

Traffic Problems

5th Graders Step Up To Help With Drop-Off

By Julia Arnade-Colwill and Riley McCormic
5th Grade Student Council Officers

Lately there have been some safety concerns about the morning drop-off system. We would like it if parents do not pull up to the curb and have their kid(s) hop out of the car. This is because it is unsafe and there could be injuries. Fifth graders are thinking of organizing a better, safer, and more convenient way to get kids out of the car and onto the Marine Street sidewalk. It will be called "Morning

Greeters." Fifth graders will open the car doors and hold backpacks while the kids get out of the car. They will make sure that the kids get safely to the sidewalk.

Some other ideas that you could do to help are to:

Park in a legal parking spot and walk your child to the gate.

Do not let your child jump out of
See Greeters, Page 5



Meet Jiji the penguin, above, who stars in a new mathematics software program that has just arrived on campus. Ask your children about him. Left, the school Safety Patrol works on Girard Avenue each morning, helping students and parents cross the street safely. Soon, 5th grade "Morning Greeters" will be helping out during Marine Street drop-off as well.

Plan to Attend Cluster Meeting

Parents, teachers, staff and interested community members are invited to attend the first-ever La Jolla Cluster meeting at 7 p.m., Thursday, January 21, at Parker Auditorium on the La Jolla High campus.

A "cluster" is a high school and the middle and elementary schools that feed into it. The La Jolla Cluster consists of La Jolla High, Muirlands Middle, and Bird Rock, La Jolla and Torrey Pines elementary schools.

A group of parents from these five schools is proposing that these campuses commit to working together to create a formal cluster organization. Organizing as a cluster would unify and am-

See Cluster, Page 6

New Math Program

Jiji the Penguin Makes Math Fun

By Donna Tripi, Principal

We have some exciting news to share with you as we begin the new year. Jiji has arrived at La Jolla Elementary School! If you have not already heard from your children, you will! They are very excited to work with Jiji, the penguin, star of our new computer software program (ST Math: K-5) that complements and extends our Everyday Mathematics curriculum.

We are always looking for new and innovative ways to enhance our instructional program and to meet the needs of all our children. Last year, we were able to find several computer software programs for literacy and began the search for a mathematics program. At that time, our district's Math Department had done extensive research on mathematics software and pro-

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Friends of LJE

Your Support Is Much Appreciated

By **Haleh Bolour**, *President of Friends of LJE, Inc.*



Happy 2010 to all! What a remarkable start to the New Year. Thank you, thank you, thank you ... to all those wonderful families who contributed to our 2009 Annual Giving Campaign (AGC), and helped us reach and surpass our goal -- with an astounding \$107,668 and 39 percent participation (as of 12/18/09). With her dedication, and efforts, our AGC Chair, Sabrina Nelson, saw this campaign through to a successful completion. A big, hearty thank you to Sabrina!

What makes this success even more extraordinary is the challenging economic environment. By meeting our AGC financial goal you showed that you want our children to continue having first-rate quality schooling despite the cuts in school budgets. Your continued support makes so many programs possible at LJES: additional teacher(s) (for lower class size); technology instructor and program; choral music instructor and program; art instructor and program; library/media technician; EveryDay Math Program; classroom support; and instructional supplies.

But, as you know, we are not done raising funds yet.

An incredibly amazing event to look forward to is the LJES's Gala event, "Night at the Oscars" – 6 p.m., Sat., March 20, at the La Jolla Marriot. The Gala subcommittee, chaired by Christina Andrews, is focusing their efforts to bring to you an absolutely fabulous night. Please make sure you save the date. Besides supporting our children at La Jolla Elementary, it's a night of glamour and fun!

I, along with the Friends of La Jolla Elementary board members, thank you once again for your support and look forward to a terrific 2010.

Haleh Bolour can be reached at halyamini@hotmail.com.

Lights Camera Action !

It's Oscar Night at LJES on Sat., March 20 at the La Jolla Marriott (UTC). The Gala subcommittee of Friends of LJE, chaired by Christina Andrews, is rolling out the red carpet and feverishly working to put together an incredible and exciting night for you.

This is the one night of the year where parents come together for a fun and glamorous evening as well as a worthy cause – supporting our kids at La Jolla Elementary. The event starts at 6 p.m.

