

# Thursday Packet

## Principal's Message

Kensington Elementary School

Judy Sanders, Principal

February 4, 2010

A friend of mine wrote, in a recent holiday letter, that one of the advantages of growing older is that you can experience things over and over again as if for the first time! In addition, recent research in the field of neuroscience suggests that it is by repeating tasks that we are able to form new connections in our brains. It is in that spirit that I am sharing information from a previous Thursday Packet letter. Hopefully, even if you remember reading this information before, the repetition will inspire you to make new connections with your child at a new stage of his or her development.

Many years ago, I put myself through graduate school working at UC Berkeley. The chairman of the department in which I worked was fond of saying that parenting is the most important work in our society, and the one for which we receive the least training. As a young student, I know I didn't realize the significance of her remarks; only after I became a parent myself did I become aware of both the truth and the enormity of that statement.

Recently I read a parenting column that cited a review of years of research on parenting and child development conducted by Dr. Laurence Steinberg. Dr. Steinberg concluded that we really do, in fact, know what sort of parenting is most likely to result in emotionally healthy children. His evidence is summarized in a book, The 10 Basic Principles of Good Parenting (Simon and Schuster, 2005). I found these tips applicable not only to parenting, but to teaching as well, and I wanted to share them with you. While many of them seem obvious, all of them are worth the reminder:

1. It is important to be involved in your child's life.
2. What you do matters.
3. Be consistent.
4. You can't be too loving.
5. Explain your rules and your decision-making.
6. Treat your child with respect.
7. Assist your child in becoming independent.
8. Avoid harsh discipline.
9. Adapt your parenting to fit your child's temperament.
10. Establish rules and set limits.

No matter what stage of parenting we are in, it is never too late to remind ourselves of the importance of the job we are doing. Steinberg likens parenting to "building a boat you will eventually launch. The building process is gratifying, but so is launching the boat and seeing that what you've built can handle the seas."

### Upcoming Dates to Remember

- February 5 – ART NIGHT - 6:30 – 8:30 – MPR
- February 9 – Dads' Club Meeting – 7:00 - MPR
- February 15-19 – Presidents' Week Break – No School

# Open Enrollment

Parents wishing to transfer their students to a school other than their resident school must apply for an open enrollment transfer during the indicated time period. Schools accepting open enrollment transfers will be posted and are subject to change.

## New Applications

**Dates: February 1 – February 26, 2010**

Schools Available for Open Enrollment\*: TBD

**KINDERGARTEN TRANSFER OPPORTUNITIES:** Open Enrollment Options are available for some district schools. If you would like consideration to attend a school other than your resident school, submit a completed Open Enrollment form between **February 1, 2010 and February 26, 2010** to:

WCCUSD Transfer Office  
1108 Bissell Avenue, Room 108  
Richmond, CA 94801  
Phone: 510.307.4535

## Renewals

Transfers awarded during the 2009 – 2010 school year require renewal. Renewals are considered only if student is requesting to remain at the current school.

**Dates: January 26 – February 5, 2010**

\*Some schools may not be available for open enrollment.

Resident School information can be found at [www.wccusd.net](http://www.wccusd.net). Select the School Site Locator link and enter address.

