

Collins Communique

February 11, 2010

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

Superintendent: Phil Quon

FEBRUARY 2010

- 15-19 ~ MID-YEAR RECESS ~ NO SCHOOL!
- 23 ~ Ohlone Village field trip ~ Rms. 23 & 30
- 24 ~ Adobe Days field trip ~ Rm. 27
- 25 ~ School Site Council meeting ~ 3:30 p.m.
- 25 ~ PTA Family Science Night ~ Grades 2 & 3

MARCH 2010

- 15 ~ STAFF LEARNING DAY ~ NO SCHOOL!

APRIL 2010

- 26-May 7 ~ STAR Testing

Monday, February 15

through

Friday, February 19

Mid-Year Recess
No School!



Get out and enjoy yourselves!

Dear Parents:

Next week is our Mid-year Recess. We hope you will take this opportunity to do some fun things with your children.

As you are reading our newsletter today, the **Site Validation Team** is completing its visit to Collins to check us out as part of the **California Distinguished School** process. No matter what happens, we want to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their tremendous efforts in presenting our school and

our various programs in the best light. Special thanks go to **Mrs. Patti Holcomb** and **Ms. Carrie Courson**. These two ladies worked very hard in transforming our large conference room into a display and information center. Many of the programs and events that we had mentioned in our application had taken place or have not occurred yet. Because it is only a one-time visit, we needed to show the team members things that have happened and things yet to come. These two ladies turned that room into a living museum and information center. Special thanks also go to the **PTA Executive Committee**, parents, and community members for participating in

this process. Fifth grade students, teachers, and staff also played a leading role in making everything work. Finally, thanks again to **Mr. Chris Nutter**, **Miss Andrea Thompson**, **Ms. Debbie Calcany** and **Mrs. Beth Wichmann**, with assistance from **Mr. Wayne Yeung** and **Miss Laura Goorvitch** for doing the bulk of the work in this entire process.

Just a reminder to all parents dropping off students in the morning..... to help with traffic flow, please drive forward as far as possible before letting your children out of your vehicle. Too many parents are stopping in the middle of the loading zone to let students out because it's closer to the classroom. Walking a bit further is good for all students because it's exercise.



Plus you will help traffic keep moving and not cause bottlenecks on Blaney Avenue.

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.



When your child is sick, please remember that you must call our attendance line every day. This line is available 24 hours day. Please call 408-252-6002, extension 6. While it is nice that you leave a message or send an email to your child's teacher, it is **very important** that you leave a message in the office. Messages or emails left for teachers do not always find their way to the school office.



Jones Wong, Principal

Speaking of Health: Healthy Weight/Eating Habits

In light of Michelle Obama's campaign to fight obesity on behalf of our nation's youths, here are some things you can do to help her win this fight:

Focus on health, not weight

Compliment your children on lifestyle behaviors like "Great snack choice" or "You really run fast" rather than on the loss of a pound or two, says Tanner-Blasiar, a registered dietitian.

Be a partner in health, not the police officer

It doesn't work if a parent hovers and monitors what the child eats and his or her activities. Parents can improve the whole family's health by not buying junk food, sugary drinks, avoiding fast foods and planning weekend activities for the entire family. Not being the police does not mean children get a free-for-all. Parents need to set firm limits, Robinson said.

Treat children equally

Even if one of your kids has issues related to obesity and another doesn't, make sure one isn't getting a cookie and the other is getting a stalk of broccoli. The disparity in treatment breeds resentment and negativity, experts said.

Create an open environment to discuss issues

Sudden fluctuations in weight may have nothing to do with food. The child could have emotional issues that trigger eating disorders, said Lynn Greife, chief executive officer at the National Eating Disorders Association.

Move

Don't just talk about eating right and exercising. Lead by example by making lifestyle changes as a family. Turn off TVs and computers. Look for ways to spend fun, active time together.

