

The LEOPARD BEAT!



August 2008

Welcome Leopards!

Volume 1, Issue 1

YOUR LIVE OAK PRINCIPAL

Mrs. Cynthia Seamands

I am so looking forward to this school year! Last year, I was excited about being the Principal of Live Oak. This year, I am still just as excited and anxious to get started. We have a brand new Student Resource Center (Computer Lab) for our Leopards. We thank you for your support in making this become a reality!

We have been working hard to plan a year that will provide many opportunities for academic and personal growth. We know

that with the wonderful support from our families and communities, it will be an incredible year for the Leopards!

Our PTA has developed a very "full" calendar. You will be able to enjoy many family events and your children will benefit from the many enrichment programs our PTA provides.

I look forward to working with all of you as we make 2008-2009 the best year ever!

Mrs. Seamands - Principal

Espanol

Estoy emocionada por el inicio de este nuevo año escolar. El año pasado disfrute mucho de ser la directora de Live Oak y sigo igual de entusiasmada y ansiosa de empazar este año. Tenemos un nuevo centro de computo para nuestros estudiantes. Les agradecemos su apoyo para haber realizado este objetivo. Hemos trabajado mucho para preparar un año lleno de oportunidades para crecimiento academico y personal. Sabemos que con el extraordinario apoyo de nues-

tras familias y comunidad, este sera un año increíble para todos.

Nuestra asociacion de padres y maestros ha organizado un calendario lleno de actividades. Este año

tendra la oportunidad de disfrutar muchos eventos en familia y su hijo/a tendra multiples opportunities de crecimiento.

Hagamos de este año escolar 2008-2009 el mejor!

Mrs. Cynthia Seamands
Directora



Have a Great Year Leopards!

PTA President - Colleen Teeman

Hello Leopards!
My name is Colleen Teeman and I am



very proud to say that I am your PTA President this year. I have been involved in PTA since my daughter, Mackenna (who is now in 5th grade), started school here 5 years ago and this will be my second year as President. I started at Live Oak as Hospitality for PTA and then moved into the Secre-

tary position which I held for two years prior to taking over the job of President last year. I enjoy spending time with my family at the Carpenteria State Beach Campground as well as getting in a few water-skiing and snow skiing trips each year. I work full time for a law firm downtown so if you don't see me around campus that much during the day that's why. As a working mom I have found that PTA is a great way to get involved in my daughter's school life and I have met

some wonderful people in the process. I would encourage everyone to come to our Association meetings which are the first Wednesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. in the MPR. By attending the meetings you will find out what is happening with your child's school and have a voice in where the money we make through fundraising is spent. If you are interested in becoming more active in the school or in the PTA, please give me a call at (661) 775-4892.

Inside this issue:

Meet The Board	2
Meet The Board -	3
Meet The Board -	4
Meet The Board -	5
Coming Up!	6

PTA Board 2008-2009

President

Colleen Teeman

Vice President

Chrystal Walker

1st VP Programs

Natalie Tate

2nd VP Membership

Monique Sullivan

3rd VP Ways and Means

Tara Manly

Secretary

Diana Rotelini-Cataldi

Treasurer

Carmela Bertrand

Historian

Stefanie Rossi

Parliamentarian

Steve Teeman

Book Fair

Lori Hatcher

Boxtops for Education

Leslie Federico

Hospitality

Kristin Eppenbaugh

Junior Achievement

Kristi Johnson

Little Red School House

Lydia Frank

Mother/Son Event

Tammie Conn

Newsletter/Yearbook

Janette Reid

Red Ribbon Week

Kim White

Reflections

Ernestina Aguilar

Kerry Summers

Restaurant Night

Amy Campos

Student of the Month

Michelle Vizcarra

Teacher & Staff Appreciation

Allison Banry

Denise Wade

Volunteer Coordinator

Melissa Coyle

VICE PRESIDENT - Chrystal Walker

Hi I'm Mrs. Walker I have been involved in various PTA's for many years beginning in 1983. My first involvement in PTA was in Garlstadt, Germany as the talent show director. I've enjoyed being President for two years at Central Davis Jr. High School. VP at Central Davis Jr. as well as Secretary, Treasurer, Reflections, Ways and Means/Fundraiser and Bookfair for 4 years. I was involved at Lincoln Elementary School as Safety and Ways and Means and Reflections. I enjoyed a year on Davis County Council. Currently at Live Oak I've had the pleasure of being Founder's Day/ Talent Show and Auditor (with a lot of help!). I have had the pleasure of raising 4 great children. I love art, music and the outdoors...and of course, Live Oak Leopards! I'm looking forward to a wonderful year.



