

NESBIT SCOOP

Nesbit PTA Newsletter **September 2011**

Mae Nesbit Elementary 500 Biddulph Way Belmont, CA 94002 650/637-4860
<http://nesbit.brssd.org>

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Principal's Message	1
Art in Action	2
Editor's Note	2
Beautification	2
PTA Meeting	2
Fundraising	3
Library News	3
New Staff Introductions	4
Music Lessons	4

Special Dates

10/12

Puma Pit Stop

10/14

Cookie Dough Orders Due

10/19

Jamba Juice

TGI Fridays Restaurant Night

20% comes back to Nesbit

10/22

Halloween Carnival

10/24-10/29

Red Ribbon Week

10/26

Puma Pit Stop

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Good Day Nesbit School!

We have been in school for nearly 2 months and it has been an exciting time. Every day, your children are thriving in and in the hands of incredibly talented teachers. As parents you should feel tremendously confident in the fact that every day, your child's teacher is working his/her hardest to assure that your child achieves their personal best.

In this Scoop, I'd like to share with you my goals for the years. Many of you were able to hear these goals in person at our Back-to-School night. For those of you who were unable to attend, I think that this Scoop edition is the perfect place for me to share my goals.

As your new principal, I am most interested in 3 things:

The first thing I am interested in is assuring that Nesbit continue to be a safe and loving school environment where children achieve their personal best each and every day. I intend for academic achievement to soar here while at the same time have your children's souls nourished. Know that every single teacher and staff member at Nesbit desires the same and we are committed to working tirelessly to assure such.

The second thing I am interested in is increasing home-school communication. I believe that when communication between schools and homes are strong, children flourish because families are better able to support their children. To that end, I intend to continue to write my weekly Wednesday letters to you, to continue to make our school-wide "Go Puma" phone calls providing you with updates, to do daily announcements at Morning Gathering and to assure that our website is updated. Together with our PTA's Facebook account and our Yahoo group, my hope is that communication between Nesbit and your home will be both informative and timely. If you have any other ideas, please be sure to let me know.

The third thing that I am interested in is working towards getting each and every one of you involved in the day-to-day happenings of Nesbit. I am completely invested in the success of this school and I want you to be as well. By the end of the year, I want to be able to say that 100% of Nesbit parents volunteered to make this school a great place for students to learn and grow. Volunteering at Nesbit can mean 5 minutes a day, 30 minutes a week, once a month or once a quarter. No matter what you are able to give to Nesbit, we will happily receive and know that when you volunteer at Nesbit, you are making a difference in the lives of children.

These are my 3 goals for this year. Should you have any questions or concerns about them, please know that I want to hear from you.

With high regard,

Robin Pang-Maganaris

Nesbit Principal

:

ART IN ACTION NEEDS YOU!

Did you know that art plays a critical role in educating the whole child? Art gives children the opportunity to express themselves in different ways. Art education fosters brain development, especially of the creative and intuitive right brain functions. Art also helps children discover more about themselves by giving them multiple perspectives and different ways to see and interpret the world. Finally, skills developed through art lead to better learning in other areas.

Multiple studies have shown that students who are active in the visual and performing arts earn higher grades in core subjects such as language arts and math, and score higher on standardized tests, including the SATs, compared to their peers who don't take part in arts instruction.

Right here at Nesbit, we have Art in Action, a wonderful program completely funded by the Nesbit PTA. However, the program isn't complete without docents and helpers to teach the lessons. Please consider being a docent or docent's helper for your child's class. You will be able to coordinate the lesson dates with your child's teacher. On average, each lesson is about 1 ½ hours per month. Consider sharing this volunteer position with one or more parents in your class to rotate teaching the lessons.

Other opportunities are still available to help bring an excellent art curriculum to your child!

- ~Supplies Manager: This person monitors our inventory of art supplies and orders more when needed.
- ~Art Show Coordinator/Curator: Once a month, mount and hang artwork at the Redwood Shore Library (1-2 hour a month).
- ~Annual Nesbit Art Show volunteers to help with setup and take-down of the end of the year art show during our Open House night.

If you can help out, or have any questions, please contact Melody Chan at 574-7389 or melodychan35@yahoo.com or Terri Mark at 522-9969 or mark_lees@sbcglobal.net, Art in Action Site Coordinators. To learn more about our art program, go to www.artinaction.org.

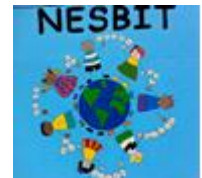
Editor's Note

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this month's *Scoop*. The deadline for submitting articles for the November *Scoop* is **October 24**. If you have any suggestions, ideas, or comments, please email your comments, questions and/or articles to nesbitscoop@yahoo.com.

PTA Meeting

Our next PTA Meeting will be November 15, 2011 at 7:00 in the library.

Beautification Committee



A special THANK YOU to all who helped beautify our school this summer. Nesbit now has a beautiful mural on the east ball wall, and bright and colorful lunch benches in the lunch yard. Stay tuned for other projects in the near future...

If you would like to be a part of future projects, please contact Lauren at kurtm@flash.net.

German American Day - October 6th

Honors 400+ years of German immigration to the U.S.A.

Leif Erikson Day - October 9th
Honors Scandinavian heritage and "the first European to set foot on the American continent."

