



# Who's News

A Weekly Newsletter of the Willett Elementary School PTA - [www.djUSD.k12.ca.us/willett/](http://www.djUSD.k12.ca.us/willett/) - 757-5460

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Monday, February 2

School lunch and milk prices increase

### Tuesday, February 3

Variety Show auditions, MPR, 3:15 pm

### Wednesday, February 4

7<sup>th</sup> Grade Planners due to 6<sup>th</sup> Grade teachers  
Ms. Kirklin's parent chat, Quad, 1:00-1:30 pm  
Variety Show Acts posted, Quad, 1:30 pm

### Friday, February 6

Health Fair for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grades, MPR, 8:00-11:30 am  
Scrip Store and Scrip pick-up, Quad, 2:15-3:15 pm

### Tuesday, February 10

Strings Concert, Emerson Indoor Commons, 7:30 pm

### Thursday, February 12

Band Concert, Emerson Indoor Commons, 7:30 pm

### Monday, February 16

President's Day Holiday – *NO SCHOOL*

### Tuesday, February 17

PTA meeting, Staff Room, 7:00 pm

### Thursday, February 19

*Discovering Your Child's Learning Style* presented by  
Mikael Villalobos, MPR, 7:00-8:00 pm

### Monday, February 23

School District Holiday – *NO SCHOOL*

## CHANGES IN OUR SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM

On Thursday, January 22 the Board of Education approved the following changes to our District's school lunch program:

- Increase of school lunch prices effective today **February 2, 2004**. Full-priced lunches will be \$3.00 for secondary and **\$2.75** for elementary students. Prepaid lunches purchased prior to the 2/2/04 effective date of price increase will be honored at the original price at purchase. The revised prepayment chart reflects the new meal prices and applies to prepaid lunches purchased on or after Feb. 2, 2004.
- Milk prices will likewise increase from \$0.25 to \$0.35 at all school sites starting 2/2/04. Adult lunch prices will increase from \$3.50 to \$3.75 (includes sales tax).
- Crunch Lunch remains available every day at existing elementary sites. Advance notification of two weeks will be provided prior to the implementation of any change/s in lunch format & offerings. The changes may occur the first week of March.
- Patwin will begin offering a salad bar twice a week. Target start date is February 4, 2004.

Questions may be addressed to Rafaelita Curva, DJUSD of Student Nutrition Services, 757-5385, ext. 119 or [nutrition@djUSD.k12.ca.us](mailto:nutrition@djUSD.k12.ca.us).

## TWO FEBRUARY HOLIDAYS?

Are you a little confused about the school holidays in February? You are not alone. There are two. The first is **Monday, February 16**, widely known as President's Day. The second is the following **Monday, February 23**. In the past, this has coincided with Lincoln's Birthday, but this year falls nowhere near it. So let's just call it our Second February School Holiday and remember NOT to send the kids to school that day.

## OUTDOOR EDUCATION NEWS

## PARENT CHAT WEDNESDAY

Sharon Kirklin will host a parent chat this **Wednesday, February 4 from 1:00-1:30 pm** in the Quad. The topic was to have been modernization of our school, but the project was recently delayed by the District until January 2005. Instead, Sharon will answer any questions on school facilities or other topics that parents might like to ask. For those unable to attend, the discussion will be summarized in a future issue of *Who's News*.

6<sup>th</sup> graders had a wonderful week last week at Foothill Horizons outdoor science school in Sonora. This is an experience that they never forget and we have many wonderful people to thank who played an important role in making it happen.

First, the teachers (and parents) would like to thank our dedicated and outstanding parent chaperones. These folks gave up a week of their work and home time to be able to provide weeklong supervision for our 6<sup>th</sup> graders. While most certainly tired, they had a memorable experience. If you see them on campus, be sure to thank them in person. They are Mary Delany, Lesley Randall, Abby Spinner-Neal, Rachel Flash, Page Webb, Dori Balsdon, Ed Taylor, Conrad Getter, Rick Rousch, Otto Raabe, Jim Griesemer and Corey Strack.

We would also like to thank Dr. Craig McDonald for being our camp doctor for the first half of the week. Rachel Flash filled this role for the second half of the week while being a parent chaperone as well (wow!).

