



Jane Snyder, Principal

April 2011
Issue II

Frank Vessels Elementary School
5900 Cathy Avenue
Cypress, CA 90630
714-220-6990 Office
714-220-6993 Fax



YEARBOOKS ON SALE

You can still purchase a yearbook for the 2010-2011 school year. They will be distributed in June. **The cost is \$25.00** each. Place your check in an envelope marked YEARBOOK and turn into the office. Please be sure the envelope clearly states your child's name and room number.

Phone Number or Address Changes



If you change your address, phone number, or work information please contact the school office immediately. It is extremely important that we have the correct contact information in case of an emergency with your child.

LOST AND NOT YET FOUND

Please be sure to check our lost and found area. It is full with student's jackets, sweaters, lunch boxes, etc. Please check out the lost and found to make sure nothing belongs to your child.



Upcoming Talent Show

Vessels School will host a Talent Show on April 13th during the school day and also have a night performance for parents and friends on April 14th. Our night performance will be held at the Cypress Community Center (located at Oak Knoll Park). Students wishing to participate have submitted applications and will have auditions the week of March 28th.

No School
Friday, April 22nd

Spring Break is April 4-8

Friday, April 1st is a minimum day

Students will be dismissed as follows:
Kindergarten late pups 9:00-1:15 PM
1st-6th grade classes dismissed at 1:50 PM



BULLDOG SPIRIT

Remember to wear your Spirit Colors Every Friday!

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* We will not honor requests for specific teachers for the next school year. However, if there are special considerations that you want us to be aware of when we are creating balanced classrooms, you must submit these considerations in writing by **May 2nd** to the office.
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Class Assignments 2011-2012

PTA Highlights

Dear Parents and Students,

We need your help in making education a top priority by having your children to school daily and on time. Research has shown that attendance problems correlate directly to achievement problems and are associated with lack of preparation to enter the work force. We have targeted reducing the number of students truant as a school improvement goal this year. Last year 23%, or 173 of our students, were considered truant because they had three or more unexcused tardies and/or absences. It is very concerning to me that this year we have a significant number of students with excessive absences and tardies. Please contact me at 714-220-6990 ext. 6151, if you need help with getting your child to school. I will also be contacting families that I am concerned about absences or tardies. Thank you in advance for making education a priority for your child by having them at school.

Your principal,
Mrs. Snyder

Tips to Improve School Attendance

- Make your child's education a family priority.
- Tell your children how important their education is to you.
- Insist that your children attend school and do their homework.
- Understand your child's school attendance policy.
- Make sure your children get plenty of sleep at night.
- Buy your children an alarm clock.
- Tell your children that you love them and give them hugs on a regular basis.
- Do not support your child's excessive absences.
- If your child does not want to attend school, find out why. If there is a problem, work together to solve it.
- If your child refuses to go to school, do not be afraid to ask for help. Talk to school staff to find out what resources are available.
- Maintain contact and communication with your child's teachers and principal. Ask questions when uncertain.
- Make sure your child arrives to school on time. Some of the most important classes happen at the beginning of the school day.
- Try to schedule medical appointments outside of the school day.
- Plan family activities outside of the school hours and resist picking your children up early.

This school year has flown by, maybe that's because we've been so busy.

The PTA has sponsored a multitude of special events, starting with another successful Art Masters program. Next, the students enjoyed Muffins with Moms (thanks to the hard-working Britta Piotrowski), and experienced some friendly competition with the exciting (and successful) Penny Wars (thanks, Candi Kern).

For Loved Ones Day, students were treated to a beautifully-decorated school, and lunch with their loved ones. (Special thanks to Sarah Sanchez and Maria Modaffari).

In February and March, we celebrated the benefits of reading with our hugely popular Book Fair (chaired by Melinda Rowley), a crowd-pleasing Bingo Family Fun Night (hosted by Keisha Brookins), and the one-of-a-kind Dr. Seuss Day/Read-a-thon/Pajama Day (chaired by Nancy DeVries and Tammi Ramsey). Special thanks to the volunteers who came out to read.

As if all that weren't enough, we also held the ever-popular Imagination Machine assembly and yet another successful fundraiser, our catalog sales.

Whew! You parents and volunteers have been incredibly generous with your support. I can't thank you enough.

Cathy Guthrie
PTA President

MORE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Like any volunteer organization, PTA is always in need of help. Remember, students perform better academically when their parents are involved at school.

