

# Collins Communique

October 29, 2009

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

Superintendent: Phil Quon

## OCTOBER 2009

30 ~ Halloween parades ~ Kinder: 10:50/Grades 1-5: 1:10

## NOVEMBER 2009

- 1 ~ Daylight Saving Time Ends
- 3 ~ Election Day ~ Don't forget to vote!
- 3 ~ Camp Koinonia Science Camp ~ All 5th grade
- 5 ~ Planetarium field trip ~ Rms. 7, 9, 14 & 32
- 5 ~ "Apollo: To The Moon" field trip ~ All 3rd grade
- 6 ~ Planetarium field trip ~ Rms. 4, 6, 20 & Art
- 6 ~ 5th graders return from Science Camp ~ 12:00

**DON'T FORGET TO  
"FALL BACK"  
THIS SUNDAY!  
SET YOUR CLOCKS BACK  
ONE HOUR BEFORE BED ON  
SATURDAY!**

Dear Parents:

Red Ribbon Week is in full swing. Our message to students is to stay away from drugs. The school campus is decorated with red ribbons and many posters. Everyone is wearing a button advocating being drug free. Thanks to the PTA, in particular **Cicily Santosh** for organizing Red Ribbon Week.



Yesterday was our annual **Disaster Drill** practice. At precisely 10:40 a.m. everyone was told to duck and cover because an earthquake was taking place. Then a few minutes later, every class evacuated to the grass area. The teachers and staff carried out their assigned duties. We do this drill to be ready in case of a real disaster. We want to thank everyone who participated. We thank the parents who came during the drill pretending to pick up their child. Special thanks go to **Niti Motwani** and **Rinku Dutta** who are the PTA representatives in charge of making all the preparations so we can do this drill annually.

Thank you to students, parents, teachers, staff, and volunteers (both parents and high school students) for making last

Friday's **Fall Festival** such a success. It was well attended in the afternoon. Of course, we had great weather, so most people stayed for the entire time. There were games, food and many other activities. The students had a good time. I'm sure the adults did also. It was good to see former Collins parents and students who came to volunteer as well as to participate in the activities. As usual, the PTA planning

committee did a great job.

At the end of the festival there was a raffle drawing for prizes. The students were really excited! Congratulations to all the winners!

**THANK YOU**



Next Tuesday morning, our 5th graders are off to **Science Camp**. The students are going to **Camp Koinonia** in the Santa Cruz Mountains. They will stay for four days and three nights and return on Friday afternoon. (When the students return to school on Friday, they will remain in class until the end of the day.) This is always a special event for the students as they have a chance to experience science activities, as well as staying in dormitory style housing and doing KP duty in the dining hall. We want to take this opportunity to thank **Mr. Jeff Mains** who has graciously volunteered to drive some students to and from Science

Camp. We have a large group of 5th grade students and they could not all fit into two busses. Since Mr. Mains volunteered to drive, we don't have to rent a 3rd bus and it saves us a ton of money.



Research shows that children with consistent school attendance learn more. Punctuality also promotes learning. A student who is 10 minutes late every day will miss 30 hours of instruction during the year. Children who are late or absent can copy notes or make up an assignment, but they can never get back what's most important - the discussion, the questions, the explanations by the teacher and the thinking that makes

learning come alive. Your child's success in school depends on having a solid educational background - one that can only be gained through punctuality and regular school



attendance. Research shows that attendance is the single most important factor in school success.

Jones Wong, Principal

## Speaking of Health: How To Eat Less, Part I

#1 ~ **Eat less. More often.** Rather than eating large meals, chop up your eating into smaller portions throughout the day. I found myself eating 3 meals most days and having a snack around 3 p.m. as well as another in the evening. That was enough to keep me from feeling hungry while still eating less in total.

#2 ~ **Don't eat right before going to bed.** I've read this numerous times and don't get why it works, but it does. I set a limit of 3 hours. So if I planned to go to bed at midnight, I wouldn't eat past 9 p.m.

#3 ~ **Brush your teeth early.** For whatever reason, I won't eat when my teeth still feel clean. By brushing them several hours before bed, it was easier to accomplish #2.

#4 ~ **Kick the sugar habit.** If you drink sugared soft drinks (I used to be a Mt. Dew and Coke fan), replace them either with their diet counterparts or water. This can make a very, very big difference.

