

A California Distinguished School Award Winner

June/ July 2007

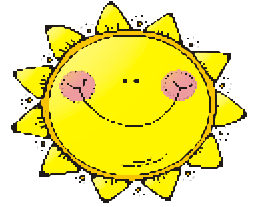
# Leif Ericson Elementary

*The Extra Effort School*

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# IT'S SUMMER !

## Principally Speaking

After a long sigh of relief, teachers seem to be joyfully skipping away after turning in their testing basket. The two weeks of state testing is over, but learning continues until our very last day, July 20th and even then our work is not over.

I say "our" because it takes a team, parents and the teacher, to support a child. We now need your commitment as parents to keep this learning alive over the summer break.

On July 17<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. in our MU room, a team of our teachers, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. White, Mrs. Wilson, Mr. Rainwater and Mr. Barham will offer a series of mini sessions entitled "60 Minutes to Summer Success". If you are looking for ways to keep your child learning throughout the summer break these sessions may be for you. These forty minute sessions will cover Reading, Writing, Math and Technology. Please look for the flyer with details coming home soon. Reserve your space early.

Here are a few ideas to consider how to keep your child engaged during a long summer break.

1. You **must** encourage (enthusiastically) your child to read 20 – 50 (K-5) minutes a day. Support your child by participating in reading incentive programs sponsored by the Mira Mesa Library and Barnes and Noble. The good news is that you can use the same books to log in and count for all programs.
2. Writing is part of life. Have your child write letters, post cards, to do lists, keep a journal, a diary, a travel log, etc.. Involve them in family projects such as planning a trip, barbeque, pool party, etc.
3. Find time during the week to brush up on basic math routines with your child. Ideas to support this could be going shopping and using money, recipes, sewing or crafts to work on measurement.

The Home School Connection insert, included in this newsletter, also will offer great ideas to get through what seems to be a longer than usual summer break.

We are all on a roll with technology. We just received word that we are the recipients of an \$80,000 (estimate) voucher settlement award from Microsoft.

Soon we will be planning where we will apply the funding from this voucher. Recently, we received \$7,000 to support our computer lab from our Friends of Ericson Foundation and another \$1,000 donation from an Ericson family and Qualcomm match.

Next week Mr. Howard Fincher and his seminar class will be opening our new Ericson TV broadcasting studio. Their programming will offer school wide announcements, news shows, special presentations and instructional programming. We could even have a "call in" with a question program! We are so excited!

Soon we will be part of a wonderful new service to families called Connect Ed. The school can call homes with emergency updates, important school news, reminders, attendance inquiries and we even will be able to set up "wake up calls" for families requesting help getting their little one up in the morning! Isn't technology wonderful!

It's hard to believe that we are coming to the end of an amazing school year. Without the incredibly supportive Ericson team, my job would be impossible to manage. This team includes so many people! I want to thank all of you who make a difference for our children: teachers, support staff, office staff, custodial crew, cafeteria staff, noon duty, PTA, SGT/SSC/ Friends, webmaster Andrew Morse, volunteers, business partners, and of course, YOU, the caring families who send us these wonderful children ready to learn each day.

Have a fantastic summer break!

For the children  
I remain,

Linette da Rosa  
Principal

School  
starts  
September 4  
7:50 a.m. –  
2:05 p.m.



## **Goodbye Fifth Graders**

Good luck to all of you! Through the years we all have grown and become so much smarter. You have been an awesome fifth grade. You have been wonderful role models for Vikings at Ericson. You will all be missed. Best of luck!

We will honor you after our End of the Year Awards Assembly on July 20<sup>th</sup>. There will be two promotion ceremonies one at 9:50 a.m. and the other at 11:00 a.m. Families will receive a notice as to which time slot will be for their student.

## **Student Council**

I would also like to thank Sydney Murdoch and the Student Council board under the direction of teacher, Mrs. Annette Warren, for their great leadership this year.

## **Yearbook Sales**

Yearbook orders have now closed. They will be delivered the week of July 16<sup>th</sup>. Enjoy!

## **Dress Code....for success**

Just another reminder that as hot weather arrives, children need to continue to come dressed appropriately for school. Please do not send children with skimpy beachwear, halter or midriff showing tops, too short shorts or rubber flip flop thongs. Children who wear sandals must have straps holding the heel. Clothing that distracts from the learning environment, i.e. offensive logos, or exposed underwear is unacceptable school attire and parents will be contacted for a change of clothing. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

## **Last Chance!...Lost and Found**

Still looking for your child's winter jacket or spring sweater? Come to the entry of the MU and take a final look. We will also display the items on the evening of Open House. All remaining items will be donated to charity. Thank you Student Council for helping with this!

