

Sierra Sizzle

PTO Monthly Newsletter

February 2012

Mark your Calendars!



February

- 16th Class pictures
- 20th Presidents Day (no school)
- 24th Family Dance
6:00-8:00 PM
Read-a-Thon begins & packets go home
- 28th PTO Evening Meeting 6-7pm (Complimentary Child Care!) with Guest Speaker on Bullying
Home Town Heroes
- 29th Read-a-Thon PJ Day

March

- 2nd Read-a-Thon Packets due
Book Walk
Dr. Seuss' birthday
- 6th Read-a-Thon Culmination Celebration with Jim Cogan

Message from the Board

Greetings, Sierra parents! The chill is slowly moving out of the air, and we are approaching the busy spring season with some exciting events planned.

Our January PTO meeting went smoothly and included topics such as the December survey results and upcoming activity updates. Attendees also voted to approve funds to replace old and broken headphones in our classrooms, which the students use on a daily basis for center activities. We thank the 3 parents who attended this meeting for making the effort to come out and be an active part of our school's PTO.

The month of February will feature our **Family Dance** on the 24th. Come join in the fun as we dance the neon night away! Family Dance night also coincides with the start of the **Read-a-Thon!** This fun week of activities encourages our children to read as we celebrate the birthday of Dr. Seuss and cap it off with an assembly featuring professional story-teller **Jim Cogan!**

Lastly, a word about the future of the PTO. We have seen the number of parent volunteers drop over the past couple of years, which puts added pressure on our wonderful volunteers who do take an active part. Our PTO meetings, despite the addition of evening hours with free childcare and even a recent coffee social event, have been poorly attended with as few as 3 parents out of Sierra's 600+ families. In just two months' time, we will vote on a **new PTO executive board for the 2012-2013** school year, as well as begin soliciting **volunteers to chair events**. With many of our active parents moving on, it is more important than ever to **step up and take an active role** with the PTO. We urge you, even if you can spare only a few hours here and there, to please contact a board member and find out how you can help.

Sincerely,

Your 2011-2012 PTO Executive Board

Jill Ostendorp, Vice President, jostendorp@cox.net

Lara Safa, Secretary, zaxmom_phx@yahoo.com

Rhonda Jones, Treasurer, rwjones0217@qwest.net

Terri Keaton, Financial Admin, thekeatons@cox.net

Beth Hare, Volunteer Coordinator, bthare@cox.net

Gail Kronick, Communications Coordinator, gailmiya@cox.net



Look us up on the Web
www.sierrapto.org



February Restaurant Night at Loco Patron

Our February restaurant night will be at one of our favorite local Ahwatukee eateries - **Loco Patron**. On **February 20th**, come out with the family between **5 and 9 PM** and simply **mention that you are there to support Sierra**. Loco Patron will then donate 20% of the sale back to Sierra - **no flyer is necessary!** Please encourage neighbors and friends to come out and say they are supporting Sierra as well! With your support, this could be a huge win for both Loco and Sierra, so be sure to spread the word! ❖

Get Ready to Read-A-Thon!



Our annual Read-a-Thon is a wonderful week long event designed to inspire your child to read. Reader Packets will be coming home on **February 24th** and are **due back on March 2nd**. Every child who participates will receive a Read Across America certificate and prize. The class in each grade level with the most minutes read will win an **extra recess Popsicle Party!**

The fun activities planned for the Read-a-Thon include **Hometown Heroes** day, featuring guest speakers drawn from our own parent pool, our popular **Book Walk**, and a school-wide Read-a-Thon culmination celebration featuring **Professional Storyteller Extraordinaire Jim Cogan!** Jim makes stories come alive through words and sounds only - no props - and was so popular with our children last year that we were thrilled to invite him back.

So get ready to have some fun and read! ❖



Sierra Book Drive!

