

Collins Communique

September 24, 2009

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

Superintendent: Phil Quon

SEPTEMBER 2009

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

30 ~ Volunteer Training Meeting ~ 8:45 a.m. ~ GLC

REMINDER!

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

October 5 - 13, 2009

All students in grades 1 - 5 will be released at 1:10.

Please make arrangements to have your child picked up promptly!

Kinders stay on regular schedule!

Dear Parents:

We had another great turnout at our second **Volunteer Training**. Last Friday, September 18 at 1:00 was the second 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 again to **Mrs. Beth Wichmann** and **Ms. Debbie Calcany** for the power point presentation. There will be one more session in case you missed the first two.

The next meeting is next Wednesday, September 30 at 8:45 a.m. in the GLC. Hope all interested volunteers can make the last training session.

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.

We happily encourage home school communication. However, we request that parents not go directly to classrooms to talk to teachers during the instructional day. Teachers need to have uninterrupted time to teach. We make every effort to be available to parents. Teachers and administrators return phone calls or correspond by e-mail. If you have concerns or questions, you should contact the school and arrange a conference with the teacher. Working together as a team, we can help each student reach their own unique potential. We appreciate your support.

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 school office and your child's teacher at least three weeks ahead of your departure date to arrange for a special Independent Study Contract. The following guidelines must be followed:

- A student must be enrolled for three consecutive weeks before an Independent Contract can be initiated.
- The contract and homework must be returned the first day back to school with all the work completed, 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 were space is available.



Jones Wong, Principal

Volunteer Training

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 this training, 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 this very important meeting!

Visitors on Campus

FOR THE SAFETY OF OUR CHILDREN, PLEASE REMEMBER TO SIGN IN AT THE OFFICE AND PICK UP A VISITOR'S BADGE. We are seeing a lot of people on campus and no one knows who they are. Our students have been trained to notice "strangers" on campus. If you are on campus without a visitors badge, you will be asked to leave or return to the office to obtain one. Thank you for helping keep our children safe!

Speaking of Health: Do You Get Enough Sleep?

If you are like most people, the answer is probably "no". Add care giving to the equation, and the ability and time to get enough sleep fades quickly. Most of us use weekends to catch up on sleep just a little. But if you require extra sleep each weekend or are tired during the day, you are probably not getting enough sleep during the night.

Everyone's sleep requirements vary between 6-8 hours for an average healthy adult. Most people need around 8 hours but get substantially less than that every night.

Sleep deprivation takes its toll in many ways. You're more likely to lose your sense of humor and control of your emotions, be depressed and get sick. It can also be deadly. Driving while drowsy is responsible for more than 70,000 accidents a year, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

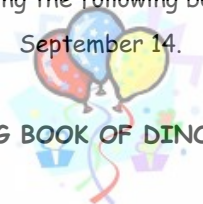
Sleep experts say Americans have not been adequately educated on the importance of healthy sleep. As a result, few Americans make sleep a priority. William Dement, M.D., founder and director of the Stanford University Sleep Disorders Center and author of the book *The Promise of Sleep*, considers the lack of awareness about sleep deprivation to be a national emergency: "The consequences of a sleep-deprived society include lost lives, lost income, disability, reduced productivity, accidents and decreased quality of family and social life." He adds that sleep actually has more influence on longevity than diet, exercise and heredity.



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.

"THE BIG BOOK OF DINOSAURS"



One more reason to become a PTA member:

•LEGOLAND supports California PYA's by offering a FREE visit coupon for every PTA member in California. The coupon is valid for ONE FREE admission to Legoland California and ONE FREE admission to SEA LIFE Aquarium with one full-price paid admission to Legoland and Sea Life. Coupon will expire December 2010. Just drop a note in the PTA box if you would like to have one coupon.

STUDENT DIRECTORY: We have extended the deadline to October 30 for you to turn in your information if you want to be included in the school directory. Remember: PTA members get a free directory. Non-members will pay \$5.00.

FREE T-SHIRT: Pay your Direct Donation by October 30 and you will receive a free Collins t-shirt.

Pizza Night

Wed., Sept. 30

5:00-8:00



**Please join us at Pizza Party on the corner
of Homestead Rd. and Lawrence Expwy.
to raise funds for 5th grade science camp.**

If you'd like, you can call in your order earlier in the day
(before 3:00) so that it is ready when you arrive.

248-5680

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 sick. 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.

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.

DIWALI FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

Saturday, September 26, 2009

10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Memorial Park in Cupertino

Free Admission

Diwali is a time of joyous celebration. The Cupertino Chamber of Commerce is presenting its Sixth Annual Diwali Festival of Lights, a multicultural family fun day, which will include Children's Art Faire contest starting at 10:00 a.m. and ending at noon for judging, followed by multicultural music and dance performances, Exciting Kids Zone, international food court, arts and craft booths, and much more.

Free parking will be available at De Anza College (lots A & B). Additional information is available at www.cupertino-chamber.org.