

# Seacliff Sea Star News



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Huntington Seacliff Elementary School PTA

June 2011

## *A Message From Principal Ann Sullivan*

Each year as summer approaches, parents and teachers often express concern about the learning that children may lose over the summer. Perhaps it's like muscles – if they're unused for a couple of months, they tend to lose their edge. A simple solution to this problem is to have children continue to read. Studies show that children who read regularly over the summer actually gain reading skills, rather than lose them. The following are some ideas to keep your children reading this summer:

- Visit the local library. A variety of summer reading events are scheduled.
- Encourage reading just for "fun!" Does your child have a favorite author or a special interest? Summer is the perfect time to read all about a particular topic or all of the books by a particular author. See our books about Pirates.
- Organize a neighborhood book swap. Admission is one book to trade. Everyone can leave with a new book.
- Participate in our twelfth annual summer reading program – "Take a Reading Road Trip" (see page 7)

In 1983, the Commission on Reading wrote a report entitled Becoming a Nation of Readers. One of the primary findings was that the "single most important activity for building the knowledge required for eventual success in reading, was reading aloud to children."

Jim Trelease, a firm advocate of creating a desire to read in children by reading aloud to them, cites the following in his New Read-Aloud Handbook (2006): "No one would deny the importance of conversation in a child's life. But when it comes to building rich vocabulary, nothing does it like words that come from "print." When researchers counted the words we use

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## *Greetings From Our PTA President*

I say this every single year, but this year I really mean it. I cannot believe the school year is almost over! Didn't we just go school shopping for the first day of school?

Although, I have to confess, I've never been the best judge of time. During the school year, I'm always trying to pack in more activities than there are minutes in the day and believing (wishing!) that I have a lot more time than actually exists. It's the story of my life. Flashback to January, for instance, when my husband Mike, while (begrudgingly) taking down the Christmas lights, said (in a slightly sarcastic tone): "Terri, I know you like to organize these boxes before we put them away, but can we really try to get these Christmas decorations up into the attic before the Fourth of July this year?" I responded (in a slightly defensive tone): "Really? The Fourth of July is still six months away!" Then, I blinked my eyes and...poof! Fast forward to this past weekend when I found myself climbing over boxes of tangled Christmas lights in an attempt to get to the portable gas barbeque in the far corner of our garage for a Memorial Day picnic.

Yes, I admit, the school year flew by much quicker than I thought it would. Like all of our busy Seacliff families, during the school year the days are filled to capacity with work, domestic responsibilities, volunteering, homework, sports, after-school activities, and social gatherings. With so much to do and so little time, it's easy to become very task and goal oriented. But with summer break approaching, we can all finally stop, take a deep breath and give ourselves a big pat on the back as we reflect upon not only the efforts and accomplishments of our children, but ours, as parents, as well. So, as they say, it is time to "stop and smell the roses."

With the start of each new school year, Seacliff's PTA Board is faced with a daunting task. We ask ourselves: Will we be able to maintain all of the traditions and programs that our children have come to expect? Can we achieve our fundraising goals required to provide the financial means to support all of these traditions and programs? Will our Seacliff teach-

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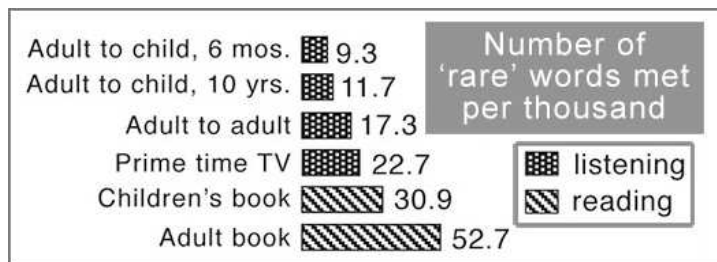
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## A Message From Principal Ann Sullivan

most often, the total came to 10,000 different words (the most common word is "the"). Beyond the 10,000 mark, you meet what are called the "rare" words. Though we use these words less frequently in conversation, they make up more and more of what you must know in order to understand complicated ideas and feelings in print, be it *The New York Times*, a textbook, or a novel. Thus, the more "rare" (book) words a child knows, the more easily he or she will be able to read complex ideas.

