kindergarten
3/23	Organization, 6th Grade
4/27	Character, 5th Grade
5/18	Kindness, Teacher of the Year
6/8	Service, End of Year, Student Council

# ASTOUNDING INVENTIONS

## STUDENT INVENTION COMPETITION

### Astounding Inventions Winners

Congratulations to our many astounding inventors this year! About twenty students came up with innovative and creative ideas for the Astounding Inventions program. Turtle Rock recognized its school award winners and honorable mention inventions in December. They were:

#### First Place:

Sierra Johnson, 4th grade, Easy Sleeper Kit  
Lawrence Wang, 4th grade, Sprinkler Mate  
Christopher White, 5th grade, RC Duster

#### Second Place:

Ty Tassinari, 2nd grade, Zookeeper's Toothbrush  
Vahan Vorperian, 4th grade, Separable Streetlight  
Fixture

#### Third Place:

Annie Jeong, 1st grade, Water Bottle Cap  
Bree Tassinari, Kindergarten, Plate with Silverware

#### Honorable Mention:

Kyle Annett (The Paper Clipper), Dana Feng (Immediate Pill Reminder), Kenny Feng (Solar Power Fridge), Arush Mehrotra (Cavity Detective), Nitya Mehrotra (My Book Finder), Vince Petokas (The Painless Shot), Isabella Pink (Kid-Safe Toothpaste Ring), Michael Wu (Toilet Bowl Freshener), June Yoon (Head Holder).

The IUSD Astounding Inventions Contest was then held on Saturday, January 29 at Irvine Valley College. Turtle Rock's representatives did extremely well.

**Division Winners** included Vince Petokas, Kenny Feng, Lawrence Wang, and Nitya Mehrotra.

Receiving awards for **Outstanding Inventions** were Arush Mehrotra, Bree Tassinari, Ty Tassinari, Sierra Johnson, Vahan Vorperian, Isabella Pink, Christopher White, and Michael Wu.

**Honorable Mention** went to Yu Bin Jeong, Kyle Annett, and Dana Feng.

**Grand Prize Winners** have not been chosen yet. Those distinctions will be presented at the Greenberg Traurig Reception on the evening of March 3rd, from 6:00 to 7:30 pm at Irvine Valley College.



### Reflections Fourth District Finalists

Congratulations to our three Reflections finalists. Fourth grader Sierra Johnson received a distinction of "Merit" for her dance choreography piece. Second grader Hazel Koh (visual arts) and third grader Ashley Zeng (literature) received awards of "Excellence." Hazel and Ashley will have their work forwarded to Fourth District PTA, which is the next round of judging. Ashley's poem can be found in the *TRKids Views* portion of this newsletter. Only the work of approximately twenty-five Irvine students, out of over 400 total submissions, were selected to be represented at Fourth District!



Congratulations to our three Reflections finalists: Hazel Koh (2nd grade), Ashley Zeng (3rd grade), and Sierra Johnson (4th grade).

## ***Race to Nowhere*** **Viewing and Discussion**

The City of Irvine is hosting a viewing of the documentary *Race to Nowhere* on Thursday, February 24th from 6:00-9:00 pm at the Irvine Civic Center. Tickets are \$10.00 and available for purchase at the Race to Nowhere Web site: [www.racetonowhere.com](http://www.racetonowhere.com). IUSD is not a sponsor of this event, but will participate in a panel discussion after the screening of the film. The panel will include a number of representatives from different Irvine non-profit organizations, as well as two IUSD representatives. Resources and follow-up questions will be available on the city Web site following the event.



IRVINE PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOUNDATION

### **Some PATS on the Back!**

The Irvine Public Schools Foundation is sponsoring the PATS program: Parents Appreciating Teachers and Staff. You can show your appreciation to any teacher or staff member. Teachers and staff receive a personalized certificate of recognition with a small gift expressing your thanks. The donation goes directly back into the classroom by providing grants to all IUSD teachers. All donations must be received by March 4, 2011. See the Turtle Rock Web site for a PATS flyer and more information on how to show your appreciation.



### **Box Tops for Education**

Please collect your Box Tops for Education from the various products that you use at home (Cheerios, Kleenex, etc.). There is a collection box in the office next to the sign-in forms for volunteers. Turtle Rock earns 10 cents for each box top. Each teacher collects them in his/her classroom on a regular basis, too. All funds earned go to the Student Council for school items.

