

February 2008

Dear El Camino Community:

We are well into our last year as El Camino Middle School and students and staff are working diligently to make this a successful year to remember.

Teachers and students are getting ready for the annual testing season, which begins in March for our 7th grade class with the Writing Assessment. After the spring break (March 17 – 28, 2008) all teachers will focus on making sure that students are prepared for the testing in April/May by reviewing previously learned content and test-taking strategies, as well as presenting new material.

Parents and the school are partners who work together for the growth of all our children. Parents can help by getting students to school on time every day and providing time, materials and encouragement so students continue their learning at home. The best way to ensure academic growth in students is daily reading for enjoyment and skills practice.

We continue to offer after-school interventions in reading and math, tutoring by individual teachers and homework assistance after school. I am pleased to see many students taking advantage of these services and the confidence these students display about their learning. Our PTSA has been actively supporting the after-school program by donating snacks for the students.

Before we close our doors in June, we have some exciting experiences for our students to look forward to, such as our eighth grade trip to the Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles and our seventh grade trips to the Arroyo Hondo Preserve in May after the California Standards Tests. Parents will be notified and must give permission for students to participate. If you are interested in accompanying the students as a chaperon, please contact the school. Sixth grade students already went to Santa Barbara to attend the Santa Barbara Film Festival. Other than the trips, our Leadership Class is also planning two dances for our students and other fun-filled activities.

There will be a variety of volunteer opportunities for parents, guardians or grandparents who would like to spend some time helping us to make these events memorable. Our PTSA is always ready to give our events that special touch by donating time, celebratory cakes and other refreshments. On June 4th, we will hold a Closing Ceremony to which all of the El Camino Community will be invited. If you would like to be a part of the planning committee, please contact Mrs. Pressman at 742-2550.

I am looking forward to a successful second semester. Please do not hesitate to contact me at desmondl@lompoc.k12.ca.us if I can be of further assistance in making El Camino Middle School the best place for your child to learn.

Sincerely,
Lore E. Desmond
Principal