

# Collins Communique

November 12, 2009

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

Superintendent: Phil Quon

## NOVEMBER 2009

- 17 ~ Geography Bee Elimination Round
- 18 ~ PTA meeting ~ 7:00 p.m.
- 19 ~ School Site Council meeting ~ 3:30 p.m.
- 20 ~ 4th/5th grade Sing-A-Long ~ 1:15 p.m.
- 24 ~ All kinders attend 8:40-12:10
- 25-27 ~ THANKSGIVING RECESS ~ NO SCHOOL!

## DECEMBER 2009

- 10 ~ PTA Holiday Party ~ GLC ~ 1:00 to 7:00 p.m.
- 21-1/1 ~ WINTER RECESS ~ NO SCHOOL!

## DON'T FORGET!

Collins Child Development Center is participating in the **Second Harvest Food Bank** this holiday season. There is a barrel at CDC and also in the school office.

If every student brings one canned food item, CDC will reach their goal of filling 4 barrels!

Please be generous this holiday season!

Dear Parents:

We hope you and your children enjoyed the one day off yesterday in honor of **Veteran's Day**. This school year is flying by! The **Thanksgiving recess** is right around the corner. We want to take this opportunity to thank all parents for their cooperation with teachers, staff, and myself in making this a successful year so far.

We say good-bye to **Ms. Pamela Ketcham**. Ms. Ketcham taught three periods of primary music on Thursday mornings. She decided to leave for personal reasons. We want to thank **Ms. Krissy Weston** for taking over for her. Ms. Weston also teaches music on Tuesday mornings.

This is another reminder that parents should **NOT** be driving through or dropping off your children in the parking lot of Bright Horizons Daycare which is located behind Collins on Portal Avenue. This parking lot is dangerous. It is a one-way parking lot and we have seen people trying to make u-turns. This is not ok! If you feel the need to walk your child onto campus, please park on the street and walk up the paved walkway near the fence.

With the holidays fast approaching, it is important to schedule your vacations so your child misses as few days as possible. If you plan to be away from school for a minimum of five days or a maximum of ten days, please contact the school office at least one week before your departure date to arrange for an Independent Study (IS) contract.

To receive credit for the days away, the contract homework must be completed while you are gone, and returned to school the first day your child is back in school. If the Independent Study work is not completed and returned, the days missed will be recorded as unexcused absences.

**Students who are absent for more than 10 consecutive school days will be dropped from the district roster.** When the dropped student returns, they will be reinstated in their home school, if there is space available. If there are no spaces available, the student will be assigned to another school in the district, and put on the waitlist at the home school.



Children are not to arrive at school **BEFORE 8:25 a.m.!!** There is no supervision until this time. Students are to wait outside their classroom quietly before school. If we see students standing around campus before 8:25, we will call the parent and request that they come back to school. We are seeing students arriving on campus at 8:00 in the morning and this is a very unsafe situation.

After dismissal, there is supervision for 15 minutes at the loading zone. Children who are not picked up in that time frame will be asked to sit outside the office by the flag pole until parents can be contacted.

**The Sheriff's Department has advised us that, if any child has not been picked up after 30 minutes of dismissal, we are to contact them. Please make arrangements to have your child/ren picked up promptly after school.** Parents will be notified with a letter when we notice that your child is arriving too early or not being picked up on time. Thank you for helping us keep your child safe.

Jones Wong, Principal



## Speaking of Health: Hand Washing - Do's and Don'ts

Hand washing is an easy way to prevent infection. Understand when to wash your hands, how to properly use hand sanitizer and how to get your children into the habit.

Frequent hand washing is one of the best ways to avoid getting sick and spreading illness. Hand washing requires only soap and water or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer - a cleanser that doesn't require water. Find out when and how to wash your hands properly.

As you touch people, surfaces and objects throughout the day, you accumulate germs on your hands. In turn, you can infect yourself with these germs by touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Although it's impossible to keep your hands germ-free, washing your hands frequently can help limit the transfer of bacteria, viruses and other microbes.

Always wash your hands before: Preparing food - Eating - Treating wounds or giving medicine - Touching a sick or injured person - Inserting or removing contact lenses

Always wash your hands after: Preparing food, especially raw meat or poultry - Using the toilet - Changing a diaper - Touching an animal or animal toys, leashes or waste - Blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing into your hands - Treating wounds - Touching a sick or injured person - Handling garbage or something that could be contaminated, such as a cleaning cloth or soiled shoes



## PTA News



**SCRIP Program:** Support Collins PTA by making regular purchases or buying favorite gift cards. Fill out the order form on page 4 of today's Communique or look for it in the school office. Return order forms with payment to the PTA box in the school office.