If we don't use these rare words very often in conversation, where do we find them? A good children's book is three times richer in vocabulary than conversation. The following shows that *printed text* contains the most rare words:



As we shift into thoughts of summer, it is time to thank you, our parents and community, for your continual involvement, whether at school as a volunteer or at home working with your children. Your generous participation and encouragement have been essential to our success with your children. The teamwork among parents, I believe, can be strongly attributed to the leadership and attitude reflected by our PTA President, Terri Yost. She has enticed individuals to share their skills for the benefit of Seacliff students. This has been a thoroughly enjoyable process because of Terri's vision of an effective school, her hard work and caring attitude - which creates a synergy among us.



Thank you, Sea Stars, parents, and staff for making this year wonderful! Savor the special moments that are inherent to summer. It will be September before you know it!

*Ann Sullivan, Principal*

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## Greetings From Our PTA President

ers, staff, volunteers and families be able to give the ongoing time, energy and support that is required to maintain these programs and traditions? Well, now that I've had a little time to reflect, the answer to those questions is an easy one... Yes! Yes! And yes! Not only has our Seacliff community risen to the occasion once again, but we far exceeded all of our goals and expectations! So, I'm thrilled to say that the smell of our Seacliff roses is very, very sweet!

In a time of a national financial recession, along with the California state budget crisis and drastic educational budget cuts, I have to admit that our PTA Board was a little nervous about "paying the bills" this year. But, I am thrilled to report that with your generosity, not only were we able to support *all* of the traditional programs, events and curriculum enhancements that our children have grown to know and love at Seacliff but, we were even able to add a few new ones! Art Masters, Accelerated Reader, The Mind Institute piano keyboarding, Jiji Math, Kinder Coaches, assemblies, field trips, Family Art Night and Field Days (just to name a very few!) were, once again, alive and well at Seacliff Elementary! But that's not all! Back by popular demand for the second year in a row was our new spring family event---the Family Fun Run! And, who can forget the widely attended Harvest Festival in October---a very first for Seacliff Elementary (Encore! Encore!). Then, of course, one of my personal favorites--- the brand new healthy lifestyle inspiration to Seacliff families and the true motivation behind my son Joseph's new-found love of fruits and vegetables---Marathon Kids! So, at Seacliff, thanks to your generosity, we don't just maintain year after year...we keep getting better and better!

Of course, none of Seacliff's successes would be possible without the selfless time commitment and efforts of all of our volunteers. Being the PTA President, I see first-hand the amount of man-power that is required to facilitate all of these programs and events and, trust me when I say that it is completely mind-boggling! From making copies, coaching the kindergartners at recess and working at the curriculum lab to procuring donations, distributing cookie dough and working a craft booth--- nothing is beyond our volunteers. They were "called to duty" time after time this year and I've come to realize that our parent volunteers will do nothing short of whatever it takes to provide the best educational experience for our children. Our Seacliff volunteers are second to none!

Finally, I can't let this opportunity go by without giving special recognition and gratitude to the 2010-2011 PTA Officers and Executive Board and all of Seacliff's teachers and staff. You are amazing and I am humbled by your dedication to our school and children. I can't thank you enough for your time, support and commitment (and patience with me!) Your efforts made my job so easy that I am already looking forward to next year!

Well, that's a wrap! What a spectacular whirlwind of a school year this has been. I hate to admit it, but my husband was right (again!)...the Fourth of July is only a few short weeks away and I highly doubt the boxes of tangled Christmas lights will make it up to the attic by then. Will I ever learn? Maybe not. But, hey, I look at it this way---we are actually ahead of the game because Christmas is only six months away!

Thanks again, enjoy your summer (and your roses!) and I'll see you all next year!