To help make the Read-a-Thon Book Walk a success, we are asking Sierra families to **donate a new or gently used book** (or books) for their child's grade level. Your generous donations will allow every child to go home with a "new" book to read from the Book Walk. Collection boxes are located in the school hallways. **The last collection day will be February 24th**. Thank you in advance for your donations! ❖

Family Dance



It's time to bring on the big 80s hairdos and dig out your pastel blazers, parents! That's right - it's Sierra's **"80s Glow" Family Dance** night on **February 24th from 6-8 PM!** Admission price is a **box of cereal** to be donated to the Kyrene Resource Center. There will be delicious snacks, glow necklaces and bracelets for sale. All children must be accompanied by an adult. ❖

PTO Meeting, 2/28, 6-7 PM with Guest Speaker on Bullying

Our next PTO meeting will be held in the evening on **February 28th from 6-7 PM** (free on-site **childcare** provided) and will feature a **presentation on bullying** by Kyrene School District Behavior Coach **Tina Schuler**. We hope you'll come by, learn what's going on at the school, and then stay for this informative presentation.

A little bit about the presentation: Anti-bullying rallies are happening all around the country because bullying is real, hurtful, and can have devastating results. Come to learn about best practices to empower your children to stand up against bullies and protect their self esteem when faced with a bully. Positive parent/child relationships and open communication role play are important to helping your child deal with a bully. We'll look at what bullying is, how to identify a bully, and what to do if you're being bullied or a bystander of a bullying situation. We'll also talk about how to support a child if she/he is a bully. ❖

Box Tops/Labels Ongoing Collection



Although the contest for the Pump It Up party has come to an end for this year, we are still collecting ALL labels throughout the entire school year. The class with the most points overall will receive a **Pizza Party** in May! So keep sending in your labels to school! ❖

A New Hassle-Free Way to Earn Points for Sierra!



ARTS • ATHLETICS • ACADEMICS

Sierra has signed up with the Campbell's eLabelsForEducation program. It's free and easy to do and will only take a few minutes of your time to register. Simply go to www.eLabelsForEducation.com and follow the instructions to create a profile. You will be asked to link your Fry's and Safeway cards, which will allow points from participating products to automatically be credited to Sierra.

We have been signed up with the program for a few months now and have actually earned more points through the few individuals who have done it than we have through the cutting process. For further details, please see the eLabelsForEducation article towards the end of this newsletter. ❖

Coke Rewards

Parents, thanks to your efforts in turning in your MyCokeRewards codes, Sierra school has managed to earn 4,467 points so far this year, but we need more! Make sure you stock up on your favorite Coca-Cola beverages, clip the codes, and send them in to the office with your child. We will enter the codes for you and make sure they are credited directly to the school's account! Thank you for your support! ❖



PTO Tip of the Month

Do you dread the task of cleaning the inside of your microwave? If your house is

anything like mine, the microwave gets used way too often and gets cleaned way not often enough! With this handy tip, you may be on your way to having a sparkly clean microwave on a more regular basis. Simply fill a microwaveable glass bowl with 1 cup of white vinegar and microwave it on high until it boils and coats the walls with condensation. Turn your microwave off and let it sit for 3 minutes. Remove the bowl of vinegar and wipe down the inside surfaces with a cloth or paper towel. Tackle any really stuck-on messes with a scrubby that can be used for non-stick cookware. Voila! You've started your spring cleaning off right with a squeaky clean microwave oven! ❖

Parent Reminders for January



- Go to www.eLabelsForEducation.com and register to earn even MORE points for Sierra.
- Register your **Fry's** and **Safeway** cards
- Turn in your **Box Tops** and **Labels for Education**. ❖

Some Very Good Reasons to Join the PTO!

You'll get to know teachers, administrators, and other parents.

You can be an example to your child about getting involved!

Sierra needs your talents!

You can contribute directly with ideas and support for future events.

It looks really good on a resume!

You can help your child have the best possible school experience.

You get to have an active voice in how PTO funds are spent for our school.

Help Out the PTO!

Did You Know ...

