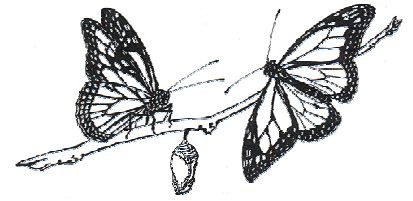


February, 2012 News

Monarch Learning Center

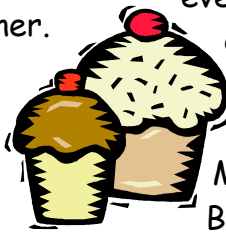


Mark Your Calendar!

Spring Fling is Tuesday, March 20th

Monarch Learning Center will hold its annual "Spring Fling" on Tuesday, March 20th at 6:00 PM. It will include performances by the students followed by a pot luck dinner.

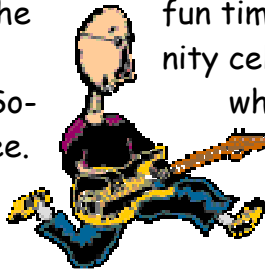
We will cap off the evening with our famous Desert Auction! The scrumptious desserts that you create and



donate will be sold to the highest bidder to raise funds for the school.

This event is a community effort organized by the Monarch Booster & Social Committee.

If you would like to help



with putting this event together, please come to the Booster meeting on Tuesday, February 7th at 6:00 PM.

Join us for a fun time of community celebration of what our kids have achieved this year!



STAR Writing Assessments for Grades 4 and 7 on Tuesday, March 6th

The State Assessment and Reporting (STAR) writing assessments for students in fourth and seventh grades is scheduled for Tuesday, March 6th. This test measures your child's writing ability using grade level standards. Please make sure your children come to school on time and ready

to give their best effort that day. Plenty of sleep the night before and a good breakfast will help them do their best.

You can find more information at the California Department of Education website at the link in the box below

these columns. There you can download guides for both grade levels that include the grading rubrics and examples. The guides are dated 2008, but they are still current. For more information on STAR testing, call us at 247-7307.

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sr/resources.asp>

Calendar:

- 2/1: January Attendance Records & IS Due
- 2/2: Room 5 Field Study Trip to Turtle Bay
- 2/2: Groundhog Day
- 2/7: Boosters Meeting, 6:00 PM, Butterfly Room
- 2/7: Anderson New Tech High Presentation in Room 5 at 9:00 AM
- 2/10: Dyslexia: Symptoms & Solutions - Free Seminar at Marr Auditorium, 6 - 9 PM
- 2/13: Lincoln's Birthday Observed - No School
- 2/14 - 2/24: MLC 2nd Trimester Benchmark Assessments
- 2/20: Presidents Day - No School
- 2/21: Policy Council Meeting, 3:30 PM, Rm 1
- 2/21: MLC Family Movie Night - *The Phantom Tollbooth*, at 6:00PM
- 2/22: Field Trip for Rooms 1, 3 & 4 - Community Concert at Cascade Theater, 9:15AM
- 3/1: February Attendance Calendars Due
- 3/6: STAR Writing Test
- 3/2: I ♥ Reading Day
- 3/5-9: Student-Parent-Teacher Conferences: Minimum Days all week

Love Your School? Tell A Friend!

Charter schools are funded entirely by student attendance revenues. That is one of the reasons for our policy requiring each student to attend at least 95% of the school days each year. Our school currently has 109 students enrolled. This is 18 students under our capacity, and about 16 students less than the enrollment needed to "break even." Remember that even if we reach our maximum capacity of 130 students,

our class sizes would still be significantly smaller than those in the traditional schools.

We have tried several avenues of advertising with little success. The one thing that has worked best for us is "word of mouth" advertising: satisfied customers telling friends, who then enroll their children at Monarch.

We



would like to start a grass roots ad campaign in which each Monarch family contacts 10 other families to tell them about our school. You can contact friends from church, scouting, athletic teams, dance or gymnastics classes, etc.

Invite them to come and check out our program - our door is always open!

If you

have friends that prefer to home school their children, let them know that we have started a full-time independent study program that we can tailor to their family's needs.

Talk to everyone you know about our school, and help us fill our classes. Together we can weather the budget crisis and continue to make our learning community

The Best Little School In Redding!

Bully Prevention Task Force News

The Bully Prevention Task Force met on Tuesday, January 17, 2012. This group was formed as an *ad-hoc committee* of the MLC Policy Council that was convened to look into bullying issues at Monarch.

A student survey was distributed to all Monarch Learning Center Students to determine student perceptions of bullying at our school. Younger students were expected to complete the survey with help from their parents, while older kids responded themselves. We received about 50 responses school-wide. The Task Force reviewed the sur-

veys and reported the following:

- Most of the bullying happens in areas that are out of sight of supervising staff.
- Students reported experiencing pushing, kicking, invading personal space, name-calling, threats and physical contact.
- Boys tend toward physical aggression
- Girls tend to exclude others from activities

Suggestions from the Task Force include:

- Create a Policy on Bullying in addition to the existing Discipline Policy
- Have parent volunteers

help patrol the playground during recess times

- Daily visual reminders, e.g. student-made posters
- Bring in outside speakers to educate students about bullying
- Provide a locked box outside where students may anonymously report issues
- Have Mr. Halsey include bullying awareness and respect for others in karate class
- Immediate and appropriate consequences for bullying, up to and including expulsion
- Hold students and their parents accountable for

bullying incidents - parents should be notified of each incident and take responsibility for their child's behavior

- Have each family sign a no bullying contract and make it part of the yearly paperwork
- Convene the Bully Prevention Task Force - including students, staff and parents- monthly to discuss current issues and make recommendations

Thank you for your help in making Monarch Learning Center a safe and nurturing learning environment for our students.