## **Bike Safety**

Students at Ericson must be in grades 4 or 5 to ride a bike to school unaccompanied by an adult. Your child **MUST** wear a helmet (it's the law) and have a sturdy lock to secure the bike at school. Please review safety precautions with your child and take trial runs before the first day of school. We will be having a bike safety assembly at the end of the month. Ask your child to tell you about it.



## **End of the Year Awards Bring your camera!**

All families are invited to join us for the end of the Year Awards Assembly on Friday, July 20<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m. in the quad. After part one of the program, the K-4<sup>th</sup> grade students will wave goodbye to the fifth graders and be dismissed back to class. Fifth graders will return to the MU at their designated time slot for the upper grade awards, which includes the prestigious Presidential Awards and to receive their certificates.

## **Last Day Flip**

Just a reminder that the last two days of school, July 19 and 20, will have flipped schedules. Thursday, July 19, that traditionally is a half day, will be a FULL day of school and Friday, July 20, the last day of school, will be a half day. Dismissal will be at 12:15 p.m.

## **Library Books Overdue?**

Mrs. Handley, our library assistant, is still missing a tremendous number of library books. Please check under couches, beds, backpacks, etc.... Families receive a bill for lost books. Thank you!

## **Visiting Family Members**

Once traditional calendar schools are out for the summer, non-Ericson students begin to appear on campus during school hours. Often middle or high schools students will tell their parents they are going to Ericson to help a former teacher. Before they are allowed to volunteer, students must make arrangements with the teacher and provide written parental permission to the school office. We love our families, but please keep your youngsters on summer vacation off our school grounds. We are still learning!

## **We Need Your Watchful Eyes**

We are looking for morning or noon supervision parent helpers. This is a great opportunity to spend part of your child's day on campus helping and getting paid. The pay is about \$11.00 per hour. The time slots are fifteen to 90 minutes daily. Can you help us? Call our office.

## **RUN FOR YOUR LIFE !**

We are also looking for parents who would help supervise a fitness program two - three times a week, where students could voluntarily run laps on the field before school. We have applied for grant money to purchase the materials and pay parent to do this. Please call Mrs. daRosa if you are interested.

## **STAR Scores to Arrive Home**

If you have children in grades 2-5 you will be receiving the results of your child's spring STAR testing via US mail in mid or late August. Our school's results will be posted on the California Department of Education web site where you will also find the preliminary testing results for our district. Our local newspaper, the Union Tribune, will also publish each school's results. If you have questions about your child's or the school's scores, please do not hesitate to call.

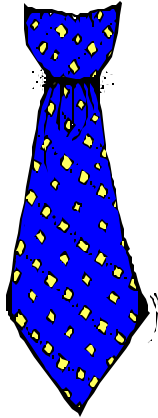
## June Message

to parents

from our

**Superintendent  
Dr. Carl Cohn**

(See enclosure)



### Arson

There is a cash reward offered for anyone who can provide us with a tip that will lead to who has been burning jackets in the bungalow area after school hours. Keep your eyes open! If you have information, please let me (Mrs.daRosa) know.

### Emperor's New clothes Musical

Come one... come all!  
Don't miss our spring musical presented by the fourth and fifth grade chorus. Performances are Monday, July 9<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. and Tuesday, July 10<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m., 1:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Students are hard at work to make this a great and memorable performance. See you there! – Mrs. Ferguson, Chorus Teacher

### Contract of Independent Study-CIS

Parents can arrange for a CIS for their student who will be gone from school for 1 – 20 days. If the student completes the assignments, the student can earn credit for classroom time. Parents need to call Mrs. Larson in the office a minimum of five days in advance of the absence to allow the teacher time to prepare the assignments. The parent must come in to sign the contract and pick up the assigned work. The student is required to turn in the completed work to the teacher on the first day he/she is back to school. If the work is not returned on the first day back, the student does not receive credit for the days absent.

### Goodbye and Good Luck!

**We are sorry to see the following Ericson Staff members leave us at the end of the school year:**

Mrs. Peggy Williams- Retirement  
Mrs. Vicki Lucas Graham – Moving to Missouri  
Mrs. Erica Casiano – Pending Placement  
Ms. Lisa Eisenberg – Pending Placement  
Mrs. Dianne Martinez – Pending Placement  
Ms. Jaime Jensen – Pending Placement  
Ms. Tara Jenkins – Pending placement  
Mrs. Cathy Gunlach – Moving to Washington DC

### Colonists on the loose!

If you see a few colonists walking through our school you are not seeing things. June 19 - 21<sup>st</sup> are the days that fifth graders and some grown ups will be exploring what it would have been like to have lived in the 1700's.

