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Life Skills
Middle School
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**WCSAT Parent Booster Club Officers
for the 2011-2012 School Year:**

President: *Briona Mendes*

Vice President: *Jennifer Rushman*

Treasurer: *Meliesa Stiles*

Co-Treasurer: *Rosa Vasquez*

Secretary: *Libby Anderson*

Event Coordinator:

Heidi Starkweather

Booster Comments or Questions?

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Staff and Parents*

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<http://wcs.ceres.k12.ca.us/WCSAT>

Newsletter comments, questions or
feedback?

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Principal's Note

CST/STAR Testing is right around the corner...

Each spring, students in grades 2 through 11 take a set of tests to measure performance in the areas of language arts and math. A science assessment is given in grades 5 and 8, and social studies for 8th grade. We will begin taking the STAR test on April 24th. This is a very important test, as it is one indicator of how our school is performing, and how each child is progressing with their learning compared to others in the State.

The WCSAT staff has been working hard to prepare your child to be successful. While we teach your child for six hours a day, you have been your child's most important teacher since the day he/she was born. We believe that the education of your child is a partnership between the school and home. If you have questions or concerns about your child's progress, please feel free to call the school and set up an appointment with your child's teacher.

STAR TESTING WEEK - April 24 - April 27 (Grades 2-5) and April 30 - May 4 (Make-ups and continued testing for grades 5-8)

This is a time for students to be proud of how much they have learned. 100% attendance is very important during testing.

Studies have shown that students who are on time and taking the test with the rest of their class, will perform better on tests. Our goal is for every student to score proficient or advanced on the STAR test!

Parents and students can view the standards for each grade level online at:

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/be/st/ss/>

...and sample STAR test

questions online at:

<http://starsamplequestions.org/>.

If you have any questions feel free to contact me at (209) 556-1610 or you may email me at

lchirrick@ceres.k12.ca.us.

Lynnette Chirrick,
Principal

Ways you can help your child do better on any test are...

- Make sure your child is at school and on time every day.
- Make sure your child has plenty of rest and a good breakfast.
- Encourage your child to do his/her best without raising anxiety.
- Use flashcards to practice math facts and vocabulary words. This will help students remember facts automatically, which will then make multi-step problems easier.
- Remind your child to read all of the instructions carefully before beginning to answer the questions.
- This is one area where many children make mistakes: Remind your child to read each answer choice before choosing the best answer.
- Have your child read every night and ask him/her questions about the book.
- Explain to your child the importance of taking the test seriously and giving his/her best effort.
- Last, but most important, give your child a hug and explain that if they don't understand something, it's okay to rule out bad answer choices and then guess...and that as long as they put forth their best effort, it's okay to make mistakes.

K-5 Life Skills Model Student Awards

Each month teachers are pleased to face the challenge to select just one student who exemplifies the traits of this year's life skills. Please join the WCSAT staff in congratulating the following students for earning the recognition as a "Life Skills Student of the Month" for his/her class.

December 2011 - Generosity

-the act of giving freely without expecting anything in return-

Grade	Teacher	Student
K	Mrs. Burnett	Andy Guevara
K	Mr. Stark	Daveny Gomez
1	Mrs. Stitt	Joshua Lybarger
1	Mrs. Tornquist	Logann Meyer
2	Mrs. Lewis	Matthew Sanchez
2	Mrs. Reyes	Mattison Adams
3	Mrs. Benitez	Jacob Oller
3	Mrs. Crawford	Gabriel Newton
4	Ms. McNeal	Paige Janich
4	Mrs. Terrones	Jamie Delgadillo
5	Mrs. Aguiar	Emily Sutherby
5	Mr. Sundy	Alyssa Stiles



January 2012 - Leadership

-the act of guiding and directing others effectively-

Grade	Teacher	Student
K	Mrs. Burnett	Hannah Methvin
K	Mr. Stark	Haleigh Pearce
1	Mrs. Stitt	Grace Looney
1	Mrs. Tornquist	Avery Hulsey
2	Mrs. Lewis	Breanna Rice
2	Mrs. Reyes	Alyssa Jimenez
3	Mrs. Benitez	Brooke Starkweather
3	Mrs. Crawford	Kailey Gearhart
4	Ms. McNeal	Lilyana Sengsoury
4	Mrs. Terrones	Jared Johnson
5	Mrs. Aguiar	Taleyna Sengsoury-Williams
5	Mr. Sundy	Noah Holloway



