

# Gecko Gazette

"Busque la Edición en español de La Gaceta en febrero"

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MYRON B. GREEN ELEMENTARY ACADEMICS & ATHLETICS MAGNET SCHOOL • OFFICE (619) 460-5755

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER • Volume 11, Number 1, January 2007

## Calendar of Events

### January 2007

- 2-5** 4th & 5th Graders to Old Town/Balboa Park
- 9** PTA Meeting 6:30 pm
- 15** Martin Luther King Day NO School
- 16** Yearbook Sales Begin
- 24** Muffins for Moms
- 26** Box Tops Due
- 30** SSC 5:50 pm

### February

- 12** Lincoln Birthday NO School
- 13** PTA Meeting 7:30am
- 14** Jump Rope for Heart
- 19** Washington Birthday NO School
- 23** Box Tops Due
- 24** Rummage Sale
- 27** SSC 5:00 pm
- 28** Jog-A-Thon Assembly

Please check latest info on our web site [www.greengeckos.com](http://www.greengeckos.com)

*Hola, mi nombre es Valeria Valenzuela, soy el Nuevo miembro del personal Bilingüe en la oficina. Si tiene preguntas o esta en necesidad de traducción, llame por favor a la oficina al (619) 460-5755. Mis horas son 7:30am-1:15 pm de lunes a viernes.*

### A note from our Principal, Mr. Dale –

Happy New Year! I trust all of you had a restful winter break and your children are ready to get back in the swing of things here at Green Elementary. With the school year already 1/3 of the way over, I can truly say that the year is flying by.

One of the key elements in assuring student achievement is school attendance. In the 11 days the kids were in school during December, we had 223 absences! One contributor to this high number is children leaving early for family vacations. Please make every effort possible to schedule family vacations during the time when Green is not in session.

To improve our attendance number for January, we will be having a school wide competition. If our total school attendance is 300 or fewer absences we will celebrate with Crazy Hair Day! Prizes will also be given for the three classes that have the lowest amount of absences for the month. Look for posters in the cafeteria and courtyard to see the progress we are making.

Volunteers wanted!! We are forming a technology committee to develop a long term school-wide plan for technology. This plan will be used to keep Green continually current in education technology. If you are interested in being a part of this parent-teacher committee, please contact the front office. Thank You & Welcome Back!



## Hey, it's your PTA!

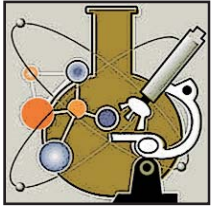
by Michele Simon

As we begin 2007, I hope you all had a great holiday and a wonderful break from the routine.

With the Spring months just around the corner, the PTA is looking forward to many upcoming events. We will be sponsoring Muffins for Moms on January 24, which is a "must-attend" event... moms, grandmothers, aunts, etc., are invited to spend some time reading in their child's classroom and then join us for munchies, morning beverages, and social time afterwards. Last year we asked that everyone attending bring a book to donate to our library... and we would like to encourage you to do the same this year. This benefits all the children at Green, present and future!

February brings Jump Rope for Heart, where the students jump rope for 45 minutes in a tag-team manner to raise money for the American Heart Association. We are always looking for parents to attend,

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## Green Elementary's 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Family Science Night

When: Thursday, January 18<sup>th</sup>

Time: 6:00pm - 7:30pm

Grades: K-2 Students and Parents

Child care not provided. Please do not leave child unattended.

Place: Green Elementary's  
Multi-Purpose Room

**Come explore and share  
the fun of science together!**

Grades 3-5 on March 22, 2007 More information to come!

*Coming Soon!*



**Elections for 2007-2008  
PTA Board Positions  
and**

**Sign-Ups for Committee Chair Positions**

Green is looking for some fresh faces and new ideas to keep this outstanding organization going. Look for flyers coming home soon for more details.



**HOLA!**

### **SPANISH CLASSES COMING TO GREEN**

The PTA is excited to announce that we are working on having after school Spanish classes for students and parents starting at the end of January and lasting until the end of this school year. Please look for a flyer giving all the details. If you want information now or want to let your interest in the class be

known, please call Sharon Wilson-Ogul in the evening at 619-286-4437 or email [ogul@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ogul@sbcglobal.net).