Terri Yost  
PTA President



## "SEACLIFF'S KICKIN' IT IN PARADISE"

WELL SEACLIFF FAMILIES, ALL WE CAN SAY IS "THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!" WHAT AN AMAZING TURN OUT FOR OUR GALA THIS YEAR! WE HAVE HAD SO MUCH SUPPORT FOR OUR SEA STARS AND THEIR SCHOOL. IT IS OVERWHELMING TO US HOW MUCH ONE COMMUNITY COMES TOGETHER TO MAKE THIS EVENT SUCH A SUCCESS! OUR GOAL THIS YEAR WAS TO RAISE \$98,000.00 AND I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU, BUT TO US THAT IS A LOT OF \$\$\$\$. THAT IS JUST TO MAINTAIN OUR CURRENT COST LEVEL OF ALL THE WONDERFUL PROGRAMS THAT SEACLIFF ELEMENTARY HAS FOR OUR KIDS. SEACLIFF IS FORTUNATE TO HAVE FAMILIES LIKE YOURSELVES WHO ARE WILLING TO MAKE THIS EVENT SUCCESSFUL. EVERYONE WHO PARTICIPATED IN THIS YEAR'S GALA IN SOME FASHION, SHOULD GIVE THEMSELVES A BIG PAT ON THE BACK.

WE REACHED OUR GOAL AND EVEN EXCEEDED IT! OUR FINAL AMOUNT IS \$102,000.00. WAY TO GO SEACLIFF SUPPORTERS! A BIG THANK YOU ALSO GOES OUT TO THE HILTON WATERFRONT BEACH RESORT FOR PUTTING ON SUCH AN AMAZING EVENING FOR ALL OF US! AS ONE WOULD SAY, "IT TAKES A VILLAGE"! WE HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL THERE AGAIN NEXT YEAR!

FINALLY "KICKIN' IT",

DEETTE KIRKCONNELL & DANA MCKEE  
GALA CHAIR GALA CO-CHAIR



## Fourth Grade California Time Capsule Field Trip

By Luke Heine

Did you know that shopkeepers got more money than gold seekers in the California Gold Rush? That's one of the things I learned on the Time Capsule field trip. On April 26th, my class and I went on a field trip to Lazy W Ranch and Mission San Juan Capistrano to learn about California's history.

Our first stop was Mission San Juan Capistrano. As we walked to the soldier room, we saw a water canal that was underground when the Spanish were at the mission. It was used to bring water to all of the rooms. When we got to the soldier room, we saw weapons, uniforms, and beds. The weapons and uniforms looked a lot like American Revolution ones. We walked through a door into the wine room. On one side of the room, there was a pit in which the Indians would stomp on grapes. There was a drain in the floor of the pit that the grape juice would go into. It would go into baskets and be turned into wine. Next, we went in Father Serra's chapel. It looked very glamorous because at the front of it, there was an altar that looked like gold.

After the mission, we went to Lazy W Ranch. After doing Spanish and Native American activities, we did Mexican ones. Our first Mexican activity of the evening was candle making. We had to dip a string in tallow and then in water, and then do the same thing over and over again. Mine did not turn out well. In the end, they told us that we could keep them. After that, we went to weaving and we got to make colorful guinea pig scarves, which we also got to keep. I made my scarf a lot better than my candle. Finally, we had a fiesta with a piñata. I did not get a chance to hit though. After the piñata, we went to sleep in our cabin.

The next day, it was time to do some gold rush activities! First, we went to Sam Brannan's store, a tricky shopkeeper from the gold rush days. After getting some pans, we headed down to the river. I had a lot of fun and I found some gold, actually pyrite (fool's gold). Then, we went to weigh it. In the gold rush days, gold was worth about \$16 an ounce. It is worth a lot more now. After weighing our gold, we packed up and went back to school.

Going on the field trip was a great way to learn about California's history. From the mission to the Gold Rush, it was a great trip!



