

# Lang Ranch PTA Wrangler Roundup

Lang Ranch Elementary School PTA Newsletter \* Vol. 13, No. 1

## Why Are Some Schools So Successful?

By Bradley R. Baker, Principal

Last year for the first time, I wrote all of my articles for the PTA newsletter on the theme — “No Regrets.” This year I would like to follow through with a new theme of how a school can be successful and how schools can maintain the highest level of performance from their students, teachers and yes, the parents.

I just celebrated my 35th wedding anniversary and in any marriage the key to its success is being able to communicate not only about the big things but also the small things. The ability to be a good communicator allows all parties to not be stressed about the unknown but feel confident that in stressful times you can count on your mate/team to be there for you. If everyone has a common understanding of the problems one has to face, it really levels the playing field so that everyone can set communal goals and either strive for the gold, or correct a problem interfering with moving toward the realization of set common goals. A truly great school should feel like an extended family. A happy family is built on earned trust, which has developed over extended periods of time. The key players in our Lang Ranch family are the parents, PTA, School Site Council (SSC),

teachers, office, outside organizations, students and the District Office. To have such a large extended family work successfully, the calendar and goals need to be transparent to all parties. Lang Ranch has always believed that when setting goals all of the stakeholders need to be involved in the decision making process. It is the principal’s job to be the conductor and lead all the different factions in the same direction once goals have been set. To do this, everyone needs to know what the school is all about, what goals we have for each child, and the plan that we have to reach those goals. This is where every party has to work to make sure they uphold their obligation to know what is going on at school and what their duties are to make sure the students attain mutually agreed upon goals.



### Parent Responsibilities

It is the duty of every mom and dad to take an interest in all that is going on with your young children. A very big part of their day is school so school should be a focus of every Lang Ranch

(Continued, Page 2)



## In This Issue

- Principal’s Message 1
- PTA Co-President’s Message 4
- Book Fair 4
- PTA Membership 5
- Jog-a-thon 6
- Fall Festival 6
- Reading Makes Me Smile 7
- Yearbook 7
- Family Portrait Night 8
- Reflections 8

### PTA Calendar

#### September

- 2 Restaurant Night (CPK and Ben & Jerry’s)
- 4 Summer RIP Event (2:35pm)
- 9 Room Parent Meeting 1
- 9 RISO Training 1
- 8 PTA Executive Board Meeting (7:00pm)
- 15 Room Parent Meeting 2
- 15 RISO Training 2
- 18 Donuts with Dads
- 18-25 Book Fair

- 24 Ice Cream Social (6:30pm)
- 25 Box Tops Deadline
- 30 Reflections Collections

#### October

- 1 Reflections Collections
- 1-2 Family Portrait Nights
- 7 Restaurant Night (Bandit’s)
- 7 National Walk to School Day

- 9 “RIP” Kickoff Assembly
- 9 Family Fall Festival
- 13 PTA Executive Board Meeting (7:00pm)
- 19-23 Red Ribbon Week

#### November

- 4 Restaurant Night
- 10 PTA Executive Board Meeting (7:00pm)
- 13 Jog-a-thon
- 16 Manna Food Drive Begins

## Restaurant Night

Thursday,  
Sept. 3  
(all day)

at

California  
Pizza  
Kitchen

and

Ben &  
Jerry's

family. This means that every piece of work that goes home is reviewed and if necessary discussed with the student and or the classroom teacher. Parents should attend any evening function that is about their child. Lang Ranch teachers are committed to keep their families fully informed about what is going on in the classroom. Sent home work is one of the best ways for a teacher to communicate your child's growth. Every six weeks there is a more formal report sent home (report cards/progress reports). Teachers will also send home regular information about upcoming events and projects. At Lang Ranch it is nearly impossible to be fully informed if you are not on a regular basis checking in on the school web site, [www.langranchelementary.com](http://www.langranchelementary.com). It is the school's expectation that parents will feel comfortable being proactive and communicating with their teacher. All staff checks their e-mail daily as well as their voice mail. All parents should join PTA and know that any time you volunteer, you are setting an example for your children that will be passed on to the next generation. Your children will only experience a grade level once, and with that knowledge everyone in the family must support the experience in any way possible. Any paperwork that requires a parent signature should be signed and returned immediately. There should be an evening procedure set for homework, discussion of the day and signatures. Turning over responsibility to the child is very difficult for some parents and a skill that will only help to make your child successful. Consistency is crucial, which means all parents must be organized and provide a stable routine that everyone can count on. All parents should be aware of the school's word of the week program. These words are very important in helping to mold citizens that will pass on values

Turning over responsibility to the child is very difficult for some parents and a skill that will only help to make your child successful.