Don't forget to pre-order Collins sweatshirts!! Deadline for pre-orders is November 20. **No orders can be accepted after this date!** Order forms and sample sizes are in the office.



## Collins Garden Gleanings

The Garden is looking beautiful thanks to the help of our dedicated volunteers and students! Thanks to Arathi for the donation of some beautiful stepping stones so we can tiptoe lightly into the garden to keep it clean. Our plant expert team continues to help make the garden a nature walk and learning tool by labeling all of our plants! Colorful plaques are coming to help identify plants that will attract butterflies and hummingbirds as well! Our habitat heroes have been making bird feeders, and will be cooperating with the Audubon Society soon to make bird houses and track the use of those houses in a scientific survey!



Please continue to support the Collins Garden, and the PTA which supports us all, by buying bulbs for our fundraiser! Proceeds go toward the purchase of new lunch benches and playground structure additions! Your donations can beautify your own home or the school campus with a burst of Spring color!

## Birthday Book Club

Thank you to **Vasanth S.** in room 20 for donating the following book to our library in honor of his birthday.

**"A GOOD NIGHT FOR GHOSTS"**

Thank you to **Brenda L.** in room 18 for donating the following book to our library in honor of her birthday.

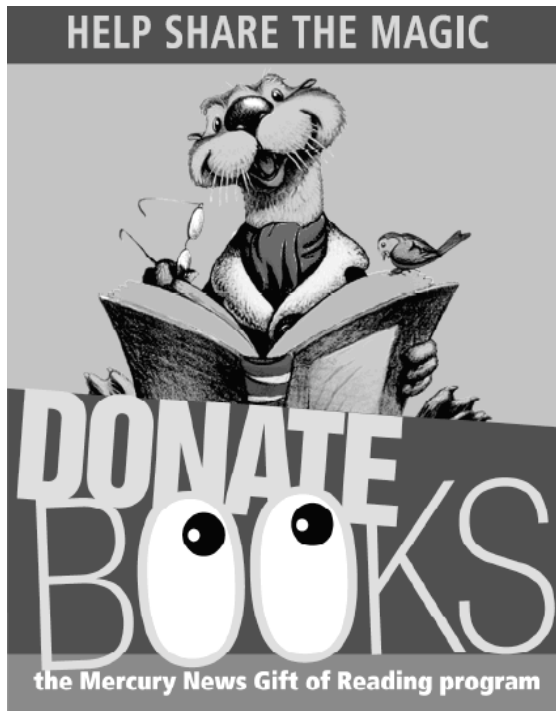
**"THE MAGICIAN'S ELEPHANT"**

Thank you to **Tamara R.** in room 12 for donating the following book to our library in honor of her birthday.

**"THE LADDER"**

As books are donated, there will be a "plate" with the students picture and name placed inside the book.

Due to district constraints, we can only print the **FIRST** name of the student.



**2009 GIFT OF  
READING  
CHILDREN'S BOOK  
DRIVE**

**HELP BY  
DONATING  
GENTLY-USED  
BOOKS!**

This year again, Collins school is participating in the Mercury News Gift of Reading Children's Book Drive.

Between November 13th and December 11<sup>th</sup>, we will be collecting new and gently-used books (no rips, no pen marks...) for readers aged 2 to 17 years old. They will be distributed through schools, literacy programs, homeless shelters and other local agencies that help children in need.

Last year, the book drive helped distribute over 80,000 books in the Bay Area. Collins donated more than 1300 books.

With your children, start gathering the books you wish to donate. Then have your children deposit them in their classroom box.

Thank you for making the book drive a huge success!

Please visit [www.glscrip.com](http://www.glscrip.com) and choose the "order scrip" tab. You will see the entire list of participating vendors listed alphabetically and by category and the minimum purchase order for each vendor.

**How to Order**

- Fill out the order form
- Include check payable to COLLINS PTA
- Orders will be collected on the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month
- Cards will be delivered by the 5<sup>th</sup> of the following month

**SCRIP ORDER FORM**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

CHILD'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ROOM # \_\_\_\_\_

STORE \_\_\_\_\_ DENOMINATION \_\_\_\_\_

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**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.

**CEEF'S 2010 GALA: "DREAMS ARE MADE OF..."****Saturday, January 30, 2010****5:30 p.m.****Fairmont Hotel, San Jose**

Save the date and plan now to join friends in celebrating our children's dreams for the future at the Cupertino Educational Endowment Foundation's (CEEf) annual Gala on Saturday, January 30, 2010 at the Fairmont Hotel in San Jose. Proceeds from our 2010 "Dreams are made of..." themed Gala will benefit arts and innovative technology programs at each of our district schools.

For more information or to add your name to the invitation list, please email CEEf at [gala@ceefcares.org](mailto:gala@ceefcares.org).