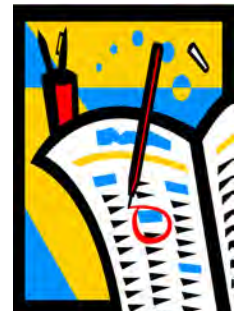


### **Floral Arrangements for those special moments**

Make it as extravagant as you'd like for a very reasonable price. In the business for 20 years, I work directly with wholesalers and can assure you that your flowers are fresh and vibrant for that special occasion. Plus, with wholesale pricing the cost is significantly discounted to further accommodate affordability. For pricing and availability please contact me at (714) 505-9657 or (714) 928-1605 and ask for Jocelyn.

### **Want To Place An Ad in the TR Times?**

If you or your organization would like to place an ad in the Turtle Rock Times, please contact Keith Corpus at [kcorpus@sbp.org](mailto:kcorpus@sbp.org) or 949-725-1710. The TR Times is published every two months with our next issue coming out on April 14, 2011.





## Turtle Rock Elementary 2010-2011 School Calendar

Feb. 18	K-2 Movie Night, MPR, 7:00 pm
Feb. 21	Washington's Day Observed – No School
Feb. 25	3-4 Movie Night, MPR, 7:00 pm
Mar. 2	PTA Board Meeting, Classroom, 12:00 pm Guy Stuff, MPR, 6:00 (current 5th grade boys)
Mar. 7-11	Jogathon Lunchtime Activities
Mar. 9	PTA Meeting, MPR, 6:30 pm, IUSD Superintendent Gwen Gross speaker
Mar. 14	Team Kids Food Drive
Mar. 17	Jogathon Report cards go home
Mar. 23	Mother-Daughter Tea, MPR, 6:00 pm
Mar. 24	Art Masters Workshop, MPR, 9:00 am
Mar. 30	Spring Parent Teacher Conference
Mar. 31	Kindergarten Round Up, MPR, 6:30 pm
Apr. 5	PTA Family Night Dine Out at California Pizza Kitchen, 5:00 pm
Apr. 6	PTA Board Meeting, Classroom, 12:00 Spring Parent Teacher Conferences
Apr. 14	Art Masters Workshop, MPR 9:00 am
Apr. 15	Minimum Day
Apr. 18-22	Spring Break – No School
May 4	PTA Board Meeting, Classroom, 12:00
May 9-20	STAR Testing
May 18	PTA General Meeting, MPR, 6:30 DARE Officer speaking
May 19	Art Master's Workshop, MPR, 9:00 am
May 25	Open House, 6:30 pm
May 26*	Regular Day (*NOTE CHANGE)
May 27	Minimum Day (Furlough Day Restored)
May 30	Memorial Day – No School
June 1	PTA Board Meeting, Classroom, 12:00
June 3	PTA Outdoor Movie Night-All grades, Upper grade field, 7:30 pm
June 10-14	Minimum Day
June 15	Last Day of School – Minimum Day Report cards on line
June 27	Summer School Begins

## Where Is the Song of Spring? By Ashley Zeng

The sound of a jackhammer shatters the silence  
Scattering the deer into the shadows  
Evicting the birds  
They're smashing the trees, the lungs of our  
planet  
Pouring cement on the grass  
Slaughtering the animals

Where is the song of spring?  
The shimmering sun that was as bright as  
laughter  
As the clouds floated like giant forests of cot-  
ton candy  
In a marble blue sky

Where are the pines that stood like soldiers  
Tall and proud on the mountain  
As a ruby-breasted barn swallow sang a song  
of spring?  
I used to crunch small gray pebbles under my  
feet  
Beside a sea that sparkled like a clear crystal  
mirror  
The air was scented with green pines  
As cool wind brushed my cheek  
And I tasted sweet peace

But now that sea is mucked with black oil  
And the skeletons of dead fish  
The pelicans and seagulls lick poison off their  
feathers  
Only to die

How can we fix this?  
Together we can  
Together we can walk and bike instead of drive  
Dine by candlelight instead of electricity  
Star-gaze instead of watch TV  
Together, we can sing the song of spring

*Ashley's poem is a Fourth District finalist Reflections submission.*

## Here I am Again By Angela Dong

Here I am again, I am  
The flowers on the trees  
The butterflies and bees  
Here I am again.

Here I am again, I am  
The squirrels' rapid chatter,  
The rain's soft pitter-patter,  
Here I am again.

I am on a mission; I  
Seek Winter; I shall swipe it;  
And later, I shall wipe it  
From the surface of the earth.

Farewell to bare branches and  
The white snow, soft as powder,  
The wind will become louder,  
The puddles reappear.