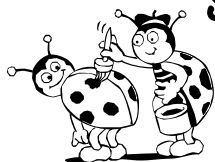
that make for not only a healthy person, but a person that can contribute to his family and the country. Finally, every child should come to school with a full tummy and the knowledge that they are loved for who they are. Even if they have had a bad day, they should be able to go home and talk about their day knowing that no matter what the problem, the love of their parents will always withstand any issues that may come up.

### Teacher Responsibilities:

Every teacher is expected to come to school fully prepared for the day. All lessons must meet Lang Ranch standards and be presented in such a way that the student understands his/her responsibilities. In addition the teacher should present lessons in such a way that directions are not only oral but written in multiple ways, i.e. whiteboard, visualizer, handouts, etc. All staff will

do everything within their power to communicate what is going on in the class, and what they expect from the home. Calls and e-mails will be returned in a timely manner remembering that each teacher has 22-33 students. It is the teacher's responsibility to inform the parents if any area of their child's education has proved to be difficult. This does not mean that every simple incident that occurs with young children must be reported, but it does mean that when an academic or social/emotional stumbling block occurs, it should be reported in a timely fashion so all can work on the concern as a team. It is the job of every classroom teacher to model the word of the week program. It was purposeful that the first word of the week is respect. It should be clear that every teacher will be respectful of all they come in contact with. This is not a one way street, all members of our extended school family should be respectful of each other for any positive

*(Continued, Page 3)*



## Student Artists-We need you!

Would you like to be our guest illustrator?

Email Anne at [aswatkins@verizon.net](mailto:aswatkins@verizon.net)

movement to occur. Every teacher has the responsibility to make sure that every child will learn, laugh, and be a leader within their classroom.

### Student Responsibilities:

Even our youngest students need to know that they have the job of coming to school every day ready to learn with a positive attitude. This comes naturally to many but not all. It is everyone else's job to make sure that this philosophy is consistently reinforced. This is where team work between school and home is crucial. Students need to know they have the obligation to learn, find time to laugh, and learn about themselves so they can take a leadership role in their own life as they mature. This means coming to school prepared for each day. That would mean homework completed, communicating to their teacher and parents what they need to say about their day whether it is about what is confusing to them or explaining to parents what they need to know to help every day go successfully. If parents start early with encouraging even the youngest to take responsibility for being organized and know what they need to do, later years will have a much greater degree of success.

### PTA and SSC:

The Parent Teacher Association and School Site Council can often be thought of as the "heart" of the school. No where else can you see the school family working so closely in harmony. Each group of volunteers have a common vision of doing all they can as parents and staff to come up with whatever it takes to allow the staff to do all within their power to be successful. Our first 11 years have proven to me over and over that a mighty parent force can create a school that is truly successful. It is each group's job to clearly lay out their plans for their organization. Our PTA has a fantastic web site that always keeps even the smallest detail clearly laid out for their constituents. They are to actively encourage parents to advocate for their children either by volunteering, helping with fund raising, or attending meetings that have been developed for parent education. At Lang, each group has representation at each other's meetings so that the PTA and SSC understand curriculum and

financial matters so that each group is not a stand alone group but that each group relies on the other to do all within their power to meet common goals set by the entire school.

### The Office/Principal Responsibilities:

It is our job in the office to orchestrate all that goes on at school. It is basic to our job description that we are a support service that is here to make sure that aspects of the Lang Community are given the information, resources, and immediate feedback they need for the school to work well. We are destined to be the primary communicators of global school issues whether it is by phone, e-mail, web site, or handouts. Safety is our number one goal and making sure that everyone feels secure that Lang Ranch is a wonderful place to learn, laugh and lead. There is a set protocol with parents that when your child is having concerns that you would contact your teacher first. A direct call to the principal is never the best way to find out what is going on. A quick solution to a concern can most effectively be accomplished at the classroom level. In very rare cases, the principal may need to step in. The principal knows that the buck does stop on his desk and if there is an issue that is not quickly being solved, he should know about it so he can move in the direction of the student's best interests academically and social/emotionally.