## Art Reflections: 2011-2012

Summer is an excellent time to draw, paint, write, make a movie or choreograph a dance. Inspire your Sea Star artist to create an original work of art this summer for the PTA Art Reflections Program. The Art Reflections theme for the 2011-2012 school year is "Diversity Means..."

Thank you  
Marianne  
Art Reflections





**Community Partnership Needs Your Help!!!!**  
**Let's continue to earn cash over the summer for our kids next year!**



**Ralph's Club Card** – We want to capture your summer shopping dollars! We expect to get over \$8,000 this year just by our Seacliff families shopping at Ralphs! For instructions and detailed screen shots, please go to the Seacliff website at [www.hbcsd.k12.ca.us/Seacliff/](http://www.hbcsd.k12.ca.us/Seacliff/). Click the Fundraiser tab under the PTA section, go to Community Partnership and click on Ralphs Community Rewards. Please remember this is an annual registration beginning every September 1st.

The rebate program is generous and it does not affect your personal Ralph awards:

- \* Up to \$200/monthly 1% rebate back to Seacliff
- \* Between \$200.01 and \$350/monthly 2% rebate back to Seacliff
- \* Between \$350.01 and \$500/monthly 3% rebate back to Seacliff
- \* Over \$500/monthly 4% rebate back to Seacliff

Note: Albertson's no longer participates under this program.



**Box Tops For Education** – These Box Tops are located on many of your kids' favorite cereals, juice boxes, snacks and more. Just cut-out the box top along the perforation (making sure the expiration date is legible and valid) and save your Box Tops for submission in September. We get 10 cents per Box Top!!!!

**Target** – We all know that anyone that goes into this store can't leave without spending a ton of money so why not have them give us some back? Just log onto [www.target.com](http://www.target.com) to designate Seacliff Elementary School as your school of choice when your Target Visa or Target Red Card is used.

**Robeks** -- Attention smoothie lovers! Huntington Seacliff Elementary School has partnered with Robeks, our local vendor in the Seacliff Village shopping center, to offer our families and school quite the deal. For each family that makes a purchase at our Seacliff Robeks and flashes the special VIP card, Robeks will donate 10% of that purchase to our school. Now you can enjoy smoothies, juice and snacks at Robeks all year, while knowing that our school will get a portion of what you spend! VIP cards are being sent home in students backpacks the week of May 23<sup>rd</sup>. Please look for them!

If you have any questions, please contact Jenny Freck, Yuki Tomooka or Karen Moynihan.

### FUN AT THE FAMILY FUN RUN!!!

The PTA-sponsored "2nd Annual Fun Run" at Huntington Central Park on Saturday, May 7 was a huge success. On a cool overcast day, over 300 participants walked or ran 1-2 miles before indulging in food, fun, and games. Everyone had a great time celebrating fitness, eating healthy, and having fun together. Of course, this event wouldn't have been possible if not for the help of so many Seacliff volunteers. On race day, from the crack of dawn with setup to the end with take down, everything went smoothly. The post-race area had something for everyone and for this, we have so many to thank.



All of the Seacliff moms and dads who helped with set up and take down are owed a thank you, with a special thanks to those who helped out at our game booths and food and snow cone areas. Thanks to the Sakamoto Family who cooled everyone off with their deliciously sweet snow cones. A very big thank you goes to the Gitmed Family, and their store Bruce's Produce. They donated so many boxes of fresh fruits and vegetables in keeping with our emphasis on healthy eating. Joe from the YMCA kept the boys entertained with a spirited game of dodge ball. Another thank you goes to our airbrush tattoo artists and volunteer clowns of Orange County who gave many of our kids tattoos and animal balloons to take home. KIMS Martial Arts Studio entertained us with their fine exhibit of martial arts. Nurse Meg Rossi gave first aid to several of our little runners with scraped knees. Amy Goldstein, our calligrapher, wrote our event name on 250 Soup Plantation finisher certificates. And thank you to everyone who donated to our raffle table. And thanks to the kids from Dwyer's National Junior Honor League for all their volunteer help.

