

Collins Communique

September 17, 2009

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

Superintendent: Phil Quon

SEPTEMBER 2009

18 ~ STAFF LEARNING DAY ~ NO SCHOOL!

25 ~ Cupertino Library field trip ~ Rms. 11 & 12

OCTOBER 2009

1 ~ McClellan Ranch field trip ~ Rms. 16, 17 & 28

2 ~ Cupertino Library field trip ~ Rms. 10 & 29

5-13 ~ Conference Schedule (All grades except kinder!)

All students (not K) released at 1:10!

26 ~ STAFF LEARNING DAY ~ NO SCHOOL!

30 ~ All kinders attend school 8:40 to 12:10

REMINDER!

STAFF LEARNING DAY

Friday, September 18, 2009

NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS!

HAVE A GREAT 3-DAY WEEKEND!

Dear Parents:

Just a reminder that tomorrow (Friday, September 18) is the first district wide **Staff Learning Day** for teachers and staff. There is no school for students! Have a nice three-day weekend.

COME ONE, COME ALL! This Saturday, September 19 at 11:40 a.m. at the Cupertino Civic Center field on the corner of Torres Avenue and Pacifica Drive, our kindergarten students will be performing the **Chicken Dance** as part of the **Cupertino Fall Festival**. Our students always do a

great job. It's a picture taking opportunity for the proud parents. We want to thank Mrs. **Stephanie Bodnaruk** and Mrs. **Katherine Camilleri** for supervising

the students. After the performance, please stay for the festival.

Our first **Volunteer Training** had an excellent turnout. Last Wednesday, September 9 from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. was the first session of the Volunteer Training program. The purpose was to go over expectations and legal requirements of becoming a volunteer at Collins. Over 50 interested parents attended. There was

positive feedback from the parents about how helpful and useful the session was.

Thanks to Mrs. **Beth Wichmann** and Ms. **Debbie Calcany** for the power point presentation. There are two more sessions in case you missed the first one. The next meeting is this Friday, September 18 at 1:00 p.m. in the GLC. The third session is Wednesday, September 30 at 8:45 a.m. in the GLC. Hope all interested volunteers can make one of these sessions.

We want to take this opportunity to thank all parents who have done the following two things: 1) joined PTA for the 2009-2010 school year and 2) made your direct donation of \$150. All the enrichment programs that are offered to all students, as well as the interesting assemblies and other school activities are funded by direct donations. We just want to remind those families who haven't made their donations to please do so as soon as possible.

Parent-teacher conferences are scheduled from Monday, October 5 through Tuesday, October 13, 2009. This is an opportunity for all parents to meet with their child's teacher to discuss his/her progress in school and address any educational issues that need to be dealt with so the student can have a successful year. **School will end**

at 1:10 p.m. during conference days for students in grades 1 through 5.

Kindergarten students will have a regular schedule. Lunch will be served from 12:10 to 12:40 p.m. Appointments for these conferences will be sent home with all students. **It is very important that you pick up your children on time and alert carpools and daycare providers of the schedule change.**

Your children will not be allowed to sit in the office during your conference!

Please make arrangements to have your students picked up on time! We thank you in advance for your help in this matter.

Please be sure your child's lunch account has money in it! When students go through the line and then have no money, it slows up the whole process. To prepay for your student's meal online, log on to www.paypams.com or call PAMS lunchroom at 1-888-994-5100.



Jones Wong, Principal

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

HOME RESPONSIBILITIES FOR 9-10 YEAR OLDS:

- Change sheets on the bed and put dirty sheets in the hamper.
 - Operating the washer and/or dryer.
 - Measure detergent and bleach.
- Buying groceries using a list and comparative shopping.
 - Crossing streets unassisted.
- Keeping own appointments (dentist, school, etc. and making them within bike distance).
 - Preparing family meal.
- Pouring and making tea, coffee and kool-aid.
- Planning own birthday or other parties.
 - Doing neighborhood chores.
 - Do chores without a reminder.
 - Learning to use allowance wisely.

Volunteer Training

Friday, September 18, 2009 at 1:00 p.m.

Wednesday, September 30, 2009 at 8:45 a.m.

We are offering a one-hour volunteer training session for all interested parents. This training will cover volunteer "etiquette." We will review the rules of volunteering (i.e. siblings are not allowed in the classrooms or on field trips, expected responsibilities when chaperoning on field trips, etc.)

There will be no child care provided at these trainings, so please make arrangements for your children.

Before volunteering at Collins School, you **MUST** have a current TB test on file in the school office. No one is allowed in the classrooms, on the play yard or on a field trip without a TB test on file.

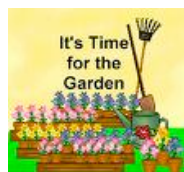
If you are interested in volunteering at Collins School this year, you NEED to attend one of these very important meetings!



Attention all you gardeners out there!