There are plenty of opportunities to help—even if you only have an hour or two to spare. Please contact me.

- Upcoming positions available:
- Book Fair Chair
 - Family Fun Chair
 - Dr. Seuss Day Chair

If you are able to help please contact Cathy Guthrie at cvguthrie@yahoo.com

Safety Assistants for January, February and March

Thank you to our January, February and March Safety Assistants for keeping our parking areas safe each day. Our January assistants were: *Alyssa Lothrop, Brianna Gargano, Anthony Cardoza, Derek Null, Monty Jennings, Harry Kim, and Oliver Dazo.* February assistants were: *Kole Fredholm, Jadon Morales, Andres Kim, Christina Mitchell, Taylor Richmond, Collin O'Hare, Adnan Abdeh, and Jacob Norte.* Our March assistants were: *Emily Holz, Melissa Timperio, Candice Mineses, Robert Fleming, Cristian Sanchez, Jesus Ruiz, and Jacob Falkenborg.*

January



February



March



Sharing Is Caring

Thanks to the generous donations of Vessels' families, the Cypress PTA's "Sharing is Caring" clothing drive was a huge success. This is an annual event that helps provide free clothing and assistance to families in need. This year's event was extended to all of Orange County and the turnout was fantastic. The Kiwanis Club hosted a pancake breakfast on opening day. The generosity of those who donated their belongings and their time was much appreciated by all who participated.

Thank you, Vessels families!

6th Grade Dress Code

Dear 6th grade students and families,

In order for our students to have an effective learning environment and be prepared for middle school, Vessels 6th grade teachers and Mrs. Snyder feel that it is important to clarify proper school dress code. The following requirements must be followed:

- Undergarments should not be visible
- No see-through clothing
- No spaghetti-strap tops
- No short tops (stomach must be covered when arms are raised over head)
- No low cut tops
- No backless tops or shirts (that do not cover the back entirely)
- Shorts should be longer than the student's fingertips
- Clothes must fit the body
 - Not excessively baggy
 - Not too tight
- Closed toe shoes only
- Accessories must be appropriate and not disruptive to learning.
 - Chains, large hoop earrings, spiked bracelets are not allowed
- Appropriate slogans on shirts (no beer, drugs, gangs)
- Rubber wristbands cannot mention body parts
- Hats can be worn at recess only

Failure to comply with these dress code requirements will result in a character slip and the student will be provided appropriate clothing for the day.

Thank you for your cooperation!

Important Dates for 6th grade Students and their Parents

- April 21** Lexington JH Open House
- June 14** 11:30 AM —6th Grade Awards at Cypress Community Center

Walk Across America

On February 11th the students and staff kicked off our annual Walk Around America program. This program was used as a fundraiser for 6th graders and as a fitness program encouraging students in all grade levels to participate in daily exercise.



Students were required to walk/jog a minimum of 2 laps daily during their noon recess for the next four weeks or until March 11th.

Our students and staff traveled 8,625 miles this year for Walk Around America

Our top primary grade students were:

50 Mile Club

Luke Thistle
Jared Anderson

40 Mile Club

Vincent Orton
Kody Papke
Summer Wooten
Carolynn Nickell

35 Mile Club

Grant Wilson
Henock Admasu
Brett Anderson

Our top upper grade students were:

80 Mile Club

Erik Papke

70 Mile Club

Gino Santo

60 Mile Club

Kevin Hernandez
Jeffrey Kinol
Chloe Gallego

Top Class mileage:

Primary grades—

Mrs. Boualam / Mrs. Schulz's class
Upper grades—Miss Baye's class

Kindergarten Enrollment

Parents may register children from 9:00 AM - Noon and 1:00 PM - 3:30 PM in the school office. Children must be five years old on or before December 2, 2011 to be eligible to participate in kindergarten programs at public schools.

Please register at your home school. A utility bill or current rent receipt is required as proof of residence. (Gas or Electric only, NO telephone bills are accepted).

Student placement at Vessels School is based on priority order of those with COMPLETED registrations. Please gather information and materials and pre-register as soon as possible.

STAR TESTING SPRING 2011 2nd—6th grade Students



Testing will begin on Monday, May 5th through Thursday, May 13 for grades 2—6. These tests will measure the students' performance in English/Language Arts and Mathematics. 5th grade students will also be assessed in Science. Students in 4th grade have already completed the writing proficiency portion of the exam. Your child can practice the types of questions being asked by using the sample test question found on the California State Department of Education website at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sr/ss05rtq.asp>. These are the actual questions from previous years.