**WE ARE GETTING READY FOR  
KENSINGTON HILLTOP SCHOOL'S SECOND ANNUAL  
BOOK SWAP!  
MARCH 2ND!**



**TO CELEBRATE READ ACROSS AMERICA**

**WE ALL HAVE BOOKS THAT WE HAVE OUTGROWN AROUND THE HOUSE.**

**HOW NICE TO GIVE THEM A NEW HOME.**

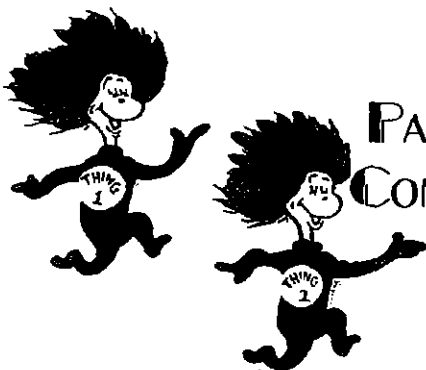
**ALL THE BOOKS WILL GO TOWARDS A  
SCHOOLWIDE SWAP ON MARCH 2ND.**

**EVERY STUDENT IN EVERY CLASS WILL HAVE A CHANCE DURING THE DAY TO  
CHOOSE A NEW-TO-YOU BOOK WITH THEIR CLASS.**

**BRING IN YOUR OUTGROWN CHILDREN'S BOOKS  
(THAT ARE STILL IN GOOD SHAPE)  
DURING THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY.**

**PLEASE NO TOYS, POP-UP BOOKS OR STICKER BOOKS.**

**WE PARTICULARLY NEED DONATIONS OF BOOKS FOR  
5TH AND 6TH GRADE STUDENTS.**



**PARENTS WANT TO HELP - SAY NO MORE  
CONTACT ANNE FORREST IN ROOM 24**



WEST CONTRA COSTA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
 STATUTORY NOTIFICATION TO PARENTS/GUARDIANS  
 ON OPEN ENROLLMENT TRANSFERS  
 2010-2011

The West Contra Costa Unified School District assigns students to schools according to designated attendance areas.

Options for meeting District residency requirements for school attendance:

- Residing in the attendance area
- Residency of students with guardian
- Residency of students in foster care
- Homeless children are not subject to residency requirement

**OPEN ENROLLMENT PROCESS FOR NEW APPLICATIONS**

The Governing Board desires to provide open enrollment options that meet the diverse needs and interest of district students. The Open Enrollment period for the 2010-2011 school year is from **Monday, February 1 through Friday, February 26, 2010**. If you wish to have your child attend a school other than the school of residence, please read the guidelines stated below, and then complete the Open Enrollment Application form.

The procedure for transfer application starts by completing the district's Open Enrollment Application form. **Open enrollment transfers are subject to space availability at the requested site.** WCCUSD anticipates that not all schools will have space for open enrollment requests. Open enrollment transfer requests will be considered according to the following priorities [BP 5116.1]:

1. **"No Child Left Behind Act of 2001":** Transfers for those students who are attending a Title I, Program Improvement school, a school that has not made adequate yearly academic growth for two consecutive years as determined by the California Department of Education may request a transfer to a school that is **not in Program Improvement**.
2. A student may be given priority for attendance outside his/her current attendance area when special circumstances exist that may be harmful or dangerous to that particular student. Harmful or dangerous special circumstances shall be identified pursuant to law and district administrative regulations.
3. **Program transfers, except for Bilingual Programs, are limited to the senior high schools.** A student may transfer to participate in a program if the course is not offered at the high school of residence.
4. Sibling (brother or sister) transfers are considered only if they would be in attendance at the same time at the requested school. **(Having a sibling at the school requested does not guarantee that a transfer will be granted.)**

**OPEN ENROLLMENT SELECTION PROCESS**

Once priority is established, a random, unbiased selection process is used to select students to fill the spaces available. No priorities are given to early submission. Transfer not awarded before the school year begins will remain active for the duration of that school year after which resubmission will be required. The district aims to provide notification of transfer awards by May 15.

Students awarded an Intra-district transfers (with the exception of NCLB transfer approvals) must maintain the specified criteria:

1. Maintain a minimum attendance rate of 95% for each grading period.
2. Maintain appropriate school behavior as outlined in the Student Handbook and Code of Conduct.
3. Maintain a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 for each grading period (Secondary Schools).

Transfer applications may be obtained from the office of any school, online at [wccusd.net](http://wccusd.net), or the Transfer Office. Applications must be submitted during the Open Enrollment period **February 1 through February 26, 2010**. The completed form should be sent directly to the Student Transfer Office: 1108 Bissell Ave., Room 108, Richmond, 94801, or FAX (510) 620-2085. The schools do not accept applications, but may provide assistance in completing the form.

