

# Leif Ericson Elementary

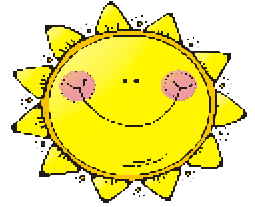
The Extra Effort School

July 2008

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## IT'S SUMMER !

### Principally Speaking

I must admit, it might have looked as though I was dancing back to my car....after all it was an exhilarating feeling to have just unloaded the fourteenth and final box of our state testing materials into the hands of the district's testing clerks. But ... our work is not over even on our last day on July 21<sup>st</sup>.

Even though school will be closing soon, we will need your commitment as parents to keep learning alive over the summer break.

On July 16<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 a.m.– 11:30 a.m., back by popular demand, the same team of our teachers, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. White, Mr. Rainwater and Mr. Barham will again offer a series of mini sessions entitled "30 Minutes to Summer Success". If you are looking for ways to keep your child learning throughout the summer break these sessions may be for you. These thirty - forty minute sessions will cover Reading, Writing, Math and Technology for both primary and upper grade parents. Please look for the flyer with details coming home soon. Reserve your space early.

Here are a few ideas to consider how to keep your child engaged during a long summer break.

1. You **must** encourage (enthusiastically) your child to read 20 – 50 (K-5) minutes a day. Support your child by participating in reading incentive programs sponsored by the Mira Mesa Library and Barnes and Noble. The good news is that you can use the same books to log in and count for all programs.
2. Writing is part of life. Have your child write letters, post cards, to do lists, keep a journal, a diary, a travel log, etc.. Involve them in family projects such as planning a trip, barbeque, pool party, etc.
3. Find time during the week to brush up on basic math routines with your child. Ideas to support this could be going shopping and using money, recipes, sewing or crafts to work on measurement.

The Home School Connection insert, included in this newsletter, also offers great activities to get through what may seem to be a longer than usual summer break.

It's hard to believe that we are coming to the end of another amazing school year. I would like to extend a huge thank you to Marjorie Smith, who over the past five years, as the Literacy Resource Teacher, has not only worked with students and staff, but because we have not had a vice principal, has taken on many, many "other duties as

assigned". I am forever grateful to Marjie for her exemplary dedication and service to learning that has definitely made a difference in Ericson's academic success.

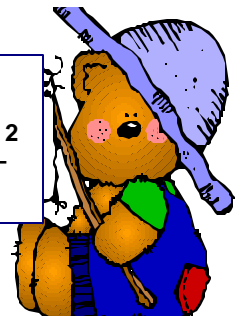
As I look back on this year, I realize that because of the extra efforts of others, we have been able to offer our students involvement in many new and unique opportunities. I would like to thank: Mrs. Stephens-Yoder and Ms. Anstead created the possibility for Ericson children, by recycling plastic bottles and cans, to generate over \$3,000 for children on the other side of the world who are less fortunate through IHF (International Humanity Foundation). A special "hats off" to dad, Mr. Larry Hillman, who assisted the recycling effort by rolling up his sleeves and faithfully lending a hand. A shout out and thanks to Gina Welsh and Dena Demos who came out to the field early Tuesday and Thursday mornings to assist our running club to keep our kids fit. Mr. Fincher and Mr. Barham, along with their student TV crews, took on a huge successful project to put on "Ericson Viking News" a live TV broadcast three times a week. We are also so appreciative to the Morse family who came to our rescue with a very generous monetary gift, along with our Friends of Ericson Foundation, so we could refresh and save our computer lab. We are grateful to Mr. Ron, Mrs. Johnstone and room 11 for the time they took to create gardens under the many trees in our quad so our school can look beautiful. And of course, to our PTA "thank you" for the many activities offered throughout the year.

Without the incredibly supportive Ericson team my job would be impossible to manage. This team includes so many people! I want to thank all of you who make a difference for our children: teachers, support staff, office staff, custodial crew, cafeteria staff, noon duty, PTA, SGT/SSC/ Friends, webmaster Andrew Morse, volunteers, business partners, and of course, YOU, the caring families who send us these wonderful children ready to learn each

For the children  
I remain,

Linette da Rosa  
Principal

School  
starts  
September 2  
7:50 a.m. –  
2:05 p.m.



