

HOLMES HAWKEYE

newsletter



●●● JONATHAN SAIBE
PRINCIPAL

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Welcome back from Spring Break vacation. I hope you and your family enjoyed the beautiful weather and made time for many outdoor activities and a few naps in between.

March was a busy month with new interim Common Core Standards Assessments in literacy, math and science as well as our second round of progress reports. Parent-teacher conferences were also held in March. Thanks so much to the parents who participated. We know that involved parents make for the most successful students! Also, Holmes students laced up their running shoes and put their best foot forward for the annual Holmes H.E.R.O. Run on March 13. It was a hot day but the kids put forth a tremendous effort to raise \$39,000, far exceeding our \$25,000 annual goal. Thank you to our PTA, teachers, parents, and corporate sponsors for supporting this great community event.

State Testing-CAASPP

California's new student assessment system is now known as the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP). The CAASPP replaces the Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) program. The CAASPP results will provide important information that will be used to monitor student progress, help teachers make decisions about individual student's academic needs, and be sure all students leave high school prepared for college and a career.

The new assessments will be given to students in grades 3-5 in early May and conclude during the first week of June. For practice tests, go to <http://sbac.portal.airast.org/practice-test/>. The new tests are too different from the old exams to make reliable comparisons between old scores and new. This year's results will establish a baseline for the progress we expect from students.

It's a crucial time for students and Holmes Elementary as we maintain our Distinguished School honor. We'd like to remain one of the top performing schools in the district! Students are encouraged to eat a healthy breakfast, get lots of rest, and do their best.

2015-2016 New Student Registration

We are pleased to announce we will continue to have Transitional Kindergarten (TK) for students who turn 5 years old between Sept. 2, 2015 and Dec. 2, 2015. If your child turns 5 on or before Sept. 1, 2015 and you live in our attendance area, you can register your child for kindergarten. You can pick up a registration packet the week of April 13, 2015. The registration requirements are: current proof of residency (utility bill, cable bill, tax bill, rental agreement, mortgage document or military housing order) to be copied, immunization record and your child's birth certificate or passport the day you come to register. When you come to pick up your enrollment packet, please plan to schedule your kindergarten assessment and receive information about the Kindergarten Meet and Greet.

Lastly, I send my deepest thanks to our Holmes PTA and all the volunteers. This group of parents works tirelessly to volunteer their time and help raise money to support Holmes Elementary School. Without our dedicated community, we could not maintain our distinguished reputation. Please visit www.sandi.net/holmes for the latest school information. Go Hawks!

In Partnership for Excellence,
Jonathan Saibe

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HOLMES HAWKEYE

A HOLMES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTA PUBLICATION

PRINCIPAL JONATHAN SAIBE

PTA PRESIDENT JESSIE NETTLES

EDITOR / DESIGNER MARCIE HICKS

The *Holmes Hawkeye* is a bi-monthly newsletter sponsored on behalf of Holmes Elementary School by the Parent Teacher Association (PTA).

Oliver Wendell Holmes PTA is an organization of parents and teachers dedicated to maintaining and improving the school. This is accomplished by raising funds used to finance activities, programs and events that benefit the school and its students. This newsletter serves as a communique for students, parents, teachers and staff regarding PTA sponsored activities and other school and community events.

SUBMISSIONS ●●●

If you have an idea, article or photograph for the *Holmes Hawkeye*, please send your submission by May 27 to Marcie Hicks at marcie.hicks@holmespta.org.

SPECIAL THANKS ●●●

Special thanks to the contributors to this issue of *Holmes Hawkeye*:

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Tina Gorman
Aaron Graffman
Walker Hicks

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OFFICE HOURS | M - F, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL 16
EARLY 1:15 PM DISMISSAL

APRIL 18
CLAIREMONT DAY AT THE BAY

APRIL 20
DINING FOR DOLLARS
@ SOUPLANTATION 5 - 8 PM

APRIL 22
SECRETARY APPRECIATION DAY

APRIL 23
FAMILY SCIENCE NIGHT
6 - 8 PM

APRIL 28
CHARACTER COUNTS COLOR DAY
WEAR ORANGE!