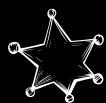
The coolest part of the offices responsibility is our ability to work with so many wonderful and creative people. Lang Ranch students really do light up our lives. The time and creativity that our parents bring to the school is truly inspirational. And finally, the office will never loose site that the success of any great school happens in the classroom where all of our team efforts are focused. We are so blessed to have such a great staff that on a regular basis displays their professionalism in their work ethic, creativity, willingness to try new things, communication skills, and basic love for their work and students.

We all have great responsibilities that need to be put into high gear as school starts. Our school vision is not just for the students. We can all benefit from learning, laughing, leading, and of course communicating.



### HEY KIDS!

Would you like to interview your favorite staff person for the next issue of the *Wrangler Roundup*? Or be our "guest illustrator" and create drawings to be used throughout the next issue? Send an email to [aswatkins@verizon.net](mailto:aswatkins@verizon.net) Children will be randomly selected for each position from all the entries.



**WANTED:**

Birthday Book Club Members

**WHAT:**

Birthday Bookclub

**WHEN:**

Any time during the school year

**HOW:**

Donate a new hard-bound book to the library. Visit the library and ask Mrs. Meade

**REWARD:**

Bookplate in the donated book, student will receive a certificate, Student's name will be in the newsletter and a picture of the student will be on display in the library.

# Here We Go Again!

*By Julia Brankovic and Andrea Daniels, PTA Co-Presidents*

We are excited to continue on as your PTA Co-Presidents, and we would like to welcome you all to the 2009-2010 Lang Ranch school year. This year, unlike any in recent past years, all PTA presidents in the state of California face some unique challenges. With the budget crisis in California, we want to do everything we can to make sure the decisions that have been made in Sacramento this past year will not negatively affect our Wranglers. Unfortunately, we have had to cut back in some areas, including our Music and Library Specialist...so our motto this year is "priorities." We hope to be able to maintain what we already provide to our Wranglers at the Ranch through PTA. We continue to strive for a fantastic year in spite of these challenges we face and want to help keep our school running at Wrangler speed.

Since priorities is our motto...we will be keeping our Jog-a-thon goal this year at \$90,000.00. As a PTA we recognize money is tight for all of us and that knowledge has solidified our decision to keep the per child donation at \$120.00, the same amount as last year. We know this is still a lofty goal, but one we must reach in order to continue to support the many areas we do as a PTA. The money raised will enable us to continue to offer our students Physical Education three times a week and a part-time Library Specialist. We can continue to replace our school computers that are now over nine years old and beyond

updating. In addition, we will be funding school wide assemblies and much needed instructional supplies that will go directly to your child's classroom. We hope together we can raise these monies and continue to help provide our children with the many things they need to succeed.

Another important aspect of helping our school maintain its level of success is by continuing our daily commitment to our Wranglers through volunteering. We are both parents of three children and know how crazy schedules can be and how there never seems to be enough hours in the day. We can also tell you that volunteering is one of the most rewarding experiences. Whether it is in the classroom or at one of our many PTA sponsored events, memories are made daily. Be sure to turn in your volunteer form or sign up on the volunteer sign-up sheets in the school lobby, pick an event, and become involved...you won't regret it.

Every volunteer counts! Together we can form an amazing team that is the Lang Ranch PTA. Whether you are a brand new Wrangler parent or a returning one, we want you to be a part of the PTA and enjoy the benefits of getting involved. We encourage you to become a PTA member so that you have an input in the decisions made on your child's behalf.

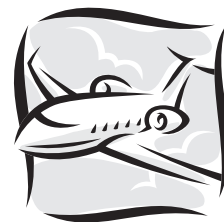
Come join us and share the experience. We look forward to working with each and every one of you.

## DESTINATION BOOK FAIR

*by Lori Romig and Therese Berrol*

It's time to rediscover a place you already love! That's right, it's our annual Scholastic Fall Book Fair. Books take you places near and far, so grab your passport for an exclusive journey. During our book fair, your children are bound to find books that will engage their imagination and foster their love of reading.

Scholastic delivers hundreds of quality books, suitable for every interest and reading level and we offer select editions of popular books at very low prices. What's more, our profits allow us to improve our already incredible library and expand classroom libraries, too. So, please come visit us between the 18th and 25th of September for an adventure in reading!



# HAVE A NICE DAY. . . Join the PTA!

by Douglass Berg, Michelle Wiebe and JoAnne Neeson

Welcome to the 2009-2010 school year at Lang Ranch Elementary School. Your PTA invites you to join, and make a difference in the education your child receives.