## **Goodbye Fifth Graders**

Good luck to all of you! Through the years we all have grown and become so much smarter. You have been an awesome fifth grade. You have been wonderful role models for Vikings at Ericson. You will all be missed. We will honor you after our End of the Year Awards Assembly on July 21<sup>st</sup>. There will be two promotion ceremonies, one at 9:50 a.m. and the other at 11:00 a.m. Families will receive a notice as to which time slot will be for their child.

## **Yearbook Sales**

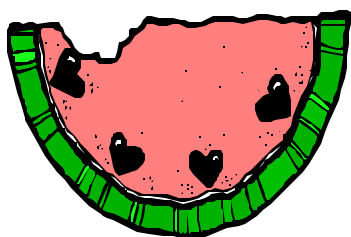
Thank you Rosalyn Palugod! Yearbook orders have now closed. They will be delivered the week of July 14<sup>th</sup>. Remind your child to write his/her name on the yearbook in at least two places. Unfortunately, since they all look alike there are at times children who pick up someone else's by pure accident. Enjoy!

## **Dress Code....for success**

Just another reminder that as hot weather arrives, children need to continue to come dressed appropriately for school. Please do not send children with skimpy beachwear, halter or midriff showing tops, too short shorts or rubber flip flop thongs. Children who wear sandals must have straps holding the heel. Clothing that distracts from the learning environment, i.e. offensive logos, or exposed underwear is unacceptable school attire and parents will be contacted for a change of clothing. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

## **Library Books Overdue?**

Mrs. Handley, our library assistant, is still missing a tremendous number of library books. Please check under couches, beds, backpacks, etc.... Families receive a bill for lost books. Thank you!



## **Grades K and 1 moving along with peers**

Our new superintendent, Dr. Terry Grier, has asked that we implement a research based strategy of moving students along to the next grade level with their peers. If you come from a small school, moving up with students you know from year to year is a common practice. Part of the rationale for this strategy is that studies have shown that the connection students have with his/her previous class can assist in a smoother transition. It can also be efficient as it helps the new teacher be able to connect with the previous teacher to academically transition the students. Although there may be some extenuating circumstances, to the extent that we are able, we will implement this configuration. For some students this may be a familiar reading group, for others it may be a bigger grouping. Student dynamics such as, special education needs, second language needs, mobility rate, etc. must be considered when planning for student placement in classrooms. If you have any questions please feel free to call Mrs. da Rosa.

## **End of the Year Awards Bring your camera!**

All families are invited to join us for the End of the Year Awards Assembly on Monday, July 21st at 8:00 a.m. in the quad. After part one of the program, the K-4th grade students will wave goodbye to the fifth graders and be dismissed back to class. Fifth graders will return to the MU at their designated time slot for the upper grade awards, which includes the prestigious Presidential Awards and to receive their promotion certificates.

## **Bike Safety – Plan for next year**

Students at Ericson must be in grades 4 or 5 to ride a bike to school unaccompanied by an adult. Your child MUST wear a helmet (it's the law) and have a sturdy lock to secure the bike at school. Please review safety precautions with your child and take trial runs before the first day of school.

## **Last Day of School**

The last day of school is on a Monday, July 21st. School will be dismissed at 12:15 p.m.

## **Visiting Family Members**

Once traditional calendar schools are out for the summer, non-Ericson students begin to appear on campus during school hours. Often middle or high schools students will tell their parents they are going to Ericson to help a former teacher. Before they are allowed to volunteer, students must make arrangements with the teacher and provide written parental permission to the school office. We love our families, but please keep your youngsters on vacation off school grounds. We are still learning!

## **RUN FOR YOUR LIFE !**

As you know, we have a running club for students and parents out on the field on Tuesday and Thursday morning. We are looking for parents who would help supervise this fitness program one or two times a week. Please come out and talk to any of the parent helpers who are there if you are interested.

## **STAR Scores to Arrive Home**

If you have children in grades 2-5 you will be receiving the results of your child's spring STAR testing via US mail in late August. Our school's results will be posted on the California Department of Education web site where you will also find the preliminary testing results for our district. Our local newspaper, the Union Tribune, will also publish each school's results. Please call if you have questions about your child's or the school's scores.