There are plenty of opportunities for Gala underwriting and sponsorship. Donors will receive publicity in our auction program and advertising campaign, as well as prominent signage on our website, and newsletter.

If you can help with a donation in the form of a gift certificate, and/or an item from your business (or cash), please contact Christina Andrews at chrisandrews@san.rr.com. See you soon ON the red carpet!



Ommmm....

Yoga is one of 11 classes offered as part of the After School Wednesday program organized by the PTO. Students also study chess, Chinese, cooking, flute/recorder, Kids Kreations, Kidz Art, Musical Minds, Play-Well (a Lego building class), soccer and Young Rembrandts. For more information regarding after-school programs, please contact our PTO VP of Programs, Laney Alexander, at lberes@compensia.com

News In Brief

LJES' Got Talent

The LJES Talent Show will begin at 6 p.m. on Feb. 5 in the auditorium. All are welcome to come watch the performances. There is still time to join the show as a participant. Acts must be 90 seconds max. Participants must have their act and/or performance ready to showcase at 1 p.m. on Wed., Jan. 20. No late entries will be accepted after Jan. 20. For additional information please call Robin Whaley at 858-583-3011 or email rwhaley@san.rr.com.

Submitted by Robin Whaley, Talent Show Director.

Holiday Fun

LJES families spent a few hours on Dec. 13 caroling in La Jolla village. Everyone gathered at the La Jolla Recreation Center and the kids shared their favorite traditions from various holidays including Christmas, Eid and the Winter Solstice. The carolers then walked around the village, stopping at various businesses and spreading holiday cheer before ending up at the White Sands of La Jolla Retirement Center. The group was graciously received by the residents, one of whom, a pianist, accompanied the carolers. After the performance, the residents shared their favorite holiday traditions with the students and everyone enjoyed cookies and punch. Many thanks to everyone who participated. Next year we hope to expand this event to include traditions from several holidays. If you

have a holiday tradition you would like share with other LJES families, please let us know for next year. Thanks and Happy New Year!

Submitted by Rita Kernacs, Tara Nitahara and Erika Santana

Special Thanks

The PTO thanks Valerie Juboori and Susan Rudick Walker for organizing and serving the beautiful and delicious Holiday PTO Teachers' luncheon.

Advertise in Tidings

To place an ad in Tidings, please contact Sharon Jones at 858-456-2039 or sharonlj@san.rr.com. Rates: \$50 for a business card size ad, \$75 for a quarter page, \$150 for half page, and \$300 for a full-page ad. A 25% discount is offered to advertisers who pay upfront to advertise in 6 or more issues in this academic year. Checks should be made out to LJES PTO, Inc., and mailed or dropped off at the school office: 1111 Marine St., La Jolla, CA 92037, attention Sharon Jones. Or you can pay via the online store on the school's website (go to ljes.org and find the online vstore and Tidings Advertising). Payment must be received PRIOR to publication. Ads must be submitted by the 15th of the month prior to publication. Submit ad graphics in digital format, either as a postscript file or a 300 dpi (minimum) raster image. Email lisastarr@cox.net if you have questions about formatting.



Student News

5th Grader Wins Essay Contest

Will Kellogg, a 5th grader in Ms. Melissa Roy-Wood's class, won the Papa's Heroes Essay Contest with this essay.

My Superhero: Batman

By Will Kellogg

5th Grader

Most people see Batman as a comic book character, but I see him as a motivational character with good judgment, which is why I am choosing to write about him as my hero. I am slightly nervous writing about Batman because most people would think of writing about an actual person. I admire his motives of protecting people with good intentions and he understands the human heart better than anyone because he has suffered so much in life. There are many interesting traits about Batman and these are the traits that I admire in him.

Batman accepts the past without a doubt and he keeps on moving forward. Batman protects others when he is not required to do such things. He takes risks to save people but sometimes we have to take risks to do what we think is best. He doesn't let his feelings cloud his judgment.

He keeps his life very private. Even though he tries to let people help him, he just doesn't want them to get involved with the work he does. That is part of moving forward because some of his private life is in the past, which is why he doesn't want to talk about it. He doesn't want loved ones to get involved either because he loves them so much that he keeps them away from his work.