In addition, we need to let all the drivers know how much they are appreciated because how else are you going to get 88 kids to and from camp? Many other parents helped out in whatever way they could as we prepared for this trip. Thanks to all of you!

Finally, the 6<sup>th</sup> grade teachers think it is high time that we gave Angie Nadler some recognition. Angie has been doing Outdoor Education accounting since her son Brian was in 6<sup>th</sup> grade (now in 9<sup>th</sup>). This is a huge job and Angie is an expert at it! Thank you.



The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Willett Art Museum will be opening in the Willett Multipurpose Room for a ten-day engagement from March 8 - 17. The theme of this year's exhibit is **Art Around the World**. A variety of artists, styles and mediums will be represented. All classes will be working to create beautiful artwork as they learn more about artistic technique. Every student in the school will contribute a piece of artwork to the museum.

5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade student docents will be trained to guide classes through the museum. The Art Museum will be open for self-guided public tours on **Wednesday evening, March 10**. Come tour the world of Willett talent!

Claudia Woods is coordinating volunteer efforts for the Museum. Volunteers are needed on Thursday, March 4 from 3:00-5:30 pm to mount the exhibit and again on Wednesday, March 17 to bring it down. If you are interested in helping, contact Claudia at [cwoods@djuds.k12.ca.us](mailto:cwoods@djuds.k12.ca.us) or 757-5460.

**WILLETT PARENT EDUCATION NIGHT  
COMING IN FEBRUARY**

**Discovering Your Child's Learning Style**  
An Interactive Presentation About How  
Different Students Receive  
and Process Information  
**Thursday, Feb. 19, 7:00-8:00 pm**

**Presented by Mikael Villalobos,**  
DJUSD Coordinator for Positive School Climate

*Free Child Care Available*  
RSVP Forms in last week's newsletter or at  
[www.djuds.k12.ca.us/willett/](http://www.djuds.k12.ca.us/willett/)

**WILLETT SPELLING BEE CHAMPION  
MOVES ON TO REGIONALS**

Our own 5<sup>th</sup> grader, **Alexandra Miller**, has qualified to compete in the next level of Spelling Bee competition. She was selected as a finalist for the California Central Valley Spelling Bee on a written test by spelling tongue-tangling challenges such as halcyon, meringue, and mosque.. She is working very hard to prepare for the March 3 finals. If she scores well, she will move on to represent our region in the California State competition. We look forward to hearing great things from her in the weeks to come. Congratulations, Alexandra!

Press Release

**DAVIS JOINT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Attention Parents of Elementary Students:**  
**Intradistrict Open Enrollment**  
**Application Period Is Earlier This Year**  
**February 2 to February 27, 2004**

The Davis Joint Unified School District offers parents of elementary school students the option of requesting placement for their children in a school other than their neighborhood school of residence. **The district is asking for applications to be submitted one month earlier than in recent years for planning purposes.**

Parent requests for intradistrict open enrollment must be made on an annual basis. The requests will be considered for placement following submission of requests during the Open Enrollment Application Period. Enrollment of students in specialized programs--including Spanish Immersion, Montessori, Fairfield School, Davis School for Independent Study, and Gifted and Talented classes--will be made based on special criteria for each of those programs and not through intradistrict open enrollment.

Parents interested in requesting placement for their children for the 2004-2005 school year in a school other than their neighborhood school of residence should complete an Intradistrict Transfer Request Form and submit the form to the school office of the child's current school or to the Student Services Department, Davis Joint Unified School District, 526 B Street, Davis, California, 95616. Requests will be accepted during the Intradistrict Open Enrollment Application period between February 2 and February 27, 2004. Forms will be available at all elementary schools, at the Student Services Department, or on the district's website at [www.djUSD.k12.ca.us](http://www.djUSD.k12.ca.us). Forms must be completed by parents interested in having their children continue attending the school of choice or parents interested in having their children attend a school of choice for the first time in 2004-2005.

Upon receipt of the Transfer Request Forms, the district will consider all requests based on space available at the schools following placement of students who reside within the school attendance areas. Parents will be notified by mail in mid May whether the request has been approved, denied, or placed on a waiting list. Parents with questions about Intradistrict Open Enrollment should contact Becky Alcalá at the Student Services Department, 530-757-5300 ext. 116.