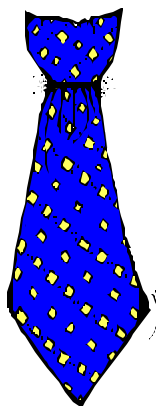
## **Last Chance!...Lost and Found**

Still looking for your child's winter jacket or spring sweater? Come to the entry of the MU and take a final look. We will also display the items on Open House mornings. All remaining items will be donated to charity. Thank you Student Council for helping with this!

## June Message to parents from our

### Superintendent Dr. Terri Grier

(See enclosure)



### Spelling Bee

Congratulations go to the following Ericson students for their awesome spelling skills in the Mira Mesa Community Bee. The event featured spellers from Ericson, Hickman, Sandburg and Walker Elementary Schools

Grade 1	Amanda Viengkhone Michael Kurian
Grade 2	Yves Cerezo Anabella Noguera
Grade 3	Michelle Arneson Soha Khalid
Grade 4	Theresa Nguyen Justin Chung
Grade 5	Oliver David Mark Lorenz

We had a first place winner, Theresa Nguyen, and second place winners, Michael Kurian, Soha Khalid, and Mark Lorenz.

Thank you Mrs. Marjorie Smith for organizing the Spelling Bee so Ericson could shine!

### Congratulations Award Winners!

Enclosed is a list of our latest Student Recognition Award winners.  
Way to go Vikings!

### 2007-2008 School Hours

We are expecting our school hours to remain the same next school year. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday school hours will be 7:50 a.m. - 2:05 p.m. and our modified day will continue to be Thursdays, 7:50 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

### Who's my Teacher ?

Class lists will be posted on Friday, August 29th after 5 p.m. in the bungalow window of room 70 and on the first day of school inside the quad area. We have an excellent teaching staff. Although we do our best to thoughtfully place children in new classrooms, at times our original plans may change because of unexpected staffing or enrollment changes after the first day of school causing reorganization. We appreciate your trust and understanding.

### New neighbors with children

Our office will be open again on August 25th from 7:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

### Moving?

Please let us know if your family will not be returning to Ericson next year. This helps us when planning for the new school year.

### We Need Your Watchful Eyes

We are looking for morning or noon supervision parent helpers. This is a great opportunity to spend part of your child's day on campus helping and getting paid. The pay is about \$11.00 per hour. The time slots are fifteen to 90 minutes daily. Can you help us? Call our office.

### School Supplies

Please check the enclosed **suggested** supply list that each grade level has identified for the new school year. Summer is a great time to get a head start on school supply bargains! Office Depot offers us 5% back from your purchases when you give them our name or  
**# 70013882.**



### Rat's Musical

Come one... come all! Don't miss our summer musical presented by the fourth and fifth grade chorus under the direction of Mrs. Ferguson our music teacher..

Performances are Tuesday, July 8<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. and Wednesday, July 9<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Students are hard at work to make this a great and memorable performance.

### Contract of Independent Study-CIS

Parents can arrange for a CIS for their student who will be gone from school for 1 – 20 days. If the student completes the assignments, the student can earn credit for classroom time. Parents call Mrs. Larson in the office a minimum of five days in advance of the absence to allow the teacher time to prepare the assignments. The parent must come in to sign the contract and pick up the assigned work. The student is required to turn in the completed work to the teacher on the first day he/she is back to school. If the work is not returned on the first day back, the student does not receive credit for the days absent.

### Goodbye and Good Luck!

#### We are sorry to see the following Ericson Staff members leave us at the end of the school year:

Mrs. Erica Casiano, Mrs. Maria Elena Crabb, Ms. Lisa Eisenberg, Ms. Agnes Ruginay, Mrs. Karla Arneson, Mrs. Randa Mitchell, Mrs. Deniece Chavez, and Ms. Victoria Licht

### Colonists on the loose!

If you see a few colonists walking through our school you are not seeing things. From July 7 – 9, we celebrate "Colonial Days" when fifth graders, and some grown ups, explore what it would have been like to have lived in the 1700's. Join the fun!

