

# P.A.C.T. PRESS

February 2011

Volume 15, Issue 6

## Note from the Coordinator

We are well into the school year and I have had a chance to meet and work with many of you already. It has been a delight to meet all of the amazing students and parents and to get to know the PACT staff even more. I have found that there are still many of you that I have not met. I would like to let you know that I am available to meet with you or assist you with any questions or concerns you have. I believe that coordinators should have an open door policy for staff, parents, and students alike. While I am split between two campuses, as I also coordinate for ILP, I want you all to know that I am on the PACT campus almost every day and would be happy to meet with you. If you do not see me around PACT, you can always leave me a message in my box, call me at 928-5343 ext. 116, or email me at [lbariel@natomas.k12.ca.us](mailto:lbariel@natomas.k12.ca.us). We have many exciting events coming up this spring and I hope to see you there as we celebrate the accomplishments of our PACT families.

Sincerely,  
Laura Bariel

## Important Contact Information

Natomas Charter  
School P.A.C.T.

1172 National Dr.  
Sacramento  
CA 95834

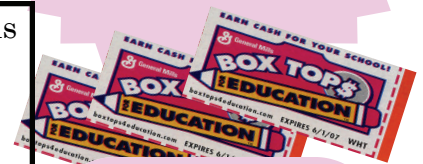
419-3788  
FAX: 419-9133

[natomascharter.org](http://natomascharter.org)

PACT Hours  
8:00 a.m. —4:00 p.m.



Don't forget to pick up  
your Raley's Bel Air  
Shopping Card.  
Register online and  
earn \$\$\$ for our school.



## Free Six Flags Ticket!

Students in grades K-6 can earn a free ticket to the Six Flags Discovery Kingdom Park by participating in the Six Flags Six Hour Reading Club! All you have to do is complete 6 hours of pleasure reading, have the form signed by a parent, and turn in the form to earn the ticket. You may get the form and more information from your advisor. The dates to complete the reading are January 18th through February 25th. Happy reading!

## STAR Testing Update

STAR testing for grades 2-8 is scheduled for the week of April 4-8th.

The testing day in most cases will end by 1:00. Please note these important dates on your calendar to ensure your child's ability to participate.



### Box Tops for Education

- Pick up form from front desk
- Fill with box tops
- Bring form to Shelly
- Win prizes for every filled box top form

[Bigchalk.com](http://Bigchalk.com) Login: 02-32211 Password: bigchalk

[SacBee](http://www.sacbee.com/mielogin) <http://www.sacbee.com/mielogin> Login: Natomas Charter School PACT – Sacramento Password: 25966

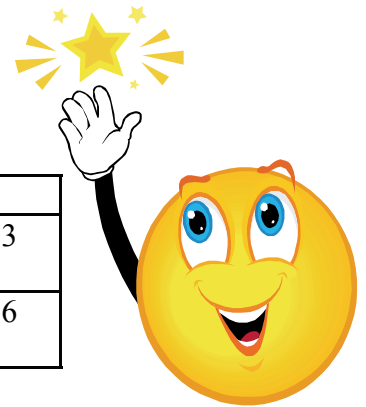
[BrainPop.com](http://www.brainpop.com) <http://www.brainpop.com> Username: natomas Password: charter

# STAR Writing and Benchmark Testing

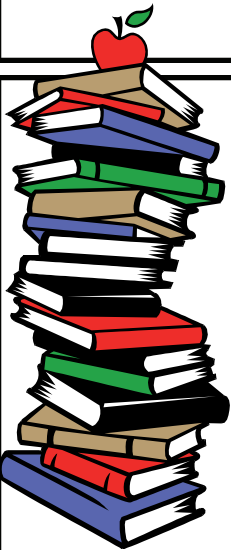
The first week of March we will start on the STAR testing for the school year. All fourth and seventh grade students are required to take the STAR Writing exam on March 1 from 8:30-10 am. We will also proctor the English Writing Benchmark test on March 2<sup>nd</sup> for all third and sixth grade students with Mrs. Padilla (see schedule below). Third grade will test from 9:00-10:30 during her class 3 time. Students not regularly enrolled in her class should attend for the testing day. The sixth grade students will test after Mrs. Padilla's writing class from 12:00-1:30. The benchmark and STAR testing give us an idea of how our students are writing in comparison to others in the school and across the state.

It is very important that all PACT students participate in the testing so that we have accurate results. Thank you in advance for working with the schedule changes to support your child and the PACT program.

