



St. Hope Public Schools  
Fall Trimester 2009  
August 5 – October 16  
Volume 1, Issue 1

# PS7 Elementary Newsletter

## The Principal's Corner

Dear PS7 Family,

I would like to begin this letter by congratulating all PS7 students, staff, and parents for a great start to the new school year. Our focus at PS7 during the 1st Trimester of school is always to establish routines and procedures, and to create a culture of caring, respect, and high expectations. This work has allowed us to set the tone for a great school year in 2009-2010. I would also like to welcome the new students and families who have made the commitment to join the PS7 Family. As always, it is the responsibility of every returning PS7 Family member to make every new member feel supported, but also accountable to the high standards that we have established.

However, before we get too far into the new school year, it is important to reflect on the previous school year and some PS7 history. As our primary focus is always on academics, I am very pleased to announce that PS7 students performed remarkably well on the 2009 California Standards Tests. We should all be very proud of our students. In fact, PS7 has

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## PS7 Garden is Growing Along!

By Tamera Cole (PS7 Parent)



*February 2009*

Hands on Sacramento joined the effort and helped to sponsor the first "Garden Day": Cesar Chavez Day of Service, which occurred in March.

Volunteers helped to pull weeds, sectioned the garden to create smaller planting areas, and prepared the soil for planting. In addition, Bill Maynard with the City of Sacramento donated supplies, arranged volunteers, and provided his expertise and his tools in support of the PS7 Garden Project.

PS7 students helped Mr. Wilkinson and Master Gardener Barbara Poff plant seeds in April and by June beautiful sunflowers could be seen growing. The second Garden Day: The War on Weeds took place on June 27th and volunteers helped to pull weeds to keep the plants growing healthy.

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## Traffic Safety



We need your help to ensure the safety of our students and families every day when students are dropped off and picked up at PS7.

***We all can get in a hurry, but safety is critical, so please use safe driving techniques.***

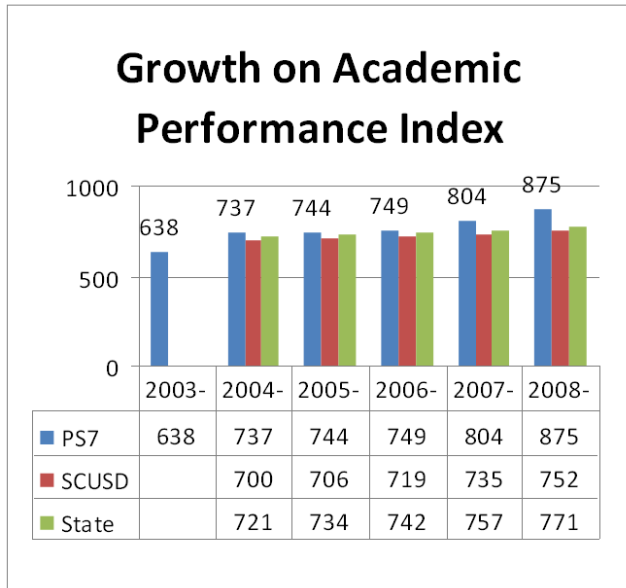
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## Listen, Respect, and Work Hard!

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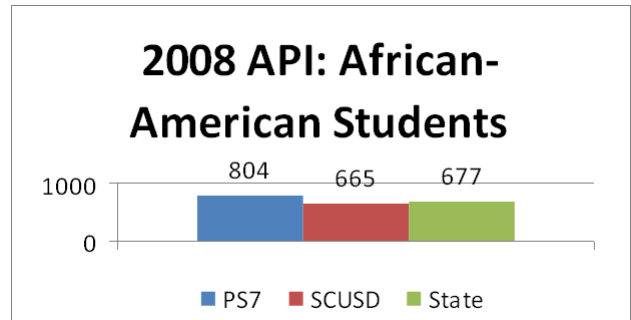
grown by leaps and bounds since we opened our school in 2003 as evidenced by the data below.