#5 ~ **Eat vegetables before the main course.** Whenever possible, I'd make sure to have an ample serving of a vegetable (you get very few calories for the amount you eat) before eating the denser main course - - often a meat or fish. You'll need less of the dense stuff to be happy.



## Collins Garden Gleanings

Anusha noticed the asters are blooming and Avani and Anjali saw bumblebees clustering around them!

Palak noticed that we have some volunteer seedlings crowding onto the garden path. These are the seedlings from last year's beautiful profusion of Punchbowl Clarkia!

Sayesha enjoyed the new stumps at the end of the path for garden seating and Ria noticed new yellow buds on one of the plants. Suki saw that there are new blue fescue grasses.

Many children used their sense of smell this week in observations and Ayal and Parker noticed the Coyote Mint has a very pleasant smell like its name implies, however Milkweed does not! Jared thought that the Pink Yarrow had a nice smell too. We have a lot of sage in our garden and one of our next projects is to label things for visitors to smell and touch!

Last week during Fall Festival, we began our bulb sale and had an incredible start with 200 sold already! We will be opening up our garden booth to continue selling bulbs before and after school next week, so your chance to decorate your yard or Collins School before Spring has not passed yet! Bulb sales are a fundraiser for the PTA, whose plan is to purchase new lunch tables and an addition to the play structure!

Come visit our booth to support the Garden Club, the PTA, and make the world a more beautiful place all at once!



## Birthday Book Club

Thank you to **Akiyuki** in room 23 for donating the following book to our library in honor of his birthday which is October 22, 2000.

"DRAGON RIDER"

Thank you to **Tanvi** in room 2 for donating the following book to our library in honor of her birthday which is October 27, 2004.

"THREE CHEERS FOR TACKY"

Thank you to **Aanya** in room 5 for donating the following book to our library in honor of her birthday which is October 27, 2004.

"A FROG THING"

**COLLINS FALL FESTIVAL**

The Collins Fall Festival was a huge success!! All the kids had a great time playing games and hanging out with their school friends, while the parents enjoyed interacting with the other Collins families, playing games and watching their kids have fun. The overall outcome of people who attended the festival was amazing.

The Fall Festival raised \$5,740 and the Garden Club raised approximately \$300 with their bulb fund-raising, all of which will go towards the funds for a new play structure. The most popular games were the Cake Walk, the Soda Ring Toss and the Lollipop Mystery. The most popular raffle baskets were the Outdoor Fun, Movies At Home, and Sports Mania.

PTA would like to thank all members of the Collins staff, especially Mr. Wong and the teachers for all their support and for sending their kids during setup time, all the room parents for coordinating the classroom volunteers, all the volunteers at the booths and at the food court for their time and effort, and last but not least, the middle and high school students who came out to help with all our activities.

We would like to express our gratitude to the ex-Collins parents (Edith, Hong and Tete) who volunteered at the food booth. Special thanks goes out to the Collins parents for donating the use of the hot dog stand, the drinks, the cookies, the baked items for the Cake Walk and the soda for the Soda Ring Toss game.

Thank you all for a wonderful Fall Festival! We could not have done it without you!



**FREE T-SHIRTS**

REMEMBER: This Friday, October 30 is the LAST day to get the FREE t-shirt when you pay your Direct Donation.

**WE ARE GOING TO ORDER COLLINS COUGAR SWEATSHIRTS!**

Order forms will be available in the school office!

The sweatshirts will be red with a cougar paw and COLLINS SCHOOL on the front. The back will be blank.

Sweatshirts are available by pre-order ONLY! We will not have sweatshirts in stock at the school.

Price: \$25.00

Order Deadline: Friday, November 20, 2009

**REFLECTIONS WINNERS**

Below are our 1st through 4th place Reflections winners. These entries will now go on to the 2nd round at the District level.

