

Climbing to the Top

ccn

chico country news



Chico Country Day School provides a safe, joyful community where all learners are inspired to achieve their personal best.

{PTP Update}

The Auction is Coming!

It is now 2011. Hard to believe it was already 11 years ago that computers were going to crash globally sending us all tail-spinning back into the dark ages! With the flip of the calendar, that February 26th date is fast approaching. If you have never been to the school's annual auction fundraiser, take my word for it. It is not to be missed. Get your tickets early and get ready for a fun night that supports our beloved school.

This fantastic opportunity for the school's staff and parents to come together does not just happen. It takes effort. Please reach out to Co-Chairs Karen Rose and/or Dawn Winter (they're in the directory) to see what you can do to help, even if a small contribution. If your class is in need of support for it's project, chip in. It is a wonderful, feel good way to get involved. Assisting with this important event will not inhibit your ability to have fun. It will enhance it! Keep in mind that 80% of the funds PTP raises for your school each year result from the auction. If there is a way to support your school, this is a huge one! Did I mention how much fun it is?

PTP would like to acknowledge Art Davis for putting on a wonderful and memorable Holiday Sing on December 13th. We were delighted to have the event back and it was a fantastic evening at a great location. It was the perfect way to kick off that last week of school before the holiday break!

Thanks to the participation of so many CCDS families and the leadership of Lesli McCutcheon, Angela Allen, and the entire Book Fair Committee, it was another great success. With sales in excess of \$6,600, we reinforced the importance of reading with our students at home and bolstered books for the school library as well. The school receives \$3,300 worth of merchandise from Scholastic based on sales. Thank you for your support!

The next all-school clean is on February 5th. Please remember that every family is required to participate in at least one clean per year. There is only one opportunity remaining after this one. With all of the rain, the classes get really messy this time of year and I know the teachers REALLY appreciate the support!

Our next PTP general Meeting will be Tuesday, January 25th and we are honored to have 8th grade students share their "Ning," their on-line creative writing site. PTP will also begin looking for the next group of involved parents to come forward for PTP Officer vacancies coming at the end of this school year. The election takes place April 27th and we will kick off nominations at this next meeting.

Shayne Law
PTP President

CALENDAR

Tues. Jan. 25—PTP Meeting. 6:30 pm.
MUR

Fri. Jan. 28—All School Skate. 1 pm
at Cal Skate

Mon. Jan. 31—100th Day of School

Fri. Feb. 4—Middle School Social,
6:30pm, MUR

Sat. Feb. 5—All School Clean, 8am

Wed. Feb. 9—CCDS Board Meeting.
6 pm. Room 24.

Fri. Feb. 11 and Mon. Feb. 14—No
School, President's Weekend observed

Thurs. Feb. 24—Spring pictures

Sat. Feb. 26—CCDS Auction for
Excellence, 5:30 pm, Manzanita Place

Auction for Excellence
Saturday, February 26
5:30 pm
Buy your tickets now!

ATTENDANCE REMINDER:
Students are expected to be at school by 7:58am, and are considered tardy if they are not lined up on the asphalt by the "tardy bell", which rings at 8:00am. Teachers take attendance at that time.

{Principal's Report}

Bullying and Social Issues Update

Thank you to all the parents and guardians who attended the two Parent Information Nights on Bullying here at CCDS. We had over 100 individuals attend the sessions. In particular, thank you to Dena Kapsalis who facilitated both parent nights, plus is heading up a series of anti-bullying student workshops for the middle grade students here at CCDS.

Bullying is not an out-of-control problem here at CCDS by any means. But in order to maintain the wonderful culture we have here which is predicated on the Life Skills and Life Long Guidelines, we want to be proactive in terms of dealing with bullying. We want to identify it as such, and give students and parents strategies for dealing with it.

At the parent and student workshops the topics are:

1. The difference between inappropriate behavior and the Educational Code definition of bullying. The new CCDS Board Policy on Bullying – which is available on our website.
2. Identifying bullying behaviors so that students can report to adults.
3. The roles of the “bully”, the “target” and the “bystander”. Effective school-wide anti-bullying efforts are dependent upon the bystanders stepping up to intervene and report.
4. Relational Aggression – particularly with girls.
5. Parent’s Response Toolkit – how to respond – what to do, what not to do. If you missed the workshop, and would like information on this – please contact me.
6. Cyber-Bullying. Here are some useful guidelines on emailing, texts and online posts.