**UPDATE ON OUR NOON STAFF**

There have been some changes (again!) in our noon supervisors. While **Bertha Muela** is still supervising the students while they eat at the lunch tables, she is now joined by a parent volunteer **Evancy Mugambi**. Thank you, Evancy.

On the playground, **Helaine Kwong** and **Jessica Borba** continue to supervise students on the blacktop. They have been joined by another UC Davis student, **Ajay Kurani** on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Tuesdays and Thursdays are being covered by **Mary Bell** who is a past playground supervisor and teaching aide at Willett.

We've also added a new parent volunteer. **Kerry Halsted** has volunteered to provide supplementary supervision on Thursdays. Welcome, Kerry! **Louise Walker** continues on the playground on Mondays, **Susan Lovenburg** takes a regular Tuesday shift, and **Leslie Buhlman** covers as needed and as her work schedule permits. If you are interested in taking a regular Wednesday or Friday slot, please contact Louise at [louisepw@cal.net](mailto:louisepw@cal.net) or 753-7808.



**BAND NOTES**

The dates of the Elementary Band and Strings Concerts have changed. The new dates are as follows:

**STRINGS - Tuesday, February 10** at Emerson Indoor Commons. Concert start time is 7:30 pm. Students should arrive at **6:45 pm** for tuning and warm-up. There is a special rehearsal **Tuesday, February 10** at Emerson. *Beginners: 3:30-4:00 pm, 2<sup>nd</sup> Years: 4:00-4:30 pm, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Years: 4:30-5:00 pm.*

**BAND - Thursday, February 12** at Emerson Indoor Commons. Concert start time is 7:30 pm. Students should arrive at **7:00 pm** for tuning and warm-up. There is a special rehearsal **Thursday, February 12** at Emerson. *Beginners: 3:30-4:15 pm, Continuing (2<sup>nd</sup> Years): 4:15-5:00 pm.*

Attendance at all rehearsals and performances is expected for participating students. Please notify Sherie Wall (757-5300, Ext. 272 or [swall@djUSD.k12.ca.us](mailto:swall@djUSD.k12.ca.us)) if your child is unable to attend the rehearsal or concert.



## THE WILLETT VARIETY SHOW

*Auditions This Tuesday, Feb. 3, 3:15 pm*

The Willett Variety Show will be held on **Thursday, February 26** and **Friday, February 27**. Permission slips **MUST** have been returned by the deadline for students to participate in auditions. Each act is limited to a maximum of 3 minutes. The committee will look for variety as well as talent, and will try to include as many students as possible. "Lip sync" acts are not allowed. Students who want to audition for Master of Ceremonies should prepare an audition that includes how they would introduce themselves to the audience and a few appropriate jokes. Students may audition for MC either individually or with a partner.

### **DATES TO REMEMBER**

*Please note: All meetings, auditions, practices, rehearsals, and performances are MANDATORY (EDITOR'S NOTE: There was no voluntary practice on Jan. 22. We apologize for the confusion).*

#### *Auditions*

**Tuesday, February 3 beginning at 3:15 pm, MPR**

A specific time block will be assigned to each act.

Acts to be included in the Variety Show will be posted on **Wednesday afternoon, February 4** in the display case in the quad.

#### *Practices*

**Wednesday, February 11, 1:45-4:00 pm**

**Tuesday, February 17, 3:15-4:30 pm**

#### *Dress Rehearsal*

**Tuesday, February 24, 3:15-4:30 pm**

#### *Performances*

**Thursday, February 26, 8:40 am**

**Thursday, February 26, 7:00 pm**

**Friday, February 27, 8:45 am**

If you have questions, please contact Sharon Kirklin or Leslie Berry at 757-5460.



## WHAT'S UP IN THE LIBRARY?

The California Young Reader Medal program will be in full swing during the month of February. Over the year, California children suggested books that they feel are worthy of winning the California Young Reader Medal. A nominated book must be an original work of fiction published in the last five years by an author who is still living. The CYRM committee reviewed their choices and nominated between three and five books in each of five categories. Students at Willett will have the opportunity to read the books in three categories and add their votes to those of other California children (*no adults are allowed to vote!*) in mid-March to determine the winners. Readers may read books in any of the categories but they must read **all** the books in the category in order to vote.