He doesn't get distracted by personal gain even if it is something that might really assist him in life. He sacrifices to save others. If he loves his dear ones so much to keep them away from his work, do you think that is a sacrifice?

I started watching the Batman series at an early age, and that is why I am so interested in Batman's life story. My favorite type of Batman series is "Batman, the Animated Series,"

because it shows some of the traits people should have in real life. I identify with Batman because I have suffered in my life (as many people do) but I make the best of it and move forward.



Student Council

Awesome San Diego Starts Here

By **Sophia Acker**, *Student Council President*

I'm happy to report that we had a very successful canned food drive this year. We certainly helped feed a lot of hungry San Diegans. We donated more canned food than we have in any past year.

Ms. Melissa Roy-Wood's class in Room 14 won the drive by donating 314 canned goods, and earned an extra recess with Otter Pops. Congratulations to Ms. Roy-Wood's class and to everyone else that participated in the canned food drive and helped make a difference!

Unfortunately, there are a lot more hungry San Diegans in need, particularly in this tough economy. This may be hard for you to believe, but over one-sixth of San Diegans can't get enough food on the table each day. That adds up to 480,000 people, 267,000 of which are children. Some of these people have jobs, but they still can't afford enough food to feed their family. I can't even imagine what that would feel like. But the good news is that we can do more to help.

To really make a difference, the Student Council suggests that we create a volunteering program at the San Diego Food Bank. We could drive to the San Diego Food Bank maybe two Wednesday afternoons a month (parent drivers would volunteer) and work to sort and pack food for people in



Sophia Acker

need. Trust me: There's a lot to do. San Diego Food Bank volunteers prepare 7,000 senior citizen food boxes and 1,500 emergency food bags each month. Grades 2-5 would be allowed to volunteer and find out what it feels like to really make a charitable impact.

To start this program, we must plan in advance. But before I can do that, I'd like to see what you think. Please email your suggestions to ljesstudentcouncil@gmail.com. Remember, San Diegans need your help!

Service Learning

Donate Old Glasses

By **Cynthia Kronemyer**, *Service Learning Chair*

The January PTO service-learning project calls on students to bring in old sunglasses and prescription glasses. More than four million pairs of unused eyeglasses go into the garbage in North America each year. Meanwhile, millions of poor people in developing nations are deprived of the chance to make a living each year because they have no feasible way to correct their vision.

Cynthia Kronemyer, chair of the service-learning program, is challenging students to ask near-sighted friends and relatives if they have old pairs that they would give you to recycle. At the end of the month, the donated glasses will be given them to a LensCrafters store. LensCrafters will distribute them to needy people so that they can work to support themselves and enjoy the many benefits of good vision.

To learn more about the global need for eyeglass recycling, visit www.onesight.org.

Three 4th Graders Recognized

Three 4th graders won a local division of the Student Writing for Literacy Essay Contest, sponsored by Friends of the San Diego Public Library, the San Diego Public Library and the SDUSD Library Media Teachers.

Local winners included: Danielle Balmat, Nicole Andrews and Audrey Tsai, from LJES, and Nicole Collins, Nora Joyce, Katelyn (Katie) Couris from Bird Rock Elementary. La Jolla's overall winner was Nicole Collins from BRE.

Essays were judged by local volunteers and the best were sent to Friends of the San Diego Public Library representatives to determine city-wide and grand prize winners.

Tidings Staff

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We did it! Thank you

for contributing to Friends of LJE Annual Giving Campaign

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Supporter - \$500 - \$999 Contributor - \$100 - \$499 Friend - \$1 - \$99



Kelly's Column

There are 150 Ways to 'Walk' A Mile

By Kelly Wiskus, P.E. Coach

I hope all of you had a wonderful two weeks off, filled with family, friends and fitness. I have enjoyed hearing about all of the fun activities that the students did over break to stay active. With the New Year starting, many of you may have resolutions in place to have a healthy 2010, including getting more exercise.

According to the Fitness Finders Activity Almanac, there are over 150 ways to "walk" a mile and use an extra 100 calories. In other words, each of these activities equals one mile of walking.

