

Panda Press

Home of The Acacia Pandas



THE ACACIA PARTNERSHIP NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2012

Save the Dates

January

13—Coffee with the Principal 8:00 am
16—Martin Luther King's Birthday/NO SCHOOL
18—GATE Parent Book Club Meeting
20—Twin Day/Mother & Son Night Out 5-9 pm
23—ELAC 8:00 am
24—GATE/Honors transition to Junior High
School Parent Meeting 6:30 pm
25/26—Dining with Acacia Matador
27—NO SCHOOL/Staff Development

February

3—PTA meeting 8:05 am & Movie Night 6:30 pm
6—Foundation Meeting 6:30 pm
7—Technology Meeting 2:45 pm
10—Coffee with the Principal 8:00 am
13—Lincoln's Birthday/ NO SCHOOL
15/16—Dining with Acacia The Habit
17—6th Grade LV Transition Day
20—President's Day/ NO SCHOOL
24—Casino Night
25—SSOAR Saturday School

Mother/Son Event

Mothers & Sons! Come and spend the evening at Cal State Fullerton playing games, climbing the rock wall, bowling, playing billiards and snacking on pizza! It's the 3rd Annual Mother & Son Night Out on **Friday, January 20th** from 5:00 pm until 9:00 pm at the



Recreation Center and Student Union. Cost is \$27 per mother-son couple if registered by the 18th and \$30 per couple at the door (\$5 for each additional male sibling that attends Acacia). Don't be left at home watching Spongebob reruns...come and play!

Letter From Our Principal

Dear Acacia Families,

Happy New Year! This is such a wonderful time of year. The memories of the holidays linger as we anticipate the exciting things the new year will bring. It is also a time of setting New Year's Resolutions, making commitments, and setting goals. As I look ahead at Acacia, my commitments are always to provide the best learning environment possible for our students. With our outstanding teaching staff, our wonderful supportive parent community, our fabulous school district with strong and committed people serving on Cabinet and the School Board, we have everything in place.

Recently, we were recognized by the Orange County Register for the second year in a row as one of Orange County's top elementary schools. Both years we have ranked as a silver medalist, and this year we moved up to rank 39th out of 379 Orange County elementary schools. Added to this, we have been nominated again as a California Distinguished School. Acacia School is truly a great place for children to learn and grow.

For me, the Acacia students are the most important children anywhere. I want to continue to provide everything possible for them to ensure exciting and enriching learning experiences where they can reach their fullest potential. Through your support, we not only have an outstanding academic program, we are also able to provide an excellent PE program, All the Arts, 21st Century Learning technology, and enriching field trips. Thank you for your excellent contributions.

This is our school. These are our children. They are our future. Let's continue to work together and invest in them 100%!

Sincerely,
Karen L. Whisnant, Ed.D.



Acacia's Annual Holiday Boutique!

Acacia's Holiday boutique was a huge success! It was a wonderful day for us to get together as a community to share and spread our holiday cheer. There was shopping, kid's crafts, caroling, a 6th grade store, snacks and we even had our very own Santa. The first graders from Miss Spencer's and Mrs. Weber's class sang some holiday songs at the boutique. As you can see, the students were very festive with their hats and beards.

Thank you to all of the generous volunteers, vendors, carolers and 6th graders for helping out and donating your time and energy. A special thank you to Jim Crum, or should I say, "Santa". It truly was an amazing event because of you!



Letter From Our PTA President

Dear Acacia Families,

I hope everyone had a fun, relaxing and reinvigorating Winter Break! January is such a great month...full of fresh starts, new ideas and positive resolutions. My daughter's teacher, Mrs. Mumma, gave them a sentence to write about the other day. It was, "Tomorrow is always fresh, with no mistakes." I love that! We always have a fresh start the next day to make things better in all aspects of our lives.

To that end, here's how we can all make things better here at Acacia. For some family bonding, we have our Mother & Son Night Out coming up on Friday, Jan. 20th or the Family Movie Night on Friday, February 3rd. It's never, ever too late to join the PTA if you haven't already. Your membership dollars help fund these community events among others. It's most certainly not too late to join the Acacia Elementary School Foundation and have your membership dollars support improving our school's technology and library, providing field trips for our students and professional learning opportunities for our wonderful teachers. Your Foundation membership dollars also support our *fantastic* P.E. program run by Chris Davis and Amy Bokn. It is never certain that this will be here for us in the following year. It is partially dependent upon the support of our Acacia families through membership in the Foundation...make sure our kids have this important program next year and become a Foundation member now!

