Dear Families,

In November and December, you will notice that there are several service options that involve a donation. This is because during the holiday season, want is more keenly felt, and the campaigns reflect requests within our community. I hope that you will take this opportunity to have a conversation as a family about how you might choose to participate in these service options based upon what is meaningful to you.

All-Stars: Please be sure to bring your Service Log AT THE TIME OF SERVICE and present it for a signature. Complete ALL information BEFORE presenting your Log for a signature. If your service involves bringing an item, please be sure to observe specified time frames.

SMILE! Our website is up and running! Please post any pictures you take and log your action on our blog. Many of these photos will be used in our end-of-the-year slide show.

AYSO VOLUNTEER EVENT
Sunday, November 10th @ Founder’s Park
See info for Jooners sign up page on Schoolloop

CANNED FOOD DRIVE
November 12th-15th
10 items = ONE hour of service credit

This campaign is sponsored by our PAL class and is in support of the Second Harvest Food Bank. Students are invited to bring in plastic jars of peanut butter and jelly, rice, pasta, cereal, canned food, macaroni & cheese, and boxes of cake mix. Bring items to the foyer of the library before school or to your period one teacher. Students may also volunteer to help stamp logs and process donations from 7:55-8:10 on Tues/Thurs/Fri and 8:55-9:10 on Wednesday for ONE HOUR of service. See info for Jooners sign up page on Schoolloop.

VETERAN’S HOLIDAY BOXES
Turn-In after school on Wednesday, November 20th
Holiday Box = TWO hours of service credit

Assemble specified items for veterans at the Long Beach Veteran’s Hospital. See flyer below containing detailed information. Student assistants are also needed for the turn-in day. See info for Jooners sign up page on Schoolloop.
PJ’s from HEAVEN

Turn-In before school in room 717 on Friday, December 6, 2013

NEW Pajamas = TWO hours of service credit

This campaign is a district-wide initiative that benefits local families in our schools and within Orange County. On Friday, December 6th, students are invited to WEAR A PAIR of pajamas and BRING A NEW PAIR of pajamas. Last year, over 14,000 students and staff throughout CUSD participated in this campaign. Student volunteers are also needed from 7:50-8:10 on Friday morning, and again from 3:00-3:40 for ONE HOUR of service credit, to sort pajamas by size and prepare for delivery. See info for Jooners sign up page on Schoolloop.

FLEECE BLANKETS

Turn-In after school on Monday, December 16th

Baby Blanket = TWO hours of service  Teen/Adult Blanket = THREE hours of service

If you would like to learn how to make a blanket, please bring your fabric and supplies to our after-school workshop on Wednesday, December 4th. Be sure to take advantage of the 40% off coupon for JoAnn’s Fabrics (in the Sunday paper or online).

All blankets are due on Monday, December 16th, and we will roll them, wrap them with a ribbon, and sign a gift tag in the MPR on that day. Student assistants with experience making no-sew fleece blankets are needed for various tasks throughout the campaign. See info for Jooners sign up page on Schoolloop.

PLAYDOUGH PATROL

Monday, December 9th

Bring ONE “set” of playdough to MRS. RITNER in Room 717 for TWO hours of service credit. Please only bring if you have signed up on JOONERS. Additional times will become available in January. The next time you are in the office, be sure to look at the All-Star Bulletin Board, where a thank you card and pictures are posted of preschool students at Marguerite Christian School.

Coming Up in January...

2nd Quarter Student Information Meeting is Monday, January 13th @ lunch in the MPR

AND, in case you get into “cleaning mode” after the holiday season, please keep in mind:

Gently Used Sweatshirt/Jacket Drive (10 = ONE HOUR of service credit)
Gently Used Shoe Drive (10 = ONE HOUR of service credit)

In March...