**RENEWALS**

Transfers awarded will require yearly renewal and are subject to space availability. To remain on a school transfer (with the exception of NCLB transfer approvals) the student **must** maintain the specified criteria:

1. Maintain a minimum attendance rate of 95% for each grading period.
2. Maintain appropriate school behavior as outlined in the Student Handbook and Code of Conduct.
3. Maintain a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 for each grading period (Secondary Schools).

School site administrators will be reviewing your student's academic and disciplinary standing to determine renewal eligibility. Though not currently anticipated, students on transfer may be subject to displacement to their resident school due to excessive enrollment.

**APPEALS PROCESS**

Transfer decisions on new applications and or renewals may be appealed by sending concerns in writing to the Transfer Office. Appeals will be reviewed by the Executive Director with overall responsibility for the elementary and secondary division.

**Legal Reference: Education Code**  
 35160.5 District policies: rules and regulations  
 35291 Rules  
 35351 Assignment of students to particular schools  
 48980 Notice at beginning of term

# HELP FOR HAITI



## Spare Change Drive

- Check under the sofa cushions
- Empty those change jars
- Every penny counts!

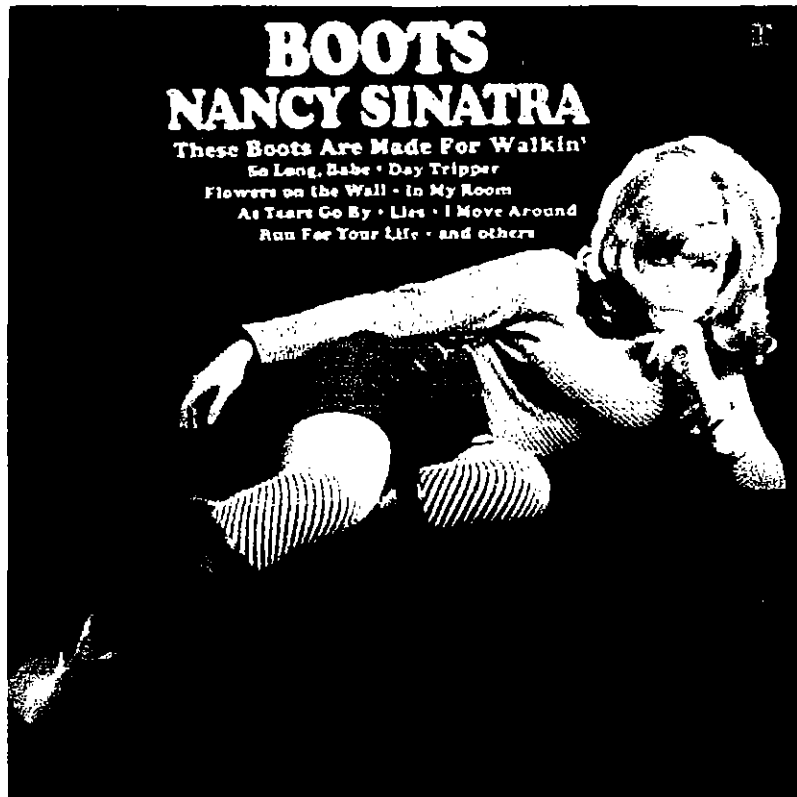
Kensington Hilltop School students are collecting change (and bills too!) for the victims of the catastrophic earthquake.

All donations will be sent to **What If Foundation**, a local organization, which has been helping the children of Port au Prince since 2000.

What If? Foundation is providing food and water for earthquake victims. Their feeding facility is also serving as a medical clinic as well.