March 1	March 2
STAR Writing Grade 4 8:30-10:00	Benchmark Writing Grade 3 9:00-10:30
STAR Writing Grade 7 8:30-10:00	Benchmark Writing Grade 6 12:00-1:30



## Library Center News



I wanted to say a Big Thank You to all the parents who have spent hours helping in the library this last month. Your hard work and time has really made a big difference and library looks much nicer. Thank You!

### For any students who are interested:

The library is looking for students who would like to have a voluntary job of regulating a section of the library. Students who are interested will be assigned a specific area or genre in the library. Their job duties will include ensuring that the books are straightened and neat, the books are in their proper section, they are in the correct alphabetical order and that the books are correctly coded and color labeled. The librarian will check to make sure that their section is neat and orderly. If the students are doing their best in helping to maintain their library section, at the end of the month they will be rewarded with a free item of their choice from the vending machine. This will not just help to keep our library user friendly and organized, but will foster skills of responsibility and leadership!

### Other news-

Students and Parents who are browsing through the library: Please use a place holder when searching for books. They are located in the blue cup at the front desk. When you choose a book, simply put the place holder in the spot that you took the book out of. Then if you decide you don't want the book, you can know where you took the book from by finding the place holder and putting it back to where the place holder is. Please return the place holder back to the blue cup when you have finished selecting your books. If you have any questions, the front desk is more than happy to answer them!



## Dedication Ads for the Yearbook

Recognize & **SURPRISE** your special student while providing a nostalgic memory for years to come—post a **Dedication Ad** in the 2010—2011 P.A.C.T. yearbook!



Prices range from \$5.00 to \$25.00.

**To order a Dedication Ad**, please complete the order form located at the yearbook table or front desk. Return it along with a favorite photo, poem or words of encouragement to your student. Please identify the photo (to avoid damaging the photo, write student's name on a sticker and place it on the back of the photo rather than writing on the photo) or provide a digital image (this is preferred).

Provide a personal message to be printed next to the photo.

**Deadline – February 10, 2011**

If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Chapman or any Yearbook student.



## ALL PACT Family Photo

It has become an annual event of epic proportions....yes, it's that time again for the ALL P.A.C.T. Families Photo.

Each year we attempt to gather as many P.A.C.T. families as possible for a photo that is now a part of our yearbook. This year's photo is scheduled for Thursday, February 24th at 5:00 p.m.. It is directly following the Collector's / Hobby Fair and PACT Grand Opening!

Your mission is to gather your family members: children, spouses, grandparents, and anyone else that is part of your Homeschooling family and bring them to our new PACT Center. Our photographer will do the rest! This is a precious memory and we want you all to plan to join the P.A.C.T. staff in creating this timeless memory for you and your family. Please contact the front desk if you have any questions.

## Purchase Your Yearbook

**The 2010—2011 Yearbook is only \$40.00  
Only 1 Months Left,  
Get yours NOW!!!**

This year it's easier than ever to purchase your PACT Yearbook. We have two easy options for you:

1. Purchase from a yearbook representative at the yearbook table.
- OR**
2. Purchase at the PACT Front Desk.



***This year you may also choose to Personalize the yearbook with your student or family name for \$3.00. Order when you purchase!***



## Second Annual Duck Pluck Reminder

Mark your calendars for  
May 14, 11:00am-4:00pm  
Don't miss this awesome  
event!



**\$10,000?:** Yes! The Duck Pluck is a raffle that gives participants a 500 to 1 chance of winning **\$10,000** cash! Purchase a raffle ticket for \$100, get a rubber ducky placed in a swimming pool with no more than 500 other ducks. If your duck is plucked at the end of the day, you win **\*\$10,000**. Additional prizes will be awarded for **\$3,000; \$2,000; and two \$1,000!**



Don't forget about the early bird special raffle! Be one of the first 100 ducks purchased and you have a chance to win an additional **\$1,000**.

Can't buy a ticket yourself? Split the price of the ticket with up to four other people or ask your friends and family if they want to participate.

Also, your purchase of a raffle ticket can count toward your parent hour responsibilities for NCS!

Don't wait! This is a great event supporting sports and the arts in the Natomas area schools.

Contact Rori Wright at 419-3788 ext.117 or [rwright@natomas.k12.ca.us](mailto:rwright@natomas.k12.ca.us)



## 9th Annual Collector's / Hobby Fair

Don't miss PACT's 9th annual Collector's / Hobby Fair on Thursday, February 24th from 3:00 – 5:00 pm! A few of the planned displays include coin, card, & rock collections, magic tricks, Legos, stuffed animals, Star Wars, and WWII memorabilia.