1ST V.P. PROGRAMS - Natalie Tate

Hi Everyone... My name is Natalie Tate and I'm the proud mom of Gavin (7) and Parker (4). My husband Tom and I have lived in the Val Verde community for 19 years, I grew up in Valencia while spending some time in Minnesota and Missouri. I have worked for many people in our area and have seen many changes since 1969. My son Gavin is in the 2nd grade, and Parker will be joining our school in 2009. My passion in life is God, family, art and science. I believe in always offering my best while trying new experiences. I am heading up the Harvest Country Fair and would love your support my email is natscv@sbcglobal.net. I will meet you there. This is truly my 1st year with everyone in our PTA. Let's all try to have fun and get involved in our Leopard's 2008-2009 year...



2ND V.P. MEMBERSHIP

Monique Sullivan

Welcome back OLD and NEW Leopard friends! I'm sure you all had a wonderful and exciting summer, but now that it is over I hope your ready to get back into the GRIND! My name is Monique Sullivan and once again I will serve as your 2008-2009 Membership Chair person. I've held this position 2 years in a row and then became Vice President. I took a small HIATUS for the 2007-2008 year, but am now ready to take on the challenge of Membership again. I hope with your support we will have accomplished the goal of receiving 100% participation. For those of you who do not know me this is my 6th year here at Live Oak Elementary and my 4th year on the PTA board. I am also you fun and friendly yard supervisor, so come say Hi! My son James is a 5th grader this year and my daughter Paxton is a 4th grader. We have loved being Live Oak Leopards from the day we walked through those scary Kindergarten gates. I became involved with the PTA because my main objective was and still is to support my children in their academic and social education. By being involved I have been able to help make choices that would benefit not only my children but yours as well. A perfect way to start the school year (and make me look good) would be by joining our wonderful and approachable Live Oak PTA. Look for upcoming fliers/letters for more information and I look forward to serving you the best way possible!



3RD V.P. WAYS AND MEANS

Tara Manly

Hello everyone. My name is Tara Manly and I am your PTA Ways and Means Chair for the 2008-2009 School Year. I have 2 sons, Jacob is 7 and is starting 3rd grade & Ben is 5 and will be starting 1st grade this year. I am a stay at home Mommy for the most part, but work part-time as a Substitute Teacher. See you around and have a great year!"

SECRETARY - Diana Rotelini-Cataldi

Hello everyone! Here we are back at school in record time, too early, too early! What happened to the summer? I am a proud member of the Live Oak PTA and for this school year, 2008-2009, I am the PTA Secretary. In the past I have been Membership Chairperson and assisted with the membership drive in prior years. For the past two years I have been active at Live Oak on other committees, such as, Mother Son Luau, the Book Fairs and volunteering where ever needed. I also enjoy creating backdrops in the MPR for various committees and for my kid's school plays. This is Tino and Nico's last year at Live Oak as 5th graders, so it is also my last year as well to serve on the PTA. There is always something to do at Live Oak that fills our days with rewarding activities and great friends. I look forward to another productive and action-packed year!

**TREASURER - Carmela Bertrand**

Hi, my name is Carmela Bertrand. My family moved to Castaic in 2002. I now have one child who has spent her entire academic career at Live Oak; she's now at CMS as a 6th grader. I also have a 4th grader and a 2nd grader currently at Live Oak. I got involved in the PTA to make a difference for our students. I knew our students were well cared for in the classroom by our great Live Oak Teachers, so I branched out of the classroom and into some PTA activities. I started three years ago by starting a new program, Junior Achievement, and reviving an old one, Women In History, which have both aimed to serve all the students at Live Oak. The PTA gives parents the opportunity to get involved in our kids' education and development. Do you see an unfilled need in our school?



Do you have planning, organizing, writing, and/or creative talents (yes, even acting) to offer? Find a way to get involved and make it happen for our kids! They are only in elementary school a very short time. I'm looking forward to meeting many more students and parents this year!!!
carm90210@dslextreme.com
661-294-1242

HISTORIAN - Stefanie Rossi

Hi my name is Stefanie Rossi, I am trying out the Historian position this year. I have two wonderful kids that go to Live Oak. Ashlynn who will be in the 5th grade this year and my son Cameron who will be going into 4th! My husband Tim is a driver for UPS and I work at Beyond Harmony Med Spa. I do facials, waxing and lots of other beauty treatments! When were not working we enjoy boating and riding motorcycles.

**PARLIMENTARIAN - Steve Teeman**

Hi, my name is Steve Teeman and I am the Parliamentarian for the PTA board this year. My role is to attend the PTA meetings and provide guidance in the conduct of the meetings such as following our bylaws and following proper meeting procedures; like keeping track of motions. Two other important functions include chairing the Bylaws Review Committee and providing instructions to the Nominating Committee for next year's officers. I am currently a Trustee for the Castaic Union School District and I have previously served on the School Site Council. In addition, I am a Town Council Member for Region 3 and I am Chairman of the Town Council's Land Use Committee. I have also



been very active in getting a high school for Castaic and getting the information needed to determine local governance options for all of Castaic.. My wife Colleen (PTA President) and I are looking forward to our daughter Mackenna's fifth-grade year and my grandson, Jeremy Eppenbaugh, is in second grade this year. We moved to Castaic almost five years ago but I have lived in the Santa Clarita Valley for over 33 years. We have a great school and PTA and I love helping out wherever I can.

