

Dixon Unified School District

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Dear Member of the Dixon Community:

Dixon Unified School District's 5th graders have been attending Science Camp for over 40 years – that means we have families in town where grandparent, parent, and current student all have or will have the 5th Grade Camp experience. Most students look forward to their 5th grade year knowing that this exciting opportunity awaits them. Typically, the trip has lasted 4 days and 3 nights, but a large increase in costs led us to reduce the trip by a day and night for this year. Upon reconsideration, and hearing from advocates for this program, we restored the time we had to cut and are providing the full camp experience for this year's 5th Graders.

With Science Camp at Alliance Redwoods, which is near Occidental, 5th grade students are provided the opportunity to interact with their peers in a non-classroom environment. The students are encouraged to try new things that push them out of their comfort zone as well as expose them to new experiences with which they may not be familiar. The camp allows them to communicate, work together as part of a team, and start to develop their leadership skills. Lastly, it allows the children the opportunity to foster independence. For numerous students in Dixon, this is the first opportunity of a trip away from home, experiencing science in the forest or building a sand castle at the beach.

To say that 5th Grade Camp is a highlight of our students' elementary school experiences is an understatement. For most students it is **the biggest** highlight, and also provides the parents who volunteer as chaperones a chance to connect with and contribute to our students in very significant ways.

Unfortunately, many of the students of DUSD are unable to cover the full cost of the camp. Students participate in fundraisers and seek donations throughout the year, but we are in a different situation this year. The initial cost we provided to families was based on the shorter camp experience, and since we have restored the time, we need to get the funding to pay for it. The good news is that we were able to combine some District funds and offset the bulk of the expense. The challenging news is that we still have thousands of dollars to raise and not a lot of time to raise it.

To help offset the cost increase the children and parents will be hosting a variety of fundraisers, but we are also seeking donations. Being part of a small community, we are asking for your support to help our 5th grade students continue to be part of the Outdoor Education tradition. If you are able to make a donation of any amount or sponsor a child (the full tuition is \$265) please make checks payable to Dixon Unified School District and send all donations to:

Dixon Unified School District
180 South 1st Street, Suite 6, Dixon CA 95620
Attention: 5th Grade Camp Fund

(over)

Donations may also be dropped off at school sites.

Any donation made to supporting camp is tax deductible. The District's Tax ID Number is 32-0183755. Donors will receive a letter thanking them for their contribution that may also be used for documenting the donation for tax purposes.

We know with the help of everyone in the community working together, we can make this educational tradition continue for 5th graders for years to come.

Questions can be addressed to Pinky Ngo (pinkyandgreg@sbcglobal.net) or Holly Purcell (mckynmne@aol.com).



The 5th graders of Dixon Unified School District thank you