Interview questionnaires and participation worksheets are available at the front counter. These make excellent work samples for your advisor. Come and be prepared to be impressed!

Signups for display space are closed. Please cross your name off the list if you find that you are unable to participate so that your space can be given to a student on the wait list. Students on the wait list will be contacted as space becomes available.

If you have questions, contact Nedene Spencer at 419-3788 or [nspencer@natomas.k12.ca.us](mailto:nspencer@natomas.k12.ca.us). Someone will return your call as soon as possible.



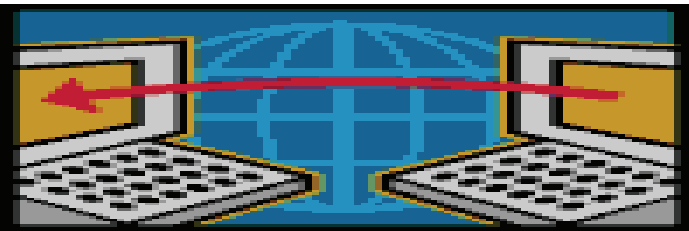
Don't forget, we will also be taking an all PACT family picture for the year-book at 5:00 pm on the same day. You don't want to miss the Collector's / Hobby Fair OR the group photo!  
Hope to see you there!



## Application dates



PFAA and Leading Edge are now accepting applications for the 2011-2012 school year. Anyone interested in applying for either of these programs for their child should pick up an application from the main office. The last day for returning the applications is February 28th, 2011.



## Wireless Internet is at PACT

We once again have wireless internet available for PACT families to use while on campus. It is labeled PACT5G and does not require a password. We hope this helps you to make the best use of your time on campus.



## The Extravaganza is Coming!

**Mark your calendars for May 19th!** Please help us to start preparing for the event by bringing in donations and signing up to help at the event. Sign ups will be at the PACT front desk. Items needed now are: cases of water, soda, Capri Suns, and apple-sauce cups, paper plates, plastic utensils, and paper napkins.



## Wish List Items

We have a wish list for anyone wanting to buy supplies to earn parent hours. \$15 worth of supplies equals 1 hour. See Shelly if you have any questions.

### Wish List

Bottled Water  
Plastic cutlery (forks and spoons)  
Paper plates  
Paper cups  
Pencils - Ticonderoga  
Construction paper  
Gift cards from Jamba Juice, Starbucks, Grocery, department, Office supply stores or Home Depot  
Sharpies (ultra fine) black  
Donations for the Open House Extravaganza  
Antibacterial wipes  
Paper Towels  
Kleenex  
Hand Sanitizer, 60% Alcohol or better  
Money at \$15 per hour



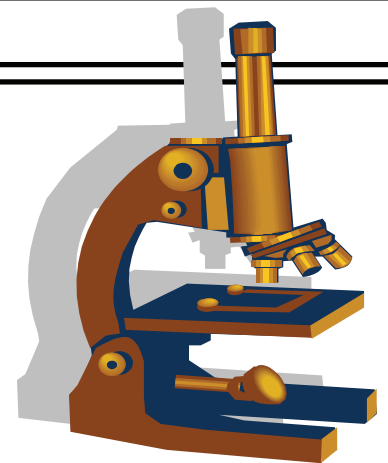
*Donations of Hand Sanitizer (60% alcohol or better) and Kleenex are worth double the parent hours.*

## Science Fair

**Our school wide Science Fair is scheduled for Tuesday, February 15th at 4:00.**

Students will present a project display board and an oral presentation. Sign up at the front desk and pick up more information.

All students in grades K-8 are encouraged to participate.



## PE News & California Family Fitness

Our PE classes are joining California Family Fitness for the month of March, and all PACT families are invited to enjoy a free month membership!

Just head over to Family Fitness on Truxel road and speak to the general manager. Tell him you are from the Natomas Charter School and he will set you up with a family membership for one month (and will take the chance to tell you about Family Fitness).

All PE students must have a signed waiver by February 16th to participate.



## Westminster Woods Meeting

Our Westminster Woods Outdoor Education trip is just around the corner! It's exciting to have thirty-three students and eleven parent chaperones attending this year! Final payment is due the 3rd week of February. Amid all of the activities that are going on at PACT, there will be an important meeting on Friday, February 25, 2011 at 2:00-3:00PM for those students attending and their parent(s) to go over the plans for this trip. In addition, parents will be asked to complete a medical waiver form for Westminster Woods and should bring that information with them. This will be the only scheduled meeting before the trip on March 8. While parents complete forms, students will have the opportunity to watch videos on previous trips.



