

Rosa Parks Elementary Newsletter

A Publication of the Rosa Parks PTA

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Proudly Supporting the Welcoming Schools Guide, www.welcomingschools.org

**NEXT PTA MEETING - Thursday, Oct.27, 6-8 PM
Dinner and Childcare Provided.**

Principal's Message

Dear Rosa Parks families,

We are off to a great start. All students KG-5th are now working in their language lab groups four days a week, PlayWorks has begun, and our music, garden and cooking programs, and science lab are all in full swing.

There are potentially some big changes in the future for our Two Way Spanish Immersion program. Ty Alper and Francisco Romero are our two parent reps and Matilde Merello and Michelle Contreras are our teacher reps along with me serving on a district committee to look at our district TWI programs. We already met once with representatives from LeConte, Cragmont, Thousand Oaks and the district. Our charge is to improve the TWI programs that we offer and to explore the possibility of consolidating the programs into one program.

This would be a big change for Rosa Parks and the district. Over the next two PTA meetings I hope to talk more about what is being proposed in the committee and to get feedback from the parent community. It seems clear that nothing will change about the program this year, or the next, but change could come in 2013-14.

The school board directed the superintendent to form a team to look at the TWI programs and to give him a recommendation on how to consolidate programs if that is the desired approach. If consolidation occurs it would likely be phased-in over time (e.g., starting with KG and phasing in the school at one site, one grade level each year.) I will keep you updated as I learn more. Best wishes,

Paco Furlan

EVENT CALENDAR

October

12th: (Wednesday)

Tour of the World

20th: (Thursday)

Picture Day

27th: (Thursday).
6-8 PM. (Dinner, Childcare, Spanish Translation):

PTA Meeting

November

2nd: (Wednesday)
6-7:30 PM

Family Math Night!!

Event Calendar Continued on Next Page

Family Resource Center Update

More than half of our Rosa Parks families have joined the **15 Minutes Campaign!** If you'd like to sign up, call 644-8537, email renacrocker@berkeley.net, or visit us in the Family Resource Center.

All families eligible for free or reduced lunch can enroll to receive **free take-home food bags** twice a month. Contact Rena for details.

**SCHOOL
CALENDAR FOR
PARENT-
TEACHER
CONFERENCE
WEEK
Nov. 4-10,
2011**

Grade K will be released 60 minutes earlier (FMT)

Grades 1-5 will be released 70 minutes earlier (FMT)

*(WEDNESDAY
REGULAR DISMISSAL
FOR ALL GRADES)*

Kindergarten dismissal time
1:15pm

Grades 1 & 2 dismissal time
1:55pm

Grades 3-5 dismissal time 2:00pm

(Note: Possible bus delays for grades 1-5)

**No School Thursday or
Friday, Nov 10 & 11
(Conference Day,
Veterans' Day)**

Everyday Math for Parents

Dear Rosa Parks Community,

Two Rosa Parks teachers, Mary and Andrea, will be offering 1 hour walk-in *Everyday Math* clinics in room 3 at Rosa Parks. The clinics will run from 3:30 - 4:30 PM each Friday and will be available in Spanish on the 4th Friday of the month. The goal of the clinics is to assist families with the *Everyday Math Program* or homework, Kindergarten through

5th Grade.

Feel free to stop in, no reservations. We will be more than happy to answer your questions and work with you on whatever your child is bringing home. The program will continue as long as there is a need. So come on out, and enjoy the heck out of mathematics! (If no one shows up for help, we'll close the clinic at 3:45 PM.)

Farmer Tanya's Orchard Wish

Dear Rosa Parks Community,

I hope to create an orchard at Rosa Parks.

The student population of Rosa Parks has grown substantially in recent years and we now have one of the largest elementary enrollments in Berkeley. Our main garden, however, remains one of the smallest school gardens in Berkeley.

It is my job to produce fresh food tastings for all 450 students. September was Tomato month. October is Fall Tree Fruit Month (apples, pears, persimmons, figs or pomegranates). And January will be Citrus month. Unfortunately, I lack the space to fulfill my gardening duties.

The school now has so many students that the Kindergarten yard is no longer used for recesses; rather, it is used by small groups before school, after school and for some class celebrations. Growing an orchard in this space would not negatively impact these activities. My orchard vision is to remove some asphalt, create wheelchair-accessible pathways, and install a self-sufficient irrigation system that uses rainwater catchment.

Getting district approval, though, will be challenging. I would welcome your support for a Rosa Parks orchard in the Kindergarten yard and encourage you to sign a petition of support in the school office. With sincere thanks.

Farmer Tanya

The Sustainability Committee aims to make our school a healthier place. We are starting a Monthly Campaign highlighting easy actions for parents and students. Our October theme is Zero Waste Lunches; suggestions include bringing reusable containers and utensils, cloth napkins and reusable lunchboxes. If your child eats a school lunch, encourage them to not take a straw and review composting and recycling at home. Our first meeting is on Oct. 20 at 4 p.m.; please email me if you are interested in joining this committee: susansilber07@gmail.com