February 2012 - Acceptance

-the act of acknowledging and believing in others-

Grade	Teacher	Student
K	Mrs. Burnett	Andrew Ruiz
K	Mr. Stark	Grant Miceli
1	Mrs. Stitt	Jada Mendes
1	Mrs. Tornquist	Zander Espinoza
2	Mrs. Lewis	Olivia Ruiz
2	Mrs. Reyes	Julian Gutierrez
3	Mrs. Benitez	Miguel Lopez
3	Mrs. Crawford	Qalidra Sengsoury-Williams
4	Ms. McNeal	Jordan Carver
4	Mrs. Terrones	Erin Lewis
5	Mrs. Aguiar	Mariah Trevino
5	Mr. Sundy	Ashlee Anderson



First Graders visit the Gallo Center

Junie B. Jones was a big hit!

By Mrs. Tornquist and Mrs. Stitt

The first grade classes have been reading these hilarious books for the past few months and absolutely loved watching real live actors and actresses. Laughter was throughout the theatre watching the reenactment of Junie B's character and her zany antics. These best-selling books came alive to the children when they saw the performance on Febru-

ary 28th! Students were also treated to a "fancy" meal at McDonald's. They were given an elegant experience in which parents from both Mrs. Stitt's class and Mrs. Tornquist's class made a section of the McDonald's nearby, classy for the classes! It was a great day all together and made the kids love Junie B. Jones even more!



Above and at right: Students having an "elegant" lunch at McDonald's, complete with flowers and table covers.



Even the boys were excited to see Junie B.



Below and above at right: Students taking their seats and patiently waiting for the show to begin.



Photos provided by Mrs. Tornquist



BOX TOPS for Education

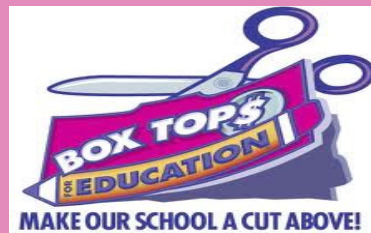
Chairperson, Michelle Murphy

Send in your Box Tops each month to help your child's school. Each Box Top is worth 10 cents!

The more turned-in, the more money the school can earn! Track Whitmore Charter Schools' progress at <http://www.boxtops4education.com/progress/SchoolEarnings.aspx?t=s>.

Over 2,000 products have Box Tops on their labels, visit the site for a complete list.

The class with the most box tops turned in by the end of the year will be awarded an ice cream party!!!



WCSAT Recycling Campaign

Chairperson, Jennifer Rushman, WCSAT PBC Vice President

Recycling Mondays continues, every other Monday. Refer to *The Paw Print Calendar* for dates. Only soda/aluminum cans and plastic bottles are being recycled; #1 and #2 ONLY. Just look on the bottom of the plastic item to locate the number inside the recycle triangle. Please remove lids and caps. Rinse out and clean all milk, soap and food containers.



No tin cans, plastic bags, #5 and #7 plastics or #1 plastic food containers, such as those used for cookies and pastries.

If anyone can help with sorting the recycled items, please contact Jennifer at jenrushman@msn.com

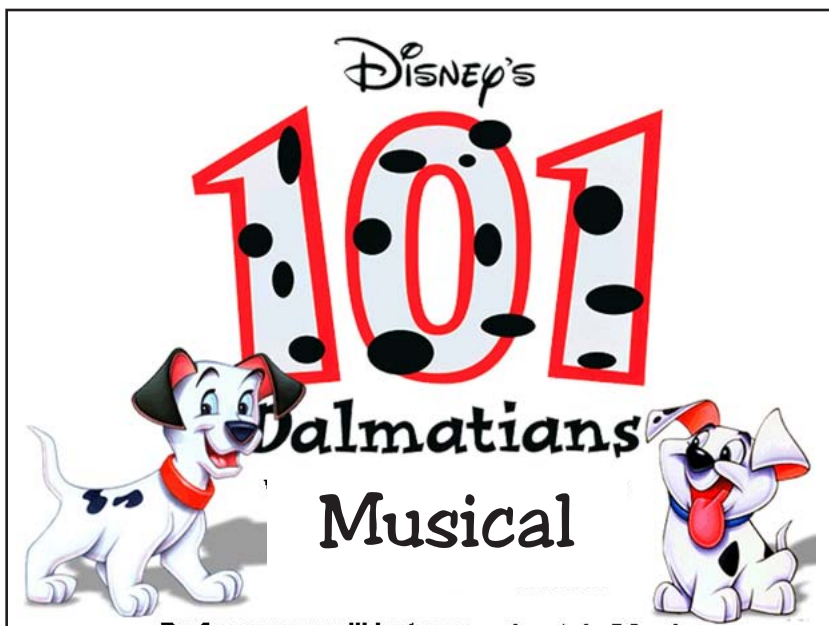
We CAN do it!