... that you can "share" a board position on the PTO? If you want to help out, but are concerned about the time commitment, ask a friend to "tag team" the position and duties!



I'd like to help, but ...

... you'd rather not join the board? No problem! There are many ways to volunteer. Ask us how! All of our current board members started out helping in other areas - talk to us and we'll tell you how!



New Ways to Earn Points for Sierra!

eLabelsForEducation



You've registered your Fry's Card for Fry's Cool Cash.

You've signed up with Safeway eScrip.

You're clipping and submitting your Box Tops and Labels for Education.

Now there's **one more way** you can earn **free stuff** for our school. Sierra has signed up with the Campbell's eLabelsForEducation program, which earns us points **in addition** to clipping Box Tops and Labels for Education. It's easy to do:

1. Register

Visit www.eLabelsForEducation.com, create a profile, enter your Fry's and Safeway cards, and then select Sierra as your school to support.



2. Shop, Swipe, and Earn

Each time you purchase a participating product at Fry's or Safeway, you will earn points that will be credited automatically to Sierra.



3. Redeem

Sierra will be able to redeem these points for free educational merchandise!

And don't forget to continue clipping those Box Tops and Labels! They are still worth cash and points to us and are separate from the eLabelsForEducation program outlined here.

Campbell's Labels for Education® Cookbook Promotion



Need help with the nagging question of **what's for dinner tonight?** Announcing a powerful new program that offers Sierra supporters great Campbell's® cookbooks that yield big Labels for

Education point credits! You can choose from a wide array of Campbell's cookbooks that contain ample family-pleasing, quick and easy recipes. Each cookbook purchased is worth **125 Labels for Education points** to Sierra's account. These cookbooks also make **great gifts!**



To get started, visit <http://lfecookbooks.com>

No Cost Fundraising!

Box Tops, Campbell's, Tyson's and Coke Rewards -



There are many participating products that help our school earn cash and points. Have some clippings you've saved over the summer? Send them in to your child's teacher! During the school year, keep clipping and saving those Box Tops, Campbell's UPC codes, Tyson labels, Coke bottle tops and codes on the inside of the Coke product cartons. Some of you might be saying, "These Box Tops say they're only worth 10

cents. That's hardly worth saving." Although it may not seem like much, **last year we earned \$3,500 from these rewards!** They add up to big bucks for our school, so please keep sending them in! Spread the word and have grandparents, aunts, and uncles save as well. For a complete list of participating products, see the PTO web site at <http://www.sierrapto.org/> under the "Retail Programs" section.

Fry's Cool Cash



Parents, on your next shopping trip to Fry's, present this UPC along with your V.I.P card to your cashier. Every time you shop, every purchase you make will automatically be deposited into the school's account. Within 72 hours, you will see a "COOL CASH" message on the bottom of your grocery receipt. Ask grandparents, aunts, uncles,

friends and neighbors to have this UPC scanned with their V.I.P card at their next Fry's Food Store visit. Download more barcodes for family and friends from the PTO web site at <http://www.sierrapto.org/> under the "Retail Programs" section.

**Program runs from
September 1, 2011 – April 23, 2012.**

The UPC code only has to be **scanned once per year**

A Sierra Fundraiser that's Easy and Free! Link Your Safeway Card to Sierra!



Link your Safeway Club Card to Sierra – it only takes a minute. The school receives a percentage of profit on grocery purchases. Even occasional shopping trips can help out. There's absolutely NO COST to you!

The school can earn hundreds of dollars per month and funds help with classroom needs, academic program needs, school site improvements, etc.

Sign up online at eScrip.com!

Note: Sign-ups Must Be Renewed Every Year! So even if you registered last year, you still need to do it again for this year in order for your points to count. Thank you for your support!