Here are a few:

- 40 minutes of shopping
- 30 minutes dusting or yoga
- 24 minutes washing windows or bowling
- 20 minutes of vacuuming or swimming
- 11 minutes of shoveling snow or climbing stairs



Students in Run Club hold up their mileage cards at the stamp station. Photo by Kelly Wiskus.

► Greeters

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the car and into the street.

If your child is in 5th grade, encourage him or her to apply for the "Morning Greeters."

Some quotes from 4th grade students about the morning drop-off have been:

"It is too crowded! I would like it if it was better organized," said Gabriella, who is in Ms. Lewis's class.

"It is hectic and dangerous," said Avery, a student in Mrs. Debbie Bal-mat's class.

All 5th graders will have an opportunity to write a letter to the Safety Officer to express an interest in being a "Morning Greeter."

Julia Arnade-Colwil is the 5th Grade Student Council Historian, and Riley McCormic is the Safety Officer.

Do you own your own business? Are you looking for a great way to increase sales while giving back to your community? Why not donate to La Jolla Elementary, your local, award-winning, California Distinguished School!

JOIN OUR PARTNERSHIPS WITH LOCAL SHOPS PROGRAM

and your store or business will be listed and described on the new LJES website and will be featured in monthly eBlasts to the entire school (more than 550 students and their families) in exchange for a portion of the sales to LJES families being donated back to the school. Please visit the **Partnerships with Local Shops** link on the LJES website or email Julie MacDonald at JMacDonald@san.rr.com for more information.

Open Aire Market

Open Aire Market and NFL Playoffs

By Dawn Villela



happy. Kettle corn, pita bread and hummus, fresh chips and salsa, nuts, artisan cheese, salami, wood-fired pizza, BBQ meats, cookies, even doggie treats for the furry fans!

Need to get a quick gift for the

host? We've got great Artisans with a great selection of wine holders, candles, and more. Remember the market is busiest from 11 a.m.-1p.m., so get there early for the best selection and easiest parking.

This month we will continue our FREE Family Days at the Market with a kids activity on Sun., Jan. 24. All proceeds from the La Jolla Open Aire Market benefit LJES, so become a regular. It's the easiest way to donate to our school. Look forward to seeing you at the Market!

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see page 3 for details

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► A Penguin Named Jiji Stars in New Math Software...

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vided us a list of suggested programs. After reviewing the programs and speaking to math resource teachers, representatives from the LJES Technology Committee visited schools to view the two programs that were of greatest interest to us. The program that was by far the most innovative and comprehensive was ST Math: K-5.

ST Math: K-5 is a research-proven, comprehensive, grade-level math instructional software program that uses spatial-temporal reasoning to engage and train students at any level of academic and language proficiency in math concepts, skills, and problem-solving. It is truly "value added" in that it does something that we can not do with paper and pencil tasks, manipulatives or oral instruction – it helps students to visualize mathematics, giving them a deeper understanding of the mathematical concepts underlying the operations they perform.

The more than 200 games that comprise the ST Math: K-5 courseware are a series of computer-delivered ST mathematical puzzles that require the student to master certain sets of standards-aligned



concepts in order to solve them. Becoming proficient in applying these non-verbal ST concepts to a variety of mathematical problems, the students enhance their ability to do mathematics. In schools where ST Math has been implemented, significant growth in standardized math test scores has been achieved.

Teachers will also be using the program to enhance their teaching of mathematical concepts. With laptops and projectors in every classroom, teachers will be able to involve the whole class in ST Math games that illustrate the mathematical concept that they are working on in their Everyday Mathematics Unit. This will also link the game to its underlying math concept for the students.

Although the Technology Committee had

chosen the program over a year ago, it was cost-prohibitive for our school. Tamar Elkeles and Larry Michaels, parents of Mia Michaels, grade 2, have long advocated for our school to have inno-

'... it helps students to visualize mathematics, giving them a deeper understanding of the mathematical concepts underlying the operations they perform.'

vative software programs to enhance our students' educational program. As vice president of Qualcomm's Learning Center, Tamar Elkeles, utilizes technology in the training and development of Qualcomm employees. Larry Michaels is a member of our Technology Committee. Through their generous funding of the program, a matching grant from Qualcomm, and an internal grant through Mind Research Institute, we were able to bring this exciting new way to teach mathematics to our students. Our Friends of La Jolla Elementary, Inc. agreed to provide ongoing maintenance fees for the program in coming years.