## What is the PTA . . .

PTA is the largest volunteer organization of parents, educators, students, health and welfare professional and community members working exclusively to improve the education and well-being of all children and youth at school, home, and in the community.

When you join Lang Ranch PTA (\$6.00 per person), you belong to...

- A Unit PTA – Lang Ranch Elementary School (\$2.25 per member)
- A Council PTA – Conejo Council PTA (\$.25 of your dues)
- A District PTA – 12th District PTA (\$.50 of your dues)
- California State PTA (\$1.25 of your dues)
- National PTA (\$1.75 of your dues)

## Who can join PTA . . .

Parents, students, staff, professional, uncles, aunts, grandparents . . . everyone!

## Where does your \$2.25 go . . .

### • Funded Programs

Physical Education	Emergency Supplies	Technology
Reflection	Assemblies	Red Ribbon Week
Library	Classroom Programs	

### • Social Activities

Donuts with Dads	Kindergarten Park Day	Honorary Service Awards
Open House Dinner	Ice Cream Social	Pastries with Parents
Valentine's Dance	Welcome Back Shave-It	
Walk-to-School Days		

### • Services

Beautification	PTA Newsletter	Community Outreach
Parent Education	Disaster/Safety	Room Parent Coordination
Enrichment Classes	Hospitality	Legislation
School Directory	Monday Newsletter Packet	Teacher Appreciation Week
Welcome Committee	Yearbook	

The PTA also offers social events that promote school and family interaction and provides services to keep parents informed via newsletters, meetings, and the school directory. The PTA is the easiest way to support our school and help keep some imperative programs operating.

For more information on Membership or how to get involved, please email JoAnne Neeson, Membership VP at [jgolfgal@yahoo.com](mailto:jgolfgal@yahoo.com)



**Ice  
Cream  
Social  
is  
Sept.  
24th**

## INFORMATION ON THE WEB

In an effort to reduce costs, the summer mailing this year is now available on the Lang Ranch website.

- Letter from Mr. Baker
- Lang Ranch Calendar
- District Calendar
- PTA Calendar
- Supply List
- PTA Order Form (Reading Shirt, Membership, Directory, Yearbook, Fall Festival, Jog-a-thon)
- PTA Opening Events (Aug. 26 and 27)
- PTA Reflections Information
- Student Council hat order form
- Form to request Weekly Newsletters in paper format
- School Map

The lunch menu can be found on the district website, under Department A-N, Child Nutrition.

Lang Ranch:  
[www.langranchelementary.com](http://www.langranchelementary.com)

District:  
[www.conejo.k12.ca.us](http://www.conejo.k12.ca.us)

## Are you ready for the “Peace, Love, Run” Jog-A-Thon as we enter Lang Ranch’s 12th year?

by Andrea Bryman and Limor Godwin



This year’s Jog-A-Thon will be held on FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13th, 2009.

There are several ways for you and your family to help us reach our goal.

There are presently 720 students in attendance at Lang Ranch. Our goal is to raise \$120.00 per student. If we can raise this money, the Jog-A-Thon will be our only major PTA fundraiser. Our kids will not have to sell wrapping paper, cookie dough, magazine subscriptions, and parents will not have to give a flat donation to the school on top of a fundraiser as many schools do. Remember some companies have a matching gift donation program. If the company you work for participates in such a program our EIN # is 77-048585809.

If you are interested in being a sponsor for the Official Jog-A-Thon T-shirt here is what is available.

- Bronze Sponsorship - \$300 for family or business logo
- Silver Sponsorship - \$500 for family or business logo
- Gold Sponsorship - \$1,000 for family or business logo
- Platinum Sponsorship- \$1,500 for family or business logo

Sponsors make us smile!

This money will be used to pay for PE specialists, library assistant, school-wide assemblies, classroom instruction and technology assistance, updates and support.

If you have any questions, would like to be a sponsor or volunteer for this event, please contact Andrea Bryman at [abryman@aol.com](mailto:abryman@aol.com) or 818-241-9922 or Limor Godwin at [limorgodwin@aol.com](mailto:limorgodwin@aol.com) or 805-492-7035.

We look forward to seeing you at the “Peace, Love, Run” Jog-A-Thon on November 13th.

