

Collins Communique

August 27, 2009

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

Superintendent: Phil Quon

SEPTEMBER 2009

- 3 ~ Welcome Back Parent Night 6:00 to 6:30 p.m.
- 3 ~ Back To School Night (Parents Only)
 - 6:30 to 7:15 ~ Grades 3-5
 - 7:15 to 8:00 ~ Grades K-2
- 7 ~ **LABOR DAY ~ NO SCHOOL!**
- 9 ~ PTA Meeting ~ 7:00 p.m.
- 10 ~ Bud White individual pictures taken today!
- 18 ~ **STAFF LEARNING DAY ~ NO SCHOOL!**



WELCOME BACK PARENT NIGHT

Thursday, September 3, 2009
6:00 to 6:30 p.m.



**THIS IS A MEETING FOR PARENTS ONLY!
PLEASE LEAVE YOUR CHILDREN HOME!**

Dear Parents:

We've had a fairly smooth start to another school year. Credit goes to you and your children for making good efforts to follow school rules and procedures.

I want to thank those parents who have made a concerted effort to walk with their children to school. I have noticed that many more of you are walking your children to school each morning. This has cut down on the number of cars that come into the drop-off lane (loading zone). At the same time, walking has helped most of you get to school on time. I don't see as many students as in previous years jumping out of their cars just as the final bell rings. I need to ask all parents who still drive their children to school to pull as far forward as possible in the drop-off lane before letting your child or children out of the car. This will help with the traffic on North Blaney Avenue in the morning. Finally, I would like to remind all students and parents who walk to please follow pedestrian rules. Please cross at the crosswalk and wait for Donna, our crossing guard, to stop traffic first.



Thank you to the **PTA Executive Committee** for putting on the annual **Welcome Back Breakfast** for the teachers and staff last Wednesday morning at 8:30 a.m. in the staff room. The food was plentiful, healthy and delicious!

Remember that **Back to School Night** is Thursday, September 3 from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Classroom visits are 6:30 to 7:15 p.m. for grades 3-5. Classroom visits for grades K-2 is 7:15 to 8:00 p.m. **Please remember that this is a PARENT ONLY night!** Please come and find out what is being taught in each class.



Welcome Back Parent Night is also Thursday, September 3. This will take place between 6:00 and 6:30 p.m. in the **GLC**. Come and find out about school rules, our hot lunch program and how you can support the PTA.

Be vigilant in helping your children demonstrate proper hygiene habits as we move into the flu season. This means



washing hands with soap and water before eating, after using the restroom, and after sneezing or coughing. If your child has a fever, please keep him/her home. Students need to be fever free for 24 hours before returning to school. Donations of anti-bacterial hand cleansers to your child's classrooms are greatly appreciated.

We have a number of students who are severely allergic to peanuts and peanut by-products. We want all of our students to enjoy having lunch together at the lunch tables and not have to separate the students who have food allergies from other classmates. If at all possible, we ask that you not include peanut butter or other peanut by-products in your child's lunches.



Also, please remind your children not to share their snacks and lunches with other children. In addition to the peanut allergies I have mentioned above, we also have students who are allergic to wheat, dairy and/or shellfish products. We thank you for your help.

Jones Wong, Principal

Birthday Book Club ~ New @ Collins!

Celebrate your child's birthday by participating in the Collins Library Birthday Book Donation program. Just purchase your favorite selection from the Collins Library Wish List which is published on our school website. Here's the link to the online list:

https://www.amazon.com/wishlist/1ZSM7BK2Z79MY/ref=cm_reg_rd-upd?_encoding=UTF8&msgid=updated

We request hard cover books for the library and will not be able to accept paperback copies of books. So, please make sure to buy hard cover copies. Bring the book to the Collins School office, library or your child's classroom. Please make sure to place a post-it note on the book with your child's name and date of birth. Please do not write inside the book!

A bookplate with your child's name and special occasion will be placed inside the book. Also, look for your child's name to be published in the Collins Communique.

Celebrate your child's birthday with the gift of reading! Donate a hardcover book in your child's honor to the school library and make a real difference!

Questions? Please contact our librarian, Lakshmi Auroprem at 252-6002, ext. 150 or email auroprem_nagalakshmi@cusdk8.org



Running Club



We're back!! Running Club will resume for the first through fifth graders starting next Tuesday, September 1. We still need dedicated parent volunteers for this ongoing program on Tuesdays and Fridays from 11:50 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. This is an optional program for interested students, not a requirement. Students run laps after eating their lunch. Every 5 miles a student runs, a token is given as a reward. We look forward to seeing you out on the field running laps!