APRIL 29
WESTERN BBQ

MAY 4 - 8
TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

MAY 4
STUDENT RECOGNITION ASSEMBLY
4TH & 5TH GRADE @ 2:45 PM

MAY 6
TEACHER APPRECIATION DAY

MAY 8
STUDENT RECOGNITION ASSEMBLY
TK, K, 1ST GRADE @ 1:45 PM
2ND & 3RD GRADE @ 2:45 PM

MAY 8
MOVIE NIGHT

MAY 14
VARIETY SHOW

MAY 16
SPRING FLING

MAY 16 - 21
SPRING BOOK FAIR

MAY 21
PTA ASSOCIATION MEETING
5:30 - 6 PM

MAY 8
OPEN HOUSE
6 - 7 PM

MAY 25
MEMORIAL DAY
NO SCHOOL

MAY 27
HAWKEYE SUBMISSION DEADLINE

YOURPTA

Dear Students, Faculty and Parents,

I would like to thank the PTA Board, Principal Saipe, the faculty, school staff, parents and especially the students for all your hard work and laps run during this year's H.E.R.O. Run. In years past, we raised an average of \$20,000. Our goal this year was \$25,000 and you surpassed my wildest imagination by raising \$39,200. What an incredible job all of you have done!

With the H.E.R.O. Run behind us we are looking forward to the next big event here at Holmes. The Spring Fling is coming up on May 16 and we need any help you are willing to give. We are in the planning phase now and could really use your help with this. The PTA is always looking for new blood (volunteers) to help bring enthusiasm and new ideas to our events. Please contact me at jessie.nettles@holmespta.org if you are interested in helping plan the Spring Fling or can help the day of the event.

Holmes is a fantastic school thanks to everyone involved. I have seen first hand how Principal Saipe and the faculty are vested in our children's success and the volunteer parents who are dedicated, not only to their own children, but to the entire student body. Holmes is truly where the heart is because of all the caring people who decide to make a difference. Please keep up the great work and **I THANK YOU** for all you do!



Sincerely,
Jessie Nettles
PTA President

EXECUTIVE BOARD

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H.E.R.O. RUN

Thank you to Holmes students, families, faculty and volunteers. The 2015 H.E.R.O Run was a huge success. Your fundraising efforts raised more than \$39,000! Thank you to all the students who collected sponsors and raised funds for the H.E.R.O. Run. The top three students who raised the most funds are Kiera Nettles with \$1350, Jake Baffico with \$740 and David Almond with \$601.

The success of this event is made possible by well-coordinated efforts. Thank you to the students and volunteers who came out on a HOT March day. The kids were amazing, running around the track while the lap counters cooled them off and tallied their efforts. While the students are the real heroes, the volunteers behind the scenes and those who generously made monetary donations made this event a monumental success.

Through your continued support and fundraising efforts, your PTA is able to supplement District funds needed for education, academic tools and events. The following programs are currently being funded by the PTA:

- Technology & computer upgrades to 200+ networked computers
- Raz Kids, Brainpop and Brainpop Jr. software
- Arts Attack art curriculum for K-5
- Choral music for K-4
- Educational assemblies
- Student recognition awards
- Website, eBlast, and *Hawkeye* communication
- Student field trips
- Library literacy garden
- Spring Fling celebration
- Halloween Carnival
- Variety Show
- Family movie nights
- P.E. equipment
- Mileage Club
- Gardens and campus beautification
- Classroom supplies and so much more! ●●●



Photo by Walker Hicks

FAMILY SCIENCE NIGHT

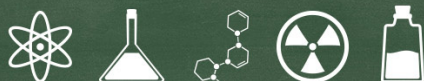
↔ Fantastic Physics ↔

Using hands-on investigations, participants explore a variety of scientific concepts, including air pressure, gravity, buoyancy, electricity, motion, sound and light.

Great for
grades
K - 8!

thurs / april
23
6:30-8pm

Volunteers
needed!
Can you
help?



VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!

Please contact Mrs. Cella at dcella@sandi.net if you can help

JOIN PTA

WE WANT YOU!

Congratulations to the 2015-2016 Holmes PTA Board elected at the PTA Association Meeting on March 19. Next year's Board members will be announced in the May / June issue of the *Holmes Hawkeye* newsletter.



The Nominating Committee is still looking to fill the position of Grants Chair. The Grants Chair actively researches available grants for our school and presents opportunities to the Board.

