

James Franklin Smith PTA Newsletter

November/December 2008

PTA Calendar

December

- 5th** Barnes & Noble Performance
- 8th** Barnes & Noble Performance
- 10th** Barnes & Noble Story Time 7pm
(With Mr. Hodgkin Master Story Teller)
- 12th** Celebrate the Holidays Event 6:30pm
- 16th** Board Meeting (6:15)
- 17th** Cookies with Santa 6:00pm
- 22nd-2nd** Winter Break

January

- 13th** Board Meeting (6:15)
- 14th** General Association Meeting 8:15am
- 19th** No School, Martin Luther King Day

February

- 6th** Dinner/Auction Event
- 16th-20th** No School, President's Break
- 23rd** Jump Rope for Heart
- 24th** Board Meeting

March

- 17th** Board Meeting (6:15)
- 18th** General Association Meeting 8:15am
- 27th** Multi-Cultural Night
- TBA** Spring Book Fair

April

- 10th-17th** No School, Spring Break
- 21st** Board Meeting (6:15)
- 22nd** General Association Meeting 8:15am (Elections)
- 23rd** Open House
- 27th** Staff Appreciation Week Begins
- 29th** Staff Appreciation Luncheon

May

- 12th** Board Meeting (6:15)
- 15th** Walk-A-Thon and Carnival
- 25th** No School, Memorial Day

June

- 9th** Last Board Meeting
- 12th** Last Day of School

President's Address

This is undoubtedly my favorite time of year. Despite the avalanche of added things to do, plans to make and special dishes to prepare, the joy of spending time as a family is extremely important to me. It's also an important time to thank those around us for everything they do all year long. We are very lucky here at JFS to have such dedicated teachers and support staff. Our children are thriving under their tutelage. We are also very fortunate to have so many supportive parents working daily with our children, reading to them, doing art work with them and supporting the

teachers so they have more time to teach. Thank you to you all.

November was a busy month here at JFS. The fall book fair run by Brandi Sosa and Amy Weiss was yet another success. Well done ladies and thanks to you and all the parents that kindly volunteered their time to work it. We are lucky that so many of our children are book lovers. Parents like you help to nurture this important love of reading and learning.

The Cherrydale fundraiser went smoothly thanks to Sandy Feldman, our Cherrydale chairperson, who had the help of several parents to check order forms, count and recount money and deal with the product pick up. I for one was very happy to get some of my gift shopping done.

As you can see from the calendar, our PTA has many fun filled family events planned for you to enjoy with your children during December. We hope you can take advantage and use these events as time to spend with your children, building warm memories to cherish, and showing them that you support them and their school.

Have a wonderful and safe winter break.

Tracy Wilkinson

Upcoming Events

Winter Festival: 12/12/08 at 6:30 PM **In the JFS Multipurpose Room**

Our students have been hard at work rehearsing for this year's winter festival and there is a team of volunteers ready to create a winter wonderland inside our very own multipurpose room. As usual each grade has a musical performance for you and for the second year in a row we will be enjoying performances from JFS students telling us all about their own winter holiday traditions, festivals and beliefs. Even if your child is not in the show we invite you all along to enjoy the fun. We even expect a surprise visitor from the North Pole! This is a lovely way to kick-off the holiday season.

Barnes and Noble Book Fair and **Storytelling with Mr. Hodgkin**

Starting on Friday, December 5th and going until Wednesday, December 10th, our school will receive a percentage of every book or stationary item purchased at the Barnes and Noble at Eastridge Mall. Bookfair vouchers came home with your child this week. As an added bonus this year you can come and enjoy a preview of our winter festival

James Franklin Smith PTA Newsletter

November/December 2008

performances as well as a very fun story time with our very own principal, Mr. Hodgins.

Friday 5th at 7pm 1st thru 3rd graders perform

Monday 8th at 7pm 4th thru 6th graders perform

Wednesday 10th at 7pm. Storytelling with Mr. Hodgins

* The purchase of gift cards, Barnes and Noble memberships, textbooks and magazine subscriptions are not included in the bookfair totals.

Cookies with Santa: Dec. 17th 6:00pm **In the JFS Multipurpose Room**

Are you tired of waiting in long lines at the mall only to be rushed through your child's visit with Santa? Well, this is the event for you. Come meet Santa and have cookies and milk with him at our own JFS multipurpose room! Children can come in their pajamas and bring cozy blankets and listen to Santa read his favorite stories. There is a \$5 per child entry fee to cover the costs of this event. There is also a nominal fee of \$5 to have a photograph taken with Santa!

*In order to be fair to our diverse community, the JFS PTA is not spending fundraising money to underwrite the event.

PTA News & Information

New this Year: Holiday Gift Card Sales

Are you planning on giving gift cards this holiday season? If so, please consider buying them from your PTA.

This year the PTA will be selling gift cards at face value. We are offering more than 20 retailers, including Borders, Barnes & Noble, Starbucks, AMC theaters, Chili's, Macy's and American Eagle Outfitter. We will order our cards through the Great Lakes Scrip Center, which gives us a discount on all the gift cards. The difference between the face value and the cost of the card will go into our general PTA funds. We have selected cards that appeal to our local population, and ones that give us at least a 7% discount, with the exception of Safeway and Lucky supermarkets (they give us less, but you can also register your store cards with Escript and get double the rewards!). Order forms and information have gone home and orders are due Dec. 8 in order for gift cards to be delivered by Dec. 17th. They may be in as early as Dec. 11th. Extra forms are available in the JFS office. Please fill out the form completely and attach 1 check made out to JFS PTA. Please put your child's name and room number on the check. If you have any questions, please contact Brandi Sosa at brandisosa@netscape.net.

Under The Tuscan Moon

At the Ranch on February 6th, 2009

JFS PTA presents "Under the Tuscan Moon" at the beautiful Ranch Golf Club. We will have dinner, live auction, huge silent auction including classroom basket, gift certificates from local companies and the always popular "teacher times". **Tickets will go on sale early January at \$55/each.** There are lots of jobs involved in making this event a success. If you would like to help contact Sharon at Sharon@bennettwebs.com

The kid's only **Pizza Bash** is going to be held at that same night at the JFS Multipurpose room with the YMCA in charge. There will be lots of games, crafts, snacks and prizes for the kids too. Parents must be attending the dinner in order for their school age children to attend this popular event.

Thank you to our event sponsors:

A sincere thank you to our generous event sponsors: Albin Engineering, Daimyo Chen of New York Life Insurance, Loretta Mosley of Interio Real Estate, Clarity Med Spa, and The Ranch Golf Club. We appreciate your continued support of JFS events.

If you would be interested or know someone interested in sponsorship please contact Sharon Bennett at Sharon@bennettwebs.com.

Classroom Gift Basket Collection

Begins this week and runs until 12/12

Every year we collect money for classroom gift baskets for our dinner/auction event. These amazing baskets will be an important part of our silent auction this year. Look for information coming home this week. If you have any questions, contact Elsbeth at elsbethmccann@msn.com.

Join our Yahoo Group!

Join our Yahoo PTA group - an easy way to stay informed. Follow the easy directions on our new website. You can choose how often you want to receive emails from the group. Contact Brandi at brandisosa@netscape.net for help.

New JFS PTA Website

Check out the PTA website at www.eesd.org/jfs or directly at www.jfs-pta.org. We will try and update this new website frequently.