## Pennies for Patients

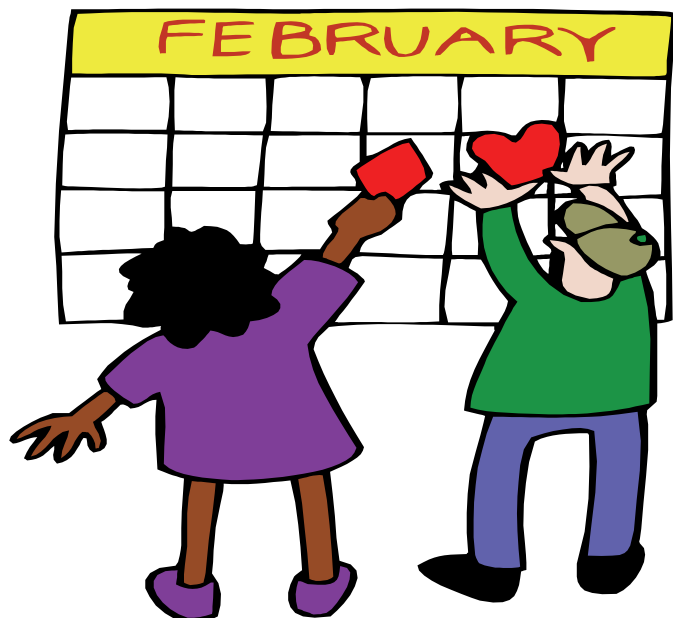
On January the 24<sup>th</sup>, Natomas Charter will join more than 25,000 schools nationwide in the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's Pennies for Patients Program.

For the next three weeks we will be helping children that are sick with blood cancers like leukemia. We invite you to aid us in supporting this cause.

You can contribute by bringing in your spare change and dropping it in the box at the PACT front desk.

If you want to get more involved you can ask for a personal donation box from Ms. Brittany and collect pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters, and even cash from family and friends to support the cause.

Our school goal is \$350. The competition ends on February 11<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for supporting the school in our goal to impact other children in our community



# HEALTHY FAMILIES & MEDI-CAL FOR FAMILIES

Get complete medical, dental and vision coverage for children up to age 19.

TOLL-FREE INFORMATION  
1-888-747-1222

## BENEFITS:

- Regular checkups (including well-child checkups)
- Immunizations
- Prescription medicine
- Lab and x-rays
- Dental and eye care (including eyeglasses)
- Mental health and substance abuse services
- Physician and hospital services

## ELIGIBILITY:

- Determined by family income, size and age of the child
- Covers children from birth up to age 19
- Available to U.S. citizens, U.S. nationals and qualified immigrant children regardless of date of entry (a child may qualify for some form of Medi-Cal, regardless of immigration status). All information is confidential.



Short, easy mail-in application—  
available in 11 languages!

### HEALTHY FAMILIES

- No co-payment for preventive services such as immunizations.
- \$5 co-payment for non-preventive services such as illness.
- Monthly premiums from \$4 to \$9 per child per month to a maximum of \$27 for all children in the family.
- Choice of major medical, dental and vision health coverage plans.

### MEDI-CAL FOR FAMILIES

- No-cost coverage.
- No monthly premiums.
- No co-payments for any benefit.

TOLL-FREE INFORMATION  
1-888-747-1222

[www.healthyfamilies.ca.gov](http://www.healthyfamilies.ca.gov)

### WORKING FAMILIES QUALIFY!

A family of four can make up to \$3,771 a month.

Healthy Families	Medi-Cal
\$4 – \$9 per month per child All children in family \$27 a month	\$0

You choose your doctor and health plan!

You can get free help completing the application.

Other options are available for children who do not qualify for Healthy Families or Medi-Cal for Families.

Early Permanente Care for Kids!  
1-888-945-5653

California Kids! (for undocumented children)  
1-888-482-3488

Not affiliated with or endorsed by the State of California.  
Eligibility is based on family size and income.



California Department  
of Health Services  
[www.cdhs.ca.gov/forthehealth](http://www.cdhs.ca.gov/forthehealth)  
(916) 229-7744

CALIFORNIA  
TEACHERS  
ASSOCIATION



THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT

