

# ccn

chico country news

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

{Lifeskills from the 5th Grade: Humor and Pride}

## A Backstage Pass to Room 21

A visitor sitting in a comfortable, blue, plastic chair in the back of room 21 at Chico Country Day School may believe they are taking in a show at a local comedy club or performance art center. The fact of the matter is that they have just entered Mr. Davis' fifth grade class.

You might be asking yourself how does the lifeskill of "Sense of Humor" work in a fifth grade class at CCDS? The answer is simple; it makes learning fun, exciting, and makes the students feel comfortable and threat free. A visitor would be able to see the teacher and students moving, dancing, and making gestures to help aid in learning standards based content. Students continually repeat phrases after the teacher and make movements that would make the normal person break-out in laughter. This style of instruction is called Power Teaching and Mr. Davis has been using this method of teaching his students over the past several years. A fifth

grade student recently said, "It is a lot of fun. We get to move around, teach stuff to each other, and be kind of loud and crazy. At the end of the day you realize that you learned a lot too."

These great lessons and the outlandish behavior wouldn't work in a normal class unless a certain understanding and structure was put into place first. "It is essential that the students have respect for the class, the teacher, and their peers. We discuss the lifeskills continually and how they allow us to enjoy the learning process," stated Mr. Davis.

Another important lifeskill for student success is "Pride." Students continually discuss how they show their pride not only to each other, but to their school peers as well as the outside community. Students do this by writing in journals, preparing skits, and having class discussions that allow them to take ownership in their learning.

CALENDAR
<b>Tues. April 20</b> —STAR Testing begins
<b>Wed. April 21</b> —PTP Mtg, 6:30pm in MUR
<b>Sat. April 24</b> All School Clean
<b>Thurs. April 29</b> —Student Art Night
<b>Fri. May 7</b> —Faculty Follies, El Rey
<b>Wed. May 12</b> —CCDS Board Meeting, 6 pm
<b>Fri. May 14</b> —Middle School Social
<b>Thurs. May 20</b> —Open House, Spaghetti Feed and Book Fair
<b>Mon. May 31</b> —Memorial Day—no school

Get your Faculty Follies tickets in the office! Shows at 4:30 and 7 pm. Fun for the whole family!

These ideas are nothing new at Chico Country Day School. You could see these very same things happening in every classroom on campus. It is what makes our school great; it is what makes our students great.

—Mr. Davis

## Intent to return for School Year 2010-2011

Enrollment plans are being finalized for the 2010-2011 school year. Please e-mail bfitzgerald@chicocountryday.org or call Bonnie Fitzgerald at 895-2650, Ext. 201, no later than Friday, April 23, 2010, with your intentions for next school year.

### We need to know:

1. Your child(ren)'s name(s);
2. Current teacher(s); and
3. Whether or not they will be returning to CCDS for the 2010-2011 school year. If you respond that your child will NOT be returning, you also acknowledge that his/her space will be filled by an incoming student.

## New Board Members

Thank you to our parent community for nominating community and parent volunteers to serve on the CCDS Board of Directors in open seats beginning 2010-2013. We welcome **Matt Meuter** and **Karen Rose** to the board to continue terms through 2012. **Alicia Ahlswede** will fill a vacant position with a 2010-2011 term. Other new parent members, with terms beginning 2010 and ending in 2013 include **Matt Juhl-Darlington**, **Kate McCarthy**, and **Charles Thompson**. We welcome **Katharine MacKinnon** as a Community member with a term of 2010-2013. We appreciate the continued commitment these community members and parents have to our school.

Thank you,  
Dick Stein  
*Board Development Chair*

{Lifeskills from the 5th Grade: Humor and Pride}

## A peek at Mr. Christiansen's class

**F**ifth graders are a busy group of kids. In addition to grasping fractions, studying American history, learning about the periodic table of elements and reading a variety of literature, fifth graders are also developing their personal character by learning and practicing essential Life Skills. Our two Life Skills for April, Sense of Humor and Pride, are valuable qualities which help to build a successful character both at school as well as throughout life.

A sense of humor is a great personality trait and people enjoy it when we can make one another laugh. In helping students learn and practice this valuable Life Skill, I make a point to remind them that having a sense of humor isn't just about being funny, but having a sense and knowledge of the appropriateness of when and how to express their humor. Also reinforced in our classroom is the principle that respect is the key component which distinguishes a sense of humor from laughter at someone else's expense, and that teasing and bullying are never funny. Whether sharing a funny story, telling a silly joke or laughing with one another at Frankie the singing fish, my fifth graders are learning the important truth, as Benjamin Franklin stated, that "Joy is not in things, it is in us."

Along with learning to develop a respectful sense of humor, my fifth grade students are continually striving to shape their character of pride. Each week I routinely see students practicing great study habits, such as making flashcards, staying organized and completing assignments ahead of time, in an effort to give their best. In addition to diligently managing their weekly assignments and responsibilities I recently witnessed my students taking great pride in the work they did on their school science fair projects. I consistently like to point to such experiences and prior successes to remind my students that "Having pride pays off!" and "How you do anything is how you do everything!"

—Mr. Christiansen

**CCDS T-Shirts/Sweatshirts** CCDS t-shirts and sweatshirts are still available for purchase. Alecia Rapp sets up a sales table outside the MUR on the first Friday of each month. She also has an order form in the office, so you can order any time!

**Box Tops for Education** Thank you to every one of you faithful collectors of those little Box Tops for Education. Thanks to Julie Loeb for trimming, bundling & mailing them all school year long! She will mail out one more batch before June 1st, then we ask you to please snip & save them throughout the summer.

## Students Shine at Science Fair

Congratulations to the following students who placed in the Chico Science Fair:

1st Place: Madison Meuter, Mikayla Nichols, Madelyn Walker, Hannah Pembroke, Flynn Davis, Sophia Winter, Diego Soza, Micah Kuhn, Gracie Taylor, Dylan Kawson, Kyle Jones, Darin Tietz, Dylan Michelson-Beadle, Josh Koentopf, Natalie Harris, Spencer Christiansen

Others who placed: Roby Tryba-Jones, Riley Snodgrass, Serena Kuhn, Clara Coon, Maeve Lawson, Maggie Demorest, Cheyanne Wilson, Erik Oliva, Kyle Ahlswede, Kaylan Stevens, Kayla Smith, Lauren Powell, Brooke Huber, Bea Fischer, Sarah Schlund, Liam Stuart-Murphy, Regan Murray, Kevin Kremer, Alexander Gordon, Micaela Fox, Olivia Stover, Morgen Hopson, Johnny Kovacs, Jadon Nash, Jaycee Harris, Quinntaya McDaniel, Richard Scott, Elizabeth Ober, Sam Massa, Allison Efseaff, Molly McKellar, Shelby Scalise-Green, Mitchell Trulin, Emily Hyder, Ethan Bainbridge, Molly Lane, Trevor Trento MacKenzie Teal, Carly Efseaff, Mathew Ratekin-Dick, Miles Brousseau, Bailey Martin, Lucas Lantz, Erika Schroth, Dylan McCowan, Tyler John Polosky, Sienna Star-Saselli, Emily Efseaff, Cole Butikofer, Jane McKenzie, Philip Dean, Katherine Eckes-Fixio, Jayda Lewis, Quinn Saylor, Jetti Teja, Spencer McNairn, Trinity Jones, Mary Applegate, Madeline Trites, Mikaela Wiley, Aria Thompson, Lauren Meichtry, Forrest Little, Spencer Hight, Hunter Gleed, Andrew Carvalho, Claire Ingvoldsen, Nicholas Gomersall, August Mavis, Daelynn Mallory, Maxwell Andersen, Audrey Gardner, Kaylee Winter, Walker Adams, Trent Garrett, Dino McKellar, Roman Lopez, Hope Spanfelner, Zoe Ferguson, John Michael Bordier, Madison Cowan Hanna Strisower, Jordan Cooley, Spencer Faith, Samantha Duchi, Sara Smith, Emily Merkley, Joshua Newcomb, Devin Mortenson.

## CCDS Student Placement Policy

To best meet the needs of all students at Chico Country Day School, the Advisory Board, with staff and administrative support, have developed this Student Placement Policy that reflects our core values of respect, responsibility and compassion. This policy provides for a fair, equitable system of class placement that balances the social, emotional, and academic needs of our students. This selection process should also acknowledge the teaching professional as a key source for making informed decisions regarding the placement of students.

### Criteria

In making decisions regarding the placement of students in classes, the following criteria will be considered.

- Student gender
- Academic standing
- Social relationships
- Age
- Learning style
- Teacher recommendation
- Previous year's placement

### Process

- Current and future teachers will meet to discuss the placement criteria so that the distribution of students is done to balance classes by number, gender, skill development, friendships, and behavior issues.
- The current year teachers will then present their class lists to the Principal for final decisions of placement
- Parent input may be submitted in writing to the Principal. However the Principal shall make the final decision regarding placements. In order to be considered, parental requests must address academic and learning style issues and/or social relationships.

**Deadline for submitting class placement requests is May 21, 2010.**