Ms. Weber-Johnson book talked the books in the Intermediate category to intermediate classes last week. She will be reading the first book in the Picture Books for Older Readers category to participating classes this week. She will also begin to read the books in the Primary category to kindergarten through third grade classes. All the books are available to look at during recesses and before or after school at the Willett Library, but only the Intermediate books may be checked out until after the voting takes place in mid-March. The books in each category are as follows:

### **Primary**

*Book! Book! Book!* by Deborah Bruss

*Dumpy La Rue* by Elizabeth Winthrop

*A Fine, Fine School* by Sharon Creech

*Mice and Beans* by Pam Munoz Ryan

*The Name Jar* by Yangsook Choi

### **Intermediate**

*Kite Fighters* by Linda Sue Park

*Love that Dog* by Sharon Creech

*School Story* by Andrew Clements

### **Picture Books for Older Readers**

*And the Dish Ran Away with the Spoon* by Janet Stevens and Susan Stevens Crummel

*Going Somewhere Special* by Patricia C. McKissack

*The Yellow Star* by Carmen Agra Deedy



## CHALLENGE CLUB

*Who Is Meeting the Challenge?*

The following kids have completed **10 miles**: Simone Aldredge, Hannah Collier, Neha Dalal, Rahul Dalal, Jonathan Desideri, Tali Doring, Daniel Dutulescu, Jing Feng, Jake Guida, Max Guida, Alexandra Lafreniere, Marrisafreniere, Hannah May, Alice Moylan, Kyle Nadler, Beverly Nguyen, Adam Raabe, Kelli Rush, Sarah Sadler, Michaela Saechow, Sydnie Saechow, Douglas Sharpe, Destiny Smith, Jenna Strack, Philip Toy, Heidi Voelker, Sam Warren, Gabriel Weston, Adriane Wisner, and parent Pauline Daggett.

The following kids have completed **20 miles**: Trevor Halsted, Nick Jones, Tessie Knight, Maria Maguire, Jasmine Prat, Katherine Rush, Henry Sanders, Colin Wehrhan, Nicholas Wehrhan and parent Chantel Prat

The following kids have completed **30 miles**: Micah Knight, Mark Nishimoto

The following kids have completed **40 miles**: Stewart Green, Eliot Williams, Mikkel Wilson

The following kids have completed **50 miles**: Julian Fuchs

Ryan Wilson has completed **70 miles** and Hayden Mills has completed **80 miles!**

## Scrip store on Friday

The Willett PTA will be selling scrip this Friday in the quad from 2:15 - 3:15. We'll have a new supply of Jamba Juice (\$5), Dos Coyotes (\$5) and Baskin Robbins (\$2) certificates in addition to our regular offerings of Davis Food Coop, Nugget Market, TCBY, Lamppost Pizza, Longs Drugs, Peet's Coffee, Starbucks and Borders Books. It's a great time to stop by for information, too, if you've never purchased scrip before. Of course, if you're one of our regular shoppers, you know the routine! Special orders placed on January 23rd will also be available for pickup. Questions? Contact Amy Abramson at [abramsonamy@aol.com](mailto:abramsonamy@aol.com) or 758-2762. Thanks for supporting the scrip program.

## Yolo County SELPA Autism Training Series Issues Relating to Executive Dysfunction in Children with ASD:

### A Behavioral Approach

*Presented By: Patty Schetter,  
Specialist Consultant*

#### Content:

This workshop explains how problems commonly associated with executive functioning present in children with autism. From a behavioral perspective, strategies for addressing many of these issues are provided. They include strategies for improving recall and memory, organization and planning to priority setting, execution of tasks and self management.

#### Participants:

This session is ideal for educators who are working with children on the higher end of the autism spectrum or students with Aspergers Syndrome. Parents are also strongly encouraged to attend.