My weapons are the storm clouds,  
And the flowers and the rain.  
Here I am again,  
Because I am the spring.

## Saint Valentine's Day By Anne Jang

*Saint Valentine's Day*  
Oh, Valentine, oh Valentine, What has happened  
since you were in jail! The jailer's daughter has  
cried her heart,  
Since you have been there.  
King Claudius, oh Claudius,  
Please take pity on him!  
That is what they've all been crying,  
Since you have been there.  
He did not, apparently not,  
Had not took pity on him,  
The last letter he wrote, as a Pope, signed,  
From your Valentine.

### *In This Issue*

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### Top ten most downloaded apps

1. Bubble ball
2. Geared2
3. Angry birds seasonal
4. Cookie maker
5. Tap Town
6. TV.com
7. Treasure Arm
8. Stealth Tone
9. Tap Tap revenge 4
10. iLlumination

## Do You Believe in Santa?

By Grant Sheen

### Do you believe in Santa?

The holiday season has passed, but one question may still be lingering in your mind. Is Santa real? I remember in first grade everybody believed in Santa. In third grade, my friends and I started conversations about if Santa was real. As a fourth grader, I decided to do a survey to see other students' opinions. Also, I wanted to see the difference among students from lower to higher grades.

I surveyed 42 students in total: 20 students from 4<sup>th</sup> grade, 10 students from 1<sup>st</sup> grade, and 12 students from 6<sup>th</sup> grade. For each grade, half of the students were boys and half were girls. The survey asked if they believed in Santa and listed 4 reasons each for yes and no, and they were allowed to choose more than one reason. Here are the results of the survey:

10 out of 10 (100%) of students in first grade believe in Santa.

13 out of 20 (65%) of students in fourth grade believe in Santa, 5 of them are boys and 8 of them are girls.

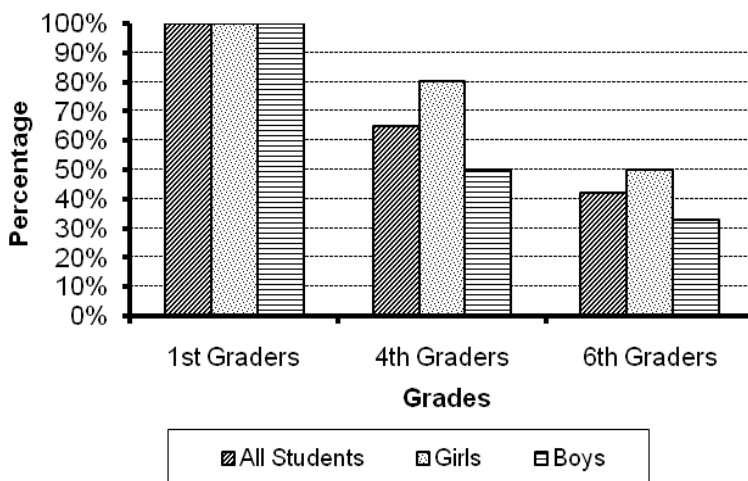
5 out of 12 (42%) of students in sixth grade believe in Santa, 2 of them are boys and 3 of them are girls.

70% of first graders who believe in Santa say that they think Santa is real. 60% of them also say that they believe in Santa because they want presents.

38% of fourth graders who believe in Santa say that they think Santa is real, and 46% of them say that they believe in Santa because they want presents.

None of the sixth graders who believe in Santa say that they think Santa is real, but 60% of them say that they believe in Santa because they want presents.

Percentages of Students Believing in Santa



**In summary, as the grade number goes higher, the percentage of students who believe in Santa decreases. Fewer students believe Santa is real as they grow older. You can also see that more girls believe in Santa than boys.**

**FEBRUARY**

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## How to Stay Healthy

By Claire Jang

E-mail us!  
trkviews@yahoo.com

### 5 WAYS TO PREVENT COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

1. Stay home when you have a bad cold or a fever.
2. Wash your hands with soap and water if someone is sick at your school.
3. Cough or sneeze into a tissue or you might get someone with your germs.
4. Stay away from classmates who are sick or keep coughing and sneezing.
5. Get the flu shot and you have less chance of getting the flu.



## The Looking Glass Illusion

By Zena Meyer

The looking glass illusion is a strange illusion. People have reported seeing it by looking into a mirror in a dimly lit room. When they are about a foot-and-a-half away from the mirror and they stare at it for about a minute they might see:

- ◆ Strange changes to one's own face
- ◆ A parent's face
- ◆ The face of an unknown person
- ◆ The face of an animal
- ◆ The face of a monstrous being

