

Collins Communique

May 13, 2010

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

Superintendent: Phil Quon

MAY 2010

- 18 ~ Incoming kinder parent meeting ~ 3:00 p.m. ~ GLC
- 20 ~ Volunteer Tea ~ 10:15 to 10:45 a.m. ~ GLC
- 24 ~ Primary Music Performance ~ See page 3 for times!
- 28 ~ STAFF LEARNING DAY ~ NO SCHOOL!
- 31 ~ MEMORIAL DAY ~ NO SCHOOL!

JUNE 2010

- 9 ~ 5th grade Farewell ceremony ~ 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- 10 ~ LAST DAY OF SCHOOL!

ALL STUDENTS RELEASED @ 12:05 P.M.

TAKE A MINUTE AND CHECK OUT OUR OVERFLOWING LOST & FOUND LOCATED IN THE HALLWAY BY THE TILE HAND WALL.

IT IS BRIMMING OVER WITH JACKETS, SWEATSHIRTS, LUNCH BOXES, ETC. IF YOUR CHILD HAS MISPLACED AN ITEM, YOU MIGHT FIND IT IN THE LOST AND FOUND.

UNCLAIMED ITEMS WILL BE DONATED TO CHARITY SOON!

Dear Parents:



We want to take this opportunity to again thank the PTA and Collins parents who fed us every day last week. It was the most enjoyable **Teacher Appreciation Week**.

There were a variety of different foods. They

were delicious! And, there were more than enough for some of us to take leftovers home! Thank you!

The **TFIN campaign** is nearing the end. A big thank you to all parents who contributed, to all local merchants who contributed generously, big corporations who did matching donations, and to all the unions and their members in CUSD who agreed to 5 furlough days. We may have reached our goal of raising \$3,000,000 to restore class size reduction in grades 1-3 and in the process save many teaching jobs. It has been a joint effort on everyone's part. This campaign brought out the best in people. We can be proud of everyone who

contributed and worked hard on this campaign. Special thanks to **Mr. Ashwini Gaur** and **Mrs. Archana Gaur** for coordinating the campaign at Collins. Special thanks to **Mr. Ashwini Gaur**, **Mrs. Sunita Merchia**, **Akash Gaur**, **Atul Merchia**, and **Sonali Merchia** for encouraging parents to donate to the campaign and holding up support signs. The campaign continues to take contributions. There is no deadline date. Please go to www.CEEFcures.org to contribute.

A big thank you to **Ms. Debbie Calcany** and **Mrs. Beth Wichmann**. They made several presentations at the Santa Clara County Office of Education on Wednesday, May 12 starting at 3:30 p.m. It was part of the Distinguished Schools presentation of signature practices. They talked about the 5th grade academic program at Collins School. Many other distinguished schools from the county also participated.

Our annual **Incoming Kindergarten Parent Orientation** will held on **Tuesday, May 18** at **3:00 p.m.** in our **GLC**. This is an opportunity for parents to come and listen to the Kindergarten

teachers talk about how to prepare incoming kindergarten students and make sure they have a successful first year.

Our annual **Volunteer Tea** will be held on **Thursday, May 20** from **10:15 to 10:45 a.m.** in the **GLC**. This is an opportunity to thank all parent volunteers and a time to socialize with teachers and staff. Hope to see all of you there!

Our last **Staff Learning Day** is **Friday, May 28**. This will be a 4 day weekend for students since the following **Monday, May 31** is **Memorial Day**.

The last day of school is quickly approaching. Please remember that all kindergarten students will attend school starting at 8:40 a.m. on Thursday, June 10. **All students will be released at 12:05 p.m.** Please make arrangements NOW to have your children picked up promptly at 12:05 p.m. The school office will be closing early on this day and there will be no supervision on campus. Plan ahead!

Jones Wong, Principal



Speaking of Health: How Important is a Stable Home Life to Children?