Volunteer Opportunities: Landscape Maintenance Work Day Saturday, March 17



Monarch Learning Center requires that families complete at least twenty hours per school year of volunteer service to the school. As of this date, many families are behind in this area.

There are many ways to help out around the school. You can volunteer to help with landscape maintenance, repairs, copying and assembling materials for the teachers, serving lunches, working with groups of students in class, playground supervision, field study supervision, or other activities in your area of expertise. You could even join our Booster Committee and help with the many events that they plan and implement for the school. **The Boosters meet on the first Tuesday of every month at 6:00 PM in the Butterfly Room.**

Work Day - Campus Cleanup

On **Saturday, March 17th, from 9:00 - 12:00**, we will be coming together to mow, rake, trim and otherwise spruce up our campus for the "Spring Fling" Performances, Pot Luck Dinner and Dessert Auction on Tuesday the 20th. We



have some tools, but if you have a leaf blower/vacuum, string trimmer, and/or wheelbarrow you can bring, we can get done that much more quickly.

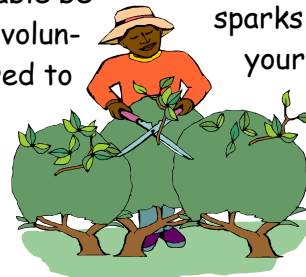


Playground Supervision



Our Bully Prevention Task Force has recommended that we create a pool of parent volunteers to supervise children on the playground during recesses.

Having more adults in more places on the playground should deter most undesirable behaviors, but parent volunteers may be required to intervene in some cases. Any disciplinary measures would be referred to MLC teachers or directors. If you can be on campus sometime between 10:00 AM and 1:00 PM, and you think that playground supervision would be an interesting way to fulfill your volunteer obligation, please contact us in the office.



ting it all together and setting up the layout. If you have some experience with Microsoft Publisher, that would be helpful. We will also be collecting pictures of school events and projects. Although the yearbook comes out in mid-May, we need to get started right away on the class pages. If this is an area of interest for you, please give us a call, and we can assemble a team.

There are many, many ways you can help out around our school. If nothing listed here sparks your interest, talk to your child's teacher and see if there is a need you can fill in the classroom. Your 20-hour commitment works out to about two hours per month per family (*not per child*).

When parents help out around the school, it sends kids the message that school is an important part of our lives - that what they do there is important. Thank you for taking our school-family partnership seriously and for helping keep our school a clean, safe, motivating environment.



Yearbook

Jill Selk is coordinating the production of our yearbook for this school year. It is a big job, and she needs some help put-

The Importance of Good Attendance

Monarch Learning Center requires that all students attend a minimum of 95% of the school days offered. Students who do not meet the minimum attendance requirement may have their re-enrollment privileges revoked or may be referred to the School Attendance Review Board (SARB).

There are two main reasons for this requirement. The first is that students miss valuable instructional time when they are not in school. Student learning requires consistent, systematic instruction in fundamental skills and concepts. When children miss one or more lessons, it causes a gap in instruction. The more school a child misses, the more "holes" there are in her or

his learning. Since much of what students learn is based on ideas or skills developed in earlier lessons, these holes weaken the scaffolding that children need to reinforce the new concept being taught. The bottom line is that poor attendance has a cumulative effect, with each absence increasing the chance that your child will experience learning difficulties in the future.

The second reason for Monarch's attendance requirement is that the school loses about \$35.00 per day for each absent child. Charter schools are funded differently from traditional schools. For instance, we do not get money for facilities—all of our site needs must be paid

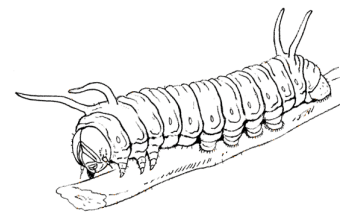
for from the money we get from the state for attendance. The State of California no longer pays the school for an excused absence—if the child is not here, we lose that revenue.

When your child is not in class, but you turn in Independent Study records at the end of the month, the school receives attendance money and your student is not considered absent. Your child also keeps her or his skills fresh by continued practice. Please make sure that you have met with your children's teachers and understand what they require for Independent Study credit.

School-age children are required by law to attend school regularly. When a student accumulates

too many unexcused absences or tardies, he or she may be referred to the School Attendance Review Board (SARB). Possible consequences may include termination of CalWorks or other benefits and/or prosecution of the parents.

Please model respect for your children's education by making sure that you get them here on time and ready to learn. If your child must miss class, be sure to do Independent Study and turn the records in by the first school day of the month. If you demonstrate that your children's learning is important to *you*, it will be important to *them*.



Visit us on the internet at www.monarchkids.com, where you can get the latest school information, email contacts for staff and even download calendars and other school forms.