*PTA.....Continued from page 1*

swing a jump rope for tandem teams, take pictures, and encourage all the jumpers! February is also our 2nd Annual Rummage Sale... we will be looking for donations, help sorting and organizing, and assistance on the day of the event - look for more information to come!

On March 1, we will be sponsoring our Donuts for Dads event, the counterpart to our Muffins for Moms. Again, dads, grandfathers, uncles, etc, are invited to spend time reading in their child's classroom and join us afterwards for goodies and a get-together.

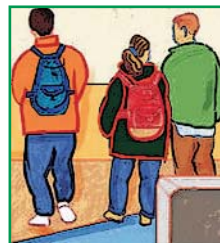
March 14 is the date for this year's Jog-A-Thon. The Jog-A-Thon is our premier fundraising event of the year, as 100% of the proceeds come directly to the school. You can pledge an amount per lap or donate a specified amount, but either way your child's school directly benefits. This is a fun event - students run laps with classmates, teachers, parents, etc. We will need help marking cards, filling cups with water, providing encouragement, etc. Fundraising is a means to carry out the goals and work of the PTA.

Fundraising events provide a valuable service and are a necessity. This year, to date, we have fallen short of our fundraising goals and are having to re-evaluate what we are able to sponsor this year.

March is also the month we will be focusing on electing next year's PTA Board. We will be losing several key members of our Board, and I will be stepping down as President, though I will be staying on to help the new President (if wanted!). All positions, whether currently occupied or not, are up for election. We are seriously looking for new people, new ideas, and new perspectives! I encourage you to consider pursuing a position. Please feel free to ask questions of any of us if you think you may be interested. You have the power to make a difference for your child and all the children here at Green. Watch for more information soon!

We were looking to start our after school programs this month, but unfortunately we have had some space issues needing to be dealt with before we can develop a schedule and commit to some of the organizations wanting to come it. We continue to work on this... more information will be forthcoming as we get it.

There is still a lot of school left, with lots of opportunities to be involved. This is a great school community because of the great staff, students, and parents who are here!



**WHAT'S IN A  
NAME?**

Lots! And we mean LOTS! We have about 100 jackets and sweaters with no names in them that have been collected from the school grounds. What items are left unclaimed will be donated to a local charity. So please write your child's name in their jackets/outer garments so we can return them to your child as soon as possible.



To get the latest information at school about Green and the PTA, stop by and check out our new display cases. On the wall, to the left of the front office and nurses office, we will post calendars, fundraising effort updates and more.

**Please Remember...**

by Front Office Staff

...The deadline for Enrollment Options (Magnet) Applications is January 31, 2007. This is a change from previous years when the deadline was March 15. Applications received during the priority period (by January 31) will be randomized and placed on the first wait list that will be released to schools in early March. If you have any questions, please contact the Green Elementary office at (619) 460-5755 or the Enrollment Options office at the San Diego Unified School District at (619) 725-7153.

... It's flu season and we are trying to keep this Big Bad Bug away! If your child becomes sick with the flu (fever, vomiting, chills, etc.) please keep him/her home until child has been free of symptoms for 24 hours. Thank you for your cooperation.

One more thing...next months Gazette will have information on health care for your child (birth up to age 19). If you would like information before then, please call Healthy Families toll free at 1-800-675-2229.

**Rummage Sale...**

by Norma Swenson

...It's that time!!! Our 2nd Annual Rummage Sale is Saturday, February 24th and we are beginning to accept your donations for this event. We ask that larger items be brought the week before the event. Please refrain from donating old/broken electronics, appliances, etc. Any questions, please call Norma at (619) 460-5755.

**Yearbook News...**

by Heather Williams, Yearbook Coordinator

...We have another awesome book coming together for you and your family. Presales will begin this month with our Yearbook/Love Line Combo for \$21 (yearbook only for \$19.00). Our cover this year has been beautifully illustrated by Kadir Nelson and his daughters, Amel and Aya. Keep your eyes open for the flyers coming home soon. If you would like to see a copy of last years book, stop by the front office for a peek. Interested in advertising in our book, please contact Heather at williams795@cox.net. Thank you!

**Jump Rope 4 Heart...** 

by PE Department

...Jump Rope For Heart is Wednesday, February 14th. This is our community service event for the American Heart Association. Our goal is for 50% of our students to donate \$15.00 or more. Information will be coming home on Wednesday, January 31. Thank you!

