

# Collins Communique

February 4, 2010

Board Members: Anjali Kausar, Ben Liao, Josephine Lucey, Gary McCue, Phyllis Vogel

Superintendent: Phil Quon

## FEBRUARY 2010

- 1-11 ~ Kindergarten Registration
- 4 ~ Hearing Bus ~ Grades 1, 2 & 5
- 11 ~ Bud White class photos will be taken today!
- 15-19 ~ MID-YEAR RECESS ~ NO SCHOOL!
- 25 ~ PTA Family Science Night ~ Grades 2 & 3

## MARCH 2010

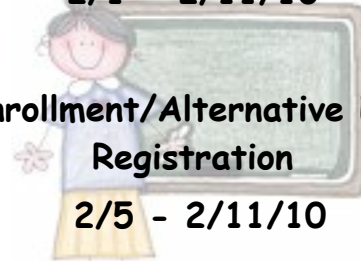
- 15 ~ STAFF LEARNING DAY ~ NO SCHOOL!

## APRIL 2010

- 26-May 7 ~ STAR Testing

## Kindergarten Registration

2/1 - 2/11/10



## Open Enrollment/Alternative Education Registration

2/5 - 2/11/10

## Grades 1-8 Registration

Starts 3/1/10

Dear Parents:

Collins School has applied to be recognized as a California Distinguished School for the 2009-2010 school year. If we are successful, the recognition will be announced in the spring of 2010. We were

informed late last week that our school has passed the paper screening. The next step in the process will be a school visit to Collins by a site validation team. This will take place next Thursday, February

11. The team members who are educators from other school districts, will be here all day to visit classrooms, meet teachers, PTA members, and other community people and talk to everyone. We waited until now to let all of you know because we wanted to make sure we had passed certain hurdles in this process. But we wanted to let all of you know that the following teachers played a major role in getting us this far. Ms.

Debbie Calcany and Mrs. Beth Wichmann, with assistance from Mr. Wayne Yeung and Miss Laura Goorvitch wrote the section on the 5th grade academic program that we wanted to showcase. Mr. Chris Nutter and Miss Andrea Thompson wrote the section on the Collins Garden. That was the second program we wanted to showcase. They all

did an excellent job and they did all this on their own time! In any school endeavor, success depends on the cooperation of all parties. We want to take this opportunity to thank the students, parents, and the rest of the teachers and staff who have made these programs successful as well. Wish all of us luck in this process!

We want to welcome back Mrs. Courtney Cheadle. She is returning from maternity leave this Monday, February 8. She will be back in room 6 working with her first grade students. We want



to thank Ms. Erin Gatley who did a great job taking Mrs. Cheadle's place. We want to welcome Ms. Kristine Wadley. She is our new speech therapist. Kristine will start the week of February 8. At the same time, we must say good-bye to Ms. Ellen Basco. Ellen was our speech therapist up until last week. She was excellent, but because she was a contract employee, the district decided that it would be better to hire a full-time speech therapist who is a district employee.

February is Black History Month. All the classrooms are doing activities that teach our students the important contributions of African Americans and how they have shaped our lives and our society.

Please be aware that district guidelines require that any change of residence **must be reported to the school office within ten (10) days**. This guideline is in place to ensure that the address and contact information that the school has on file is accurate. This crucial information is used in the case of an emergency, and to send official school or district correspondence. Failure to provide current residency information could result in the **immediate withdrawal** of your child. If you have any questions regarding this guideline, please contact our school office.

Jones Wong, Principal



## Speaking of Health: Do You Want to Live a Long and Healthy Life?

### •Don't smoke. You'll:

Decrease your risk of some cancers, heart attack and lung disease.

Experience better blood circulation.

Improve your ability to taste and smell.

Be a positive role model for younger generations.

### •Limit alcohol.

Too much alcohol can increase risk for developing various diseases and physiological and social problems.

If you do drink, the "Dietary Guidelines for Americans" suggest no more than one drink a day for women or two drinks a day for men.

### •Eat well.

Diet and exercise go hand in hand. Healthy foods give your body the fuel it needs to stay active and function at its best.

Choose wisely - look for foods that give you the most "bang for your buck," meaning food that provides your body with the nutrients it needs to build and repair itself. Examples include fresh fruits and vegetables, whole grains and lean meats.

### •Be active.

Activity does not need to be strenuous; a little goes a long way. Aim for at least 30 minutes of daily moderate activity, such as brisk walking.