**Visual Arts ~ Primary**

1ST ~ Malvika - 1st grade • 2ND ~ Sonali - 2nd grade • 3RD ~ Siddharthen - 2nd grade

4TH ~ Shreyas - 1st grade and Samidha - 1st grade

**Visual Arts ~ Intermediate**

1ST ~ Katie - 5th grade • 2ND ~ Ashwita - 3rd grade • 3RD ~ Sarvesh - 4th grade • 4TH ~ Ishika - 3rd grade

**Literature ~ Intermediate**

1ST ~ Sarvesh - 4th grade • 2ND ~ Prajakta - 4th grade • 3RD ~ Ishika

**Teacher's Choice Award in Literature ~ Primary**

Atreyi - 1st grade

**Photography ~ Primary**

Anish - 2nd grade

**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL STUDENTS!**

All these entries will be sent to the District for further judging. We will know the results in January.

The Reflections Chairperson will keep in touch with the winners at the school level.

## Emergency Preparedness

On Wednesday, October 28, we held our yearly emergency evacuation drill. This yearly exercise is very crucial as it allows our staff members to practice their respective roles in the event of a disaster.

We would like to thank all the parent volunteers who pretended to pick up their children and also those who observed the drill.

With the help of the feed back from the parent volunteers and staff members, we will be able to continue refining the emergency procedures at Collins and making our school better prepared for any disaster.

## You Can Make Homework a Positive Learning Experience

There is no question that students today have more homework than children used to have. It can be a challenge to fit homework into busy family schedules, but homework is a fact of life. There are ways parents can help their children make the most of the time they spend on homework. Here are some ideas:

- **Help your child, but don't do the homework.** Don't answer the questions for your child. Homework is a way to help children learn to be independent. If you do the work, your child won't learn the lesson.
- **Stay in touch with the teacher.** Be sure to let the teacher know if your child struggles with homework every day. Ask what you can do to help the teacher help your child. Keep track of how long it takes your child to complete a given homework assignment.
- **Help your child learn to manage time.** Set a regular time for homework each day. If that isn't possible because of busy schedules, block out time for homework. Don't leave homework as the last thing your child does before bed.
- **Help your child decide which homework is going to be hard and which is likely to be easy.** Then start with the hard tasks. That way, your child will be more alert when she/he is doing the challenging work.
- **Have your child read aloud to you every night.** As you are reading together, stop and ask questions.
- **Be positive.** Your attitude will affect your child.



## Collins Child Development Center (CDC)



Collins CDC has started their Annual Community Service Project. We are collecting canned and non-perishable foods for the Second Harvest Food Bank. We have placed a bin in the office and in the CDC. Please help us fill the bins so we can return them full!

Collins CDC is still enrolling for this school year. We are open 6:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. We provide before and after school care. We service breakfast and snack. We have homework club, outside time, fun and exciting activities. We have a fabulous staff. We have space in all grade levels. We are open all in-service days and vacation weeks. Please come in and see us or you can call us at

408-446-5428 or email us at [center513@cdicdc.org](mailto:center513@cdicdc.org).

## If Your Child is Ill.....



If your child is ill, you must call the 24-hour attendance line (408) 252-6002, extension 6 **EVERY DAY** that they are out of school. Due to the increase in cases of the H1N1 virus, you must leave a **detailed** message with your child's symptoms. If they are running a fever, please leave a message with their **temperature** along with any other symptoms. You may also email this information to Mrs. Shiles at [shiles\\_june@cusdk8.org](mailto:shiles_june@cusdk8.org) or Mrs. Furuta at [furuta\\_karen@cusdk8.org](mailto:furuta_karen@cusdk8.org).

## Lost and Found

Our lost and found bins are located in the main hallway next to the hand wall (around the corner from room 7). The bins are overflowing. Students and parents, please check the bins and the clothes rack for your lost jackets and sweaters. Small personal items such as keys, cell phones, glasses and jewelry are held in the office until claimed. Please encourage your child to look for their lost items!



**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.

**CUSD BUDGET UPDATE MEETINGS**

Given the unprecedented magnitude of the state budget crisis and the uncertainty surrounding Cupertino Union School District's funding, Superintendent Phil Quon will be holding a number of budget update meetings throughout the District during October 2009. The Superintendent would like to invite all interested parents and community members to attend and hear what steps the district is taking to try and weather the state budget crisis. The Superintendent has already held four meetings. The last meeting is scheduled for:

• **Monday, November 2, 2009 - 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.**

Cupertino Middle School, Gymnasium

1650 Bernardo Avenue in Sunnyvale

If you have any questions, please contact Jeremy Nishihara at 408-252-3000, extension 323.