We'd also like to give a big thank you to our business donors who helped us with coupons for our goodie bags or cash donations for buying food and water: 1) Soup Plantation for donating the finisher certificates and kiddie meal coupons; 2) Subway for their sandwich coupons; 3) Road Runner Sports for their coupons and goodie bags; 4) Snails Pace for their race bibs and Snails Bucks coupons; 5) Albertson's for 30 gallons of water; 6) Ralph's and Henry's Market for their gift cards; 7) Rainbow Disposal for their trash bin and paper trash boxes; 8) Sprouts and Whole Food Markets for their coupons and newsletters; and 9) Clear Water Services for being so reasonably priced. All these donations helped our PTA fund this fully sponsored event.

We're so happy that everyone enjoyed themselves and we look forward to seeing more of you next year in mid-May at our 3rd Annual Fun Run. Until then, keep exercising and eating healthy.

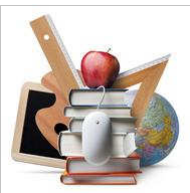
With many thanks to all,  
Felicia Young and Mina Rose

#### Thank you to our 2010-2011 PTA Officers:

President: Terri Yost  
Executive V.P.: Barb Heine  
Treasurer: Hope Partch  
1st V.P. Membership: Susanne Wagner and Julie Katayama  
2nd V.P. Fall Fundraiser: Paula Cargasacchi and Kim Webb  
3rd V.P. Volunteers: Susan Petersen and Jane Gardner  
4th V.P. Spring Fundraiser: DeEtte Kirkconnell and Dana McKee  
Recording Secretary: Martha Ventimiglia  
Financial Secretary: Suzanne Hayek  
Auditor: Alisa Cutchen  
Historian: Theresa DuBourdieu  
Parliamentarian: Anna Simitian

#### Welcome to our 2011-2012 PTA Officers:

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Recording Secretary: Jane Gardner  
Financial Secretary: Suzanne Hayek  
Auditor: Alisa Cutchen  
Historian: Theresa DuBourdieu  
Parliamentarian: Anna Simitian



No person was ever honored for what he received. Honor is given by what he gave. -- Calvin Coolidge

Many thanks go out to all the Seacliff volunteers

## Family Art Night

On Thursday, May 12, the PTA sponsored a Family Art Night in Seacliff cafetorium, which was a huge success and lots of fun for all! Families learned about featured artist *Van Gogh's* life and artwork from our Meet the Masters art historian, Poli Rizko. Subsequently, Seacliff families were given an art lesson by art teacher, Andrea Walker. After that, grandparents, dads, moms, and Seacliff students painted their very own "Starry Night." At the end, everyone proudly held up their masterpieces for all to see.

Jeanne Woltman

Meet the Masters Chairperson



## OPTIONAL CLASS SUPPLY LIST

As many families shop for school supplies in the summer, we hope the following teacher suggested list will be helpful. Please note that this is an optional list of materials that may be donated for your child's use in the classroom. You are not required to purchase any of these items. Pencil boxes should be sized to fit in the school desks. All teachers welcome a box of tissues to share with the class.

### Kindergarten

Backpack  
Do not label the following:  
Glue sticks – large (3) (last name A-M)  
Kleenex (last name A-M)  
Hand sanitizer (last name N-Z)  
Baby wipes (last name N-Z)

### First Grade

Backpack (large enough to hold folders)  
1 container of baby wipes (to share with class)  
3 thin-tipped dry erase markers  
One dozen glue sticks (to share with class)  
No ink pens  
**NO** Trapper Keepers or folders

### Second Grade

Backpack  
Pencil box to hold supplies (no lock)  
Scissors (Fiskars for Kids – pointed tip)  
Glue sticks – large (3)  
Thin-tipped colored markers (washable)  
Antibacterial or baby wipes (to share with class)  
Kleenex (to share with class)  
White board markers (3 packs)  
White board eraser (or new, clean white sock)  
Manual pencil sharpener w/cover  
Colored pencils  
**NO** binders, ink pens, or mechanical pencils