Fundraising

Our goal this year in PTA is to raise nearly \$31,000. The money raised directly benefits our children by subsidizing field trips, providing assemblies, library books, and helping teachers provide supplies for the classrooms. This year we are also adding Technology to the budget so our children can continue to be up-to-date with their peers.

Thank you to everyone who came to Red Robin for our first Restaurant Night of the year. We received \$268 from the night! Our next Restaurant Night is October 19th at TGI Fridays on El Camino Real in San Mateo. 20% of what is spent through the day will be returned to Nesbit!

While we haven't received the final numbers yet, it looks like we raised nearly \$960 of our \$1000 goal for Book Fair! Thank you so much to those who purchased books. I would also like to thank everyone who helped set up, sell, and break down. Your help was invaluable!

Cookie Dough and Genevieve Catalog sales have started! This is our main fundraiser for the year and where we hope to raise most of the money we need for the year. The fundraiser runs through October 13 with money due on October 14th. If every child sells just 10 tubs of cookie dough, we will raise nearly \$18,000! So please, ask your friends, family, neighbors and co-workers to buy 1 or 2 tubs of cookie dough. They taste great and benefit a great cause, your child! When your child sells 5 items (can be combined from the catalogue and the cookie dough), sign the coupon and have your child return it for a plush duck. On October 14, 1 coupon will be drawn from the coupons turned in and the winner will receive an Extra Large Duck! The coupon is located on the bottom of the flyer enclosed in the Genevieve Catalogue envelope. Cookie Dough and Catalogue items will be delivered the last week in November. We are going to need a large number of volunteers to help sort the items when they come in. To help, please contact Alanna Shaw (AShawMFT@gmail.com) or Shannon Estes (ShanEstes4@yahoo.com). The cookie dough MUST be kept frozen for freshness. Therefore, it MUST be picked up the day specified. **Any cookie dough that is not picked up will be donated to local charities.** When someone buys an item from the catalogue and cookie dough, they need to pay for the items separately. **Cookie Dough sales and catalogue sales are separate.** Items need to be ordered on the corresponding form and returned in the corresponding envelopes. Any questions, please contact Alanna or Shannon.

Otis Spunkmeyer



Mark your calendars...

Nesbit's Annual Halloween Festival is coming Saturday, October 22nd.

To volunteer, please contact Lauren at kurtm@flash.net or leave a note in the school office with your name and contact information. Thanks!

LIBRARY NEWS

The library has been open "half time" this year since the week of September 12. Stop by and say Hi! "Half time" means we will be open one week and then closed one week. Only 4 of our librarians have been rehired to cover 7 schools. I will be working at Nesbit School and Central School.

I'm looking forward to meeting all the students and having a fun time this year! A schedule of the open weeks is posted on the library door. Library hours are 9:00-2:30.

Thank you to Lauren Mercer, Jennifer Montgomery, and Steve Hirsch for all their help in the library this year.

ADOPT-A-BOOKS AVAILABLE IN THE LIBRARY

Do you have a birthday coming up in your family? How about buying a birthday present for the library in honor of that birthday! Come in and select the book of your choice and I'll put a picture dedication book plate in it to commemorate the special day. Adopt-A-Books are available all year long and are \$20 each.

See you in the library!
Mrs. Branscum

Meet Our New Speech Therapist

Hi Parents & Students! My name is Ms. Jenica, and I am the new Speech-Language Pathologist at Nesbit Elementary. I am excited to be at Nesbit this year and have started working with the students as of late September. I received my Master's degree in Speech and Language Pathology from Northwestern University in Evanston, IL and my Bachelor's degree in Community and Regional Development from UC Davis, CA. I hold a California State License in Speech-Language Pathology and the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association Certificate of Clinical Competence (CCC). Should you ever need to reach me, please feel free to email me at jlee@brssd.org. I look forward to working with each of you this year!

– Jenica A. Lee, MA, CCC-SLP

Instrumental Music Lessons for 4th and 5th Graders

*Instrumental Music Lessons are offered in a group format for 30 minutes a week

*Instrumental Music Sign-Up Process In 7 Steps:

1. Permission/Interest Forms were sent home on September 2
2. Return Permission/Interest Forms to classroom teacher
3. Permission/Interest Forms will be collected for Dr. Della Pietra
4. Dr. Della Pietra will distribute local vendor (Instrument Rental) and book/materials requirements to interested students who submitted completed Permission/Interest forms)
5. Dr. Della Pietra will build Instrumental Music Class schedule
6. Instrumental Students are notified of Instrumental Music Class day/time
7. Instrumental Classes Begin (class schedule remains the same for the school year)

*While percussion is listed as an option for beginning band, participation may be limited so that students may have enough performance time in our concert settings with a balanced sound. Percussion study at Ralston is also limited by necessity (a sonic balance for the band/orchestra) and therefore auditions are held in the late spring for percussionists.

Nesbit has a small "lending library" of old instruments. It is generally recommended that students their rent instruments when possible.

Notes from the Office:

Welcome back families. If your child is sick please call the office to let me know. Telling their teacher is great but they don't always have time to let me know. The number is (650) 637-4860. Please leave your name, the child's name and room number or teacher's name.

Children with a fever must stay home until they are 24 hours fever free. This is a district policy and it helps to ensure that everyone stays healthy.

Many children have been arriving to school before 8:10. They are not allowed to be on the playground before this time. There is no supervision.

Please remember Wednesday's are early dismissal. School is out at 12:20. Students need to be picked up promptly. Staff has meetings to attend and children can't be left alone. Thank you for your help.

