



# Cougar Corner

FEBRUARY 23RD 2010

## *What is happening in the classroom?*

### **Art Elective**

"I can't believe that I drew that!" "Would you please put my work up?" Those words and the sheer joy that appears on the face of the students in the Art Elective makes this class one of the most rewarding times of the day. Most of the students arrive believing that they cannot draw and are not even slightly creative. Some come with a limited amount of expertise; but none have tried a wide variety of techniques, nor have most of them been exposed to a diversified realm of artists. This year, the Art class has investigated the

work of Franz Marc, James Gill, Chagall, Van Gogh, Escher, and more contemporary painters and sculptors. The Language Arts elements of plot, characterization, figurative language, correct sentence structure, and a variety of poetic forms have been imbedded within the artistic presentations. All in all, the students have thrived, grown, struggled and blossomed as they tapped into their individual creative spirit. While all of the students are not always scholastically brilliant in school, all of them have found artistic success. Everyone in the Art

Elective is looking forward to sharing their creative work with you. We hope to have it displayed the night of conferences and again during Open House later in the Spring.

### **End of 2nd Trimester**

The 2nd trimester ends Wednesday February 24th. The end of a grading period means **Honor Roll!!!** Each student who makes the honor roll will have his/her name posted in the Dixon Tribune as a C.A. Jacobs honor roll student. Each student will also receive a special treat from the C.A. Jacobs Parents Association. Way to go!!

### **Parent Conferences are next week!!**

Wednesday and Thursday are minimum days so teachers have the opportunity to conduct parent conferences. You will only receive notice that a teacher is requesting a conference if your child is in danger of failing or having some social struggles in class. For all parents who do not receive a conference notice, but would still like to meet with teachers, we will be hosting an arena conference. The arena conferences are Thursday, March 3rd from 4:30—6:30 PM in the C.A. Jacobs gym. These are no appointment necessary drop in conferences.

## *CST Writing Assessment is March 2nd*

Each spring, public school students in grades four and seven, who participate in the California Standards Tests complete a writing task as part of the California English—Language Arts Standards Test (CST for English—Language Arts). Below are some common FAQ's regarding the writing assessment:

**Who takes the CST for Writing?** All students in grades four and seven who take the multiple-choice part of the CST for English—Language Arts also respond to a writing task (prompt).

**What types of writing are**

**required on this writing task for 2009?**

The type of writing that will be required for the CST for Writing is not announced in advance; therefore, students must be prepared to respond to the following possible types of writing:

*Fictional narrative  
Response to literature  
Persuasive writing  
Summary*

**How much time are students given to respond to the writing task?**

The CST for Writing is not timed. Students are

given approximately 75 minutes to read the information, plan their written response, and complete a first draft. Students who are actively working at the end of the allotted time must be allowed more time to complete their responses.

Our students and Language Arts teachers have worked very hard in preparation for this assessment. All of our students have learned and practiced a structured writing process that will be their guide as they take this assessment. We look forward to some great success!!

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

- 2/24 End of Trimester
- 2/25 ELAC
- 2/26 Grades Mailed home
- 3/3 & 3/4 Minimum Days Parent Conferences
- 3/4 Arena conferences 4:30—6:30 PM