Before I close, I would like to thank some of our Acacia parents that have really gone above and beyond! Thank you to Christy Carter who administers our Acacia Partnership Facebook Page (<http://www.facebook.com/AcaciaSchool>). She does a great job keeping it so current and fun. Pop on over to it and "LIKE" it to get updates about school happenings! There are some fantastic photos there of our kids on pajama day. A big thanks to Denise Mitchell, also, for setting up all of our "Dining With Acacia" events. She has some great ones planned for the upcoming months, so stay tuned (yea for not cooking dinner!). Lastly, a great big thanks to all those involved in planning, setting up and cleaning up Acacia's Holiday Boutique. That was great fun and a wonderful way to kick off the holidays!

Here's to a fresh tomorrow and a productive and fruitful 2012!

Sincerely,
Michele Garden, PTA President

Movie Night

Please join your family, friends and classmates for Movie Night on **February 3rd 6:30-8:30 pm.** (*Please note this date has changed.*) We will be showing the adventure, comedy Gnomeo & Juliet.



Don't forget to bring your blankets and/or chairs. Hope to see you there!

Dining with Acacia

Join us for Dining with Acacia in 2012! Thanks to all of you Acacia Diners who supported us in 2011! You have generated over \$700 for the school PTA to date! Be sure to mark your calendars for our events in 2012! You won't want to miss these exciting opportunities to dine out with your fellow Acacia Pandas, generate funds for our school, and best of all...no dishes! Save these dates and look for flyers in the Thursday folders in the weeks before each event. Be sure to give friends and family a copy of the flyers and invite them to join us!
January 25 & 26



Dine at Fullerton's oldest building (110 years old!) and enjoy Mexican-inspired cuisine with fresh ingredients prepared by Executive Chef David Dennis. Lunch, dinner or curbside service is available! One of our own Acacia parents is the

Assistant GM here! Historic Downtown Fullerton 111 N. Harbor Blvd.
February 15 & 16



There's No Substitute For Quality

Something for everyone! Delicious charburgers, sandwiches, salads, shakes and kids' meals prepared with high quality ingredients since 1969! Need we say more? 2720 Nutwood Avenue, Fullerton (Across from CSUF)

March Madness! Every Monday in March!
March 5, 12, 19 & 26

Each pizza is a work of art! Plus they offer lasagna, salads, calzones, spaghetti, sandwiches and more! Dine-in or take-out for lunch or dinner. Family-owned and soon to be a member of our own Acacia community! 1331 E. Chapman Ave., Fullerton (Across from Post Office)



Artsy Pandas

John Wayne Airport (JWA) held its 22nd annual Student Art Contest this trimester. Orange County students in grades K-12 were encouraged to submit artwork inspired by the 2011 theme, "Silent Flight". The Annual John Wayne Airport Student Art Contest is part of the International Aviation Art Contest.



Acacia Elementary had two winners. Andrew Chen, a sixth-grader at Acacia, won second place in the sixth grade

category. Kathy Lu, also a sixth grader at Acacia, won honorable mention in the sixth grade category. Both students were recognized at the awards ceremony on Sunday, December 11 at John Wayne Airport.

The winning artwork will be exhibited from Dec. 9, 2011 through Jan. 16, 2012 in the Thomas F. Riley Terminal on the arrivals level, next to baggage carousels one and four.

Every participating artist received a certificate of participation from the airport and select winners will be awarded prizes donated by sponsors including The Irvine Museum, The Laguna College of Art and Design, Knott's Berry Farm, Medieval Times, Go Kart World, Bowers Museum, Orange County's Pacific Symphony and The Santa Ana Zoo. Congratulations to our ARTSY PANDAS!



Andrew Chen

Acacia Foundation News

Happy New Year! Thank you to all of the families that have donated and pledged support to the Acacia Elementary School Foundation. This is a great time of year to take inventory of those things that are important to you, and to prioritize them. Like you, my children's education is important to me; but, is it a priority—something you actively seek to make better? Many of you intentionally and purposefully give of your time and money to those things that are priorities to you; a special charity or religious organization, a hobby or pet project. Will you add your child's education to that list?

I've been thinking about the cuts that the California education budget has taken over the last several years. While the Fullerton School District has been responsible with its money, there is a finite and decreasing amount to work with. We have an opportunity to make a priority of our children's education by supplementing the school's spending with our own. Have you joined the Acacia Elementary School Foundation? Have you made your pledged donations? Are you going to attend the Casino Night fundraiser? Have you asked your employer about a matching donation program? *Anything* you can do to contribute to the Foundation is appreciated.

Without the building blocks and advances in education that students at other local school's experience, our children will fall behind their peers. When they get to Ladera Vista and Troy, they'll be at a disadvantage. We can do something to change that. Please join the Foundation in support of enrichment programs and improved classroom technologies at Acacia. Let's make a priority of our children's education.

