



All City Elementary PTA Newsletter

Week 1
September 6, 2011

Our Mission: "To create a community of learners: children, teachers, and parents working cooperatively to maximize individual growth and success in a changing world."

Deadline: Friday, noon
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www.allcitypta.org

At a glance Calendar Events

- **Tuesday, Sept 6th**
Parent Training Night
6:00 pm
- **Monday, Sept 12th**
PTA Board Meeting
Noon
- **Tuesday, Sept 13th**
Picture Day
- **Friday, Sept 16th**
Choice Day
1:45 pm
- **Friday, Sept 23rd**
Kids Care

**Complete
School Year
Calendar is available at
www.allcitypta.org**

A message from Mr. D:

Tonight, we will be conducting this year's parent training night, a required component of the annual training we do with family participants in the school environment at All City. The timing of this training is strategic, in that we have now conducted one to two weeks of classroom training with parents that will be doing the classroom commitment for their students. After the classroom training from parent trainers, the teachers want to spend time with only the adults of the ACE families, to give them some further instructions and procedures that will apply to our work together this year. We have planned a schedule that will include time in each classroom, as well as four break-out sections based on topics that are important for all parents to consider. These break-outs, the first hour of our evening, tonight, will cover lunchroom behavior, play-ground behavior, working in small groups, and other topics. The topics that I will be discussing in my sessions are: Handbook Updates, Missed Commitment Follow-up, and a Conflict Management Overview.

All fourth and fifth graders are trained each year to help their peers resolve non-physical disputes. These students learn leadership skills and communication skills such as clearly expressing feelings and needs, and how to listen well without taking sides. They assume more responsibility for their actions, and learn problem solving skills and other ways to help improve the school environment. Potential benefits to students involved in the program include increased self-confidence and improved grades. The school benefits because the level of student conflict decreases, thus allowing students more time for learning and teachers more time for teaching. More information will be shared at the parent training session, tonight. I hope you will appreciate the information tonight, and enjoy the benefits of Conflict Management throughout the school year.

Library Selection Policy

The school library serves as a point of voluntary access to information and ideas and as a learning laboratory for students as they acquire critical thinking and problem solving skills. School librarians select materials in consultation with teachers using standard professional school library review sources to identify resources that are appropriate for the varied interests, abilities, learning styles, and maturity levels of the students served. Materials are intended to stimulate growth in factual knowledge, literary appreciation, aesthetic values and to promote reading for enjoyment. To encourage students to develop the practice of critical analysis to make informed decisions in their daily lives, materials representing more than one point of view are available. Considering the diverse backgrounds and points of view represented in the pluralistic society served by the public school, individuals may occasionally object to materials available through the school library. Upon parental request, the school librarian will work with individual parents to guide their children to books and resources that align with their family values. In the event a parent believes a specific title should be removed from circulation for all students, the parent should contact the librarian and/or school principal according to Policy KEC/KEC-R Concerns/Complaints about Programs or Instructional Materials.

District Math Curriculum Steering committee

There is an application on the front page of the SFSD website (www.k12.sd.us) for parents and/or community members who may wish to be a part of the District Math Curriculum Steering committee. If you know of someone who might be interested, please send them to that site.

Thanks!

Sue McAdaragh
Elementary Curriculum Coordinator

REMINDERS about ACE Parent Training Night

- ◆ Parent Training is for adults only, please provide other activities for children at locations other than the school.
- ◆ All ACE Families are expected to have one adult in attendance at the Parent Training Night. If this does not happen, the family will be counted as having one missed commitment.
- ◆ Each family will receive one packet of ACE Parent Handbook Updates for 2011-2012. These updates were passed by the PTA Executive Committee throughout last school year, and were updated on the website as soon as they were passed.
- ◆ Each family will also receive one set of student directory information for all 6 grades. This is the information provided to the PTA on the student directory sheets in the back of the classroom, the first week and a half of school this year.
- ◆ There will be signs when you enter, explaining which session you should attend, first. These sessions will rotate in a clockwise fashion.
- ◆ Classroom sessions will be in any order you wish with the following exception-- If you have student(s) in classes older than kindergarten, go to those class(es) in the first classroom session, then attend kindergarten in the second session. All parents with only a kindergarten student, plan to attend both Kindergarten sessions.

Where do I go at 6:00?

Last name begins with:

A-C

4th grade classroom

D-J

5th grade classroom

K-M

3rd grade classroom

N-Y

Library

Sessions will rotate in a clockwise direction

Below is the schedule we will follow:

Parent Training Schedule

6:00-6:15 Session 1

6:20-6:35 Session 2

6:40-6:55 Session 3

7:00-7:15 Session 4

7:20-7:35 Classroom

Presentation #1

7:40-7:55 Classroom

Presentation #2

7:40 or 7:55 Pick up your Handbook Revisions in the Gym as you leave.

Commitment Reminder:

- ◆ All people fulfilling classroom commitment responsibilities must be trained. If you plan to have another person to do your classroom commitment time that did not go through classroom training during one of the first two weeks of school in K-2 and the first week in grades 3-5, these people must be trained by someone who was trained for your commitment. This training will be the full commitment time, unless the teacher releases you earlier (the teacher may choose to allow the person being trained to leave before the whole commitment time is over, but the commitment-serving person will of course stay for the whole commitment time).
- ◆ If you train someone in this fashion, be sure the teacher knows this training is going on at the beginning of the session (half-day), and have the newly trained person's name added to the trained list of people.
- ◆ You must have PTA approval to have more than 3 people fulfill commitment time on a regular basis.

Reminder!!!

ID badges are required for parents and other volunteers that will be doing commitment time in the classroom. I can either take your picture or you may email me a photo to jonimerkley@hotmail.com.

I will have a sign up sheet at the parent sign in area if you would like me to take your picture at school.

Please put your name and time you will be doing your commitment. When your ID's are completed they will be in the parent sign in area.

Thanks!
Joni Merkley