### Open House June 21 – Join Us!

The evening will begin in the MU with a First Grade performance at 6:00 p.m. followed by a PTA Unit meeting at 6:30 p.m. Classrooms will be opened after the meeting. Come by room 53 and see the wonderful student art work. Students are to remain in the company of their parents. Also, please do not park and block neighbors' driveways. Thank you!

### 2007-2008 School Hours

We are expecting our school hours to remain the same next school year. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday school hours will be 7:50 a.m. - 2:05 p.m. and our modified day will continue to be Thursdays, 7:50 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

### Who's my Teacher ?

Class lists will be posted on Friday, August 31st after 5 p.m. in the bungalow window of room 71 and on the first day of school inside the quad area. We have an excellent teaching staff. Although we do our best to thoughtfully place children in new classrooms, at times our original plans may change because of unexpected staffing or enrollment changes after the first day of school. We appreciate your trust and understanding.

### New neighbors with children

Our office will be open again starting August 27th from 7:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. to enroll new students

### Moving?

Please let us know if your family will not be returning to Ericson next year. This info helps us when planning for the new school year.

### School Supplies

Please check the enclosed **suggested** supply list that each grade level has identified for the new school year. Summer is a great time to get a head start on school supply bargains! Office Depot offers us 5% back from your purchases when you give them our name or # **70013882**.



**Voting Ballot for Shared Governance Team/School Site Council/ Friends Boards - (Clip and return to office by July 3rd)**

**Vote (with an "X") for two "parent at large" positions:**

           **Adrianna Baker**

*Has been an active parent and member of our PTA/SSC/SGT/ Friends Foundation boards for the past two years. She has two children at our school.*

           **Barbara Major**

*Has been an active parent and member of our SSC/SGT/ Friends Foundation boards for the past two years. She has two children at our school.*

           **Write In Candidate** \_\_\_\_\_

**SSC/SGT/Friends**

*(School Site Council/Shared Governance Team/Friends Foundation)*

Next meeting will be June 25<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 p.m. library. See showcase for complete minutes and agenda covered at last meeting:

- Parent Teacher requests
- Copy machine and copy allocations
- Community Service

**PTA News**

Thank you PTA for the emergency kit coolers!

- Unit meeting June 21, 6:30p.m.
- USA Day Fair June 23, 12:00 – 4 p.m.
- Summer Scholastic Book Fair open through 7/17.
- Yearbooks orders  
Distribution the week of July 16th

**Ericson Live! You are on TV on Channel 3**

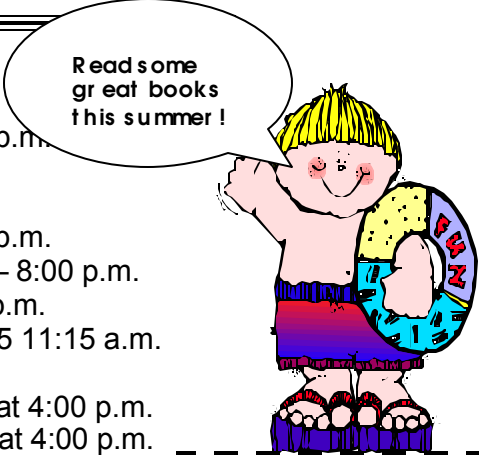
Next week Mr. Fincher and his seminar class will be launching our very own Ericson broadcast. How cool is that!

**Health Office News**

- Don't forget to get the required kindergarten oral exam and first grade physical in before your child starts school.

**Dates Ahead (Clip and Post)**

When	What	Place/Time
June 21	First Grade Performance	MU 6:00 p.m.
June 21	PTA Unit Meeting	MU 6:30
June 21	Classrooms are open following PTA Meeting	
June 21	Second Grade Performance	Rm 20 7:00 p.m.
June 21	Art Exhibition- School wide- all grades	Rm 53 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.
June 25	SGT/SSC/Friends Meetings	Library/ 2:30 p.m.
June 28	Student Recognition Assembly	K-1 10:40/ 2-5 11:15 a.m.
June 28	Backwards Day	
July 2,3,5,6	OCILE Old Town Grade 4	All day return at 4:00 p.m.
July 2,3,5,6	OCILE Balboa Park Grade 5	All day return at 4:00 p.m.
July 4	Independence Day Observance	<b>NO SCHOOL</b>
July 5	Crazy Hair Day	
July 11	Kindergarten Jump Start Program for new Ks	MU 9 a.m./1 p.m.
July 12	Pajama Day	
July 17	60 Minutes to Summer Success Parent workshop	MU vary
July 19	Show Your Spirit Day	
July 19	Flip day Thursday will be	Full day of school
July 20	Last Day (Friday) of School (Half Day)	Dismissal 12:15 p.m.
July 20	End of the Year Awards	Quad 8:00 a.m.
July 20	Fifth Grade Awards and Certificates	MU 9:50/11:00 a.m.
Aug 27	School Office Opens	7:30-3:30p.m.
Aug 30	Kindergarten Orientation	MU 1:00 p.m.
Sept 4	First Day of School (Full Day 7:50 a.m.- 2:05 p.m.)	