Each year, the California Department of Education measures the performance of all K-12 public schools through the California Standards Tests (CSTs), which are completed each Spring by students in grades 2-11. The CSTs assess each student's mastery of grade-level standards in English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and History. Each public school is then assigned an annual composite score for the CSTs called the Academic Performance Index. API scores range from 200 – 1000, with the goal for each school to reach 800 or above. PS7 met its API goal in 2008. In 2009, our API is projected to be 875 (2009 API scores are also projections for SCUSD and the State. Official API scores will be released on September 15, 2009). PS7 students continue to outperform students in the local school district (Sacramento City Unified School District) and the State.

The results at PS7 are even more stunning when looking at the performance of PS7 African-American students (87% of the PS7 student body) in comparison with their peers in the local school district and the State (please see chart below). African-American students are the lowest-performing ethnic minority

group in California on the CSTs. However, PS7 African-American students are some of the highest performing students in the entire state of California.



These results prove that all students are capable of achieving at the highest possible levels. PS7 students will achieve even more amazing results in the new school year as we continue to guide our work through the Five Pillars:

1. High Expectations
2. Choice & Commitment
3. More Time
4. Focus on Results
5. Power to Lead

With critical support from parents and PS7 staff, our students will continue to develop crucial academic and leadership skills each year. At the conclusion of this rigorous educational journey, our students will be empowered to graduate from a 4-year university, and obtain their dream jobs. We will certainly encounter obstacles during this journey. We will embrace and overcome any challenges as a Team and as a Family by adhering to our rules: Listen. Respect. Work Hard.

Please have a wonderful 1st Trimester at PS7.

For the Children,

***Herinder Pegany***

## Fall Trimester Highlights

### Cookie Dough Sale

August 17 – August 28, 2009. Proceeds benefit annual college field lesson.

**Delivery/Pick Up:** Friday September 18, 2009

### Parenthood Meetings

September 9 and October 14. See flyers for meeting locations and times.

### Live Scan Fingerprinting

Pick up a form from Ms. Marguerite in the administration office. There is a \$10 fee to get fingerprinted. Earn parent hours!!

## Fall Trimester Field Lessons

### Kindergarten

Oct: Fog Willow Farms Pumpkin Patch

### 1st Grade

Sept/Oct: Sacramento Zoo

### 2nd Grade

Sept: Sacramento Public Library

### 3rd Grade

Oct 9<sup>th</sup>: Discovery Museum

### 4th Grade

Sept 15<sup>th</sup>: Gold Rush Days, Old Sacramento

### 5th Grade

Oct: Lake Merritt

IMAX Field Lesson

**PARENTS:** Be sure to check your child's class folder for updated announcements about upcoming field lessons.

Remember to get your fingerprints cleared through Live Scan in order to chaperone on a field lesson.

*If you would like to be added to the Parenthood email distribution list, send an email to [Parenthood@ps7.org](mailto:Parenthood@ps7.org). Please include your name and children's names.*



April 2009

Special thanks to Mr. Todd Wilkinson and our PS7 students who are developing creative ideas to promote the project

and raise funds. Thank you to our 5th graders for writing a series of stories to be articles for a local media outlet, [sacramento.press.com](http://sacramento.press.com), to help generate interest in the PS7 Garden. Mr. Wilkinson and his "garden team" have big goals for the spring, which includes water system installation, planting the entire area, and setting up an outdoor classroom.

Fundraising and volunteerism are critical components to meet the short and long-term goals of the project. Students and parents



August 2009

will have another opportunity during the Fall Trimester to volunteer with the garden. The next Garden Day will be **Saturday, October 17th** and the goal is to: remove plants and begin composting; prepare the area around Rm. 4 for planting next year; and fix the existing water system. This is an excellent way to earn parent hours, so come show your support for the PS 7 Garden Project!!

## Parent Reminders

1. Don't forget to turn in your Parent Hours
2. Bring snacks for your child's classroom
3. Bring supplies for your child's classroom
4. Get fingerprinted with Live Scan
5. Become a Garden Project volunteer