**WANTED**

**SPRING FEST COORDINATOR**

We are looking for people who can begin coordinating our first Spring Carnival. It will be held on campus on Saturday, March 28th. Coordination of food, event booths, decorating, and more is needed.

Please contact Val Quick at mikeandvalq@cox.net

**'Keep Green GREEN' Coordinator**

Last year we 'graduated' our coordinator for this event and are looking for people to help organize this years day. Duties include directing families to areas of need of sprucing on campus, scheduling dumpster delivery/pick-up, and creating buzz about this fun family day. The event is scheduled for Saturday, March 24th. For more info, please contact Michele Simon at flintfam@cox.net



**Free Funds for Green**

Information as of 01/10/07



Collected \$113



Collected 48 bags (\$240)



Collected TBA



Collected \$ TBA



cell phone & ink cartridge recycling

Need more Information on these programs? Please visit our web site for complete details. [www.greengeckos.com](http://www.greengeckos.com)

# Muffins For Moms

Wednesday, January 24th at 7:30am (immediately following morning assembly)

Come and enjoy a good book with your child and follow it up with hot coffee and tea and a yummy muffin (or two!). Every year Green school invites mothers, aunts, or grandmothers to bring their favorite book to their child's classroom and spend some time reading to them. It is a fun morning for all. Last year we asked for you to bring a book donation for our newly renovated library and the response was outstanding! We had over 200 books donated last year from this

event alone! This year we thought we would continue with the tradition by asking for new or gently used non-fiction books for our library. If you would rather donate a gift card from a local book store, that would be greatly appreciated. Please stop by the library to see Phase II of the renovation/expansion-it's beautiful! Thank you Cindy Clippinger for running an outstanding library.

Looking forward to seeing you at Green for our Annual Muffins For Moms!

## Meet Kinza

Kinza is an assistance dog in training (part of the 'volunteer puppy program') for Canine Companions for Independence (CCI), a nonprofit organization whose mission is to "enhance the lives of people with disabilities by providing highly trained assistance dogs and ongoing support to ensure quality partnerships." Let me answer some of the most commonly asked questions:



- Are you a trainer?** Answer: No. I am a volunteer "puppy raiser" whose responsibilities are to take Kinza to class twice a month, practice the commands we learn in class, socialize Kinza out in public as much as possible and care for his general health and grooming.
  - Why is Kinza wearing a muzzle?** Answer: Kinza is not wearing a muzzle. The strap around his nose is called a "Halti" or a "Gentle Leader" both of which are "training tools" similar to the "bit" in a horse's mouth that is attached to the reins. These training tools help to guide the dog more gently than a choke chain collar as well as reinforce walking on a "loose leash".
  - Can I pet Kinza?** Answer: YES, but you must ALWAYS ask the handler before petting any service dog or puppy-in-training. The reason for asking is that one of the requirements for these puppies is to learn to greet people and other dogs in a calm manner. Only the puppy raiser or handler must give any command such as 'sit' to the puppy so that the puppy will learn to stay focused only on his handler and not be distracted by other voices and noises. Most important of all is to know that one should never ask to pet a "full service dog" because that dog is "working" and must stay alert at all time while remaining focused on his person in order to listen for the next direction or command.
  - How long will you have Kinza?** Answer: Kinza will matriculate or "move onto the next level of his training" on May 12, 2007. At that time, Kinza will be 18 months old and will continue his training with professional trainers while living in the kennels at CCI's regional center in Oceanside.
- Please come by to meet and greet Kinza. He's ready to shake your hand.

Thank you, Ms. Dreyfuss Room 35

The Gecko Gazette is a monthly publication of the Myron B. Green PTA, a member of the San Diego Unified Council of PTAs, Ninth District, Inc. CPTS. Green Elementary, a 10/10 distinguished school and the only Athletic Magnet Elementary in the State of California is located at 7030 Wandermere Drive, San Diego, CA 92119 • (619) 460-5755

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Submissions welcome: Please submit to [williams795@cox.net](mailto:williams795@cox.net) or [c.northcutt@cox.net](mailto:c.northcutt@cox.net) by **February 5th, 2007**

All articles must be accompanied with phone number for verification and are subject to approval and may be edited for content and space.