OTTER*POPS

For sale in the Booster Office after school!





Ryder gets into character!

Congratulations to all K-5th grade students for an amazing performance!

From the actors to the stage crew, the students of Whitmore Charter impressed us all with their talents. Students worked very hard for many months to memorize the scripts, music and movements. We would also like to thank all the parents and families that supported the program. We can't wait for next year's musical!

Fine Arts Teachers: Gail Benge, Cheri Lloyd, Damon Hunn, and Lea Austin.



Dog Catcher (Caelyn), gets Cruella (Taleyna) caught in her net.



The choir fills the cafeteria with their beautiful sound.



The dalmatians get Cruella! Gotcha!

Jeff Hayes Photography has graciously provided hundreds of photos of this performance, for parents to download at www.jeffstrade.com/drama.





Literacy Week Recap

Feb 27-Mar 2



Whitmore celebrated Read Across America week with a variety of activities related to a famous Dr. Seuss book, Oh, the Places You'll Go. Classrooms focused on many different types of books surrounding our theme, created projects connecting art and writing, and participated in numerous stations at Literacy Night. Families gathered from many places near and far, exploring a huge variety of hands on activities. Our cafeteria was packed! Students assembled Friday afternoon outside of the li-

brary to reminisce in the week's events and to announce the winners for Most Spirited Classrooms based on the most participation with our dress up days. Mrs. Stitt's class won for the primary and Mr. Sundy's class for the intermediate. These classes will enjoy a sundae/cupcake party! K-5 students danced and blew bubbles together.

Whitmore students know the power of LITERACY. Thank you to everyone who gave their time and energy to make the week a success!



Grace gets artsy at Literacy Night.



Simon blows bubbles in celebration of literacy!

Students who attended the Literacy Night received a canvas book bag, a grade-level reading book, and a homework pass!



Mrs. Burnett's kinders get Suessified!



Third graders; Auki, Nico, Brian and Aiden check out their new books.



Middle School News

Interact is a community service club that meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of every month in Room 17 at lunch recess. The club is open to all Whitmore Charter Middle-School students.

Interact Club Activities/Highlights

- Christmas caroling at Christmas Tree Lane in Ceres
 - Served breakfast to the homeless at the Salvation Army Center in Modesto on Christmas Eve
 - Collected jeans for homeless teens across the U.S., Canada, and Puerto Rico
 - Collected stuffed animals for needy families in Ceres
 - Participated in the Rotary Purple Pinky Campaign to end Polio
 - Attended the Ceres Club Meeting on Feb. 22nd and the District Interact Conference on Feb. 25th
 - Helped serve dinner at the Rotary Crab Feed on Feb. 25th
 - Participated in the Rotary Read-In by reading to K-5 classrooms on Mar 23rd
 - Interact was featured in the Ceres Courier on Feb. 22nd in School Bells
- Perhaps the most exciting part of the year was going to Disneyland for the Leadership: Pursuit of Excellence Experience. *Everyone had a fantastic time!*



Interact Club 2011-2012



Disneyland Leadership Experience - Feb 2012 Pursuit of Excellence Program

Life Skills Awards

November 2001 - Integrity

-the consistency of actions, principals, honesty and truthfulness-

Madison Nash, 6th grade

Justin Lane, 6th grade

Hailey Searl, 7th grade

Ashlee Stiles, 7th grade

Mary Curry, 8th grade

Katya Flores, 8th grade

December 2001 - Cooperation

-working and acting together in harmony-

Coleby Garrett, 6th grade

Morgan Lewis, 6th grade

Ryan Hendrix, 7th grade

Genesis Cadenas, 7th grade

Seth Hammond, 8th grade

Dallas Kilgore, 8th grade

January 2012 - Effort

-an earnest attempt to achieve and accomplish a specified purpose -

Estevan Barragan, 6th grade

Abby Fernandez, 6th grade

Amrit Pannu, 7th grade

Chase Winchester, 7th grade

Ashley Doss, 8th grade

Alex Guevara, 8th grade

PEACE ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS

Whitmore Charter School would like to congratulate 6th grade students Marlee Baker and Abby Fernandez. These wonderful ladies were Division IV Peace Essay Finalists. Marlee Baker was also the school-wide winner. They were both honored at the 25th Annual Peace Essay Contest Awards Reception on March 9, at Modesto Junior College.