The program was purchased just before break and thanks to parent

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► Cluster

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plify our community's message to district leaders on short-term budget issues. It also will help over the long-term, as we share ideas and resources, identify cluster-wide goals and spending priorities, and build bridges between schools to ease transitions.

Several other clusters in San Diego Unified School District are in the process of organizing, including the Point Loma High cluster, which is seeking to negotiate a semi-autonomous budget agreement.

Come to the meeting Thursday to learn more. There will be a short presentation, followed by questions. Childcare will not be provided. Information about the proposed La Jolla Cluster is available on the new website, www.lajollacluster.com.

The parent group representatives backing this initiative are: Lisa Bonebrake, Bird Rock Elementary; Linda Dowley, La Jolla High; Sharon Jones, La Jolla Elementary; Alison Lee, Torrey Pines, Muirlands Middle, La Jolla High; John May, Torrey Pines Elementary; Margaret Ohara, Bird Rock and La Jolla High; Fran Shimp, La Jolla Elementary; and Natascha Vossen, La Jolla Elementary.

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at the **La Jolla Open Air Market**

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LA JOLLA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Open Air Market



...That Helps Students Visualize Mathematics

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volunteers, Larry Michaels, Brian Butler, and Todd Lyons, the ST Math program was installed on all of our school computers under the supervision of Sigurd Kallhovde. Teachers were trained to use the program by our Mind Research Institute Education and Support Specialist, and by the end of the first week of school after the break Jiji was being used in several classes. Jiji will have her debut in all

'In schools where ST Math has been implemented, significant growth in standardized math tests has been achieved.'

classrooms at our school by Fri., Jan. 15!

As the program is most effective if done for 90 minutes each week, Jiji will become part of our students' lives daily for 15-20 minute intervals. It will be part of math independent work time or "must do" time at another time in the day. It is not currently web-based, so students will not be able to access it from home.

We look forward to sharing the program with

you and will dedicate a portion of our Family Technology Night to showcasing the program and having you play the games with your children. The Family Technology Night will take place on Tues., March 2. Watch for details.

We thank Tamar Elkeles, Larry Michaels, Sigurd Kallhovde, the Technology Committee, and

Friends of La Jolla Elementary, Inc. for making this happen for our children. (Thanks to Friends of La Jolla Elementary, Inc., we have the computers to run the software!) Ask your children about Jiji! They will truly enjoy learning mathematics with her!

Ms. Tripi can be reached at dtripi@sandi.net.

Attendance Matters

By Donna Tripi, Principal

I just received our attendance data for last month and was disappointed to learn that the percentage of students in school last month was significantly lower than the percentage in December of 08. This is the fourth straight month of such data – and this is concerning. Our students miss a great deal of instruction when they are not in school for a single day and many of our students have been taking several extra days to weeks of extended vacations. While my greatest concern is the missed instruction, in these budget times, it is also concerning to lose the revenue that is given to school districts based on attendance.

To ensure that our students understand the importance of attendance, the teachers and I will be launching an "Attendance Matters" campaign. Children will be rewarded with "tickets" for each full week of school they attend. They will add their tickets each week to a class box that will then be transferred to a grade-level box. At each grade-level assembly, we will draw a name from the box and award the winning child a Baskin Robbins gift certificate. We certainly don't want children to come to school sick, but we do want them to understand that it is their responsibility to come to school if they are well.