Thank you for your support.


Sincerely,
Michelle Knowles, President, Acacia Elementary School
Foundation

Get Connected

Acacia's PTA facebook page and Acacia Elementary School Foundation's facebook page have been combined and you can now see what is happening at Acacia with The Acacia Partnership at

 www.facebook.com/AcaciaSchool

The GATE Corner

 The GATE Parents Book Club meeting will be Wednesday, January 18th at the Hermosa school multi purpose room. We will be discussing **Raising Gifted Kids Everything You Need to Know to Help Your Exceptional Child Thrive** by Barbara Klein, Ph.D. Informational flyers will be coming home with more information.

For the graduating 6th graders there will be a presentation on "GATE/Honors transition to Junior High School" at the Fullerton School District Educational Learning Center on January 24th. The meeting starts at 6:30 and will last about an hour. All three principals from the Junior High Schools will be there. Look for the flyer!

Rainy Season Tips



Rainy Season is upon us and we have some tips to help you get in and out of the parking as quickly and safely as possible.

1. Leave the house 5 minutes earlier. Remember that when it rains, more people will be driving their kids to school.
2. Put your children in the car so that they are prepared to get out of the car quickly and safely.
3. Arrive at the school from the south, try to avoid coming from the north and having to turn left into the parking lot.
4. Pull all the way forward into the yellow unloading zone in the parking lot, and allow your children to exit the car at the curb. Exit the parking lot, trying to avoid turning left.

Here are some alternate routes to get you to where you need to go:

To State College Blvd, CSUF, 57 Freeway:

Turn right out of parking lot, turn right on Melody. Follow road around park. Turn right on Yorba Linda Blvd.

To Chapman Ave West, 91 Freeway:

Turn right out of parking lot, turn left on Melody. Turn left on Riedel. Turn right on Riverside. Turn left Raymond.

To Chapman Ave East, Troy High School, Ladera Vista Jr. High:

Turn right out of parking lot, turn left on Melody. Turn left on Riedel. Turn left on Dorothy. Go straight for Troy High School. Turn right on Acacia for Chapman Ave, Ladera Vista Jr. High.



Twin Day!

Did you have fun wearing your pajamas to school? Now get ready to dress like your BFF on **Twin Day, January 20th!**

Saturday School

Mark your calendars for **February 25**. Acacia School will hold a half-day Saturday School. All students who have one or more absences will be invited to attend. Any child who attends gets one full-day absence removed from his or her record. What happens at Saturday School? Acacia teachers work with students as they participate in a sequence of fun and engaging activities throughout the morning. Activities include PE, technology, art, and more. Please make sure you save this date.

Acacia's Cell Phone Policy

Students may bring cell phones to school, but they must be turned off and in their backpacks throughout the day. Once school has ended and students are at the front of the school, cell phones can then be accessed as necessary. Thanks for your cooperation!

Acacia Spelling Bee Winners

Congratulations to our winners of the District Spelling Bee!
Nigam Vadecha took 3rd place for the Fourth Grade Division
Bryant Chung took 2nd place for the Fifth Grade Division
Andrew Chen took 1st place for the 6th Grade Division
Way to go boys!!



Casino Royale



Casino Night is right around the corner on **Friday, February 24, 2012!** This is the Acacia Elementary School Foundation's major fundraiser of the year. We are thrilled at the support of the parent community, the teacher community, and our principal, Dr. Whisnant. We have 100% teacher participation! They each have generously offered a teacher activity silent auction item for each parent to bid on for his or her child! Our Acacia teachers and our principal will be at this fabulous event! Let's show our teachers the strong support of the Acacia parent community and attend Casino Night, which will be a truly unforgettable evening where we will raise money for all of our children at Acacia. Thank you again to our generous sponsors including the Slidebar (007 Sponsor!!!), the Whisnant family, the Esterson family, the Gaglio family, and the Gass family.



Look at these fantastic items being offered by our teachers, principal and the superintendent at Casino Night!

Bedtime Story with the Principal - Dr. Whisnant will read your child a bedtime story, gifting your child with a book and a special commemorative note inside. For any bid over \$200, *Dr. Whisnant will arrive in her flannel pajamas.*

Team Teaching and Lunch with Superintendent Dr. Mitch Hovey - A child will team teach a lesson to his or her class with Dr. Hovey, and then Dr. Hovey will take the child, a friend, and his/her parents out to lunch.

A Day at the Beach! Kindergarten; Mrs. Maher - Spend a special day with Mrs. Maher at the beach! Your child can come with his/her family to spend the day at the beach in San Clemente with Mrs. Maher. The child can pick activities which might include a walk on the beach trail, a surf session, lunch from Pedro's Tacos, fun in the sun, play in the sand, and/or splash in the surf.