We are all very proud of both of you!



2012 MIDDLE SCHOOL GIRLS SOFTBALL



Date	Pratice/Game	Location	Time
Apr 3	Game vs. Big Valley	Blaker	4:00 pm
Apr 4	Game vs. Turlock Christian	Pedretti	3:45 pm
April 6-15	No School		
Apr 16	Practice	WCS	3:45-5:15
Apr 17	Practice	Chavez	4:00-5:30
Apr 18	Game vs. Vanguard	Vanguard	4:00 pm
Apr 20	Game vs. Blg Valley	Big Valley	4 :00pm
April 23-27	CST Testing		
May 2	Game vs. Vanguard	Blaker	4:00 pm

Coach: Chris Caulkins

Parent Volunteers: Louis Thomas & Jason Searl

Upcoming Events for Middle School

- Living History Museum (5/8/12) 6-8 pm
- UC Davis College visit (5/10/12)
- 6th Grade Outdoor Ed (5/15-5/18)
- Great America Field Trip (5/17 or 5/18)
- 8th Grade Promotion Ceremony (5/29/12) 6 pm - CVHS Gym

PIQE for Middle School Parents

The Parent Institute for Quality Education began a nine week session on March 8th, in which information geared toward middle school students and families is presented. A schedule of the remaining sessions is provided below. Sessions begin at 6:00 pm in the Whitmore Charter cafeteria.

Day	Date	Topic
Thursday	April 5	Motivating teenagers to read
Thursday	April 12	SPRING BREAK - NO SESSION
Thursday	April 19	Understanding the importance of middle school as a bridge to High school.
Thursday	April 26	Preparing to meet University admission requirements
Monday	May 7	Principal's dialogue and program graduation



Devon Doss, you rocked in your performance of "Thoroughly Modern Millie" produced by YES Company! Your acting, singing, and dancing were awesome! We look forward to your next play.

Your friends, Ryan & Grant

Living History Museum - Update

The middle school students are working hard on their Living Museum projects. Shakespeare, John F. Kennedy, Jackson Pollack, Picasso, Cleopatra, Rosa Parks, J Edgar Hoover, Henry Ford, Winston Churchill, Steve Jobs, and Gary Soto, are among the many being researched as the students prepare for the big night of May 8th. They have created timelines, a list of interesting facts, quotes, and even some poetry about their subjects to share. They are currently working on their 'technology' piece to showcase skills in technology beyond just word-processing, and many have chosen their extension piece that will add to their presentation. So, if you have not marked your calendar, please put a star by May 8th and join us here at Whitmore for the first Living Museum, presented by our sixth through eighth graders.



Spring Fundraising Update!

Raffle Tickets!

During the month of February, students raised money to support assemblies, field trips, incentives, books and so much more through a raffle ticket fundraiser. As of March 8th, over 1,450 tickets had been sold by Whitmore students, staff and parents. WCSAT has earned close to **\$5,000** so far!!!!

Top ticket sellers, received a variety of prizes, free recess and pizza parties. The grand prize winner was presented a fabulous prize at the March 30th Life Skills Assembly.

\$5,000 and counting!

The raffle drawing will be held at the Ceres Street Fair on May 5th. Raffle ticket holders are eligible to have their tickets drawn for each of the ten prize packages up for raffle by the CUSD Foundation. Prize packages include: cash prizes (\$2,500, \$1,000 and two \$500 awards) and five prize packages valued at \$500 or more (Gas Grill Barbecue donated

by Lowe's of Turlock, Groceries donated by Cost Less Foods of Ceres, Merchandise Card donated by WalMart of Ceres, Entertainment Package donated by Black Oak Casino, and Fuel donated by ER Vine & Sons). A bonus prize package is a large brown grizzly bear donated by Bank of the West of Ceres. Tickets are available for \$5 each at the CUSD District Office or on the day of the raffle (May 5th) at the Ceres Street Fair. Just visit the CUSD Foundation booth to purchase a ticket.

The two top selling classes were Ms. McNeal and Mrs. Berger. The top selling K-5 student is Jared Muirhead.

The top selling 6-8 grade student is Lyndsey Sexton. The 2nd place winner (6-8) is David Herrera and the 3rd place winner (6-8) is Lillie Corona. The top student sellers (K-8) will be attending a pizza party: Jared Muirhead, Connor Flud, Hannah Methvin, Hannah Borba, Gregory Methvin, Quinn Ford, Halley Sexton, David Herrera, Lyndsey Sexton, Jada Mendes and Paige Janich.