### •Get enough sleep.

Aim for 7-8 hours each night.

Stick to a regular schedule.

Before bed, avoid food or drinks that might keep you up.

### •Get regular check-ups and screenings.

They'll help you spot any changes in your body that may not be visible.

Early detection increases survival and treatment options.

### •Practice safe habits.

Wear a seat belt.

Wear a helmet when riding a bike or motorcycle.

### •Remember mental and emotional health.

Mental (emotional and brain) health is important to healthy aging.

Depression, stress, and anxiety can affect your health and ability to recover from illness. Talk with your doctors if you have concerns. They can determine the best treatment or behavioral change for you.



## Bud White Class Photos - Thursday, February 11, 2010



Bud White will be here **Thursday, February 11** to take class pictures. Order envelopes will be distributed to students on Monday, February 8. If you wish to order a class portrait, please complete the order envelope and return it with your payment to your student's teacher.

Friendly Reminder: Have you made your Direct Donation yet? Please support all the programs for our children.

**OUR GOAL: \$70,000**

**STILL NEEDED: \$10,000**

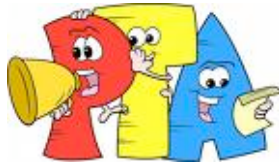
A reminder letter will be coming home tomorrow, Friday, February 5 in your students Friday folder.

A big thank you to all the parents who have already made their donation.

### WELCOME TO A NEW YEAR OF BOX TOPS!

Clip the box tops from hundreds of participating products from General Mills and other partnering products and send them to school through your classroom teacher. Each one is worth 10 cents when our school redeems them from Box Tops for Education. Like the previous years, we will have a contest: the class that collects the most Box Tops will receive a reward from PTA.

Deadline: February 22, 2010



## Garden Gleanings

This week in Garden Club, we had a special visit from the local Audubon Society. We built four birdhouses and learned about how the birdhouses help local birds! Collins is now participating in the Cavity Nester Recovery Program. Cavity nesting birds are birds that build their nests in holes made in dead trees by woodpeckers. Since in the city, dead trees are not left standing, these birds have no places to build their nests. Since there is still food for them around, particularly insects, there is a good chance that these nest boxes will see birds laying eggs in them this spring!

We are looking for four species of birds: the chestnut backed chickadee, the violet green swallow, the oak titmouse, and the Western bluebird. They should start making their nests in March, and start laying in April until June. It will be one of the jobs of the upper grade Garden Clubbers to monitor the boxes, record the information we learn, and report it to the local Audubon Society as a part of their study of bird populations. This is real Science in action!



Male & Female Western  
Bluebird



Oak Titmouse



Violet Green Swallow



Chestnut Backed Chickadee

# DO YOU WANT TO SEE YOUR ORIGINAL POETRY PUBLISHED?

## DO YOU WANT TO SEE IT IN OUR SCHOOL LIBRARY?

Participate in the 2010 Young American Poetry Digest!

Here's what you need to do:

### Poetry Submission Guidelines

Submission Deadline: March 12, 2010

Write a poem or poems - No more than 80 words in length!

Poems can be handwritten or typed.

There is NO limit on the number of submissions from each student.

Attach the information using a submission form or simply write the information on their submissions.

For more information, visit:

<http://www.youngpoets.org/>

School with the highest number of submitted poems will receive a \$100 award!

HELP COLLINS RECEIVE THIS HONOR!

A free copy of the 2010 Young American Poetry Digest goes to your school library.

Just be sure to turn your submissions in to your teacher before March 12, 2010.

Questions? Please contact your classroom teacher or the librarian at

[auprem\\_nagalakshmi@cusdk8.org](mailto:auprem_nagalakshmi@cusdk8.org).

Parent contact: Priya Krishnakumar email: [priyakk@hotmail.com](mailto:priyakk@hotmail.com)



## POETRY SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

- ★ Although all poetry forms are encouraged, **haiku** is the featured poetry form for the 2010 edition.
- ★ All poems submitted must be no more than 80 words in length – if a poem is more than 80 words, it will **not** be reviewed for publication.
- ★ Poems can be written by one or several authors.
- ★ Submissions can be handwritten or typed.
- ★ There is no limit on the number of submissions from each teacher.
- ★ Please let us know of any special circumstances concerning students and/or their submissions.
- ★ Attach the following information to a student's submission - if a student submits more than one poem, please staple all the student's poems together and make sure that all the submission information is included on the first sheet and that his/her name and poetry word count are on each subsequent sheet as well.