**Special VIP Coupon**  
*If your family has read this newsletter issue you may cut out this coupon, write your name and room number at the bottom and drop it off in the Viking Bottle in the office. You will have a chance to win a special prize at our next Spirit Day.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Student Name**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Room Number**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Parent Signature**

**A special "THANK YOU" to our Partners in Education for the wonderful support offered throughout this school year. We couldn't have done it without you!**

**Souplantation - Mira Mesa, Mira Mesa Senior Citizen Center, Washington Mutual Bank – Scripps**

### **Mira Mesa Senior Citizen Center**

We would like to offer a heartfelt thank you to our partner for their years of support and their recent generous \$200 donation to our school. Thank you!

### **Captain Book from the Kiwanis Club**

made a surprise visit to room 25 with a treasure chest full of books. Mrs. Albert entered the Treasure Chest Literacy Program and won! Wow!!!

### **Computer Lab Bytes**

Computer skills and technology "know-how" are necessities for children in today's world. Ericson values this need and has invested in a computer lab that students visit on a weekly basis for thirty minutes. Teachers integrate district technology standards with classroom curriculum providing a customized approach for their students. Students use primary keyboarding programs, as well as, word processing programs to publish poems, stories, reports and various text assignments. Students do use the internet for research projects. Several websites provide reinforcement of reading and language arts concepts, as well as, refinement of math skills. The good news is that funds have been secured recently to upgrade part of the lab which is greatly needed as technology is continuously changing.

### **Congratulations Award Winners!**

Enclosed is a list of our latest Student Recognition Award winners. Way to go Vikings!

### **Water Sales**

Come by the MU after school and buy some icy, cold water. This is a fundraiser for sponsoring classrooms.

### **\$\$\$ Donations**

Thank you to our recent monetary donors. We appreciate you!  
Albertsons \$57.16  
Qualcomm Employee match \$500.00  
These cash gifts will be deposited in our Friends Foundation account.

### **60 minutes to Summer Success**

Back by popular demand.... We will be offering again a five mini sessions to help parents and students get through the long days of summer on Wednesday, July 17<sup>th</sup>.

Subjects offered will be math fun, reading and writing ideas, websites for kids, and ideas to support English Learners.

The 60 minute sessions will be scheduled from 8:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m. You can pick and choose your sessions. Sign up and join us. Look for the flyer out next week!

### **Make a Difference**

Mrs. Rhoda Stephens-Yoder and Ms. Lisa Anstead met recently with Dr. Carl Cohn, our superintendent, to discuss the possibility of adopting a school, classroom by classroom, in a third world country. All we would need to do is raise \$37.00 a month to provide an impoverished school the supplies we may take for granted. So how would we do this? They would like to begin by recycling aluminum cans and plastic bottles. We ask you to bring them to the container in front of the MU. It would help if you would be sure they are completely empty before depositing them.

Mrs. Stephens Yoder and Ms. Anstead see this as just the beginning..... wouldn't it be wonderful to have every school in the district adopt a third world school!

### **We Have a National Lego Contest Winner !**

Third grader, April Hillman is a member of the Lego Brick Masters Club. She recently entered the National Lego Contest called the "Lego Dream House Building Challenge". The challenge was to design and build a dream house out of Lego bricks and to write an essay about the house. The contest was open to all age groups. April's house was selected as the winner. She won the grand prize of \$100 worth of Lego products of her choice. Her "Dream House" will be featured in the July issue of Lego Magazine. Congratulations April !!!

### **Spelling Bee**

Along with Sandburg and Hickman elementary schools, Ericson participated once again in the Community Spelling Bee. Congratulations to the following students who won at the Ericson Spelling Bee and represented us at the Community Bee.

Grade 1 –	Tobey Pineda Meryll dela Cruz
Grade 2	Abigail Findley Aldo Vargas
Grade 3	Ryan Tat Kelly Kanuha
Grade 4	Michael Bourgeois Lisa Vo
Grade 5	Michael Le Nhi Quach

We had a first place winner at the Community Bee, Meryll dela Cruz won a ribbon, a certificate, a \$30 gift card for Barnes and Noble. Wow Meryll !