Dance - A - Then

On March 15, WCSAT students wore their favorite costumes-outfits and danced to a great mix of music provided by Mr. Hunn.

Students gathered \$5 pledges from family and friends with the goal to raise funding for individual classroom activities and field trips. This event was a great success for all classes.

Pictured at right: Students from Mrs. Stitt's 1st grade class (left to right) - Faith Garrett, Olivia Solache, Grace Looney, Heather Starkweather, and Samantha Oller. What a super cute group of little ladies!

Congratulations to Mrs. Berger's 6th grade homeroom for raising \$449 (the most among Middle School classes). Mrs. Terrones' class raised the most money of the K-5 classes, with \$442. Her class received a trophy at the March 30th assembly.

The most money raised by a student was \$220 from Jessilyn Gonzalez in 6th grade. **Great Job!!!**



WCSAT PBC Happenings.....

The WCSAT Parent Booster Club continues to support many activities through the year to help raise money for school trips, events, activities and so much more. Here is an update of the items the PBC has supported over the past few months,

- a. **Raffle Fundraiser** (Mar) - Top Sellers awarded prizes on March 30, at the Life Skills Assembly.
- b. **101 Dalmatians** - (Feb) - DVD, T-shirt and Program may still be available for purchase (Contact our Fine Arts Department).
- c. **Dance-A-Thon** - (Mar) - All money earned from pledges support each participating student's classroom account for field trips and supplies.
- d. **Fine Arts Night**- (Mar) - PBC coordinated volunteers for serving, coordinating and donations for dessert and food items.
- e. **Benches and tables** were delivered in February. They were placed throughout the campus, including a table with attached benches in the kindergarten play area. At a cost of \$4,357, this investment was well worth the joy and excitement it has brought students and staff.
- f. **Living History Museum** is May 8 (6-8 pm) - Volunteers needed to serve pizza and water.
- g. **Teacher Appreciation Week** (May 7-11) - Volunteers are needed. Please contact Libby Anderson for more information, at johlibashmik@yahoo.com

**Next PBC Meeting 4/19
in Mrs. Lloyd's Art Room**

Find us on

facebook

Spring Book Fair A Huge Success!

Students and parents visited the school library the week of February 27-March 1st to find and purchase new book titles for classrooms and home libraries.

Over **\$6,500** worth of books were sold that week, 20% more than the previous year.

150 books were donated to classrooms and the library received new book titles as part of this event partnership with Scholastic Books.

Articles and/or Digital Photos from WCSAT families would be greatly appreciated.

To place your ad or announcement in the Paw Print, complete and submit an application with payment.

To get our application OR to send articles and/or digital images, please visit the WCSAT website at: <http://wcs.ceres.k12.ca.us/WCSAT/>.

Happy "Early" Birthday Brian!



We love you!

Mom, Dad, Chase, Grandma Judy & Lloyd

Happy Birthday Hannah!



Love Mommy, Daddy, Goggi and Papa!

Announcements/Highlights

Summer School Info

June 4th-29th

Current 1st-7th graders have been sent a flyer indicating eligibility to attend summer school.

Parent response is required no later than 5/11.

Breakfast: 8:00 am

Class Time: 8:30 am-1:55 pm

ASES Program

Summer Update

June 4th -29th

The ASES After School Program will be open during the month of June, directly following Academic Summer School.

If your child is not currently registered for the ASES Program, please pick up a registration packet in the front office, complete and return no later than May 18th.



Congratulations!

Out of the 27 English Language Learners in grades 4-8, we had 18 students that reclassified to Fluent English Proficient. These students scored very well on their CELDT test, as well as on the CST's and Benchmarks. As a reward for all of their hard work, the RFEF students received one free book from the book fair and enjoyed a pizza party with Mrs. Chirrick.

High School Students Involved in Community Service!!!

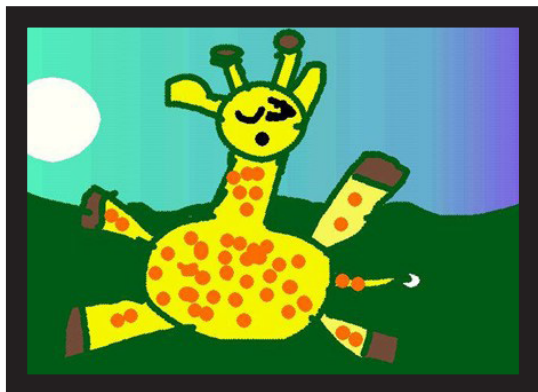
Whitmore Charter High School National Honor Society would like to thank everyone who participated in making valentines for our trip to the local convalescent homes. We collected over 300 beautifully handmade valentines! We appreciate your help and participation so much!

