



# Shooting Star

February 2012



## Gallo's Good News By Karrie Gallo, Assistant Principal

Hello South Families,

We have now passed the midway point in the school year. It hardly seems possible. It has been a great year so far! I love working in the elementary school with your children. They are so excited about school and they look forward to learning something new every day.

I think of children as sponges who soak up information from all of their surroundings. However, it can sometimes be difficult to communicate with young children. Here are some tips for helping with communication. **Be interested.** Ask them about their ideas and opinions on a regular basis. Let them know you are genuinely interested. **Ask open-ended questions.** Ask questions that will encourage them to open up. For example, "What subject is your favorite?" **Extend the conversation.** Try to keep them talking by asking them, "Why is that subject your favorite?" **Share your thoughts.** Sharing what you are thinking and feeling shows your children that you understand them. Children really enjoy talking when they realize they have something in common with another person. **Reflect feelings.** Empathy is vital. It is important for children to know that you can put yourself in their shoes. These strategies can help create open and ongoing conversations that can create memories that last a lifetime.

This is also a great time to discuss our school rules and positive behavior supports (PBS). Our rules at South are **Be Respectful, Be Re-**

**sponsible, and Be Safe.** The big question, however, is "What do those rules look like?" Some examples include; listening to the teacher, helping friends in the classroom, and keeping our hands and feet to ourselves. When students are caught being good... they can earn Star Cards in the school and Bus Bucks on the bus. Each quarter, the students can turn in their Star Cards and Bus Bucks for prizes off of our PTC sponsored PBS Rewards Cart. The PBS Rewards Cart comes around once a month and students earn prizes for their great behavior. Once a quarter, the students can earn a grand prize! Last quarter, almost 50 students participated in "Kinecting with the Principals". Our generous PTC purchased an Xbox 360 with a Kinect to be used for student incentives. We had a great time playing games such as, Great Adventures and Just Dance. This reward will also be offered at the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter.

As always, I appreciate you for supporting our school and district. We couldn't do all that we do, without you as our partner.

Sincerely,

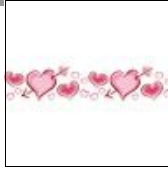
Karrie Gallo

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# Happy Birthday



## Valentine Class Parties



### February

- 1 Shannon Bowling
- 4 Kendra Zoller
- 11 Michelle Hilbert
- 11 Jan Miller
- 13 Cindy Smith
- 16 Paul Joseph
- 17 Michael Albrecht
- 18 Sally Hanes
- 28 Debbie Hasselbeck
- 29 Carolyn Buchner

Feb 14

1-2nd grade classes: 1:30 - 2:30

3-4th grade classes: 2:45– 3:45

## Principal's Message

By Jason Hessel, School Principal

Dear South Families,

I would like to take the opportunity to thank the students, staff, and parents of South for their warm welcome. I have had wonderful three weeks as the new principal of South Elementary and enjoyed my time getting to know the students and staff. Additionally, I have had a chance to meet many parents as they drop off and pick up their children each day and had the privilege of attending my first South skating party last week. We skated, danced, and overall had a wonderful time, and I encourage everyone to attend next month's skating party. When visiting classrooms, it has been exciting to witness the wonderful teaching and learning taking place. I am honored to be a part of the South Elementary School community.

Our citizenship word for the month of February is *honesty*. We want to encourage all of our students to be honest with their words, thoughts, and to always encourage honesty in others. February is a month full of activities for our students and families. We will be hosting our annual PTC school dance on Friday, February 3rd from 6:30-8:00 pm. I was informed that this is always a huge success and I am excited to get out and dance with the students that night. Our Valentine's Day parties will be held in the afternoon on February 14. The teachers will inform you of the exact time. Our school-wide Jump Rope for Heart will take place on Friday, February 17th. We will also have a Book Fair the week of February 27th and finish out that week with our Family Literacy Night on March 1<sup>st</sup> starting at 6:30 pm. More details to come. As always, we hope that you will participate with your children in our school activities. We look forward to seeing you at each event.

Thank you for your continued support. If I can assist in any way, please do not hesitate to contact me by email [husel\\_j@fairfieldcityschools.com](mailto:husel_j@fairfieldcityschools.com) or by phone, 829-3078.

Sincerely,  
*Jason J. Hessel*



## **PTC President's Corner**

*From Misty Murnahan, PTC President*



I can't believe it's already February! Spring will be here before we all know it, but in the meantime, let's keep our fingers crossed for at least ONE snow day! There are still quite a few fun events the PTC is working on, and we could use your help, so if you haven't had a chance to come to a PTC meeting, the next one will be on Tuesday, February 7th at 6:30pm in the library. We will be discussing a new Donuts With Dad date, and PTC positions that will be open in the Fall. We will give out an item of Spirit Wear to one lucky person. Feel free to bring your children. We are on Facebook! Go to Fairfield South PTC and "like" us. Events and news are updated regularly.

### **THANK YOUS!**

Thank you to Tammy Harris for organizing the Family Movie Night. The children had a great time with their families eating pizza and watching The Smurfs! Thank you to the parents who helped Tammy run concessions. Thank you to the volunteers who helped with the DIBELS testing, and thank you to Brianne Miller for organizing the School Directory that went home with all of the children. Also, thank you to Brianne and Tammy for helping me run the concession stand at all of the 4<sup>th</sup> grade basketball games in January!

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

- 2/3 South's Big Top Dance from 6:30-8:00pm in the gym
- 2/7 PTC Meeting at 6:30pm in the library
- 2/14 Market Day pickup from 6:00-7:00pm in the gym
- 2/14 Valentine Class Parties
- 2/27 Book Fair runs through March 2<sup>nd</sup> in the conference room

# FEBRUARY 2012

Character Counts: Honesty

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Week B			1	2	3 Big Top Dance from 6:30-8:00pm in the gym	4
	5	6	7 PTC Meeting at 6:30pm in the library	8	9	10 School Store open during lunch
Week B	12	13 	14 Valentine Class Parties/ Market Day pickup from 6:00-7:00pm in the gym	15	16	17 Progress Reports
	19	20 Presidents Day No School	21	22	23  Newsletter Deadline	24 School Store open during lunch
Week A	26	27 Book Fair in Conference room	28 Book Fair	29 Book Fair	March 1 Book Fair	2 Book Fair
Week B						3