



Alvin Dunn Elementary Winter Newsletter

Whitney DeSantis, Principal Silvia Jacobsen, Asst. Principal

Learning, Succeeding,
Achieving... **TOGETHER**

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Principal's Message

What are Family Fridays all about? Good question! Every year, we schedule Family Fridays throughout the school year. The purpose of Family Friday is to promote the joy of reading and to model a reading comprehension strategy for parents to implement at home with their student. Parents are invited to stay after our flag salute on Family Friday dates and watch a credentialed teacher model a strategy while reading a loud a book. We have the read a loud in English and Spanish. After the read a loud is complete, parents go to their student's class and read a loud to them and try out the reading comprehension strategy they were just introduced to during the teacher read a loud.

The parents get to keep the book to add to their collection at home. This is our treat to you as a "thank you" for supporting your child's education! We hope to see you at our next Family Friday! Here are the dates for this 11-12 school year:

- ◆ January 13
- ◆ March 9
- ◆ May 11

Sincerely,
Mrs.
DeSantis



Alvin Dunn's College Program

We believe Alvin Dunn Elementary School is your child's first step toward earning a college education. In today's world, a college degree is very important. Graduating college will supply your child with the knowledge, skills, and credentials to find and keep a high-quality job. At Alvin Dunn, we have and will continue to create a college-going atmosphere so you and your child know the benefits of earning a college education.

The average income of a high school graduate is \$28,700. The average income is \$53,800 for individuals with a bachelor's degree. A typical high school graduate would expect about an income of \$940,000 in his or her lifetime. By comparison, a typical college graduate would expect to earn about \$1.8 million, or almost twice as much as an individual with only a high school education.

Congratulations!! Student Council Officers

President—Rossi Amador

Vice President—Fabian Garcia

Historian—Alexis Lopez

Treasurer—Yesenia Salvador

Secretary—Oseas Garcia



SMUSD Governing Board

Sharon Jenkins
Beckie Garrett
Janet McClean
Jay Petrek
Randy Walton

Dr. Kevin Holt,
Superintendent

PACE—Partners Advancing College Education ARE YOU ON PACE?



“It’s never too early to begin preparing for college!”

Partners Advancing College Education (PACE) Promise, a program dedicated to ensuring that motivated San Marcos Unified School District (SMUSD) students have the option of attending college. A quality higher education is one of the single most important factors in determining an individual’s success in life. Yet many young people find the door to higher education all but shut to them. The Pace Promise is dedicated to the fundamental principle that every child deserves an equal chance to obtain a high-quality education. This partnership between the district and California State University, San Marcos (CSUSM), guarantees CSUSM admission to students who have met specific requirements which began with the graduating classes of 2009.

An exciting component of the PACE Promise is the provision of financial support for all eligible students. Recently, the Leichtag Family Foundation established an endowment to offset *some* of the financial burden of books and tuition for students who meet the program requirements. Continuing the Foundations’ longtime commitment to supporting institutions that educate and serve, Andre (Toni) and Lee Leichtag, the Foundation’s Board Chair and Secretary, respectively, created the endowment in honor of their daughter, Joli Ann.

While donations like the Leichtag Family’s help offset the future cost of tuition and books for our students, donations from the community are needed in order to implement start-up programs immediately. To this end, the SMUSD Governing Board launched a Community Challenge with a check for \$1,000.00 to help fund PACE activities.

Please join us in the PACE Promise by discussing with your child the benefits of attending college and reminding them how important good grades and good study habits are to ensure their success in school. Throughout the school year, you will receive information on the PACE Promise and suggestions of how to help your student prepare for college. Remember, it is never too early to start preparing for college.

Birthday Celebrations

Parents are encouraged to donate a book to the library or the student’s classroom in celebration of their child’s birthday. **Please be aware that the SMUSD policies and procedures related to approved foods for celebrations in school have been significantly revised.** Servings of foods

other than fresh fruit or vegetables should be small and individually portioned whenever possible. Baked products should be store bought, made with whole grains, and contain minimal amounts of sugar. Candy is not allowed as an ingredient or a decoration. Alterna-

tives such as bagels and low fat cookies, muffins or quick breads (no frosting) are allowed. In order to use our instructional time wisely, please contact the teacher the day before if you plan on sending food.



Pick Up and Drop Off Safety Tips

Does your middle or high school student pick up your child from school? We need your help! Please review with your children the clear expectations for their behavior while on our campus and the importance of modeling appropriate behaviors while keeping our elementary students safe at the start of the school day and the end of the school day. Whether in a car, on

a skateboard, scooter, or on foot, we have a number of older siblings being unsafe and disregarding school rules. Please remind them they are to follow all school rules when on our campus and to be respectful to all adults, use our crosswalks, and be safe at all times. Thank you!



Second Trimester—We Are In Full Swing!!

We have begun our second trimester, and are so excited about the learning opportunities ahead! In the first trimester, we talked with students about the importance of goal setting and sticking with your goals throughout the year to be academically successful. We remind our students to stop and reflect about where they are with their goals and focus on areas where they want to become better or stronger. Some students may be working on completing their work on time and not rushing through it. Other students might be working on increasing their Accelerated Reader points for prizes. No matter what the goal, the idea of making a plan is critical. Get to know your student's goals and help support them.



Got Stress??

Given the economy, busy schedules, and high expectations, many families are feeling stressed. More noticeable recently has been the evidence of stress in children. I have compiled some information I found helpful and hope you can use it too! Some techniques suggested by www.stressmanagementtips.com, for reducing stress in children:


- ◆ Eat healthy foods
- ◆ Exercise every day
- ◆ Clear and consistent discipline
- ◆ Listen to children, let them tell you how they are feeling



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Alvin Dunn Elementary
The 21st Century Leaders


www.smusd.org

21st Century Learning at Alvin Dunn

"I daresay you haven't had much practice," said the Queen. "When I was your age I always did it for half-an-hour a day. Why, sometimes I've believed as many as six impossible things before breakfast." -

Lewis Carroll, *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*

21st Century Focus

"You've got a cell phone at one ear and an iPod at the other. You know that Blackberry is now a verb and that Spam is not just canned meat. It's the 21st century . . . Today's students, digital natives, were born into a media-saturated world, and their lives are immersed in technologies from cell phones, iPods, handheld gaming devices, PDAs, and laptops they take everywhere, to the computers, TVs, and game consoles at home." - www.21stcenturylearning.com



As a 21st Century School we will focus on these aspects of the new millennium:

- ◆ Multimedia and Technologies connected to our Media Culture
- ◆ Global Classroom - for a Globalized World
- ◆ Diversity - linguistic, religious, racial, physical ability, class and more
- ◆ Multiple Literacies for the 21st Century
- ◆ We take you and your students beyond the standards - more than mere test prep for NCLB
- ◆ Classroom strategies for independent, self-directed, interdependent student learning
- ◆ Integrated, project-based and interdisciplinary
- ◆ Directly connected to the real world of the 21st century
- ◆ Connected to the community

Benefits to Students -

High levels of student motivation
Higher levels of student learning
Higher test scores
Higher graduation rates
More students go on to college
Curriculum is connected to students' interests and experiences
Curriculum is connected to real world
School is aligned to media-saturated world



**Alvin Dunn Elementary is the school to
WATCH!!**