Help our kids help Haitian kids. [www.whatiffoundation.org](http://www.whatiffoundation.org)

To get involved, contact Tre at [yazoooca@earthlink.net](mailto:yazoooca@earthlink.net)



**RAIN**  
**THESE BOOTS  
ARE MADE FOR WALKIN'**

**WALK TO SCHOOL ON FITNESS FRIDAY, THE FIRST FRIDAY  
OF EVERY MONTH. OUR NEXT WALK DAY IS FRIDAY  
FEBRUARY 5<sup>th</sup>**

**HOW IT WORKS:**

- 1. Walk to School. You do not have to walk from your house to participate. Any legal parking spot is acceptable. Do respect the various neighborhoods and do obey all traffic rules and regulations.**
- 2. Meet on the Upper Yard 8:15 am -8:30 am for Breakfast Treats and Coffee and Espresso so generously provided by Espresso Subito. Please remember your contributions keep them coming back.**

**DOUBLE KARMA POINTS AWARDED FOR RAINY  
DAY PARTICIPATION.**

**To volunteer or sponsor, contact Leslie Reckler ([leslie@newglobal.net](mailto:leslie@newglobal.net)).**

**TOMORROW!**



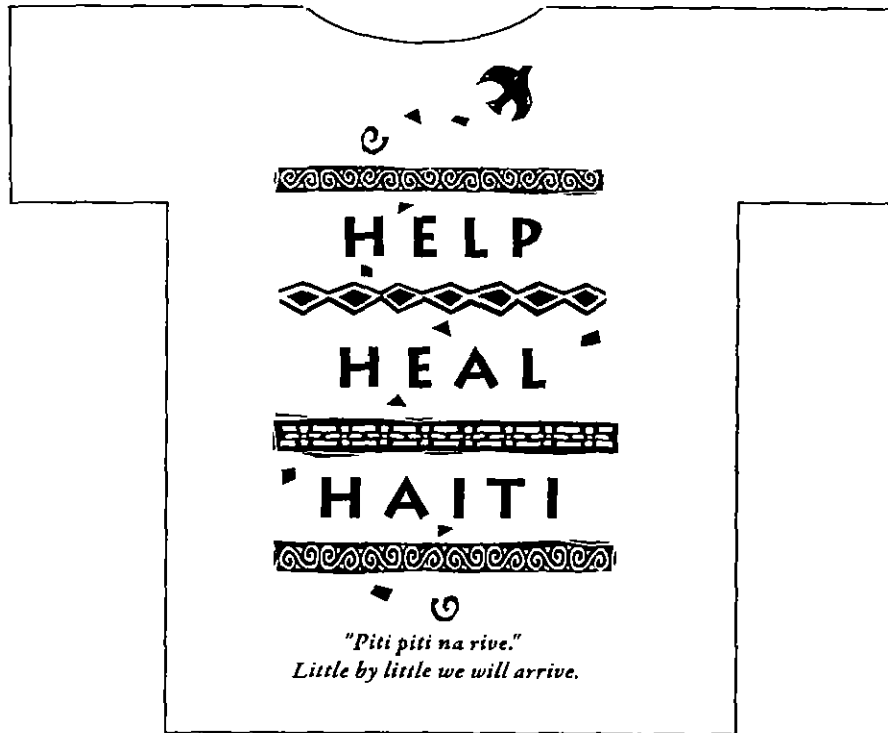
**Friday February 5  
6:30-8:30  
Multipurpose Room**

**FREE! Don't miss it!  
Bring the whole family to enjoy  
new art activities  
and old favorites.  
We've got the feathers, googly eyes and  
pipe cleaners, you supply the FUN!**

**Volunteers needed, contact Cathy Wagner  
at [cathywag@gmail.com](mailto:cathywag@gmail.com)  
558-8554**

# SUPPORT HAITI EARTHQUAKE RELIEF

Show that you care with a beautiful 100% cotton t-shirt!