Here are things to avoid:

Don't play the blame game

Avoid yelling, bribing, threatening or punishing children about weight, food or physical activity. These issues can turn into parent-child battlegrounds that breed shame and anger. The worse children feel about their weight, the more likely they are to overeat or develop an eating disorder.

Don't label your children

Some parents give labels to their children. Tanner-Blasiar said she runs into families who label their children as the slow, fast, skinny or fat one. Be careful, she said, because sometimes kids "live up to their labels."

Don't criminalize the cupcake

An occasional treat is OK, as long as treats are eaten in moderation. Making something forbidden tends to have unintended effects.

Don't disparage your own weight

Kids are always listening and internalizing what their parents say and do. Parents who belittle themselves and their own figures inadvertently could pass that on to their children.

Avoid the word "fat"

Getting to a healthy weight is not about becoming skinnier or prettier. Emphasize health over appearances.



Garden Gleanings



Yesterday at Garden Club we planted blue eyed grass that we had divided earlier in the year and cut back bushes by the upper grade classrooms. It was fun to put plants that we started months ago into new locations. It will also be interesting to see how well the bushes grow back after their big trim. We also continued some of our ongoing projects, including weeding, cleaning and refilling the bird feeders, and making stepping stones. Finally, we also made thank you cards for the Audubon Society visitors we had last week to help us get started with our nest box monitoring program.

As for garden observations, we focused on looking for sprouting, budding, and blooming plants. Abhinav and Mila noticed flowers in bloom, particularly the daffodils we planted from the bulb fundraiser. Davide noticed the coral bells are budding. Esha not only saw that the currant is blooming, she noticed its smell. Observing that it smells like mint, she wondered if it is in the mint family, as it smells like the sages in the garden.

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.

Parent contact: Priya Krishnakumar email: 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
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

2010 SUMMER SCHOOL UPDATE

The Cupertino Union School District continues to face major budget cuts from the state. As a result, there will be no available funds to implement the district's summer school program. Starting this year (2009-2010), there will be no regular education, CLIP, or ELD summer school.

Special Education summer school is not affected and will be available for students currently identified and enrolled in Cupertino Union School District Special Day Classes (SDC) whose IEP include summer school. Registration forms for the SDC summer school will be available from the SDC teachers beginning April 2010.

DE ANZA COLLEGE SUMMER EXTENDED YEAR PROGRAM 2010

De Anza College in partnership with the Cupertino Union School District will offer the Extended Year Program this summer, mornings only, from June 21 to July 16, 2010.

Students entering grades 6 through 10

Classes will be held at Kennedy and Miller Middle Schools, and will include: Java Programming, Geometry, Intro to Algebra, LEGO Robotics, Speech and Debate, Fashion Design and many others.

Students entering grades 1 through 5

Classes will be held at Eaton Elementary School, and will include: Pre-Algebra Prep, Writing: Paragraphs to Essays, Reading Intensive, Mandarin Chinese, Math & Art, Mandarin, Journalism/Writing, and more!

Program brochures will be sent home in early March and will also be available at your school office. More information is available at www.extendedyear.deanza.edu.

Early registration is by mail only and will begin on March 8, 2010 and ends on May 21, 2010. There will also be walk-in registration available from June 1 to June 8, 2010.

ELIMINATION OF GRADE FOUR WRITING ASSESSMENT

The CST for Writing (the writing component of the CST for English-Language Arts [ELA]), and the CMA for ELA) will not be administered to students in grade 4 in the 2009-2010 school year. The elimination of the writing task will have no effect on students' achievement of proficiency because the CST for ELA in grade 4 and the CMA for ELA in grade 4 will be scaled and equated on the basis of the multiple-choice questions only.

Please note that the CST for Writing and the CMA for Writing will continue to be administered in grade 7, Next spring's administration of those tests in grade 7 will be on Tuesday, March 2, 2010, with makeup testing on Wednesday, March 3, 2010.