It is most important that your child arrive at school on time. It is not possible for a child to enter the class room after the exam has started. It takes approximately 10—15 minutes each morning to prepare materials. Therefore, it is imperative that your child is in his or her room daily at 8:25 AM for grades 4-6 and 8:30 for grades 2-3. Testing should conclude by lunch time each day. If you need to schedule any appointments for your children please try to avoid these days and times.

Student Club Updates

Our spring classroom representatives for our Vessels Student Club are:

4th grade - (room 27) Gino Santo, Kendall Decker; (room 28) Charles Wilson, Amy Nguyen; and (room 29) Victoria Ignacio.

5th grade—(room 32) Jacob Chavez; (room 33) Destiny Price, Allison Harper; and (room 34) Alan Pham, Tairi Ramdhani.

6th grade—(room 25) Daniel Kim, Emily Copeland; (room 26) Sierra Steinberger, Derek Null; and (room 31) Robert Fleming, Trina Nguyen.

These student leaders will help to make positive changes at our school.

Dear Vessels Families,

If you are moving this summer and are not planning for your child (current K– 5th graders) to return to Vessels School for the 2011/2012 school year, please notify the office at (714) 220-6990.

Thank you, Vessels Staff

Support for our school from HALLELUJAH TAEKWONDO!

In support of Vessels School, HALLELUJAH TAEKWONDO will donate \$10 monthly for each Vessels student who enrolls. HALLELUJAH TAEKWONDO offers martial arts instruction for all ages. Please contact Master Yoon at 714-226-0003 or 714-290-1216 and mention Vessels School. HALLELUJAH TAEKWONDO is located at 5101 Ball Road in Cypress.

Several Vessels students currently enrolled will present a Taekwondo demonstration at this year's talent show!

Calendar dates for April—June

- April 4– 8 Spring Break
- April 22 Non-student day/no school
- May 27 Non-student day/no school
- May 30 Memorial day/no school
- June 15 Last day of school—
early dismissal



2010 Physical Fitness Results

The state mandates that students in grades 5, 7, and 9 take a physical fitness test. Students are assessed in six major fitness areas, including aerobic capacity (cardiovascular endurance), body composition (percent of body fat), abdominal strength and endurance, trunk strength and flexibility, upper body strength and endurance. Students must meet fitness standards in all six areas of the test to be considered fit; 25% of our students tested, achieved that goal. 39% of our students passed at least five of the six fitness tests.

PTA FUNDRAISING NEWS

The PTA would like to extend our most sincere gratitude for the support you have shown in this year's fundraisers. From our fall jog-a-thon, to our Penny Wars, to our Spring catalog sales, the Bulldogs have really stepped up! After expenditures for supplies and prizes, our Penny Wars profited a total of \$7,474.99. Despite that amazing show of support, the PTA was still short of its budget goals. It was decided that we once again do the Spring catalog sales. To date, the Bulldogs have made well over \$27,000 in sales, and that number is rising as the internet sales are being calculated, and the last of the checks are trickling in. Our profit off those sales is approximately 50%, so the PTA is expecting to increase its income by close to \$14,000. We are so pleased that we will be able to fulfill this year's financial commitments, as well as continue and improve existing programs. You can be certain that our students will benefit as a result of your hard work and generosity in our fundraising this year. As a reminder, most of the money PTA earns goes to field trips and assemblies for all students.

If you have any questions or concerns about our PTA finances, you are welcome to attend our meetings, the 1st Friday of each month at 1:30 in the Teacher's Lounge. You may also contact Candi Kern, 2nd VP of Ways and Means, with any fundraising questions at 714-899-4897 or candice.kern@gmail.com.

I would like to thank the many volunteers who take the time to make these fundraisers happen. They spend countless hours counting money, tallying points, banking, delivering prizes, etc. Without your help, these fundraising efforts simply couldn't happen. I would also like to thank the teachers and staff for their support. We recognize that sometimes these fundraisers can be inconvenient and intrusive. We trust that the benefits of the programs we are able to provide outweigh the minor nuisances. We thank you for your patience.

Again, I want to thank each and every family for their dedication to our school's programs. You can rest assured that PTA will not be soliciting any more money this school year. You have done your part! Thank you. Thank you. THANK YOU!