Date: Friday, Feb. 20, 2004

Time: 12:30-5:00 pm

Where: Woodland Conference Room, 1240 Harter Ave.  
Woodland CA

Call:668-3786 or E-Mail: [Irgens@ycoe.org](mailto:Irgens@ycoe.org) to sign up

## AN ANNOUNCEMENT FROM CHANNEL 14

We're in the process of wrapping up production on the first two shows of Channel 14's first studio program series, *VAPA-TV*. The show features hosts Bob Gonzalez and Jeff Hudson interviewing educators and students and talking about Visual and Performing Arts education within the Davis District.

Angelo Moreno and the District orchestra programs are the subject of one of the shows, "Student Orchestras: From Classroom to Performance." The other features interviews with Rob Jaffe, California State Summer School for the Arts Director; Sarah Anderberg, Sierra North Arts Project Director; and Davis student Mollie Hope, a graduate of CSSSA.

The shows are scheduled to run on **Monday, Feb 2**, and **Friday, Feb 6**, and then again the third week of February on the same weekdays, all at 6:00 pm and will probably be shown on DCTV as well. The shows are produced using the facilities and staff of DCTV under our in-kind services agreement.

## DIALOGUE WITH DEBORAH

February 2004

by *Deborah Kimokeo*,

### DJUSD Crisis Counselor

Each month I usually select a topic that comes across my desk or from conversations with parents, students and staff. Believing there is little new under the sun, I share in a question and answer format parts of these conversations so we can learn from each other. Feel free to email your question to me if you choose to and I will answer you privately and, if appropriate, use it in this column in a way that would not break your confidentiality. If you have any questions to send in or comments to make, email me at [dkimokeo@djUSD.k12.ca.us](mailto:dkimokeo@djUSD.k12.ca.us). I can also be reached by phone at, 757-5400 x133.

This month I am choosing again to share another newsletter from Words Can Heal as several folks liked the last one. I will resume questions/answers next month! Be sure and come to hear Dr. Ross Flowers from UC Davis Counseling Center as he speaks at DHS on March 2nd about boundaries and communication. He also specializes in Sports Psychology and will have things to share in that regard, also..

*Words Can Heal Newsletter Volume 42*

#### **Four Habits of Highly Successful Young People**

A true story: A high school class undertook as a community service project to visit the elderly patients of a nursing home. Jennifer, the sweetest girl in the class, approached the bed of one woman who looked lonely and sad. Putting her hand gently on the woman's arm, Jennifer asked solicitously, "How are you today, Grandma?" The woman looked up at Jennifer and replied: "Drop dead!" How does a person become so negative and bitter that they spurn any kind advances? Why are there bitter elderly people, but no bitter five-year-olds?

The answer is that it takes decades of focusing on the negative to produce the level of embitterment illustrated in this story. Conversely, elderly people who speak warmly to everyone started cultivating their positive attitude when they were young. In junior school it might seem cool to insult another kid, but the insulter is laying the groundwork to become the kind of adult he doesn't want to be.

How does this work? Every time we insult, mock, or gossip about another person, we are focusing on that

person's negative qualities. We think it is at their expense, but it is also at our own expense, because we establish for ourselves a pattern of focusing on the negative. This becomes a life-long habit. Ultimately, we ourselves become the victims.

Crotchety Mr. Jones wasn't born that way. At the age of ten, he was a popular, good-looking, cool kid. What happened?

Billy Jones (age 10): "Evan, you creep! How could you have missed that catch? You couldn't catch a baseball if it was handed to you! The only team that would want you is the born losers team."

Billy Jones (age 15): "Hey, guys! Check out Bruce today! Did you see what he's wearing? He has as much taste as a toad!"

Bill Jones (age 20): "I'm such a moron to have failed this exam! Professor Michaels is an idiot! Half the exam was stuff I never even heard him say. He's so boring, they should give out alarm clocks to anyone who registers for his class."

Bill Jones (age 25): "I can't believe you're going out with Pam. She's the ugliest girl this side of the Mississippi."

Bill Jones (age 30): "Marge, I don't know why I married you. You can't even boil rice without burning it. You're the world's worst cook."

Mr. Jones (age 35): "You kids are stupid brats! Don't ever bring me a report card like this again! How did I end up with kids who are both stupid and ugly?"

Mr. Jones (age 40): "My boss, Mr. Smith, is a fool. It's impossible to work for a jerk like him. I'm glad he fired me. I won't have to look at his miserable puss every day."