**DEADLINE – March 15, 2010** (*Postmarked*)

Send to: National Schools Project,  
ERC-PMB101  
582 E. Boise Avenue  
Boise, ID 83706 (208-363-9173)

Email – [info@youngpoets.org](mailto:info@youngpoets.org)  
Website – <http://www.youngpoets.org>

**PLEASE PRINT**  
**Student's poem must be under 80 words**

Student Name:	Age:	Grade:
Student Street Address:		
City:	State:	Zip Code:
Teacher and/or Librarian Name:		
School Name:		
School Contact Info (phone or email):	Number of words in poem:	

*(no more than 80 words)*

### ***Student Security and Privacy Issues***

Student security and privacy are our greatest concerns and ones that we have successfully addressed over the thirteen years of the project. Student information is not disclosed to any outside party nor is the student's name published with any information that may connect him/her to a specific school, address or locality. Individual student information is not retained, but is destroyed upon publication of the book.

**DISTRICT NEWS SECTION**

2009-2010

**INDEPENDENT STUDY**

If you plan to be away from school for a **minimum of five school days and a maximum of ten school days**, please contact the office and your child's teacher **at least two week ahead** of your departure date to arrange for a special Independent Study (IS) Contract. This way your child can keep up with the class. The following guidelines must be followed:

- A student must be enrolled for three consecutive weeks before an IS contract can be initiated.
- The contract and homework must be returned the first day back to school with all the work complete, so days missed do not count as unexcused absences.
- Students who are absent for more than ten consecutive days will be dropped from the roster of their school. When the student returns, if space is available at his or her school, the student will be reinstated. If no space is available, the student will be assigned to another school in the district where space is available.

**2009-2010 DISTRICT CALENDAR**

February 15-19	Mid-Year Recess
March 15	Staff Learning Day
April 12-16	Spring Recess
May 28	Staff Learning Day
May 31	Memorial Day
June 10	Last Day of School

**2010-2011 DISTRICT CALENDAR**

August 19, 2010	Students Return
September 6	Labor Day
November 11	Veteran's Day
November 12	CEA Non-Duty Day
December 20-31	Winter Recess
January 17, 2011	Martin Luther King Day
February 21-25	Mid-Year Recess
April 18-22	Spring Recess
May 30	Memorial Day
June 10, 2011	Last Day of School

**CUSD BOARD OF EDUCATION - BUDGET DISCUSSION**

The Cupertino Union School District Board of Education has placed an informational budget discussion item on the agenda of the regularly scheduled board meeting on Tuesday, February 9, 2010. This meeting will be held in the Collins Elementary School Guided Learning Center and will begin at 6:00 p.m. Collins is located at 10300 N. Blaney Avenue in Cupertino. Any concerned individual may appear before the Board of Education to comment or ask questions regarding the District's current budget situation. This item is for information only and the Board of Education will not be taking any formal action regarding this topic.

Detailed budget information is available on the budget reduction information page on the District's website. The link to the site can be found under the "Latest District News" heading at [www.cupertino.k12.ca.us](http://www.cupertino.k12.ca.us).

**2010 STAR TESTING DATES**

STAR Multiple Choice Testing for grades 2-8 will begin the week of April 26, 2010 and continues for two weeks. The STAR Program is a state accountability measure that helps us assess how we are meeting the needs of our students. You can help prepare your child for the test by ensuring your child goes to bed on time, eats a good breakfast, and leaves for school with a positive attitude. Please do not schedule any family trips or doctor appointments during this time.

**CUPERTINO MIDDLE SCHOOL PARENT INFORMATION NIGHT**

The Cupertino Middle School Parent Information Night for next year's 6th, 7th and 8th grade students will be held Thursday, March 4 in the gym. The 6th grade presentation will be at 6:00 p.m. and the 7th and 8th grade presentations will be at 7:00 p.m. The presentations will cover course selection, homework, expectations, extracurricular activities and other topics. These presentations are open to all families who will have students at CMS next year.

Additionally, at 7:00 p.m. in the multi-use room, our PTA will host an informal gathering so that incoming 6th grade parents can talk with CMS parents who have already experienced their student's transition from elementary to middle school. This was a very popular event last year.

Due to facility limitations, these presentations are for parents only! An electronic copy of the presentation and any handouts will be made available upon request for any parents unable to attend the March 4 meeting.