BOOK FAIR - Lori Hatcher

Hi and welcome back. My name is Lori Hatcher and I am the chairperson for the two book fairs we will have this year. I have a son in fifth grade and a grandson in second grade here at Live Oak. I am looking forward to a great year!

BOXTOPS - Leslie Federico

Hi, my name is Leslie Federico. I've been a PTA volunteer at Live Oak for the past 7 years working on the Boxtops and Spiritwear Committees. I will be continuing working on those committees and will also be helping out with Yearbook too. My husband Gary and I have made Castaic home for 18 years now and enjoy the small close knit community here. We have three children: Alex, an 8th Grader at the middle school; Jake, a 5th Grader at Live Oak and Luke, who will be a Live Oak Leopard in a couple of years. Volunteering at the school not only has been a fun and truly satisfactory experience, I've met some great new friends and we all share a common goal of helping our children get the best education possible.



HOSPITALITY - Kristin Eppenbaugh

Hello Live Oak Leopards! My name is Kristin Eppenbaugh and I will be in charge of Hospitality this



school year, providing food for the Back to School teachers brunch and Ice Cream Social, as well as all of the PTA meetings! I will also be Room Parent Coordinator for the school year. This is my first year in the PTA and I am very excited! I have lived in Santa Clarita my entire life, and moved to Castaic 8 years ago with my husband Josh. My son, Jeremy, will be in second grade this year at Live oak, and I have another son, Jake who is 11 months old. I run a licensed day care out of my house so I am very very busy but am so lucky to be able to do what I love AND be a stay at home mom! I love being involved with the school and volunteering as much as I can, it's a great feeling! I hope to see a lot of you at the PTA meetings!

JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT**Kristi Johnson**

Hello! My name is Kristi Johnson. I have lived in Castaic 4 years. I have 2 sons attending Live Oak—in 1st



and 4th grade—as well as an almost 2-year-old daughter. They bring a lot of joy and keep me on my toes! When I am not at the school or playing taxi driver, I am a student myself – again! During any spare time I scrape together, I enjoy reading, music, being outdoors, and scuba diving. I love Live Oak and think we have the best teachers in the district! As great as the teachers and administration are, they cannot go it alone. Parents are greatly needed to offer support to ensure the best education for our children. I have loved helping out in the classrooms and in any other way I can over the last few

years, but decided to jump and offer more of my time to the PTA and school as the Junior Achievement Coordinator. I think Junior Achievement is a fun way to introduce students to business and economics.

LITTLE RED SCHOOL HOUSE**Lydia Frank**

Hello and welcome back to a new year! I am Lydia Frank, and this is my fourth year heading The Little Red Schoolhouse. My husband and I have lived in Castaic for eleven years and this is my fifth year involved in this great school. I have two daughters: Nicole is in the 4th grade and Stephanie is in the 1st grade. We had a wonderful summer vacation but we are ready to see all our friends and get this year started. I look forward to seeing you around school.

MOTHER SON EVENT - Tammie Conn**NEWSLETTER & YEARBOOK****Janette Reid**

Hello Leopards, my name is Janette Reid and I can't begin to tell you how excited I am to be taking on the Yearbook and Newsletter!



Originally from the San Francisco Bay Area, my husband Bob and I were fortunate enough to move to Castaic in 2001 with our son Gage. One year later, Serena was born! Gage will be going into his fifth and final year here at Live Oak and Serena will be a big time first grader this year! We are so proud of both of them. Very exciting times at the Reid House!

I've been very active in my children's classes for five years now and am very fortunate to be able to do so. Not only is it wonderful to watch all the kids learn and grow from the excellent teachers here at Live Oak, it's great to be able to meet a lot of

the parents... Many, of whom I now consider dear friends. I look forward to meeting many of you and would love to hear your suggestions.

13reid@sbcglobal.net

REFLECTIONS PROGRAM**Ernestina Aguilar & Kerry Summers**

It is with great pleasure that we bring the Reflections Program to Live Oak for another year. The Reflections Program is an arts recognition and achievement program for students. It provides opportunities for students to express themselves creatively and to receive positive recognition for original works of art inspired by a pre-selected theme.

Participation in the Reflections Program is a great way for students to explore and learn about various art forms. Creating art is a valuable learning process that challenges students to use their critical thinking skills as well as their creative talents to create art that supports a specific theme.

There are five arts areas that students can participate in: Literature, Photography, Visual Arts, Dance Choreography, and Film/Video Production. Students may enter in one or more of the specified arts areas. Only original works of arts are accepted.