RITE guidelines for emails and texting

Has one of these scenarios ever happened to you or one of your digital teens?

- Someone sends you a text, email or Facebook message that riles you up a bit, good or bad, that you respond from a place of pure emotion...type the message, hit send and then a second later say to yourself “you know, perhaps that message was too much. I wish I had waited to send it or not sent it at all.”?

- You were so angry you shot off a text, email or Facebook post unfiltered and regretted it immediately?
- You sent an email or text intended to one person to another person by mistake...or to a group of people?

We’ve all been in these digital sending messes at some point in our lives and try and learn from them and not repeat history, if we can at all help it.

Our kids and teens, though, are still learning and struggling with this issue. For them, the faceless connection is a major hurdle for them. In most situations, they’d handle the similar situation much more adeptly if face to face but behind the anonymous computer everything falls apart.

“As we’ve seen, many online issues with teens and tweens occur because of the power of anonymity. If they are reminded that there is a real person behind the computer, that often changes their behavior and outlook considerably. In addition to talking with kids about their digital footprints, I use the mnemonic RITE to make kids pause and think about what they are posting online.”

RITE is simple and the way to avoid these digital snafus:

R: Reread every message to be sure it sounds OK and is what you really want to send.

I: Imagine if you were the one receiving the message...would you be upset or hurt by what it says?

T: Think about whether it needs to be sent now or can it wait a bit. Sometimes waiting and re-reading the message later can avoid a big mess later on. (You may even find that you’d rather not send the message after all!)

E: hit the Enter button only after you are satisfied that R-I-T are to your satisfaction.

Your kids want to get it right...so help them make the message RITE!

Paul Weber
Principal

100th Day Celebration!

The 100th day of school is on Monday, January 31st.

Kindergarten through 3rd grade students are invited to come help us celebrate this day outside with hands on math activities set up by our 5th grade students, student council, CCDS parents and K teachers!

The 100 minutes of fun begins at 8:30 a.m. and ends at 10:10 a.m. There will be about 20 different booths to visit with a variety of activities that address multiple intelligences.

If you are able to help run a booth or donate supplies, please let me know. Set up time will be from 8:00 a.m.-8:30 a.m. and clean up time is from 10:10 a.m. until 10:30 a.m. This is a fun way to fulfill your parent hours while helping us celebrate 100 days of school!

In the event that it rains, the activities will be set up in the cafeteria. It hasn't rained on our parade yet, but you never know. If you could help us, have any ideas that would enhance our day, or just have questions, please let me know.

Thanks for your support!
Mrs. Chik

CCDS Discipline Plan

Following is the school wide CCDS Discipline Plan which is a "progressive" plan – meaning that the lowest level of consequence is used first in hopes of changing behavior, then additional/more significant consequences are used until there is the behavior change that is necessary. This is taken from the Parent-Student Handbook, which also has a complete listing of all the school rules at CCDS.

CONSEQUENCES FOR NOT FOLLOWING SCHOOL RULES:

Issuing consequences will be at the discretion of staff members, depending on the situation and severity, but will generally follow the following continuum for each specific rule violation:

- 1. First offense: Verbal reprimand.** Possible "time out" or removal from activity.
- 2. Second offense: Behavior Warning Referral.** Must be taken home by student and signed by parent/guardian and returned the following day to student's teacher.
- 3. Third offenses: Lunch Detention Referral.** Parent/Guardian will be notified through the referral that the student has earned a lunch time detention. Detentions are scheduled in advance one day/week. Student will eat lunch in the detention room and write an age-appropriate explanation of his/her behavior and which Life Skills were not followed.
- 4. After the third offense students are placed on two week "probation".** Any subsequent offences during that two week probationary period will result in suspension. If a student has no offences during the two week probationary period, then the continuum will revert to step #3 above after the probationary period.

More than 4 detentions in any one academic quarter will result in a suspension.

If a student exhibits unsafe or disrespectful behavior, then he/she may be issued an immediate Behavior Warning Referral at the discretion of any CCDS staff member.