Are you a parent who has fresh ideas and a desire to continue to improve the learning environment for students at Holmes? Please consider joining our team and make a difference at Holmes. Download the [PTA Interest Form](#) or contact Tina Gorman at tina.gorman@holmespta.org. ●●●

ARTS ATTACK!



Written by Jenny Varol, PTA Financial Secretary and Arts Attack Coordinator

Arts Attack Volunteers are priceless and we want to thank you! Here's what some of our Holmes teachers recently said about our Arts Attack volunteers:

"They are dedicated, enthusiastic and well prepared. The volunteers are very good with the students and give a lot of positive feedback. They are conscientious, consistent and courteous! They are very dedicated to the students and teaching the art lesson. The kids love it!"



●●● Second graders from Mrs. Loebig's class work on their Arts Attack lesson. Photo by Jenny Varol

Thank you to our 2014-2015 grade level coordinators and lead instructors for their hours of preparation and facilitation in the classrooms. And of course, we appreciate the additional help from parents and grandparents that have been able to assist too!

Jennifer Almond
Holly Lingle
Addy Moreno
Jennifer Keller
Mary Wicks

Teresa King
Lyda Young
Jeff Amante
Giorgia Ferreira
Daysha Barahura

Jenny Varol
Lisa Becker
Jenny Carlsson
Sheryl Martins
Jerica Wells

Kristen Miner
Jennifer Norman
Marilyn Ellis
Heather Walker

We are very excited to celebrate our students' art work at our annual Art Show, showcased in the library during Spring Fling on Saturday May 16. We will see you there! ●●●



JOIN US FOR AN ACTION HERO THEMED SPRING FLING
"SPRING INTO ACTION"

2015 SPRING FLING
SATURDAY MAY 16
11 AM - 4 PM

FREE GAMES / CRAFTS / LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
FOOD VENDORS (CASH ONLY) / CRAFT + RETAIL VENDORS
SILENT AUCTION (CASH + CREDIT ONLY) / BOOK FAIR
STUDENT ART SHOW + AUCTIONABLE ART
CAKE DECORATING COMPETITION

VOLUNTEERS AND SILENT AUCTION ITEMS NEEDED! CAN YOU HELP?
PLEASE CONTACT BAY FENNESSY AT BAY.FENNESSY@HOLMESPTA.ORG

PTA MEETING

THURSDAY / MAY 21 / 5:30 - 6 PM

All PTA members are encouraged to attend the upcoming PTA Association meeting. This will be a brief 30 minute meeting right before the Open House.

FREE CHILDCARE WILL BE PROVIDED



Find us on
Facebook

HOLMES PTA NOW HAS AN ACTIVE FACEBOOK PAGE! FOR UPDATES, NEWS AND EVENTS INFORMATION, "LIKE" US ON FACEBOOK.
<https://www.facebook.com/HolmesElementaryPTA>

EXTRACREDIT

ONGOING FUNDRAISING PROGRAMS

THE FOLLOWING FUNDRAISING PROGRAMS ARE EASY WAYS TO EARN MONEY FOR HOLMES WITHOUT SPENDING ADDITIONAL MONEY.

TARGET TAKE CHARGE OF EDUCATION RED CARD PROGRAM

Enroll your Target REDcard in "Take Charge of Education" and Holmes will automatically receive 1% of your purchases. Invite your family and friends to link their REDcards too!



EARNINGS AS OF FEBRUARY 2015:

- The most recent Target donation to this school: \$1,595
- Total of all Target donations to this school: \$21,167
- Amount accumulated toward the next Target donation: \$621
- Number of REDcard holders who have designated this school: 165

Every time you use your REDcard at Target you automatically save 5% off your total purchases (*excludes some items) THIS IS NOT A CREDIT CARD. You can link your REDcard directly to your bank account and use it like a debit card. For more information about enrolling for the Target Take Charge of Education program go to <http://www.sandi.net/Page/13801>.

BOX TOPS

Clip the Box Tops from participating products and turn them into your child's teacher. Holmes receives 10 cents for every valid Box Top collected. For more information about Box Tops go to <http://holmespta.org/boxtop.php>. For money-saving coupons on participating Box Tops products go to <http://www.boxtops4education.com/coupons>.