YOU and Your Treasured Children DESERVE A PLAN

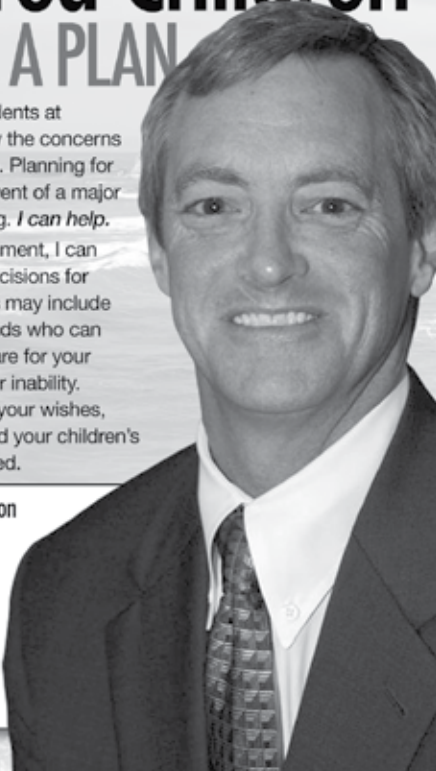
As a fellow parent of students at La Jolla Elementary, I know the concerns of caring for minor children. Planning for them and yourself in the event of a major life change can be daunting. *I can help.*

In a low-pressure environment, I can guide you to make wise decisions for you and your children. This may include nominating family and friends who can manage your affairs and care for your children in the event of your inability. By properly memorializing your wishes, you will ensure that you and your children's financial affairs are protected.

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Exciting new season in the village for LJ Softball



Sign up now!

La Jolla Softball starts its exciting 2010 season at the newly renovated softball field at La Jolla Elementary

Join your friends & sign up today!

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- age divisions: 6U, 8U, 10U, 12U, 14U
- no experience necessary
- games on Saturdays
- practice & games at La Jolla
- we emphasize skill-building, fun, sportsmanship, self-confidence

Questions: barb.birnbaum@gmail.com

Online registration: www.lajollayouthsoftball.org



Attend La Jolla Cluster Meeting

Thursday, Jan. 21, Parker Auditorium, LJHS.

See Page 1 for details.



Family Movie Night Features 'Up'

Get out your blankets and pajamas and prepare to watch the Disney film "Up" with your LJES friends. The doors will open for Family Movie Night at 6 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 22. The movie will start at 6:20 p.m. sharp. "Up" is an animated comedy adventure about a 78-year-old man who ties balloons to his house and flies away with an 8-year-old stowaway. Bring sleeping bags, stuffed animals and blankets and prepare to get comfortable on the floor. Popcorn and glowsticks will be for sale. – Submitted by Laurie Weiss.

Parents Volunteer To Supervise Playground Daily

Nearly 20 parents have answered the PTO's call for adults to serve as volunteer playground supervisors before school and at lunch. They all received training on their roles and responsibilities on Jan. 4 and began doing their assigned shifts.

This program was created at the request of parents who felt that more eyes, ears and hands would make the playgrounds safer.

"It is difficult to find playground supervisors who would be willing to work at a school for only an hour in the middle of the day," said Principal Donna Tripi. "I appreciate parents coming forward and helping to provide more supervision on the playground on a daily basis. They are really filling an important need for more supervision than we can provide with current staffing."

The playground volunteers include: Amy Aiello, Laney Alexander, Kristee Beres, Ed Furtek, Angela Goodwin, Elise Kjos, Kristi Porter, Diana Malk, Isabel Marouf, Amy Randel, Divya Reddy,

Susan Rudick, Randi Ryness, Kathy Schultz, Nicola Scrivener, Fran Shimp, Jennifer Snyder, Jim Whaley and Marina Youngdale.

In their training, they received guidance on how to handle verbal squabbles, bad language, and injuries.

Please thank these parents for donating their time to making our children safer. This program was organized by Laney Alexander and Monica Simpson. If you would like to serve as a fill-in playground supervisor, contact PTO Volunteer Coordinator Cynthia Stratton at cstratton@sglawcorp.com.

Playground Rules

- No running on or around the play structure. Running games should take place on the field only.
- Go up and down play structure equipment

safely. Use both hands to climb. Only climb if you are wearing shoes with rubber soles.

- Use all areas of the play structure as they are intended, e.g. do not climb up the slide.
- Only go one way on the monkey bars.
- No rough play of any kind is permissible, e.g. kicking, tackle.
- No chasing games of any kind are permissible, e.g. tag.
- Students are not permitted to dig in the dirt or sand; it creates dangerous divots.
- All students should stay off of the hills surrounding our playground.
- Dirt, sand, rocks, etc. should never be thrown or placed in play areas.

Rule infractions will result in referrals to the principal or his/her designee.