Activity Calendar

2011-2012



<p>August</p> <p>4th - Meet the Teacher Night 5:30 - 7pm</p> <p>8th - First Day of School</p> <p>17th - Curriculum Night: K 5:30pm, 1st grade 6pm, 2nd grade 6:30pm</p> <p>18th - Curriculum Night: 3rd 5:30pm, 4th grade 6pm, 5th grade 6:30pm</p> <p>24th - Restaurant Night at Native New Yorker</p>	<p>September</p> <p>5th - Labor Day (No School)</p> <p>7th - Gifted Curriculum Night 6-7:30</p> <p>8th - Restaurant Night Sweet Tomatoes</p> <p>9th - Flag Raising Ceremony</p> <p>12th - Stay at Home Fundraiser begins</p> <p>13th - PTO Meeting 9-10am & 6-7pm</p> <p>15th - Picture Day</p> <p>22nd - PTO Chairperson (Red Folder) Meeting 6:30-8:30 PM</p> <p>23rd - 20th Anniversary Celebration 5:30-7:00 PM</p> <p>25th - Yoasis Fundraiser Week Begins</p>	<p>October</p> <p>1st - Last Day of Yoasis Fundraiser</p> <p>7th - Stay at Home Fundraiser Packets due back today</p> <p>10th - 14th - Fall Break</p> <p>17th - Staff Development Day (No School)</p> <p>20th - Picture Retakes</p> <p>TBD - AZ Science Center Workshops Begin in Classrooms</p> <p>25th - Restaurant Night at Florencia Pizza Bistro</p> <p>28th - Family Fun Night/Harvest Festival 5:00-8:00 PM</p>
<p>November</p> <p>11th - Veterans Day (No School)</p> <p>15th - PTO Meeting 6-7pm (Child Care!)</p> <p>18th-23rd - Scholastic Book Fair</p> <p>21st - Restaurant Night at Loco Patron 5pm-10pm (no flyer needed)</p> <p>23rd - Turkey Trot 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM (Book Fair will be open during Turkey Trot)</p> <p>24th - 25th - Thanksgiving Holiday</p>	<p>December</p> <p>14th - Restaurant Night at Yogi's Grill</p> <p>15th - Sierra staff and teacher cookie exchange.</p> <p>19th - Winter Break Begins</p>	<p>January</p> <p>3rd - School Resumes</p> <p>16th - MLK Day (No School)</p> <p>17th - PTO Coffee Social 8am-8:30am PTO Meeting 8:30am-9:30am PTO Chairperson (Red Folder) Meeting 10:00am-11:00pm</p>
<p>February</p> <p>16th - Class Pictures</p> <p>20th - Presidents Day (No School) Restaurant Night at Loco Patron 5-9pm</p> <p>24th - Family Dance 6-8 PM Read-A-Thon begins Read-A-Thon packets go home</p> <p>28th - Hometown Heroes PTO Meeting 6-7pm (Child Care!)</p> <p>29th - Read-A-Thon PJ Day</p>	<p>March</p> <p>2nd - Read-a-Thon packets due Read-a-Thon Book Walk Dr. Seuss's Birthday</p> <p>6th - Read-A-Thon Culmination Celebration feat. Jim Cogan</p> <p>12th - 16th - Spring Break (No School)</p> <p>22nd - Restaurant Night at Sweet Tomatoes</p> <p>30th - Movie Night 6:30-9:00 PM</p>	<p>April</p> <p>6th - Good Friday (No School)</p> <p>10th - PTO Meeting 9am-10am (Officer Elections)</p> <p>16th-27th - AIMS testing</p> <p>TBD - Restaurant Night (to be announced)</p>
<p>May</p> <p>7th-11th - Staff Appreciation Week</p> <p>15th - PTO Meeting 9am-10am</p> <p>15th-18th - Scholastic Book Fair</p> <p>17th - Volunteer Recognition Event</p> <p>TBD - Restaurant Night (to be announced)</p> <p>23rd - 5th Grade Celebration</p> <p>24th - 5th Grade Promotion 8:30 AM</p> <p>24th - Last Day of School with early release at 12:35 PM</p>	<p>June</p>	<p>July</p>

*Activities, dates and times are subject to change

Updated: 1/31/12