MY COKE REWARDS

Collecting My Coke Rewards from Coca Cola products can help Holmes earn rewards like art supplies and sports equipment. You can find rewards under bottle caps, inside tear-off on 12-pack and on multi-pack wraps. Turn Rewards in to your child's teacher.



eSCRIP


The eScrip program is where participating merchants contribute money to Holmes each time your family makes a purchase using your grocery club or registered credit card(s). There are no receipts to collect, no vouchers or certificates to buy, no hassles for you - and every purchase counts.



Invite your family, friends and neighbors to participate on behalf of Holmes. The earning potential is limitless. eScrip is a national program - even relatives in other states can enroll! To learn more about eScrip go to <http://holmespta.org/escrip.php>.

JOIN US FOR A **FUN-RAISER**
AT SOUPLANTATION
AND RAISE MONEY FOR

Holmes Elementary PTA
Dining For Dollars
Invite Family & Friends!



Souplantation will donate 15% of sales generated by your organization. Purchase a meal and a beverage* and enjoy a great meal and help a great organization!

DATE: Monday, April 20, 2015	AT THIS SOUPLANTATION LOCATION: Kearny Mesa 7095 Clairemont Mesa Blvd. San Diego, CA 92111-1002
TIME: 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.	For directions visit Souplantation.com

*1. All participants must purchase a beverage with their meal in order to receive credit towards the organization. 2. Under no circumstances are flyers to be handed out in the restaurant, parking lot or vicinity. Failure to comply will result in a voided coupon. 3. Coupons or discounts will not be honored in conjunction with any approved Prom-Bassadors. 4. Must present this flyer at time of purchase. 5. Your receipt will be kept and stapled to this form in order to add up the event's sales.

HOUSEHOLD GUIDELINES: 1. For the safety of our guests, no horseplay, running or climbing at any time, please. 2. Please accompany small children when visiting food bars. 3. It is very much appreciated when a supervisory person is present at a table of children.

Souplantation & Sweet Tomatoes
salads • soups • bakery

DINING FOR DOLLARS

Dining for Dollars (DfD) is an opportunity for Holmes families to socialize and get to know one another, show our loyalty to our community businesses, and allow these businesses to contribute to our school.



Participating restaurants will donate a portion of their profits from the event to Holmes PTA. Flyers will be sent home the week before each event and can be downloaded from the PTA website at <http://www.holmespta.org/dining.php>. Be sure to bring the flier with you to be sure that your purchase makes a difference.

SHOPAROO

Shoparoo is fundraising made easy: turn pictures of your everyday shopping receipts into cash donations and sweepstakes entries for our school with this free app. It's that simple! No more cutting labels, selling door to door, or time-consuming coordinating. Just shop, snap, earn. There's no limit to how much money we can raise with Shoparoo - the more supporters, the more we will raise for our school.

GET STARTED TODAY:

- Download the free Shoparoo app from the Apple App Store or Google Play Store
- Select our school from the list and start taking pictures of your receipts - shop anywhere, buy anything!
- Earn even more points by spreading the word and inviting others to join

DAILY HARVEST MARKET

Daily Harvest Market links families to locally grown food delivered right to Holmes. Finally, you can purchase recently harvested, locally grown, and organic produce conveniently delivered to school on Thursdays. Holmes earns 5% of every sale. For more information or to learn how to sign up for a delivery contact Ivonne Ganss at ivy@dailyharvestmarket.com. ●●●

MEET BETH LEWIS

Written by Beth Lewis, Holmes Elementary School Assistant

My name is Beth Lewis. I replaced Debbie Roberts as the Elementary School Assistant (ESA). Prior to Holmes, I worked as an ESA at Whitman Elementary for many years.

When I am not working I enjoy spending time with my family. My husband, Bill, is a retired AT&T employee and we have two lovely grown-up children, Russ and Dana. Russ is a 6th grade math teacher at Bell Middle School and Dana is the Event Marketing Manager at HD Supply. Thanks to Dana and her husband Jacob, I have two adorable grandsons – Deagen, a second grader at Grant K8 and Blake, a lively 4 year-old preschooler.