## FALL FESTIVAL

by Melissa Cahalan and Liz Jacobson



Save the Date!! The Lang Ranch Fall Festival is scheduled for Friday, October 9<sup>th</sup> from 5:00-8:30pm. With all the concerns over the economy, we want the fall festival to be an affordable night for the entire family. Therefore, wristbands will be offered for \$10 each. The wristband allows your child to enjoy unlimited access to games and activities (*Sandy Candy, food/drinks & raffle excluded*) throughout the over 3 hour event!! In order to offer this low price, we are encouraging families to pre-order the wristbands using the wrangler package form.

Also, returning this year, **Raffle Baskets**!! This year, raffle baskets will be provided through community donations. If you or a group of your friends are interested in creating a one of a kind basket for the festival raffle, contact [melissacahalan@verizon.net](mailto:melissacahalan@verizon.net). All proceeds from the raffle and festival will be used to support current year programs at Lang Ranch! Your help is always needed and welcome, if you are interested in helping with the festival, please contact Melissa at the email address above. We hope to see you at the Fall Festival on October 9<sup>th</sup>!!

# Howdy Reading Wranglers

by Laura Woods, Deni Vreeland and Denise Reader

Guess What? This year our Reading Incentive Program is all about smiles. By now, you know that the 2009-2010 school year theme is "Reading Makes Me Smile." So get ready and smile your way to our new goal of over 3.2 million minutes of reading. As you already know, smiles can come from many different things. Hopefully this year, reading will bring smiles to everyone at The Ranch. The Reading Team has some great rewards and ideas in the works for you, but we will keep those a secret for now. To be prepared and ready to smile for your efforts, here are some really important dates:

- **September 4th:** Bring your summer reading log to school and turn it in at the end of school for a treat. We will accept any "parent signed" reading log.
- **September 13th:** Last day to order a "Reading Makes Me Smile" t-shirt. Don't be left without one. We will be wearing these shirts every Wednesday to show our support for reading.
- **October 9th:** Our official Reading Kick- Off Assembly.

Remember Wranglers start logging your minutes on your new reading log as soon as your teacher sends it home. Turn in your reading log to your teacher at the end of every month so we can total up the minutes.



**Reading  
incentive  
summer  
turn-in  
day is  
Sept. 24.**

---

## Yearbook

By Jill Archer and Wendy Dudas

Once again, the Lang Ranch yearbook will be available either through the Wrangler Package or separately. As you know, the yearbook begins with Field Day, 2009 so you can start to submit your photos as soon as school starts! One thing the yearbook committee learned the hard way last year was that many of the photos submitted to us were not a resolution that we were able to use. We determined that ideally, the best way to submit photos is on a disk. We had found that we had problems with many that were emailed to us, or uploaded through the website. We will continue to accept photos the way that is most convenient for you to submit, but felt it important to mention that disks are a more guaranteed resolution. The drawers in the lobby (opposite office staff) remain there for submitting photos. All disks should be clearly marked if you would like them returned. Please take a lot of pictures (large groups and a cross-sampling of kids from each class). The more photos we have the memorable the yearbook will be.

We look forward to another great year!

### NEWSLETTER AD/SPONSOR - PRICING:

*Black and White Only*

<b>Business Card Size</b> \$25 per issue	<b>Half Page Size</b> \$70 per issue
---	---

<b>Quarter Page Size</b> \$40 per issue	<b>Full Page Size</b> \$100 per issue
--	--

### SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

The Lang Ranch PTA has started a new sponsorship program in order to raise money to help our students receive the full and well rounded education that they deserve. Call chairperson, **Debbie Goodman 805.241.5444** to discuss your many options.



# Family Portrait Nights

By Jill Archer and Wendy Dudas

Family Portrait Nights this year will be Thursday, October 1 and Friday, October 2 from 5:00pm to 8:30pm. For those of you who are new to the school, Cornerstone Photography will take several poses of your family in our school cafeteria for a sitting fee of only \$20 and they give half of that back to our school! Portraits are ordered online in the comfort of your own home. They have great packages available and a great option for holiday cards. Look for a flyer in September to book your appointment.

**Picture  
day for  
Grades  
K-5 is  
Sept. 15**



By Jacob Matro

**Donuts  
with  
Dads  
is  
Sept.  
18th**

## PTA's 2009-2010 Reflections Program

This year's Reflections Program theme is "Beauty is...."

Encourage your child to participate in any or all six categories:

Musical Composition

Dance Choreography

Film Production

Literature

Visual Arts

Photography



Artwork collection will begin Sept. 30th.

Wranglers, express your thoughts and creativity and let your talent shine!

To view a gallery of last year's national award-winning entries, visit [www.pta.org](http://www.pta.org).