Hot Lunch Information

Pre-Pay for Lunches: Blue payment envelopes are available in the school office. Complete the information on the front of the envelope. Enclose a check made payable to CUSD Student Nutrition Services and return the envelope to school. Every child brought home a menu on the first day of school. Post the menu on the fridge for future reference. This menu is posted on the Collins School website: www.collinselementary.com. The lunch price is \$2.75 for students. Be sure to check the menus daily to make sure the items listed are foods your child will eat. Remind your child to raise their hand in the morning when the teacher takes the daily lunch count!



Parents are encouraged to pre-pay for school lunches online. For your convenience, you are encouraged to pay for your children's school lunches online. If you do not already have an account set up, go to www.paypams.com or call 1-888-994-5100. You will need to provide your child's PIN and billing information. Payments may be made by credit/debit cards or by electronic check withdrawal from your bank account. You can make payments, view your child's payment history and change payment preferences 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. This web or phone site can also be used by parents to check account balances. If parents choose not to pay on-line or by phone, the inquiry service is still free to use. Parents can simply use their child's PIN to set up an account with no payment required.

Visitors and Volunteers On Campus

For the safety and security of all our students, before going anywhere on campus, whether to a classroom, the library, the computer lab or the playground, **all parents and visitors** must sign in at the office and wear a visitor's pass.

No parent or visitor will be allowed on campus without a school visitor's pass.

If you are on campus without this visitor's pass, you will be asked to return to the office. Everyone needs to sign in!



We Have A New E-Mail Address!

Please make a note of our new e-mail address. Teachers and staff can now be reached at: lastname_firstname@cusdk8.org

Bud White School Picture Day

Mr. Bud White will be on campus Thursday, September 10, 2009 to take individual school pictures of our students. Look for the information flyer which will come home with your child next week. Order envelopes will come home the day before pictures are to be taken. If you are interested in ordering pictures of your child, please have your child bring in the photo envelope, with payment enclosed on Thursday, September 10. If your child is absent on picture day, there will be a make-up date at a later date.

Every student will be photographed on this day whether you are purchasing pictures or not. We need a photo of every child for our records here at school.



From The Parent Link ~ Ways to Make Our Children More Responsible For Themselves

HOME RESPONSIBILITIES FOR 5 and 6 YEAR OLDS:

- Help with the meal planning and grocery shopping.
- Making own sandwich or simple breakfast. Then cleaning up.
- Pouring own drink.
- Preparing the dinner table.
- Tearing up lettuce for the salad.
- Putting in certain ingredients to a recipe.
- Making bed and cleaning room.
- Dressing on own and choosing outfit for the day.
- Scrubbing the sink, toilet and bathtub.
- Cleaning mirrors and windows.
- Separate clothing for washing. Putting white clothes in one separate pile and colored in another.
- Fold clean clothes and put them away.
- Answer the telephone and dial the phone for use.
- Yard work.
- Paying for small purchases.
- Taking out the garbage.
- Feeding his/her pets and cleaning their living area.



GATE Referral Process Testing Schedule

FALL TESTING ONLY FOR: "New-to-District" students (Grades 4-8)

Referrals will be accepted beginning: August 24, 2009

Deadline for Fall GATE referrals: September 25, 2009

(Referrals received after September 25, 2009 will be returned to the school site.)

The focus of Cupertino's Gifted and Talented Education Program is to identify and serve those students who have demonstrated exceptional intellectual ability and outstanding academic achievement. Referrals for Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) testing may be initiated by teachers, parents, or the student. If you have a current "new-to-district" student you would like to have tested this fall for the Gifted and Talented Education Program, please contact your child's teacher or school office for a referral form.

If you have questions about the screening process, please call the GATE office at 408-252-3000, extension 199, between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. or visit the GATE website at: <http://www.cusdk8.org>.

NOTE: Fall testing for new-to-district students will take place late October 2009.

INITIAL AND ANNUAL CELDT TESTING

The Cupertino Union School District will administer the California English Language Development Test (CELDT) to all students eligible for English Language Development services. This test will be administered from the beginning of September through the end of October. Based on your child's last years CELDT scores if their proficiency level is limited, withdrawn or transitional, your child will be included in the annual CELDT test at their school. The initial CELDT will be given to kindergarten students whose primary language on the home language survey is a language other than English. A letter will be sent home with your child prior to the initial and annual testing date at your school. The test consists of four skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing. Grades K-8 are tested in all four areas. This year only reading and writing for kindergarten and first grade students will not affect their overall proficiency level. You will receive the official results after January 2010. If you have any questions, please contact your school office.