I grew up in a small town in Kansas but have lived in California since 1973. I met my husband at the end of the Vietnam War while he was stationed in San Bernardino with the Air Force. After his service ended we moved to his home town, San Diego. In 1984, we moved to Bay Park and have lived there ever since!

I am lucky to have joined the Holmes family. Everyone, staff and parents alike, have been very welcoming and helpful as I try to fill Debbie's shoes. ●●●



Photo by Marcie Hicks

CHARACTERCOUNTS

SIX PILLARS OF CHARACTER

This year, Holmes is implementing the Character Counts! character education curriculum. This program has identified universal values referred to as the "Six Pillars of Character".

TRUSTWORTHINESS

Be honest • Don't deceive, cheat, or steal • Be reliable — do what you say you'll do • Have the courage to do the right thing • Build a good reputation • Be loyal — stand by your family, friends, and country

RESPECT

Treat others with respect; follow the Golden Rule • Be tolerant and accepting of differences • Use good manners, not bad language • Be considerate of the feelings of others • Don't threaten, hit or hurt anyone • Deal peacefully with anger, insults, and disagreements

RESPONSIBILITY

Do what you are supposed to do • Plan ahead • Persevere: keep on trying! • Always do your best • Use self-control • Be self-disciplined • Think before you act — consider the consequences • Be accountable for your words, actions, and attitudes • Set a good example for others

WEAR ORANGE

FOR FAIRNESS
TUESDAY / APRIL 28

FAIRNESS

Play by the rules • Take turns and share • Be open-minded; listen to others • Don't take advantage of others • Don't blame others carelessly • Treat all people fairly

CARING

Be kind • Be compassionate and show you care • Express gratitude • Forgive others • Help people in need

CITIZENSHIP

Do your share to make your school and community better • Cooperate • Get involved in community affairs • Stay informed; vote • Be a good neighbor • Obey laws and rules • Respect authority • Protect the environment • Volunteer

For more information on Character Counts! visit their web site at: <http://charactercounts.org/home/index.html>. ●●●

NEWSBRIEFS

●●● SPELLING BEE

Congratulations to the 2015 Spelling Bee winners! Classroom Spelling Bee winners in Grades 1-5 competed at the Grade Level Spelling Bees on March 17 and 19. All classroom winners received medals. Grade level winners received trophies for 1st and 2nd place. Medals and trophies were provided by the Holmes PTA. Thank you to Mrs. Celle and all of our parent volunteers for coordinating our Annual Spelling Bees!

FIRST GRADE

1st Place – Maggie Matsumoto – Room 1
2nd Place – Evan Turley – Room 4

FOURTH GRADE

1st Place – Diego Jaimes – Room 10
2nd Place – Ivan Cano – Room 15

SECOND GRADE

1st Place – Trent Gorsich – Room 16
2nd Place – Jeremy Engebretson – Room 6

FIFTH GRADE

1st Place – Aranyani Carter-Perkins – Room 10
2nd Place – Koa Wood – Room 11

THIRD GRADE

1st Place – Jocey Claypool – Room 16
2nd Place – Darrien Fujii – Room 12



●●● Fifth Grade 2015 Spelling Bee winners.
Photo by Jonathan Saipe

STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT

Written by Jaselyn Adams and Aaron Graffman, Holmes Student Council

JA IN A DAY

Junior Achievement of San Diego County (JASD) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to giving young people the knowledge and skills they need to own their economic success. Normally a volunteer will come in every week or so for a certain amount of time. This year (and for coming years) we are trying something new called JA Day. We are having all the lessons for each grade level taught in a day. Each grade level has a different curriculum. Volunteers must go through training to be able to teach. This program, like Biztown, teaches students about financial literacy, economy, and how

to be an entrepreneur. For more information about JASD visit <https://jasandiego.org/home.html>.

CAMPUS BEAUTIFUL

Campus Beautiful is a program at Holmes where each classroom is assigned an area of the school grounds where they are responsible for picking up trash and weeding every Thursday afternoon. There are student judges who check the areas cleaned. Classrooms that do a good job can earn 10 minutes of extra recess at the teacher's convenience. This program promotes school pride and responsibility.