The Collins Garden Club will begin again on September 30!!

We would like to invite all interested parents to come to a meeting on Tuesday, September 22 at 3:30 in room 18 to begin the brainstorming for projects, plans, and activities to help the garden continue to flourish as we approach its first birthday!



Speaking of Health: Natural and Organic Food ~ You Are What You Eat!

A natural and organic food diet should be at the center of a proper nutrition program. Have you ever heard the phrase - you are what you eat? By eating natural and organic foods, and consuming lots of fruits and vegetables through juicing, you can eat your way to good health. Now that is a diet I can live with!

I hate the word diet. It conjures up visions of starving myself to try to shed some pounds. In our society, the word diet has become synonymous with restriction of certain foods to lose weight. However, these fad diets generally do more harm than good. Once the goal is reached - if it is reached - old eating habits return. Generally the weight that was lost is regained quickly. Even worse, during the diet, unhealthy foods are substituted for natural ones, leading to worse general health. Take for instance substituting saccharin or aspartame for sugar. These man-made chemicals can do more harm than good.

The natural and organic food diet is not a temporary fad. It is a lifestyle change that promotes good health and long life. Because the natural and organic food diet is more likely to provide the nutrition your body needs and also has a cleansing effect on your body, it will allow your body to heal itself. By eliminating the foods that introduce or create toxins in your body, and by eating foods that are natural and organic, you will achieve good health.

The premise of the natural and organic food diet is to avoid foods that contain artificial sweeteners and other additives. Since these food additives do not naturally occur in nature and are created by man, the human body does not process them correctly. It causes the body to build up toxins and generally leads to bad health. Similarly, use of non-naturally occurring fats and oils can also lead to compromised health. Also find out why ultra-low fat diets may actually be hurting your health and why some fats are essential to your health.

Farmers feed growth hormones and antibiotics to animals raised for meats and dairy products, in order to increase the output of the farm. Additionally, farmers treat vegetables and fruit they grow with pesticides and chemical fertilizers. Therefore, eating natural and organic meats and dairy products and organic produce relieves your body of the added burden of processing these chemicals present in the food we eat.



Math Kangaroo is back at Collins!

Math Kangaroo, an international competition in Mathematics, will be held on

Thursday, March 18, 2010 in the Collins GLC after school at 4:30 p.m.

If your child is interested in taking this math test, please register at the website www.mathkangaroo.org. Registration starts mid September. Students in 2nd through 5th grade can participate in Math Kangaroo.

For further information, please check the Math Kangaroo website or send an email to

Sandhya at cjsandhya@hotmail.com or Komita at komitap@hotmail.com



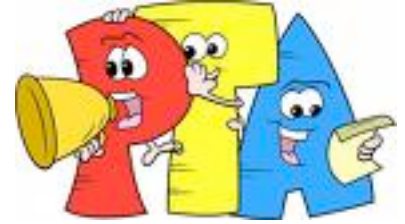
Birthday Book Club

Thank you to **Aishwarya Vadivel** in room 2 for donating the following book to our library in honor of her birthday which was September 14.

BISCUIT STORYBOOK COLLECTION



Thank you all for the overwhelming response to the Volunteer Training held last Wednesday in the GLC. Following the training, PTA had its first Executive Board meeting. We got to propose and discuss the budget for the current year and were done at 9:45 p.m. We would like to thank Mr. Wong, Mrs. Wichmann, Mrs. Olsen and all the executive board for their patience during the meeting. We are happy to note that many parents were eager to attend the meeting, but unfortunately could not attend as it was for the Executive Board only. We would like to take this opportunity to invite the parents for our future association meetings which are held every second Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the GLC.



SCRIP PROGRAM: Purchase your gift cards and prepaid cards through this new program at Collins. The school will receive funds at no extra cost to you. There is still more time for you to order. Please visit www.glscrip.com and choose the "order scrip" tab. You will see the entire list of participating vendors listed alphabetically and the minimum purchase order for each vendor. This month we will be collecting the orders until **September 25**. Use the order form enclosed or come by the office to get a copy. Drop your orders in the PTA box in the office. You will receive the cards by **October 5**. Make checks payable to **Collins PTA**. For any questions, please contact Sharmeela Shah at sharmeelashah@yahoo.com.

MEMBERSHIP REMINDER: Joining PTA supports local, state and national efforts to improve the education of children and the lives of families. Membership provides the opportunity for individuals to raise their voices with others throughout the state and nation to protect children's rights. Membership ensures that PTA's voice is heard on issues affecting young people as well as providing opportunities for parent education, communication and leadership development. By becoming a PTA member, you will also receive the Collins Student Directory for FREE. If you want to be included in the directory, please send your information by September 30. We will not be able to include your name after the deadline. You can find the forms in the school office.