- Kelly Hayes - WCHS Advisory



The Pup Club

The place for Our Young WCSAT Artists



Artist: Daveny
Grade: K
Title: Giraffes Can Dance!
Medium: Digital Art: Kid Pix

Here are some art favorites displayed by our WCSAT Wolves.
Thank you for supporting the Arts!!!

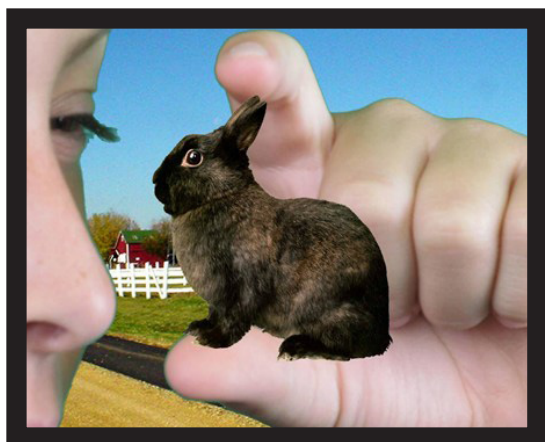
Artist: Simon
Grade: 1
Title: Sailing Away
Medium: Paint & Patterned Paper



Artist: Alyssa
Grade: 2
Title: Body Movin'
Medium: Construction Paper








Artist: Ian
Grade: 3
Title: Self Portrait
Medium: Digital Art: Photoshop










Artist: Ryan
Grade: 5
Title: I Spy with My Little Eye
Medium: Digital Art: Photoshop

Important Dates!!! April 2012

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1	2 	3	4	5	6 No School Good Friday	7
8	NO SCHOOL - Spring Break - Enjoy!!!					14
15	16 	17	18	19 PBC Mtg	20 	21
22	23 CST Assembly K-5 Whitmore Idol	24 CST Testing Begins (2nd-11th Grades)	25 CST Testing	26 CST Testing	27 CST Testing K-5 Life Skills Assembly 2:30 Middle School Dance 7-9 pm 	28
29	30  CST Testing					

May 2012

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT	
		1  CST Testing	2 CST Testing	3 CST Testing	4 CST Testing K-5 Dance Recital (New date) 	5	
6	7 	8 MS Living History Night 6:00pm	9 Modesto Nuts Family Night-Reading	10 PBC Mtg	11 	12	
Teacher Appreciation Week							
13 <i>Mother's Day</i>	14	6th Grade Outdoor Ed				18 	19
20	21 	22 Middle School Springfest	23	24	25 Middle School Assembly 12:30 K-5 Life Skills Assembly 2:30 	26	
27	28 No School Memorial Day	29 8th Grade Promotion Ceremony 6 pm - CVHS Gym	30	31 Last Day of School 1:30 pm Dismissal			

Howl Out To:



- **Jeff Hayes** for professional photos of 101 Dalmatians Kids! now available at www.jeffstrade.com/drama

- **Maija Shadinger** for volunteering countless hours on the raffle fundraiser.
- **Heidi Starkweather** for organizing the Dance-A-Thon.
- **DJ Hunn** for his awesome skills on the turntable for the Dance-A-Thon.
- **Jen Rushman** for continually donating her time and efforts into the Otter Pop Shop.
- **Parent Volunteers** at the Literacy Night (too many to list).
- **Mr. Burnett** for his countless hours of filming, editing and putting together performance DVDs.
- **Cindy Davis, Candace Looney, Kelly Hayes, Julie and Quinn Flud, Michelle Castro, Tracy Cortez, Rosario Serafin, and Deb Burke** for helping with the matting for the Fine Arts Night.
- **Libby Anderson and Heidi Starkweather** for all your help with coordinating the volunteers and planning the food for the Fine Arts Night.
- **Art Herrera** for consistently volunteering at lunch time to help organize middle school sports.
- **Julie Martin** for taking over the Paw Print.

WE APPRECIATE ALL OF YOU!
Thank you!

 = Recycle Mondays

 = Box Tops collected at the beginning of each month

 = Spirit Fridays, wear your WCSAT gear and colors