●●● Second graders work on their lesson as part of JA Day.
Photo by Jason Adams

Campus Beautiful judges apologize for not doing Campus Beautiful judging for two weeks. We weren't able to do it because of short days, rain, and spring break (hope everyone had a good one). We want to remind you all to remember to clean up your assigned area with your class. We need to keep our campus clean. Thank you for helping out our school! ●●●



PURPLE DAY

Written by Connor Sortwell, Holmes Student and Purple Day Ambassador

Epilepsy is a seizure disorder. It is not a disease and it is not contagious. One out of 26 people will develop epilepsy. That is an average of one person in each classroom at Holmes. One out of ten people will have a seizure. Having a seizure does not mean you have epilepsy. When you have a seizure, your brain reboots. But with epilepsy, you have seizures frequently. More people die from epilepsy than breast cancer. A lot of people, like Ms. McGarr's mother, have "Grand Mal" seizures. This is a very serious form of epilepsy. Thankfully, my case of epilepsy is not very serious. But epilepsy is still epilepsy. That is why I, Connor Sortwell, thank you for wearing purple on Purple Day (March 26th). On behalf of people with epilepsy, thank you for supporting us. ●●●

CONTESTWINNERS

Written by Diana Celle, Holmes 3rd Grade Teacher and PTA Staff Representative Classroom Enrichment

THIRD GRADE TEAM NAMED REGIONAL WINNERS OF THE TOSHIBA/NSTA EXPLORAVISION NATIONAL CONTEST

Three eight year-old girl scientists created a regional winning project for the Toshiba/NSTA (National Science Teachers Association) ExploraVision National Contest! ExploraVision is one of the largest K-12 science competitions. Students across the United States and Canada work in groups to simulate a real research and development team. They choose a technology of today and envision what it could be like 20 years from now. This third grade team from San Diego came up with an invention called SportaVision. SportaVision lets you play sports anywhere! The glasses use a heads-up display of a virtual playing field. All the players see the nets, goals and boundaries. No more dragging out heavy equipment! The ball's transmitter uses radio wave triangulation to track the ball. GPS is used to help set up the boundary lines. Colors change in the glasses when the ball goes in the net, across the goal, or out of bounds. This means no more arguments and more time to play!

SPORTAVISION – SCORE A SET AND YOU WON'T NEED A NET!

The SportaVision team of Riley Coulter, Allison Turley, Samantha Valverde, Coach and Teacher – Diana Celle and Mentor Steve Celle envisioned and researched SportaVision. SportaVision has been chosen as the K-3 Regional Winner in Region 6 which consists of Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington and Wyoming.



●●● Mrs. Celle and students celebrate their accomplishments. Photo by Kristina Turley

There are only six regions. Toshiba presented a banner, framed certificates, school plaque, a Toshiba tablet for each member, and a Toshiba laptop for the team to create a website that will be used for the national judging. If chosen as a national winning team, the student team members can win \$5,000 or \$10,000 savings bonds and a trip for themselves and two family members to Washington D.C. for the awards ceremony in June. The team is currently working on their prototype and website. The team will be notified in May if they have won Nationals.

HONORABLE MENTION

The COW Team (Clever Outdoor Worker), comprised of Ryan Moyers, David Almond, Piper Sierens and Braden Gonzalez, designed a hovering lawn mower shaped like a cow that uses lasers to cut grass. The cut grass is then used to fertilize the lawn. It communicates to the sprinklers, watering as needed. The COW differentiates good bugs from bad bugs and zaps the bad bugs. It also is programmed to zap weeds and dog doo. ●●●

CAMPUSBEAUTIFICATION

Written by Cami Abel, PTA Campus Chair

It's Spring and the flowers are blooming — well, most of them, anyway! Last month we had a great turnout for our Campus Beautification Day with over 60 folks, old, young and in-between, all working hard to make our school tidy and green. We mulched, moved soil, created a pathway along the second grade corridor, added two new garden boxes, installed gopher-barrier in each raised garden bed and mulched, mulched, mulched! We have two native gardens; one in the Kinder area and one behind the bungalows on the northwest corner of the field. Both are doing great with minimal upkeep and even less water. Look for new stump seats coming this month, shade coming soon along the Canyon Rim and lots of clever blooms and scents as our gardens continue to flourish.