### **Art Awards**

Pentel's 37<sup>th</sup> International Children's Art Exhibition received over 2,000 entries and only 118 were award winners. Out of those, 20 were gold medal awards and 32 were bronze awards. We are so proud of Natalia Caldwell who won a bronze for her depiction of a Masai Warrior, and Vivian Phan who won the gold for her illustration of pond life.

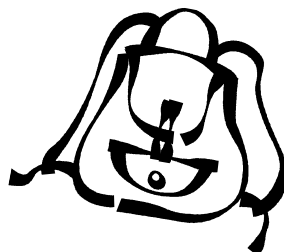
**Insert picture**

ERICSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL--SUGGESTED SUPPLY LIST--TO SUPPORT THE CLASSROOM 2007-2008

<u>KINDERGARTEN</u>	
*Traditional backpack - large enough to fit a notebook	1
*Snack box/bag	1
*Lunch box (if eating cold lunch)	1
*Spiral notebook for monthly homework	1
*Markers, washable (thick and thin)	1 box
*Thick Large <b>Crayola</b> crayons	1 box
Thick glue sticks or glue gel	3
*Colored pencils	1
\$5 donation in envelope for photo developing	
Tissues, large boxes (soft ones, please)	2
Hand sanitizer	1
Wet wipes or baby wipes	1
Slide lock "zipper" Ziploc bags - (choose from: 2 gallon, 1 gallon, quart or sandwich or snack size)	
Packages of stickers and fun pencils	
Paper plates, napkins, spoons, forks, or paper towels	
Fun band-aids	

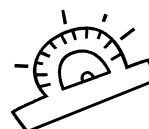
<u>* FOR INDIVIDUAL USE</u>	
<u>SECOND GRADE</u>	
*Traditional backpack	1
*Crayola markers, (thick or thin)	1 box
*Crayola crayons, 24 count	1 box
Tissues	2 large boxes
Disposable cameras with flash	1
Ziploc bags, (gallon or sandwich size)	1 or 2
Hand sanitizer	1
Unscented baby wipes	2
Paper towels	2 rolls
*Colored pencils	Pkg. of 12
*Highlighter, any color	1
Scotch brand tape	1
Elmer's glue 4 ounces	1
Colored medium Post-its	1
Folder, two-pocket (1 solid red, 1 solid blue, plain-no prongs, no pictures, no designs)	2

<u>FOURTH GRADE</u>	
*Traditional backpack	
*Folders, 2-pocket	2
*Notebook/binder, 3-ring w/ 1 1/2 " metal rings	1
*Notebook paper, standard school, wide ruled	1 pkg.
*Dividers, set of 5 w/ tabs	1 pkg.
*Composition books (writer's notebook with cardboard cover)	2
*Markers	1 box
*Pencil box for supplies	1
*Pouch, large zippered for notebook	1
*Crayons, 24 count	1 box
*Colored pencils, 12 count	1 box
*Dry erase markers, 1 black, 2 colored	3
*Highlighter, any color	1
Glue sticks	2
*Calculator, hand-held	1
Hand sanitizer	1
Tissues	4 boxes



<u>FIRST GRADE</u>	
Folder, two-pocket (1 solid red, 1 solid blue, plain-no prongs, no pictures, no designs)	2
Tissues (Kleenex)	2 boxes
Ziploc baggies (gallon size)	1 box
*Crayons, 16 count	1 box
Glue sticks	5
Hand sanitizer	1 bottle
Wet wipes	2 pkgs
Paper towel	1 roll
Disposable camera (inside/outside) or \$5 for developing	1
Stickers for rewards	1 pkg/roll

<u>THIRD GRADE</u>	
*Traditional backpack	1
*Folders, paper, with two pocket	2
*Markers, washable, (thick and thin)	2 boxes
*Pencil box, 4" x 8" maximum	1
*Colored pencils, sharpened	1 box
*Highlighter	2
Post it notes, various sizes	
Tissues	1 box



<u>FIFTH GRADE</u>	
*Traditional backpack	1
*Folders, 2-pocket (Plastic heavy duty, item #449-021 at Office Depot)	2
*Notebook/binder, 1" 3-ring	1
*Pens, red ballpoint	3
*Highlighter, yellow	1
*Glue stick, white	1
*Post it notes, various sizes	2
*Calculator, hand-held	1
*Dictionary for home use	1
*Thesaurus	1
*Protractor	1
*Compass	1
Handsoap, pump bottle	1
Tissues	2 boxes