Mr. Jones (age 70): "This old body is a worthless mess. I can't even play tennis anymore, thanks to the d\_\_\_\_\_ arthritis. Sundays are the worst day of the week. My kids, the ungrateful brats, never come to visit me. The only good thing in my life is that I'm rid of Marge. I hope she poisons her new husband with her terrible cooking."

Mr. Jones could have been different. If he had focused on the positive, starting when he was young, he would have done kindness both to others and to himself. Here's what could have been:

Billy Jones (age 10): "Evan, don't feel bad you missed that catch. Everybody misses sometimes."

Billy Jones (age 15): "Hey, guys! Stop making fun of Bruce! He may not be a great dresser, but I'd love to be as smart as he is, especially in algebra!"

Bill Jones (age 20): "I'm bummed out that I failed this exam. I have a hard time paying attention in Prof. Michael's class. I didn't even hear him say half the stuff he tested us on. Sometimes really brilliant professors don't have the most dynamic public speaking skills. I'm sure I'll do better next semester."

Bill Jones (age 25): "Pam may not be a beauty contestant, but she's such a nice person. Look at how much she helps her handicapped neighbor."

Bill Jones (age 30): "Don't worry about burning the rice, Marge. Everyone gets distracted sometimes. I don't care if you're not the chef of the year. You have so many other talents. Why, we have the nicest garden in town, thanks to your green thumb."

Mr. Jones (age 35): "Well, kids, you both got pretty disappointing marks in most of your subjects. But you did get A's in music and art, and in deportment, which is the most important thing. I'd like you to try harder next term."

Mr. Jones (age 40): "Losing my job is a devastating blow. But Mr. Smith was as nice as he could be about it, giving me two month's notice and severance pay. It's not his fault that the company got taken over."

Mr. Jones (age 70): "This old body is too arthritic to play tennis anymore. But I'm grateful that I can still take walks in the park with Marge. And my kids and grandchildren are such a joy. Their Sunday visits are the highpoint of my week."

Which Mr. Jones would you rather be?

Visit [www.WordsCanHeal.org](http://www.WordsCanHeal.org) for more ideas on how to heal with words.

**Boundaries & Communication:  
Individuals & Families**

A PTA-sponsored parent education presentation  
by Dr. Ross Flowers,  
UC Davis Clinical Psychologist

Tuesday, March 2, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.  
DHS Library

## **Questions? Answers!**

**Q. How do I find out if the school lunch offering will be different than the published menu?**

*A. Usually, school office staff are notified that a substitution will be made only on the day it occurs. If a communication to this effect is received, it will be posted on the menu board in the MPR. The definitive menu is posted on the board by lunch supervisor, Miyuki Carson, at about 10:30 am each day.*

**Q. The kids were eating lunch outside last week on a couple of days that I wouldn't have liked to eat there, although it was fine for outdoor play. Is there a cut-off temperature at which the kids eat inside, or is it a day-by-day decision?**

*A. It is a day-by-day decision and some days are marginal. On foggy days, the dampness can make it feel colder than the air temperature tells us it is. Please have children come to school dressed in appropriate winter clothing (we still see some shorts and short sleeved t-shirts on a regular basis), keeping in mind that while kids may be able to stay warm running around on the playground, they will have 15-20 minutes of sitting outside to eat beforehand. A reminder to PUT ON the coat before going to lunch may also be in order.*

## ***What DOES the PTA Do?***

### ***We Financially Support Outdoor Education***

The PTA provides a means for 6<sup>th</sup> grade students to raise all or a portion of their \$200 outdoor education camp fee. While all Willett students are invited to participate in our Giftwrap fundraiser in the fall, 6<sup>th</sup> grader's profits (about 50% of their sales) are tabulated individually and then applied directly to their camp fee. Should their profits exceed \$200, the additional amount remains with the PTA for use in other projects. This year the PTA transferred almost **\$3,000** (of the \$10,000 total profit from the sale) to the 6<sup>th</sup> grade outdoor education fund.

In past years, the PTA has also funded partial and full scholarships for families unable to pay the camp fee. Although none were requested this year, the PTA had an additional **\$1,000** budgeted for that purpose.

This is one of the many ways the PTA enriches and supports student learning at Willett.