Are you feeling inspired and looking for ideas for your own low water, low maintenance yard? Remember that native plants are perfect for San Diego's clay soil, harsh sun and low water climate! Some good resources to purchase native plants are at the RECON native plants: <http://www.reconativeplants.com> (April 18 they are having a SALE) and Las Pilitas Nursery: <http://www.laspilitas.com>. Some great showy and wildlife friendly plants to consider are White Sage, Black



●●● More than 60 volunteers came out to beautify the Holmes campus. Photo by Marcie Hicks

Sage and Matilija Poppies. All of these can be found blooming (or about to bloom) in the Kindergarden Sensory Garden.

We always welcome help with the campus gardens. You can contact your student's teachers if their classrooms have coordinating gardens or email: cami.abel@holmespta.org. ●●●

CUBSCOUTS

Written by Leigh Moyers, Pack 299
Membership Chair and PTA Website Chair

The boys in Cub Scout Pack 299 are beginning to earn the rank badges they have been working on all year. These are attained by completing activities and achievements designed to build character and teach them about our world. Last month, the 5th grade Scouts crossed over to Boy Scout Troops where they will continue to build upon their skills while learning to be more independent and experiencing more challenging adventures.

FUN WITH A PURPOSE

In early March, our 3rd grade Bears learned all about crime prevention with a visit to the Western Division of the **San Diego Police Dept.** The boys had fun being finger printed but not so much fun experiencing what it would be like to be "locked up" in a holding cell!

The Pack held its annual **Pinewood Derby** on March 21. The boys worked with their parents to build and race cars. The top three winners in each grade earned medals. By participating in the Pinewood Derby, Scouts learn woodworking skills and gain a sense of personal achievement. They also get another opportunity to learn good sportsmanship and the rules of fair play.

At the end of March, 20 Scouts from the Pack went on a **Fun with Son camping trip** at Mataguay Scout Ranch in Santa Ysabel. The boys built stronger friendships while experiencing many outdoor adventures including archery and BB gun shooting, hiking, fishing and boating. Several more camping trips are planned this spring to Camp Balboa, Big Bear and the Indian Hills Campground in Jamul.

HOLMES AT THE BAY

The Clairemont Hills Kiwanis is hosting the 3rd Annual Fast Times 5K run that will be followed by the Clairemont Day at the Bay on Saturday April 18. This activity based event will bring 19 public schools from the community together. The Clairemont Mesa Education Foundation is working with several local organizations and the schools to set up family focused activities and showcase the schools for the community.

The races will begin at 8:00 a.m. and will end by 10:00 a.m., when the fun time activities will begin. Many of the activities will be educational as well. The funds raised from the race will benefit the



●●● 1st grade Scouts race their cars at the Pack 299 Pinewood Derby. Photo by Walker Hicks

CUB SCOUTS GIVE GOODWILL

Pack 299 Scouts and their families helped our school at the **Holmes Campus Beautification Day** in February. The boys also collected food for the annual **Scouting for Food** drive in March. This food is distributed to hungry children, families, and seniors through Feeding America San Diego. The next community service project will be the **Creek to Bay Cleanup** on Fiesta Island on April 25.

JOIN CUB SCOUTS!

If Cub Scouts sounds like fun to you and your boy(s), consider joining! Cub Scouts meet in the Holmes Elementary Auditorium on the first Thursday of every month at 6:30 p.m.

For more information, contact Pack 299 Membership Chair Leigh Moyers at contact@sandiegopack299.com or 619.723.0371. Visit the Pack 299 website at <http://sandiegopack299.com>. ●●●

Cub Scout Pack 299 would like to invite boys in K-5th Grade and their families to join us for an Ice Cream Social and an evening of FUN Carnival Games at our next Pack Meeting. Please join us on Thursday, May 7th at 6:30pm in the Holmes Auditorium.

Clairemont Mesa Education Foundation which supports the students in public schools in the community of Clairemont. This support will be in the form of giving financial support and in kind contributions to programs and projects through partnerships with businesses, organizations and residents within the community of Clairemont as needed by school administrations and classroom teachers.

Be sure to look for the Holmes Booth! Holmes 1st -3rd graders will sing at 1:30 p.m. For more information go to <http://www.clairemonteducationfoundation.org/3rd-annual-fast-times-5k-and-clairemont-day-at-the-bay/> ●●●