## Summer Open House Feedback Form

- I enjoyed having a morning Open House  
 I would prefer evening Open House

Comments

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Name Optional \_\_\_\_\_

Please clip and return to the office. Your input is important.

### Congratulations to Mr. Barham's Class...

#### Who says stocks are down???

All students in Mr. Barham's fifth grade seminar class participated in a year long mutual fund game. The students learned to invest in mutual funds by using \$100,000 of imaginary money. The teams from Mr. Barham's class competed with other Southern California schools to see who could outperform the S& P. All six of our teams ranked in the top six for the region. Our students even outperformed middle school and most high school teams. The top three teams were honored at a luncheon ceremony on May 30<sup>th</sup>. The students were: Susan Joh, Rhys Almario, Vi Ly, Austin Leuangpaseuth, Tiffany Chiem, Oliver David, Jonah Morales, William Hang, Ian Mitchell, Craig Allen and Selena Cruz. Way to go! Anyone looking for a future financial advisor?

### Health Office News

Don't forget to have the required kindergarten oral exam and first grade physical before your child starts school.  
 "Always Changing, Always Growing" a program for fifth grade girls and families on July 1, at 1:00 p.m. in the MU room. Consent is required to participate.

### SSC/SGT/Friends

(School Site Council/Shared Governance Team/Friends Foundation)

We are looking for family members to join our SSC/SGT/Friends 2008-09 Boards. **We need you for only 90 minutes a month** the last Monday of the month. Please let Mrs.da Rosa or your child's teacher know if you are interested ASAP.

Summary:

Our last meeting of the year was held on June 16<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 p.m. in the library.

Outgoing board members were thanked for service. Discussion items: teacher assignments, budget realignment, grade 4 and 5 music program next year, reimbursements for the garden project.

### PTA News-Congratulations new PTA Board!

- Movie Night – July 11, 6:30 p.m. featuring *Alvin and the Chipmunks*
- USA Day Health Fair June 28, 12:00 – 4 p.m
- Summer Book Fair open through July 8-15<sup>th</sup>
- Yearbooks distribution the week of July 14<sup>th</sup>

### Dates Ahead (Clip and Post)

When	What	Place/Time
June 24-Jul 2	Morning Open House	Grades vary/7:15 a.m.
June 24-Jul 2	Art Exhibit- School wide-	Rm 53 /7:15 – 8:00 a.m.
June 23-27	OCILE Old Town Grade 4	All day return at 4:00 p.m.
June 23- 27	OCILE Balboa Park Grade 5	All day return at 4:00 p.m.
June 28	USA Day Health Fair	Quad/ 12:00 – 4:00 p.m.
June 30	Show your Spirit Day – Pajama Day	
July 1	Show your Spirit - Dress as a Book Character	
July 3	Student Recognition Assembly	K-1 8:45 a.m. / 2-5 8:00 a.m.
July 4	Independence Day Observance	<b>NO SCHOOL</b>
July 8 -15	PTA Book Fair	Library
July 8,9	Musical Performance "Rats!"	Times vary
July 14	Show your Spirit - Crazy Hair Day	
July 16	30 Minutes to Summer Success Parent Workshop	MU vary
July 17	Show Your Spirit Day - Dress Like a Tourist Day	
July 21	Last Day (Monday) of School (Half Day)	Dismissal 12:15 p.m.
July 21	End of the Year School Awards	Quad 8:00 a.m.
July 21	Fifth Grade Promotion and Certificates	MU 9:50/11:00 a.m.
Aug 25	School Office Opens	7:30-3:30p.m.
Aug 28	Kindergarten Orientation	MU 1:00 p.m.
Sept 2	First Day of School (Full Day)	7:50 a.m.- 2:05 p.m.)

Read some great books this summer!



*Special VIP Coupon*  
 If your family has read this newsletter issue you may cut out this coupon, write your name and room number at the bottom and drop it off in the Viking Bottle in the office. You will have a chance to win a special prize at our next Spirit Day.

A special "THANK YOU" to our Partners in Education for the wonderful support offered throughout this school year.

We couldn't have done it without you!

Vulcan

Souplantation - Mira Mesa, Mira Mesa Senior Citizen Center, Washington Mutual Bank – Scripps

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

Room Number \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_