Parents have a major responsibility in providing the best possible opportunities to children at every stage of their development. Successful parents work at creating the "right conditions" for their kids. Having a stable home life is of prime importance to our children's well being. It is the foundation and core element on which our children's physical, emotional and intellectual development takes place. Here are some of the underlying factors that accentuate the importance of a stable home life:

• A Safe Environment

A safe and secure environment promotes a healthy physical, cognitive, emotional and social growth in children. In the ideal environment, the parents and caregivers remain constant and stay connected which helps in building a trusting relationship. A stable home consistently provides warmth, emotional support, stimuli and day-to-day nurturing.

Securely attached children are better off in all respects - socially and academically. Insecurity creeps in when children feel unsafe and fail to understand or predict their parents/caregiver's moods, when the interactions with children are strained, hurried and stressed. A calm consistent relationship builds children's confidence and enables them to function independently.

• Unconditional Love

Children need an assurance of receiving unconditional love from their parents and caregivers. Abundance of love, care, interest and concern in a home contributes to a stable home life. Children will thrive on it as "love" strengthens family ties and enhances children's well-being.

Another manifestation of love is when parents openly appreciate their children's efforts and praise their accomplishments. Gifting children with affection, attentiveness and respect will go a long way in ushering stability in their lives.

Parents who enjoy sharing quality time with their children, can never fail. Time spent in loving companionship is reassuring to children and vital to their development. The spirit of "togetherness" could be made up of moments of attention and bonding. This would go a long way in bringing a sense of belonging and security in the lives of children.

Children, whose parents are too busy pursuing their own goals, are sadly deprived of this important element. It is these children who are oft driven to go astray having been deprived of stability and guidance in their home life. Spending time together with your child is the key to good parenting.

• Fostering Freedom

Allow your children the freedom to explore the world beyond the confines of the home without constant supervision. Exploring and learning to discover new things each day is one of the exciting aspects of their overall growth and natural development. However, parents may find it necessary to exercise caution and set limitations to ensure their children's safety.

When early explorations are encouraged, the minds and personalities of children develop to their fullest potential. This enables children to form new relationships and build self-confidence. This is yet another important aspect of providing a stable home life.

• Conclusion

It is heartwarming to see today, many parents actively involved with their children. They have found creative ways to provide the best for their families. With their astounding drive, determination and sense of total commitment, they have worked towards providing a stable home life to children.

However, this issue will be an eye-opener to those numerous parents who are struggling each day. Hopefully, the suggestions here will help those parents who need guidance in the right direction. The key is to keep in mind that your children's future is essentially up to you. You can have a positive impact on your children's lives. Their future will be what you make of it!



Collins Clothing Norms

With the onset of warmer weather, it is an opportune time to review the Collins clothing norms as states in the Collins School Handbook that all families received on the first day of school. Our norms reflect our goal that students come to school dressed appropriately. Clothing worn to school should not be a safety concern, nor should it detract from learning.

- Wear shoes that are appropriate for physical education; they must be secured to the foot (**no flip-flops**).
- Wear tops that cover your stomach and have at least two inch wide shoulder straps.
- Shirts may not display violence, put-downs, messages promoting illegal or restricted substances (beer, alcohol, drugs), or sexually explicit material.
- Shorts or skirts must be longer than the tips of your fingers when standing with your arms at your side.
- Chains, hanging belts, or sagging pants are not allowed.
- Hats must be removed in class and at assemblies, and may not be worn backwards.
- Makeup is not allowed.

Birthday Book Club

Thank you to the following students for donating a book to the library in honor of their birthdays:

Sreeganesh S. in room 6

"DINOSAUR WORLD"

Isha V. in room 20

"SIX BY SEUSS: A TREASURY OF DR. SEUSS CLASSICS"

"ROBINSON CRUSOE"

"For more info on the Birthday Book Club, visit: http://www.collinselementary.com/book_donations.php

Have You Ordered Your 2009-2010 Yearbook Yet?

YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS THIS YEARS COLLINS SCHOOL YEARBOOK!



We have only ordered 500 copies and have already sold 386!

When they're gone, they're gone!

Yearbooks are only \$20.00 for 72 FULL-COLOR pages!

Order envelopes are available in the school office.

Please make checks payable to Collins School!

Primary Music Performance Schedule - Monday, May 24, 2010

9:15 to 10:15 a.m.

Mrs. Austin ~ Mrs. Olsen ~ Mrs. Vadodkar ~ Miss Li ~ Mrs. Eckland ~ Miss Frogner
Mrs. Shinozaki ~ Miss Tapeç



11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Mrs. Kowalski ~ Mrs. Liao ~ Mrs. Blatter ~ Mrs. Camilleri ~ Mrs. Bodnaruk
Mrs. Gong ~ Miss Thompson



1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Mrs. Cheadle ~ Miss Johnson ~ Mrs. Koyanagi ~ Mrs. Lau ~ Mrs. Chao/Ms. Momii
Ms. Teo ~ Ms. Arisawa ~ Miss Rousseau ~ Mrs. Wojno

April 2010

Dear Parents,

As the 2009-2010 school year comes to a close, we would appreciate it if you would take a moment to let us know where your child will go to school next year. Please fill out this form and return it to your child's classroom by May 21.

This information is very useful and your response will make our planning easier for next year.

Please note that based on current state coding procedures, if you leave the district and do not return this form, we will be required to code your child as a "dropout" from the Cupertino Union School District.

Sincerely,

Mr. Jones Wong
Principal

PLEASE PRINT

Student Name(s): _____

Parent Name: _____

Current Phone Number: _____

_____ **Yes**, my child will be returning to the current Elementary School or the assigned middle school for the 2010-2011 School Year.

_____ **No**, my child will be attending a school outside of the Cupertino Union School District. District/School Name: _____

_____ **No**, my child will be attending another school in the Cupertino Union School District. School Name: _____

DISTRICT NEWS SECTION

2009-2010

2010-2011 SCHOOL YEAR FURLOUGH DAYS

In response to the unprecedented reductions in education funding from the state, all district employees have agreed to a temporary work year reduction of five days for the 2010-2011 school year. This represents \$2.5 million in salary savings, which will help minimize the severity of employee layoffs and lessen the impact of budget cuts on the district's education programs. This furlough agreement only applies for next year. As a result, next year's school calendar will be adjusted with the following furlough days:

• **November 22 and 23, 2010** (the first 2 days of the week of Thanksgiving)

• The last 3 days of school:

• **June 8, 9 and 10, 2011** (all school except Murdock-Portal Elementary School)

• **June 15, 16 and 17, 2011** (for Murdock-Portal Elementary School)

After much consideration, both of these blocks of time were selected to minimize the impact on classroom instruction. Specifically, the district traditionally experiences abnormally high absence rates during the two days of school held during the week of Thanksgiving.

DISTRICT HEALTH UPDATE

McNeil Consumer Healthcare has recently called for a voluntary recall of certain over the counter infant and children's products. This voluntary recall has not been undertaken on the basis of adverse medical events.

Parents and caregivers are being asked not to give these products to their children as a precaution. While the potential for serious medical events is remote, the company advises consumers to discontinue their use. In addition, if you have medication at the school site for your child, you may want to check the lot number and replace the medication as necessary.

For further information call 1-888-222-6036 or at www.mcneilproductrecall.com.

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.

2010 CEEF BENEFIT GOLF TOURNAMENT

SAVE THE DATE! HELP OUR SCHOOL!

Monday, June 21, 2010

11:00 a.m. Shotgun Start

Stanford Golf Course

Save the date now for CEEF's 24th Annual Golf Tournament on Monday, June 21, 2010, at Stanford Golf Course. The tournament will provide funds toward CEEF's Arts & Technology Matching Grant program that benefits every district school.