Recycled Book Drive (10 books = ONE HOUR of service credit)

Please do not bring these items in early. We will designate a time and place for turn-in. 😊
**VETERAN’S HOLIDAY BOXES**

Ladera Ranch Middle School is making holiday boxes for the Long Beach Veteran’s Hospital. The majority of the recipients will be men in their 60’s and 70’s who served in Vietnam and reside permanently at the hospital. There are some younger men and women from conflicts in the Middle East. This campaign involves a donation of each of the following items:

**Personal Care Items (one each)**
- Deodorant, Shaving Cream, Toothbrush and Paste, Hair Brush and/or Comb
- Shampoo, Soap, Wash Cloth

**Hard Candy (i.e. bag of lifesavers, mints,Werther’s)**

**Clothing (choose one)**
- Pack of 3 undershirts, Pack of 3 t-shirts, Pack of 3-6 pairs of socks, OR Slippers

**Optional Items to include:**
- Chapstick, Powder, Gently used audio books, Gift cards to Target or K-Mart (these stores are near the hospital), Book of Puzzles (i.e. crossword/word search/sudoku), any additional gift items

If you have an abundance of any of the above items or access to other items that we might use when packaging the boxes, please contact Mrs. Ritner.

**DIRECTIONS FOR TURN-IN**

The turn-in date for boxes is AFTER SCHOOL on Wednesday, November 20th. Students need to bring their items and their Service Logs at that time. Boxes will be provided. Please do not pre-wrap your items. Students who WISH may also stay to prepare thank you notes and wrap the gift boxes. All students are encouraged to stay, but I realize that some schedules will not allow for this. Sign-up to participate on the Jooner’s website. The link is on Schoolloop.

**VETERAN’S BOXES = 2 HOURS OF SERVICE CREDIT**
**GIFT-WRAPPING/THANK YOU NOTE WORKSHOP = 1 HOUR OF SERVICE**
No-Sew Fleece Blanket Instructions

Materials:

- Sharp fabric scissors
- 8 Safety pins
- 2 Coordinating fleece fabrics
  - 1 yard EACH of two coordinating fabrics for Baby Blanket
  - 1 1/2 -2 yards EACH of two coordinating fabrics for Teen/Adult Blanket
- 4” x 1” strip of index stock and 4” square for Baby Blanket
- 6”x1” strip of index stock and 6” square for Teen/Adult Blanket

These will be provided in class. You can also cut your patterns from a file folder. Use a ruler and make sure everything is straight.

1.) **LAYING YOUR FABRIC OUT (this is easier with two people)**

Lay your first piece of fabric out on the ground and smooth it out. *The good side faces the ground.*

Lay your second piece of fabric out on top of the first piece. *The good side faces up.* Line up a top and a side. If you have excess fabric on the other two sides, trim it so that everything is even.

Two of your sides will have a selvage. You will see tiny little dots along the edge. Trim those two sides a little and cut the dotted edge off.

**When you finish this step, all you will see is the top piece of fabric—one the good side. The other good side will be on the floor. Have a teacher/parent check your fabric placement before you begin cutting.**

2.) **CUTTING SQUARES FROM EACH CORNER**

If you are making a Baby Blanket, you need the 4” square
If you are making a Teen/Adult Blanket, you need the 6” square

Lay the square on the very corner of your blanket. Hold it in place and cut a square from each corner of your fabric. Pin a safety pin in each corner, above where you cut out the square, to hold your fabric in position. Pin a safety pin along each side as well—somewhere toward the middle.

When you finish this step, you will have a perfect rectangle with a square cut from each corner.
You will have a safety pin holding each corner and each side together. Have a teacher/parent double check before you begin cutting your strips.

3.) **CUTTING ONE INCH STRIPS ALL AROUND THE BLANKET**

Now you are ready to cut your strips. Using your 4” x 1” strip (baby) or 6” x 1” strip (teen/adult), line your strip up at the edge of your fabric and cut right along the edge. You need to make long smooth cuts—but only to the end of the strip. You want to have perfect one-inch strips all around the perimeter of your blanket.

Sometimes when you get toward the end of a side, you can see that you’re not going to have one inch increments all the way down, and you have to “fudge” a little on your measuring so that your strips are almost one inch all the way down the side.

When you finish this step, your fabric will be held in place by safety pins, and you will have fringe all the way around.

4.) **TYING THE FRINGE**

Tie each set of fringe together in a square knot: right over left, left over right. Give it a little tug to make sure the knot is secure—but not too tightly, or you’ll get puckers.

Tie your long edge first, and then the opposite side.
Tie your short edges.