

**Arena Union Elementary School**

# **The Beacon**

November  
2009



AUES Address: P.O. Box 45, Point Arena, CA 95468 /Telephone 707 882-2131

## **PRINCIPAL'S LETTER**

Dear Families:

Today is the first day of the time change and it always requires a little getting used to. The light is incongruous with the time, but I do know I usually find myself going to sleep when my body clock says it's bedtime and that hour gained works well for me.

The first quarter is over, and we are beginning the job of evaluating assessments in English Language Arts and Math, to tell us what our students have absorbed and what concepts we may have to re-teach or support. I hope to begin this week constructing our mid-semester grade report with the new student data system we put into place this fall district-wide. It's a tad daunting, so please be patient with us. My goal is to be able to print report cards for our Middle School Conferences, (please see the information regarding this event in this newsletter), on the 16<sup>th</sup> of November, and mail them to K-5 families on the 13<sup>th</sup>.

I want to thank all of you with students in grades K through 5 who were able to attend your parent conferences this past week. I am aware of the confusion the schedule change brings, but the conferences are an important means of communicating your student's academic standing, our curriculum, the programs we have to support student learning, and most importantly, your role in your student's education.

It is not just our idea as educators that parents are an integral part of student learning, it is actually a component of No Child Left Behind's Title 1 federal mandate. Title 1 funding is received by public schools relative to the number of students who receive free or reduced lunch. Because over 75% of our students hold that designation, we are a Title 1 school, and the funding is substantial, as well as the accountability.

Part of that accountability is engaging and supporting you, as parents, to be involved in as many venues as possible that can improve our program. It is called a "parental compact" and it is to be part of our Local Education Agency/Single School Improvement plan which goes to the School Board for approval and is submitted to Federal and State agencies. We are in the process of developing this important compact at our school's Site Council Meeting and we invite you to attend these meetings the last Monday of the month at 3:30 p.m. We have reviewed this plan over the past year, discussing curriculum and programs, but this important document requires revision and updating yearly. It is your opportunity to have a pro-active voice in working towards school improvement in specific areas.

Gratefully, some parents are able to participate on site by volunteering in the classroom, attending field trips, or coming to school to have lunch with their children. Many parents' busy schedules are not conducive to that kind of involvement but there are many other ways you as a parent can support your child. These may include simply making sure your child attends school and does their homework, or monitoring of television and video games, or supporting positive activities in extracurricular time. All of these efforts are part of the collaborative teamwork that creates a successful school climate.

Many of the events that happen on our campus are in this little monthly Newsletter. Take the time to read it thoroughly, and if you see a calendared event you would like to attend or if you have any questions about your child's education, please know that all of our staff in the classrooms, or in the office, are here because of their dedication to your children and would be happy to speak with you.

Enjoy the onset of winter. Just as nature so wisely rejuvenates by resting before the spring explosion, enjoy the calm precipitated by the shorter days and longer darkness.

Peace and Love,

Paula Patterson  
Principal



## **Kindergarten Minimum Day Changes**

**Attention Kindergarten Parents,  
MARK YOUR CALENDAR** for the following  
**12:30pm** minimum days.  
Wednesday, **November 25<sup>th</sup>**  
Friday, **December 18<sup>th</sup>**  
Friday, **June 11, 2010**

**PM kindergarten session will join the AM session from 8:25-12:30. There will be no 11:15-3:15 session for the above dates.**

**There will be no transportation for kindergarten for AM or PM sessions. Please speak with child's teacher or other Arena parents for carpool ideas for the above days.**

## **November Holiday**

**NO SCHOOL**  
Wednesday, November 11<sup>th</sup>  
Veteran's Day Holiday Observed

**12:30 pm MINIMUM DAY**  
Wednesday, November 25<sup>th</sup>

**NO SCHOOL**  
Thursday, November 26<sup>th</sup>  
Thanksgiving Holiday

**NO SCHOOL**  
Friday, November 27<sup>th</sup>  
Thanksgiving Holiday

## **Preschool Minimum Day Changes**

**Attention Preschool Parents,**  
Due to school wide early dismissal at 12:30 for holiday breaks.  
**Afternoon Session (12:15-3:15) will be canceled** on the following days:  
**November 25<sup>th</sup> and December 18<sup>th</sup>.**

## **MIDDLE SCHOOL PARENT /TEACHER CONFERENCES Monday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, 3:45-7pm**

This year we are trying a new format for middle school conferences that we are really excited about! It will work like this:

Each middle school teacher will be seated at their own table in the multi-purpose room. As parents enter the multi-purpose room, they will be given their child's report card. Then, parents will circle the room, having time to converse with each of their child's teachers.

We hope that this new format (and the lengthening of the hours) will allow more parents to attend parent/teacher conferences and provide them with more access to the middle school teachers.

No appointment is necessary; all middle school teachers will be present from 3:45-7:00pm., so come to school at a time that is convenient for you!

## AUES 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Food Drive - November 30<sup>th</sup> -December 19<sup>th</sup>

Our campus food drive is the largest donor in our community. This food drive will assist local families experiencing hardship during this winter season.

As our nations' economic crisis has impacted many families, we graciously ask to share what you can.

Donations of canned, boxed and/or packaged, non-perishable food will be collected at school and sent to the Project Santa Organization.

Each homeroom will have a donation box and in the school hallways until December 16th.

Please lend a hand to help your neighbor during this difficult time of year.

For more information, please contact Brandy Oropeza at 882-2131, extension 303.



**Arena Union  
Elementary School**

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## Poem of the Month

### ***Autumn***

"When the trees in summer splendor  
Change to raiment red and gold,  
When the summer moon turns mellow,  
And the nights are getting cold;  
When the squirrels hide their acorns,  
And the woodchucks disappear;  
Then we know that it is autumn,  
Loveliest season of the year."

Carol L. Riser

**We're on the Web!**

*See us at:*

[www.pointarenaschools.org](http://www.pointarenaschools.org)