Tennis Anyone? - Kindergarten; Mrs. Thomas - Mrs. Thomas will teach a one hour tennis lesson to four students at the Fullerton Tennis Center, and then take them out for ice cream.

Surprise! Kindergarten; Mrs. Luther - Mrs. Luther will surprise her students with an activity!

Learn to Bake! - First grade; Mrs. Langford - Three students are invited to bake with her in her home, and also decorate aprons while the goodies are baking.

Movie and Ice-Cream Party! - First grade; Mrs. MacLean - Five students are invited to join her on a Wednesday afternoon for an ice-cream sundae and a movie in her classroom.

Picnic with Fancy Nancy and Miss Frizzle! - First grade; Ms. Spencer and Mrs. Weber - Two students can each bring a friend to fancy picnic with games on a Wednesday afternoon, hosted by "Fancy Nancy and Miss Frizzle."

Second Grade California Pizza Kitchen Extravaganza! - Second grade; Mrs. Cathcart, Mrs. Heredia, and Mr. Ratzlaff - One student from each class may bring a friend and join these three teachers for a pizza making extravaganza and tour at the California Pizza Kitchen in Brea.

Let's Go Boating! - Third grade; Mrs. Given - One child and a friend can go boating with the Givens in Newport Beach, have lunch at Ruby's, and have a Balboa bar on the way home.

Jewelry Making! - Third grade; Mrs. Humphrey - Five students are invited to an afterschool jewelry making party, with drinks and dessert provided.

Play Ball! Third grade; Mrs. Hutchison - One student and a friend are invited to attend a CSUF Titans baseball game with Mrs. Hutchison and her husband, hotdog/hamburger, drink, and dessert included.

Ice-cream and iPods! Fourth grade; Mrs. Huggins and Mrs. Jue - Four students per class are invited to an ice-cream and iPod party.

Picnic at Acacia Park! -Fourth/Fifth grade; Ms. Mooney, Mrs. Mumma, and Mrs. Regitz - Three students may each bring a friend to a picnic at Acacia park with food and games.

Hunger Games Movie! -Sixth grade; Mrs. Cockerill - Three students are invited to see the movie, "The Hunger Games" at the theater with her.

Sixth Grade at California Pizza Kitchen! -Sixth grade; Mrs. DiLuigi and Mrs. Brewer - Two students per class are each invited to bring a friend to a pizza making adventure and tour at the California Pizza Kitchen in Brea.

Be the PE Teacher! Mr. Davis - One student will be PE teacher for his/her class, in charge of teaching the class a game or activity. Mr. Davis will provide the uniform, whistle, hat and T-shirt.

Here is a sampling of the Live Auction Items!!!

*** **Overnight "staycation"** at the Langham hotel (the former Ritz Carlton) with dinner at the Water Grill in downtown LA. Zagat rated for Top Food in LA, Top Wine List, Top Food Service, Top Art Deco Décor, Destinations that are Worth the Splurge, Power Scenes.

*****Lakers tickets**-Want to sit among the stars in premier 2nd row seats of a Los Angeles Laker game? Two LA Lakers tickets at the Staples Center with VIP Parking. **2nd row, section 110, seats 17 & 18!!!** Cost: Invaluable!!! These seats are not available to the public.

*****Dinner at the home of Dr. Whisnant**-graciously hosted for 3 couples.

*****Song writing session with professional musicians!** An experience of a lifetime to write & record your very own song as a real musician does in a professional studio.

*****Slidebar VIP girls night out or guys night out for 8!** Includes dinner, bottle service & VIP shuttle.

*****Dinner for six at the Fullerton Fire Department**-this is a special one of a kind experience! There will be nine firemen present, the Fire Chief will cook a wonderful dinner (he is an excellent cook - ask for the peach cobbler), there will be a tour, and the six adults will ride along on any and all 911 calls that evening.

*****Private Airplane Flight to Santa Barbara** - Two guests will fly to Santa Barbara on a private plane, park in the Elephant Bar parking lot, have lunch there, and fly home.

*** **Parking Spot** - One personal parking space in the Acacia parking lot for one year.

Plus lots and lots more....dining, activities, golfing, beauty, jewelry.....Stay tuned for a full listing of all the Live & Silent Auction Items!!!!

Be sure to purchase your tickets and RSVP before February 1st, 2012! You don't want to miss this fabulous night out! All of the proceeds of this event go to the Acacia Elementary School Foundation, and supporting its mission of education enrichment of approximately 650 students at Acacia Elementary School—what a valuable cause. We are looking forward to seeing you there!

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