We are looking for greater participation in the Reflections Program this year. Our theme for 2008-2009 is "Wow!" We encourage everyone to share their creativity in the arts and "Wow" us!



RESTAURANT NIGHT - Amy Campos

Hello, my name is Amy Campos, and I am in charge of organizing Live Oak's Restaurant Nights. My husband Efrain and sons Bryan(11), Michael(6), and



Charles(4) have lived in Castaic for 11 years. I have been involved with the Live Oak PTA since my Middle School child was in Kindergarten, and I've been planning Live Oak's Restaurant Nights for the past 4 years. On the last Wednesday of each month, Live Oak chooses a philanthropic restaurant which will donate from 15% to 25% of the sales that we bring in back to our school. Our teachers and staff here at Live Oak along with our amazing students, family, and friends help make this fundraiser a success which can bring in an extra \$2,500.00 over the course of the school year. Taking time out once a month to share a meal with our principal, teachers, friends, classmates, and families creates precious memories of elementary school for your children along with a positive sense of community that they will be able to reflect on for many, many years. Great food, friends, family, timely service, and no kitchen to clean up! You might even get your picture in the newsletter or yearbook! Join us for Restaurant Night every month! Look for flyers in your child's backpack. Thanks in advance for making my "job" a true pleasure.

STUDENT OF THE MONTH

Michelle Vizcarra

RED RIBBON WEEK - Kim White**VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR**

Melissa Coyle

TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

Allison Barry & Denise Wade



My name is Allison Barry and I have the best PTA position. I am a co-chair with Denise Wade (one of the best moms I know) and we work on the Teacher Staff Appreciation Week and Luncheon. We have way too much fun. My husband, Nate, and I have lived in Castaic for just over 6 years now. We have a 10th grade daughter, Emalee at VHS this year, a 7th grade daughter, Chayse at CMS, a 1st grade daughter, Maryn at Live Oak and a 3-year-old son, Nathan. We will be at Live Oak for a LONG time!!!

Denise and I have been working on this great event for the past 6 years and we've got a pretty good system going. We have lost a few of our wonderful, faithful committee members this past spring so we would love some new help for this next year. We start planning and shopping in January. Our theme for next year is.... Shhh it's a secret.... Come join our committee and you'll find out!!!

My name is Denise Wade and for the last 6 years it has been my privilege to work with Allison on Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week. Allison can turn any job into fun. My husband, Gordon, and I have lived in Castaic for 22 years. We think Castaic is the most wonderful place to raise a family. Our son, Gavin, will be in 7th grade at CMS this year and our daughter, Elise, will be in the 5th grade. I can't believe this is our 8th year at Live Oak! As Allison said, we start planning in January so keep an eye out for TSAW request for volunteers in the newsletter. We would love to have you join us - no experience necessary.

A very special THANK YOU to Jose Corona and family at VALENCIA FULFILLMENT, INC.,

(25605 Avenue Stanford, Valencia CA 91355.

Tel. 661.775.2712

Fax 661.775.5952)

for offering to print all of our Newsletters and PTA fliers! Myself and the PTA Executive Board, greatly appreciate your generosity! The Corona family have 2 children here at Live Oak, Samantha a 3rd grader and David who's in 1st grade.

Sincerely,

Janette Reid - Newsletter

OPEN POSITIONS STILL AVAILABLE

Auditor

Child Welfare

Father/Daughter Dance

Founder Day

Women In History

If you are interested in any of these positions, please visit our website,

liveoakpta.com or contact

Colleen Teeman at

cteeman@sbcglobal.net

Back-to-School Night!!!

Wednesday, August 20th 2008

This is a shortened day for K - 5th Grade

6pm 1st - 3rd	Classroom Presenters
6:30pm 1st - 5th	Meet in the MPR
6:45pm 4th & 5th	Classroom Presentations

COMING UP!

- ◆ August 27 is restaurant night at Wings-N-Things, Gandolfos & Maui Wowi
- ◆ September 3 PTA Association meeting with speaker at 6:30 in the MPR
- ◆ September 12 Computer lab ribbon cutting
- ◆ September 24 restaurant night (TBD)
- ◆ September 27 Fall Country Fair 3-7pm
- ◆ October 1 PTA Association Meeting 6:30 in the MPR

LiveOakPTA.com

Introducing the new Live Oak Elementary School PTA website!

Live Oak PTA has started it's own website. Please visit Liveoakpta.com for the who, what and where of all your PTA events. At the website you'll find:

Kids online resources	Volunteer opportunities	Fundraising information
PTA contacts	School information	Lunch menu
PTA Calendar	Upcoming PTA event information	

Don't forget to drop us a note when you stop by and let us know what you think.
The website is a work in progress, so all your ideas are welcome.