### Third Grade

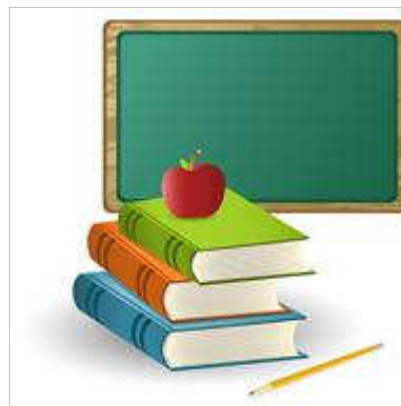
Backpack (book-sized)  
White lined paper, wide-ruled (for home/school)  
Scissors (Fiskars, Jr. size – pointed tip)  
Glue sticks - large (3)  
Disinfecting wipes  
Kleenex (to share with class)  
Manual pencil sharpener with lid  
Pencil box (3x5x8) to hold supplies – (no lock)  
White board markers  
White board eraser  
Colored pencils  
**NO** Trapper Keepers or 3-ring binders

### Fourth Grade

Pencil box (3 x 5 x 8) to hold supplies – (no lock)  
White lined paper, wide-ruled (for home and school)  
Spiral-bound notebooks (3)  
Black & white speckled composition notebooks (3)  
Two-pocket folders (3)  
Scissors  
Manual pencil sharpener (with lid)  
Colored pencils  
White board markers (black only)  
Glue sticks - large  
USB flash drive - optional  
**NO** mechanical pencils

### Fifth Grade

Pencil box to hold supplies (small size)  
White lined paper, wide-ruled (for home and school)  
Scissors (Fiskars for Kids – pointed tip)  
Manual pencil sharpener  
Large magic rub eraser  
Spiral notebooks (4)  
1" three-ring binder with subject dividers  
USB flash drive  
Clipboard  
Glue sticks (3)  
Markers  
Color pencils



### "Step Up and Read! - Take a Reading Road Trip!" Huntington Seacliff's Summer Reading Celebration

As summer rapidly approaches, parents and teachers often voice concerns about the amount of learning children may lose over the summer. A simple solution to this problem is to have children continue to read during the summer break. Studies show that children who read regularly over the summer actually gain reading skills rather than lose them.

In celebration of summer, we have created a "travel themed" summer reading program to encourage you and your children to "Step Up and Read! - Take a Reading Road Trip!" To participate in Huntington Seacliff's twelfth annual reading celebration, we ask that each of our students pledge to read for fifteen minutes a day, for five days a week, for five weeks. As you might suspect, recognition awaits those students who participate? We will send home further information and pledge sheets with your child's report card on the last day of school.

Ann Sullivan  
Principal

### Seacliff Girl Scouts & “Help Seacliff Help Our World”

This year, the girls in the 4th grade Junior Girl Scout Troop #2197 have been working hard in their campaign to “Help Seacliff Help Our World.” Starting back in January, these Girl Scouts started Troop #2197’s Recycling Fridays. Every Friday, the girls in the troop would volunteer their time through a rotation, in order to promote and execute recycling at Seacliff. On April 29th, along with Rainbow Disposal, the troop hosted a “Lunchtime Recycling Booth,” where students learned what kinds of materials can be recycled. Additionally, this Junior Troop also helped the environment at Seacliff by digging out the old plants and planting new drought tolerant plants in the planter next to Miss Horn’s classroom. By doing so, the Girl Scouts of Troop #2197 are helping to promote water conservation at Seacliff.

We are very proud of Brooke Aguilar, Hana Chin, Lauren Fults, Amy Gitmed, Kendell Gross, Rachel Leou, Lexi Rivera, Elle Saccacio, Rena Saccacio, Alexia Schuesler, Emily Tekler and Cassie Walsh. Their dedication to their troop, the environment, and their school are to be highly commended. Way to go Troop #2197! Thank you for making a difference!



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