

## **Announcements for Holiday Weeks 2007-2008**

The Bret Harte Parent Teacher Association, School Site Council and Ms. Williams hope you are enjoying your holiday break. School resumes Monday, January 7, 2008.

### **Middle School Boundary Adjustment**

The School Board tabled the proposal to adjust middle school boundaries, at its meeting December 19. The Bret Harte community did a fabulous job of communicating its opposition. One Board member said he'd received 65 emails from Bret Harte. The Bret Harte PTA Board, School Site Council, and Ms. Williams extends their thanks to all of you. Also, because of Bret Harte's strong statements, parents have been asked to help Gary Yee as he and Board Member Kerry Hamill develop recommendations regarding policies such as middle school boundary changes. This will be discussed at the Parent-Teacher Association meeting January 9. If you're interested in helping, please contact Shawna Brekke-Read ([brekkeread@california.com](mailto:brekkeread@california.com)).

### **Options**

For 8<sup>th</sup> grade families (and prospective Bret Harte families): All 8<sup>th</sup> graders must submit their Options application to Ms. Traylor by January 10, 2008. If your child has lost his/her form, you may get another form from Ms. Traylor. Please check your 8<sup>th</sup> grader's backpack!

### **Plan for Four Vacancies**

Ms. Williams has taken measures to address the four existing vacancies at Bret Harte so that every child has a teacher for every subject. Notes will go home with each affected student on Monday, January 7. The following changes will be effective Tuesday, January 8:

#### **7th Grade Science**

1<sup>st</sup> period will be taken over by Mr. Ostrom

2<sup>nd</sup> period will be taken over by Ms. Colt

4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> periods will be divided up between Mr. Ostrom and Mr. Stubbs. Any 7<sup>th</sup> grade student sent out on referral from Mr. Ostrom or Mr. Stubbs will go to Ms. Williams with stiff consequences.

#### **7<sup>th</sup> Grade English/Social Studies – Room 214**

Ms. Pickering is the substitute in the class right now. She has been offered the position.

#### **6<sup>th</sup> Grade Math/Science – Room 302**

All math classes will fold into another 6<sup>th</sup> grade math class.

All science classes will fold into another 6<sup>th</sup> grade science class.

4<sup>th</sup> period math strategic class will be taken over by Ms. Silberstein

#### **8th Grade English – Room 205**

Mr. Alatorre will no longer be the substitute for the class. The class will have a new 30-day substitute.

## **Academics**

All 6th graders received a free book this week through the Reading is Fun (RIF) program. Please thank Ms. Carroll (library clerk) for all the hard work and effort to get each 6th grader a book to take home to read for the break.

The last day of the third marking period (and semester) is January 25, 2008. Now is a good time to make sure your child is current with his/her work. During the holiday break is also a good time to check with your child's organizational habits.

Parents and guardians are urged to have your child read every day during the break.

Take advantage of the holiday break by having your child engage in other activities that develop his/her academic skills. Baking or cooking, especially when following a recipe, develops skills like following instructions and math. Giving your child a budget (of anything, including time) develops math and organizational skills.

## **Bret Harte Enrollment**

It's not too late to take a tour at Bret Harte. Contact Lesley Johnson-Gelb to schedule a tour date.

## **Community News/Announcements**

The **2008 Dimond History Wall Calendar is now available**. The calendar features photos of 19th and early 20th century Dimond, over 150 community events and important dates (including many from **Bret Harte**), and contact numbers for local and city services. Individual Calendars are available in the greeting card section of **Farmer Joe's**, at **Paws and Claws**, and at **La Farine Bakery** for only \$12. All proceeds from calendar purchases go directly to beautification and safety projects in Dimond.

Dimond Improvement Association volunteer Karen Marie is accepting 2008 DIA membership dues payment and will deliver your History Calendar at the discounted members' price of \$10. Contact the DIA at [dia@dimondnews.org](mailto:dia@dimondnews.org) or **download the Membership Renewal and Calendar Order Form** from the Messageboard: <http://www.dimondnews.org/forum/viewtopic.php?t=586>  
Buy your 2008 Calendars from Dimond and be part of your neighborhood history!