

Fun for PACT

Patricia Goates

On your mark, get ready, celebrate!

So much fun happening this year. Your PACT social committee is planning a year to remember. You will be invited to informal monthly PACT gatherings.

We just had our first ever Trunk or Treat event. We're planning a pajama/movie night, rock climbing, play dates after school at the school playground, weekend bike riding, i.m. chat night for the

kids/parents, a beach day, and an ice cream social. If you have an idea that you would like to see happen just let us know.

Mark your calendar for:

Wednesday, December 7
6:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M.,
Festival of Lights.

K/1 classes will be performing.

If you have questions, contact Patricia Goates at 650 625 1234.

Tracy Wingrove

We have scheduled a number of informational sessions in the next few months. These are informal coffees where prospective parents can meet with current PACT parents and learn about our school. We'd like to get a few PACT parents to attend each event along with our committee members to present a varied perspective on the school.

All coffees will be held at **Starbucks on Castro Street.**

Wednesday, November 9 7-9 pm
Monday, November 14 7-9 pm
Tuesday, December 6 7-9 pm
Sunday, January 8 1-3 pm



By Connor, Kindergarten, Room 3

The PACT Newsletter is published four times each school year. Questions, comments and suggestions for future editions should be directed to Trish Morgan (trish.morgan@comcast.net) or Clarissa Blanco (clarissa_blanco@yahoo.com)

Walkathon

Liza Levin

Was it the best Walkathon ever? Well, it was for me. The 1950's theme not only reminded us of Slater's 50th anniversary, it also gave us the opportunity to wear poodle skirts, watch the students and teachers master the hula hoops, and listen to rock-n-roll during recess on our Walkathon Spirit Days.

With this Walkathon we also received great community support. The retail community donated more items than ever before, so we were able to raise more money on our raffle and silent auction than in year's past. Our inter-nal Slater community came together as well. We had 3 separate groups of Slater parents (PACT & Neighborhood) making wonderful food and root-beer floats to sell to all those tired students and their families and friends.

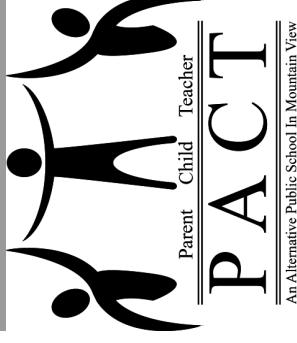
Then there was the fun. The Games Committee outdid themselves this year. Who will forget watching the teachers try their hips on the hula hoops? And how many times does a student get a chance to throw a wet sponge at their teacher? The students sure looked motivated to walk this year - was it the great, energizing music or the tons of terrific lap prizes?

Speaking of lap prizes, hopefully, you have seen your child's green rubber bracelet that was custom made for October 14, 2005 to let us remember a great day, a great year, and a great school.

I write this with great appreciation to all the volunteers who helped plan and implement this Walkathon. As they are aware, I could not have done it without them.

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PACT NEWSLETTER Committee, Classroom & Community News

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PACT — An Educational Opportunity

Sandy Bartlett

The school year has started, the kids have settled in and we parents are getting our arms around working in the classrooms.

On campus, we see all the great things about PACT in full action. A third grader helping a kindergarten make handmade paper on an Arts Focus Friday. Six 2nd graders and a teacher gathered around a lunch table reading and discussing Roald Dahl's Mathilda. A mother assisting the planting of wheat in our educational garden and an adult-size Little Red Hen in Mrs. Jensen's K-1 classroom reading aloud about her lazy friends.

Two 3rd grade boys tightly rolling newspapers and using masking tape to create geometric shapes. A circle of 5th graders acting out Shakespeare in their best theatrical voices; buses leaving on a field trip to Half Moon Bay to study the life cycle of a pumpkin on a working pumpkin farm; parents loading up their cars with children to go to the Linden Tree Bookstore to meet a celebrated author.

And we also look around our campus and wonder, "What will it be like next year when PACT School moves to Castro Campus?" Feel reassured that we all have questions and concerns.

The move to the Castro Campus is an opportunity for PACT

School to refocus our vision. Reflect on PACT's educational values: balanced education (intellectual, creative, social, physical and emotional growth); engaging the natural love of learning in children; hands-on education; gaining knowledge through research and guided discovery; classrooms that are safe for self-expression; cooperative work; and respect for all children and adults. With this move, we hold in our hands the chance to make PACT an even better school than it is now. Baird Nuckolls reports back from the Integration Committee that both the Castro English-Only Neighborhood Strand and the Dual Immersion Strand are welcoming PACT School onto their campus with open arms. They are excited to have PACT (and all of its educational philosophies) sharing their campus.

Please join me in saying "YES I will help PACT move into its next phase of development and continue making this the best school that I can." We chose this educational opportunity for our children because we believe that PACT makes a difference in their lives. Let's continue to bring this wonderful opportunity to the parents who believe that there is a better way to educate our children. Embrace the change that lies before us!

Room 3

The kindergarteners and first graders of Miss Margo's class have already learned so much since the start of the year!

They have been learning all about days of the week, months and the weather by keeping a weather calendar in class and at home. They enjoy doing it so much they have requested to check the weather twice a day!

The children have already had a field trip with Room 6 to see Helen Cooper, author of "Pumpkin Soup," at the Linden Tree Bookstore. That afternoon, the class made pumpkin

soup and graphed who liked it and who didn't.

Room three has already studied sunflowers, apples and pumpkins. In the garden they have released butterflies that Nick raised, started their garden journals, and the first graders harvested wheat with The Little Red Hen.

Kid-writing is off to a great start with wonderful pictures and imaginative stories. In Math the children are finishing up a unit on patterns and moving onto measurement with help from Jada's mother, Julie. In Science they are exploring the



Room 5

Hello and Happy Fall from room 5!!

This month we would like to introduce our wonderful teacher Terri Hygate. Mrs. Hygate is new to the PACT program this year so we thought our community of families would be interested in learning more about her!

Terri was born in Southern England in the town of Devon. When she was 6 years old, she and her family moved to the island nation of New Zealand. Terri says, "New Zealand is the last bus-stop on the planet! - a long way from EVERYTHING!!" you!

Mrs. Hygate has a few secrets you might not expect! Not only is she an elementary school teacher, she is

Room 12

The kids in Room 12 write articles for their own class newsletter. The following are some of the articles written by the students:

From Maria Paula:

We are working on our math. Mr. A. is showing us a little of algebra like $x+7=10$ and now we know what x means. It means any number. Here x equals 3.

What we are also studying El Dia de los Muertos. Yesterday, we made little books and masks and

today we are going to make sugar skulls. And we have cooking today.

From Joseph:

We went to City Hall's council chambers and we looked at old buildings on Castro. On the VTA went to downtown Mountain View. Our next field trip is to Linden book tree in Palo Alto. The first VTA to downtown Mountain View didn't see us. On the 26th of October we went to Bob's pumpkin patch and everybody got lost

in the corn maze.

From James:

Recently we have been working on area and perimeter. Area is however much space is in the shape. Perimeter is how much it's around. We've also been working on QDPACheck. Q is equal to Question, D is equal to Data, P is equal to Plan, A is equal to Answer, And check is equal to Check.

PACT Student Work



By Veronica, 1st Grade, Room 3

A Painting

Paint comes off an artist's brush a mingle of hues magenta, salmon, light blue

Like windblown smoke on a clear day or twisting sinuous snakes weaving patterns complexly through winding mazes many beautiful hazes

Colors filling all being with light colors even lifting the blanket of night

All creation seems so small with these pigments dominating life

What, where, when would the world be without the colors of a painting

By Jackson
5th Grade
Room 24

Tanya Bishop

properties of liquids and solids with Ian's mother, Karen.

The children especially enjoy special activities like the library, P.E. both through the school and with Christina's mother, music with Mr. Santos, their first few sessions of Art Focus and additional art, music and movement with CSMA.

Wow! All that and they still find the energy to clean up at the end of the day with one of their favorite books and songs: "Chicka Chicka Boom Boom."

Colleen Dante

Her daughters are in 7th and 10th grades. The biggest difference for her daughters in school here is that in New Zealand EVERYBODY in EVERY school wears a uniform, and the first day of school in New Zealand and Australia is in JANUARY!! Yes, you read correctly, school starts right after Christmas there!! She says this is due to the fact that summer in Australia and New Zealand is from September to December. Quite different from here in California, huh? Also, every school in New Zealand has a pool and all of the children are taught to swim. Wouldn't that be fun? Hmm...maybe we should ask Dr. Nikki what she can arrange for us PACT Slater Gators!!

Until next time, Goodbye from room 5!

Room 6

Kale Wilmoth

“Shwett, shwett,” says the most popular member of Susan Jensen’s new class. Abu, the sweet-natured, gray guinea pig is adored by most, if not all, of the new kinders and first graders in Room 6. They have learned how to care for and feed Abu, even getting advice from a self-proclaimed “guinea pig specialist” who visited the class, sharing her love for all that is guinea pig. Abu especially enjoyed the tips and tricks she taught the students about his love of fresh grass and vegetables. The school reading specialist

joined sharing a special book on guinea pigs. Students dashed home the very first week of school begging their parents to sign up for Abu’s weekend home visit schedule.

Speaking of schedules, Room 6 has been busy. The first field trip of the year took them to a local bookstore, the Linden Tree, to hear author Helen Cooper read from her book, *A Pipkin of Pepper*, and explain how she came up with the story and how the book was created. The tale of collaboration and willingness to

try something new is right on target for these students who are leaping into the world of writing on their own. Their parents have joined them by attending Susan’s “kidwriting workshop” to learn the skills of supporting new writers in their work.

Next month, the class will venture off to new territory beginning with the 100 year old Ardenwood Historic Farm where they will learn more about animal husbandry, how food grows, and a little about life in America’s past.



Room 7

Baird Nuckolls

The fourth grade class quickly got involved in the subject of California history in preparation for their trip to Gold Rush Camp at the Coloma Outdoor Discovery school just three weeks after school started. Mrs. Campbell’s class and Mrs. Carillo’s 4th grade class traveled by bus up to Coloma for a three-day experience in living history and nature appreciation. During their experiences of becoming “Sourdoughs,” the kids got to pan for gold (which they said was hard and wet), cook cornbread, and build a shelter that was showered with water to see if it would keep them dry. The kids loved the hike on the second day,

which included a solo section and a view of the big statue of John Sutter. The first night they attended a hoe-down and the second night they enjoyed listening to Kimberly Shining Star tell Native American stories and sing-songs, including stories about a boy and a rattlesnake, and another one about a catfish and a moose. At night, they slept in cabins with the parent chaperones. Big thanks to Gloria Higgins, Sue Rosen, Jeanne Desai, Abe Farias, and Buck Beardsley who accompanied the group as chaperones.

Back in class, Lit circles have begun

with small groups of 4-6 reading a chapter book together with an adult and discussing it. Another fun activity has been their Theaterworks classes. Every day for two and a half weeks they have spent time doing acting exercises and preparing a play based on the poem “Remember” by Joy Harjo, which will be presented to the rest of the school on Nov. 1. They are making sugar skulls in preparation for celebrating “Dios de la Muerta,” the Day of the Dead on Nov. 1st and they are going on a Faultline Field Trip on Nov. 9 to take an Earthquake Hike and talk about the impact of earthquakes on our lives here in California.

Classroom News

Room 8

Jean Moranda-Torres

The second and third graders in Mrs. Ross' class have been settling in nicely to the new school year, actively creating their classroom community. Along with everyone getting to know one another better, a few projects are also defining these early months.

It's difficult to miss the three dimensional hexagons, squares, and pyramids hanging from the ceiling and windowsills. After rolling up newspapers width and length-wise, the children were tasked with figuring out how to place the rolls to make these shapes. Plenty of tape

was used to keep the shapes in place, and the children took pride in their problem-solving efforts.

The children have also been working with understanding concepts of balance, particularly "balance point" and "counter weight." The kids began with a "balance" cat. To this cardstock cutout, children would add paper clips to the cat's paws, balancing the center of the cat on their fingertip. From this they moved to comparing the weight of various items at school and around the house to deepen their understanding of "lighter

than," "heavier than" and "equal" weights. Finally, Michelle Perry has been working with small groups of children to create a large "nature" mobile. Michelle and the children have taken short walks around the school to find materials from nature to add and hang from a three-tiered branch mobile, strung from the ceiling in the classroom. All of the children will participate, and everyone so far has been very excited in it's evolving creation.

Just a few of the highlights from room 8!

Room 24

Susie Carlson

The children, Ms. Malouf, and a host of parent volunteers have been all over the map since school started, creating, experiencing, and advancing their knowledge of their world and themselves.

San Jose Museum of Art

The class had a field trip to the San Jose Museum of Art in September, where were treated to a docent-guided tour of the museum, and got to create their own masterpieces related to the works they had viewed. Among the works the children experienced that day were Dale Chihuly's blown glass chandeliers, Hung Liu's painting, Chinese Profile II, and Mildred Howard's installation piece, Adobe:Sanctuary for the Familia(r).

Science Camp

Science Camp, which incorporated the entire fifth grade, was a major

bonding experience for our graduating class, and an opportunity for children and adults alike to stretch their limits. A solo night walk (toward a counselor with a candle), a 40' climbing wall, and cabins with no electricity all served to push participants to learn their limits while at the same time relying on each other. The children studied the flora and fauna of the Santa Cruz Mountains, electricity, and other natural forces, and also had an opportunity to explore and play on Seabright Beach in Santa Cruz before going home.

Math

After a general review, the kids have moved into studying the parts of a whole – fractions, decimals, percentages, division, etc., using all the operations. Students are finding them everywhere, in everyday items: Can labels, cereal packages,

newspapers, etc. Ask about QDPA! The Walkathon was another opportunity to make math real. Children measured their steps, and counted the number of steps it took to go around the field, then estimated how many steps they would take on Walkathon Day.

Writer's Workshop

About 45 minutes, three to four times a week, the kids just *WRITE*. They are learning to help their peers, to re-read for revision, and the importance of detail in a written work. Their final, error-free pieces will eventually be published. The kids are loving this process and are very excited when Writer's Workshop time comes around. They are producing all kinds of creative written works – poetry, works based on a piece of art of their own, and a freeze-frame piece about one moment at Science Camp.