REFLECTIONS: Unleash your talent! Submit your entries by October 9 in the school office. The theme for this Fall's 2009-2010 Reflections Program is "Beauty is....." This theme will inspire students to enjoy and demonstrate their creativity in a competition that is part of a National PTA Reflections Program, an arts recognition and achievement program for students. The program offers schools an opportunity to showcase the importance of the arts in education. This theme-based arts recognition program can also enhance a school's arts program and give students a sense of achievement and pride. Collins students can submit entries in the following categories: •**Film/Video Production** •**Dance Choreography** •**Musical Composition** •**Photography** •**Visual Arts** •**Literature**

Student works are critiqued against other works in the same grade division. Works are judged and awards given at the local, state, and national levels. All participants receive recognition and showcase their talents through local exhibits of Reflections Program entries. If you would like to learn more about the Reflections Program, visit www.pta.org and click on Reflection.

Each entry needs to follow the general rules and must accompanied by an entry form from the Collins website, PTA link, and click on Reflections. There are also specific rules and instructions associated with each entry category, which can be found on the same website link. While some paper copies of these instructions/rules and the entry form will also be available in the office, we encourage you to use the web to "keep Collins green".

T-SHIRT CONTEST: Congratulations to the winners of the Collins t-shirt contest! Thank you very much to those students who participated in the Collins NEW t-shirt contest and to all of the teachers who helped us choose the winners. We had 160 entries, and they all looked fabulous, so it was very difficult for our teachers to choose the winners. During the selection process, we concealed the names of the students and displayed the drawings in the staff room. You will see them displayed in one of the hallways next week. We are planning to have the new t-shirts by the end of October. It is going to be exciting! The winners for each grade level are:

Kindergarten: Michelle Yu - Rm. 2

1st grade: Ipsita Bisht - Rm. 32

2nd grade: Sripad Sureshabu - Rm. 10

3rd grade: Rishika Jandhyala - Rm. 13

4th grade: Alexander Cho - Rm. 30

5th grade: Kathie Chen - Rm. 26

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR ANNUAL DIRECT DONATION YET? As most of you know, these donations are essential for us to provide critical programs for PE, Art, Music, as well as assemblies and other activities at Collins. The annual Direct Donation is \$150 per family, which is one of the lowest in the Cupertino School District. For the first time ever, PTA is giving a free new Collins t-shirt to each student of families that make their contribution before October 30. Please don't miss this opportunity! If you need a donation form, please pick one up in the school office. Thank you for your support.

DESTINATION IMAGINATION: Please remember that there will be an information meeting next Tuesday, September 22 at 7:00 p.m. in the GLC. Hope to see you and your child there!



**COLLINS SCHOOL
SCRIP ORDER FORM**

Name: _____

E-mail address: _____

Home phone: _____ Cell phone: _____

Child's Name: _____ Room #: _____

STORE _____ DENOMINATION _____

STORE _____ DENOMINATION _____

STORE _____ DENOMINATION _____

STORE _____ DENOMINATION _____

STORE _____ DENOMINATION _____

STORE _____ DENOMINATION _____

STORE _____ DENOMINATION _____

STORE _____ DENOMINATION _____

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.

CUPERTINO FALL FESTIVAL

Saturday and Sunday, September 19-20, 2009

10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Cupertino Civic Center Library Field

Free Admission

The Cupertino Fall Festival is an evolution of the very successful Cupertino Jubilee and Fall Festival that has been held for the past three years. The event is organized by the Rotary Club of Cupertino and will incorporate the Health and Safety zone which will be offering flu shots in addition to an Environmental Earth Zone hosted by the City of Cupertino.

The key elements of FallFest 2009 are: Kids Fun Zone; Health and Safety Zone; Environmental Earth Zone; along with great food, beverages and wonderful entertainment. Additional information is available at www.cupertinofallfest.com.

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.

H1N1 GUIDELINES

The Santa Clara County Public Health Department guidance recommends that, based on current flu conditions, students and staff with flu-like illness stay home until at least 24 hours after they no longer have a fever or signs of a fever without the use of fever-reducing medications (any medicine that contains ibuprofen or acetaminophen).

You can help keep our schools healthy by adhering to the following guidelines:

- Continue to enforce proper hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette - The recommendations continue to emphasize the importance of the basic foundations of disease prevention: stay home when sick, wash hands frequently with soap and water when possible or alcohol based hand sanitizer, and cover noses and mouths with a tissue when coughing or sneezing (or a shirt sleeve or elbow if no tissue is available).
- Leave accurate information as requested on the school's absence line if your child is sic. This will help the school identify any potential issues as soon as possible.
- Promptly pick up your child from school if they are sent home for being ill. The school will keep ill students separated from others until they can be sent home. Please make sure that the school office has your updated contact information.
- Any returning students after an illness with a fever will need to have their temperature taken in the school office before returning to class. Teachers will be sending returning students back to the office to have their temperatures taken if they arrive directly to the classroom without being cleared.