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BROADCAST

A Note From the Principal

Dear BPE Families and Friends:

I would like to take this opportunity to share some of the instructional practices and/or good news we have at Bay Point Elementary School as evidenced during the first semester and the beginning of the second semester:

- ◆ We have received grant funding to begin a Butterfly Garden. A team of teacher and staff members are in the process of implementing the grant. We cannot wait to see the end results!
- ◆ Our School Advisory Council (SAC) has successfully been awarded a Duke Energy Grant. Through this grant our SAC members are exploring ways to enhance the science portion of our curriculum – going beyond the classroom! Some ideas that have surfaced include: purchasing science equipment to be used in an outside “science” area, transitioning to a solar powered pond pump, purchasing a weather-proof teaching board, and finding ways to tie in science (and inter-related concepts) such as measurement, data logging, observations and journaling. Please stay tuned for more information from our SAC.
- ◆ Through the Reading Enhancement Referendum funds, teachers have assessed our school needs and have been purchasing instructional resources that support both reading intervention and

literacy throughout all subject areas.

- ◆ Teachers have been extremely active in their own professional development to enhance instruction for all. Most teachers have participated in the Core Connections training, and all have participated in the ST Math Program training. Please see your child’s teacher for more information, as we once more strive to go beyond the classroom (ST Math information will be coming home soon).
- ◆ Grade level data teams comprised of teachers and administrators are continuing to explore fall and winter assessment results of all students. Such data is being used to plan for necessary instruction to address specific student needs and document growth in the months leading up to the Spring assessments.

I want to express my thanks to you for your active involvement in our school. We welcome your involvement and interest as we collectively celebrate the many talents of our students as learners. Please continue to take the time and ask your child how his/her day was, inquire about what he/she has learned, and take a look at some of the work your child is engaged in daily. These are all great ways to stay involved in your child’s education.

Lastly, we extend many congratulations to the following student WINNERS who will represent Pinellas County at the State Level, for the Pinellas County Council PTA/PTSA 2013-2014 Reflections Program: Robert Czyszczon, Cory Diaz, Sarah Blackett, and Jonathan Owens. We are absolutely over-joyed with the accomplishments of the students for their great projects and to all who participated in the Reflections Program this year!

Dr. Felita Grant

FEBRUARY-FEBRERO

- 14th Happy Valentines Day
- 17th Pro Ed Day School Closed for Students
- 19th PTA Parent University 3rd & 4th Grade parents 6-7:15
- 21st 3rd Grade Student Led Conferences
- 28th Young Astronaut Club to Kennedy

TECH CORNER: MS. SANCHEZ

Students have begun using the ST Math software program. ST Math is designed to teach math concepts as students play visual math games. Thanks to the homework feature, selected games are also available at home or on any other computer with Internet access.

In ST Math, the game puzzles start at very simple levels, which gradually get more challenging as the students progress. Students may get temporarily "stuck" at a level challenging problem. When they reach a learning hurdle, they should try to reason their way to a solution. The software gives constant instructive feedback to show why any answer is right or wrong. Student should use this visual feedback to help figure out how to successfully solve the problems. Students should not be given the 'right' answer just to pass a difficult level.

Students will always have access to the games already passed as well as any assigned games their teacher may assign for homework. We are highly encouraging students to play those games from home to review concepts and practice skills they've learned in ST Math. Students will access the program just as they do at school. Please make sure only the student with the ST Math account plays the games.

Instructions for computers/laptops:

1. Enter smath.com in the address bar of your web browser (Internet Explorer, Firefox or Safari are recommended).
2. Click on Jiji, the penguin.
3. The first time logging in at home or on another computer, you will be asked to enter the homework activation code: BAY2LN-HQP-5W-3EF
4. Click "I agree."
5. Click "Allow local data storage."
6. Students will then see the familiar screen with Jiji. He or she needs to click Jiji and enter the password exactly as in school. If all games assigned have been played (items in gray indicate that the student has not played a game/level yet), click the button at the bottom of the screen with the green cones to access games previously passed.
7. After playing, student should always use the back-arrow button on the bottom-left of the screen (just like at school) to exit the program and ensure that progress is saved.

Instructions for tablets:

Requirements:

-iPad2 or newer running iOS 5.0 or later

-Kindle Fire

-7" tablet or larger running Android 3.1 or later

1. Search for "ST Math School Version" in the App Store (for iPad), or in Google Play, or in the Amazon App Store (for Kindle Fire and other Android tablets). Then, download the app.

2. Enter the School ID and homework password as follows:

School ID: BAY2LN

Password: HQP5W3EF

On Kindle Fire and Android, if asked for an "Activation Code", enter: BAY2LN-HQP-5W-3EF



SCIENCE CORNER: MS. VYVERBERG

Parents, it is time to start thinking about our school science fair, especially if your child is in third, fourth or fifth grade. The students should begin thinking about a topic to research and investigate. The fair will be on May 12th and 13th. Your child's classroom teacher will communicate a date when finished projects are due in the classroom for grading. I will be selling display boards throughout the month of March. They will cost \$3.00 and may be purchased before and after school in the science lab. If you have additional questions email vyverbergc@pcsb.org or your child's classroom teacher.