All profits will be donated to Haiti Earthquake Relief fund through the What If? Foundation which was feeding 1500 school children a day before the earthquake. They are currently providing food and water to earthquake victims. Their facility is also serving as a medical clinic. [www.whatiffoundation.org](http://www.whatiffoundation.org)

**COLOR:** White T-shirt with turquoise image

**SIZES:** ADULT: S(34-36), M(38-40), L(42-44), XL(46-48) CHILD: M(10-12), L(14-16)

**PRICES:** ADULT: \$15.00 CHILD: \$12.00

## ORDER FORM

|                    |   |   |   |    |              |  |
|--------------------|---|---|---|----|--------------|--|
| <b>Adult @\$15</b> | S | M | L | XL |              |  |
| Quantity           |   |   |   |    | x \$15.00 =  |  |
| <b>Child @\$12</b> |   | M | L |    |              |  |
| Quantity           |   |   |   |    | x \$12.00 =  |  |
|                    |   |   |   |    | GRAND TOTAL= |  |

Please return your completed order form with a check payable to Kensington PTA with "Haiti Relief" in the memo section in an envelope marked "T-shirts" to your teacher.

Orders will be delivered to classrooms and must be received no later than **Friday, February 12.**

Questions can be directed to:  
Tre Curran: [yazooca@earthlink.net](mailto:yazooca@earthlink.net), 527-8384

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Room# \_\_\_\_\_

# FRIDAY! FRIDAY! FRIDAY!

*So much to do on one fabulous day*

It's February's **Fitness Friday** and **Spirit Day**

wear your spirit wear and walk to school with your friends.



Start the weekend right with

**PTA Happy Hour**

**Honoring Barbara Wansick**

And so you and your family have plenty of time to enjoy  
the fun and crafts at Art Night  
the Arlington will extend happy hour from 5:30 - 7:30



Then head over to **ART NIGHT** from

**6:30 - 8:30 at Hilltop School.**

This Friday, February 5

# Elementary School Band Survey

This survey has been prepared by PTA representatives from Fairmont, Harding, Kensington and Madera schools. Survey results will be collated and analyzed by this group to determine if there is sufficient interest in pursuing a band program at these schools (and Stege and Washington schools) for Spring 2010 and the 2010-2011 academic year.

Please complete one survey per family and return to your classroom teacher or school office no later than Thursday, February 11th. If you prefer, you can complete the survey online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/elementaryband>.

## 1. My child(ren) currently attend the following school:

- |                                   |                                     |                                     |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fairmont | <input type="checkbox"/> Kensington | <input type="checkbox"/> Stege      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Harding  | <input type="checkbox"/> Madera     | <input type="checkbox"/> Washington |

## 2. My child(ren) are currently in the following grade(s) at this school (check all that apply):

- |                              |                              |                              |                              |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3rd | <input type="checkbox"/> 4th | <input type="checkbox"/> 5th | <input type="checkbox"/> 6th |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|

## 3. I am interested in my child(ren) participating in band at my school:

- Yes  
 No

## 4. I would like my child(ren) to participate in band for a 30-40 minute class two days each week (check all options that would work for you):

- Pullout program during school  
 Before school program (start at 7:45am)  
 After school program

## 5. If you are interested in a before school or after school program, select two days/times that your child(ren) could attend:

|               | Monday                   | Tuesday                  | Wednesday                | Thursday                 | Friday                   |
|---------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Before school | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| After school  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

## 6. I would be willing to pay the following amount per child per month to cover teacher salary and sheet music, so that my child(ren) can participate in band:

- \$20 per mo.     \$15 per mo.     \$10 per mo.     \$5 per mo.     Unable to pay

## Elementary School Band Survey

**7. I am willing to assist in fundraising efforts at my school for a band program:**

Yes

No

**8. My child(ren) are interested in learning to play the following instruments (check all that apply):**

Clarinet

Flute

Sax

Trombone

Trumpet

**9. Some musical instruments may be available from the school district at no cost, but there may not be enough for all children. The current monthly rental rate for musical instruments is \$25 for used flutes/clarinets/trumpets (\$30 new); \$30 for used trombones (\$35 new); and \$45 for used saxophones (\$50 new).**

I already own my child(ren)'s instrument(s).

I am able to pay for monthly rental of my child(ren)'s instrument(s).

I am unable to pay for monthly rental of my child(ren)'s instrument(s) and would need to use an instrument provided by our school district.

**10. I want my child(ren) to participate in band when they go to middle and high school:**

Yes

No