Rule violations that will result in an automatic detention include, but are not limited to:

- Foul Language
- Aggressive, hurtful "horseplay"
- Serious disrespect or defiance directed toward an adult

SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION

Suspension

The following behaviors may result in immediate suspension:

- Causing, attempting to cause, or threatening to cause physical harm to another person.
- Fighting
- Biting
- Forgery
- Disrupting school activities
- Defying the valid authority of a teacher, administrator, or other adult at the school
- Stealing or attempting to steal school or private property.
- Committing an obscene act or engaging in habitual profanity or vulgarity
- Sexual harassment, advances, request for sexual favors, or other verbal, visual, or physical conduct of a sexual nature.
- Using hate language

Preschool Registration for Fall 2011

Chico Country Day Preschool is currently taking names for our Fall 2011-2012 school year. Please contact us, ASAP, as we will be registering children on a first come, first served basis.

PRESCHOOL SIBLINGS- Mon. 2/21-Fri 2/25 You must come into the preschool during this week to fill out a 2011-2012 registration form and pay your non-refundable \$25 registration fee to hold your child's spot.

CCDS SIBLINGS- Mon. 2/28-Fri. 3/4 You must come in to the preschool during this week to fill out a 2011-2012 registration form and pay your non-refundable \$25 registration fee to hold your child's spot.

We would be happy to answer any questions you may have and explain our enrollment process in further detail. Please call 895-2650 ext.116 to speak with the co-directors, Stacy Ferguson or Kerri Cooley. If you are interested in possibly enrolling your child for the remainder of this school year, please call regarding current openings.

Legos needed on loan

We are beginning a challenge project on engineering in Math. This project will last about a month. We are looking for regular Lego blocks that may be sitting unused at your house that we could borrow for this month. We are looking for plain blocks and the square bases and do not need anything that is specific like Star Wars, people, etc. If you have some and may be interested in loaning them to our class, we will be responsible with them and return them to you. You can e-mail me or come by our classroom (Room 10) and we can discuss the possibilities.

Thank you!

Barbara Ely and the 3rd grade
River Otters

{Update from the Business Office}

Prop ID moving forward

Happy New Year! I hope all of you enjoy a very nice holiday break with friends and family.

Over the break, we moved forward on our Proposition 1D project. In November, CCDS entered into a lottery for a small amount of Proposition 1D funding that was made available by the State Allocation Board. That lottery put us in 5th place to receive funding. The first allocation was utilized by the schools placed #1 and #2 on the lottery list. On December 15, the State Allocation Board allocated another \$50 million to Proposition 1D recipients. Because we were in the first lottery and in 5th position, we are now able to receive the Preliminary Apportionment for our Prop 1D project. A financial review was due to the state by December 31, so we fed ex'd that off, and anxiously await the California School Finance Authority decision regarding our ability to handle the Prop 1D project financially. This review is required, and there are a few additional paperwork steps to hop through. After that, we go out for bid for an architectural firm and begin the project in earnest. I know many of you are anxious to get started, especially given that you are dealing with muddy shoes, cars, clothes and kids. We are too, and we are relieved to finally be moving forward in a very positive manner, and frankly can't wait to start on designs for new play fields and new classrooms!

While the news has been dominated lately by really bad budget news, we were able to temporarily breathe a large sigh of relief when the new Governor Jerry Brown released his budget. It was nice to hear that his goal was to spare K-12 education further reductions because we have borne the brunt of budget cuts over the last three years and had no where else to go. The Governor's proposal keeps our ADA the same as 10-11, and we escape mid-year cuts this year, which was very concerning. While we have been able to maintain critical programs over the years here at CCDS such as Class Size Reduction, we haven't had layoffs and have continued our educational program as well as possible, the 25% cuts we have weathered since 2007-08 have necessitated major budget reductions in many areas. We are happy to see that the Governor agrees that K-12 education needs to be a very high priority for the future of our state.

The relief for K-12 education will hopefully continue through the signing of the budget in July (maybe) but it depends on voters to approve additional extensions to taxes and fees. If the initiatives are not approved in June, K-12 education will more than likely, be faced with additional reductions. Almost every other area of the budget in California was cut, so we are optimistic, while remaining realistic that we have to plan for the worst and hope for the best at CCDS in regards to keeping the school running in the black.

Thank you for your continued support of our school. If you have any questions, please contact me at any time! My extension is 204, and my email is margaret@chico-countryday.org.

Margaret
Executive Director