

Climbing to the Top



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

{PTP Update}

Welcome to a new school year

Dear Parents,

Welcome back for another exciting year of learning and CCDS community! As your new PTP President, I am excited to play a supporting role in making this the school we are so proud to have our children attend.

Our board of PTP officers has many new faces, joined by a couple that bring some experience to share with our new team:

- Dawn Winter**, Vice President (newly elected)
- Sylvia DeVlaming**, Secretary (newly elected)
- Summer Moore**, Treasurer (newly elected)
- Cheryl Mortenson**, Information Officer (returning)
- Kate Hicks**, Committee List Officer (returning)
- Nicole Nye**, Teacher Liaison

Back to school week was a great success beginning with an enthusiastic gathering to kick off the new year at the Back-To-School Picnic and culminating with a highly successful all-school skate that first Friday. According to at least modern records, the 204 students participating in the all-school skate set anew record. PTP will be providing rewards to the classes of Ms. Dooly, Ms. Regalia, Ms. Henderson, and Mr. Garrett based on outstanding participation. Way to go CCDS!

While there truly are too many people to thank for all of the efforts to make that first week a success, I would like to acknowledge a few for their generosity of

time and/or resources—Stacey Owen, Tami Farrell, Lee McClung, Shannon Lawson, Meg Vieg, Jack Bainbridge, and Kelly Huber made notable contributions to start us off with a great first week.

As our students focus on “Climbing To The Top,” our PTP organization will make that same commitment. While we all have different constraints and limitations based on our very busy lives, I urge you to get involved in your school in whatever way possible. I am finding that the more involved I get, the more connected and rewarded I feel. No contribution of time, expertise, or other resources in the classroom or out is too small and your generosity truly pays you back many times over. If you have not yet done so, I urge you to take a few moments to complete a parent participation form. If you do not have one, you can get one in the office. For those of you that have pledged commitment to a committee, we are working expediently to finalize those committee lists and get them back to you all so work can get under way.

By the time this article is published, we will have had our first general PTP Meeting on Tuesday, September 14th. If you were unable to attend, please note our next meeting Tuesday, October 19th. We ask that each family have representation at no less than one PTP meeting each year. Your involvement is what makes the organization a success.

CALENDAR

Fri. Sept. 17—Girls Basketball Tryouts, 1:30-3:30 p.m., Grace

Sat. Sept. 18—Girls Basketball Tryouts, 8:30-10:30 a.m., Grace

Tues. Sept. 21—Girls Basketball Tryouts, 3:30-5 p.m., Grace

Wed. Sept. 22—Volleyball away v. Hamilton City, 3:30 p.m.

Fri. Sept. 24—Middle School Social, 6:30 p.m., MUR

Mon. Sept. 27—Safety Committee Mtg. 3:30 Rm. 2

Oct. 4-8—TV Turnoff Week

Mon. Oct. 11—Picture Retakes

Wed. Oct. 13—Board Mtg. 6:30 Rm. 24

Tues. Oct. 19—PTP Mtg. 6:30 MUR

Fri. Oct. 29—Harvest Fair

For those of you I have not met, please take the opportunity to introduce yourself next time you see me at a meeting or campus function. The PTP is always open to discuss problems, solutions, and ideas. If you have anything you would like to mention to me directly you can leave a message in the office for me with Bonnie, grab me at a meeting, or just e-mail me at shayne.law@jmsmucker.com

I wish you and your family all the best for a great school year!

—Shayne Law, PTP President

{Principal's Corner}

CCDS Continues to Climb

This year marks the 6th year that Chico Country Day School has been at our current site in South Chico. We have experienced many changes and significant growth since we moved here back in 2005. We were a K-6 school back then with an enrollment of a little over 250 students. Now we are K-8 with an enrollment over 550, which includes our Independent Study Program.

In these years of declining revenue from the State, our enrollment growth has enabled us to weather the financial storm well. In large part due to our growth we have been able to maintain class size at the primary level to 20 students. We also have been able to keep our Art, Music, Library, Garden and elective programs. Growth does bring its challenges, and it can be difficult to maintain a high level of student academic performance when growth is as significant as that which we have experienced over the last 6 years. This is especially true in light of our growth at the middle school level, an age group which traditionally scores lower on standardized testing than elementary age students.

However I am happy to report that Chico Country Day School has not only maintained a high level of student academic achievement, but has shown an increase.

API (Academic Performance Index) is a State measure of student achievement on standardized tests in Math, Language Arts, Science and Social Studies. This year (2010) our API rose another 2 points to an all-time high of 863, and we met all of our growth targets. Here is the trend in our API scores over the last 7 years:

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
CCDS	789	806	862	834	828	861	863

It's a little more difficult to evaluate our middle school program, since API is school-wide and we can't separate the scores of our 7th and 8th graders. However, another piece of data does allow us to compare our middle school student performance with other middle school students in the District, and that is the percentage of students that score Advanced and Proficient on the CST (California Standards Test). For students to score Advanced or Proficient is a goal for all schools. Here is a chart which compares the CCDS Middle School to Marsh, Chico Junior and Bidwell Junior in ELA (English-Language Arts), Science, Social Studies and Mathematics. CCDS compares quite favorably, which demonstrates that our graduates are well prepared for high school. Credit should be given to not only our middle school teachers, but all of our staff who do such a spectacular job preparing our students for success.

STAR CST SCORES – MIDDLE SCHOOL COMPARISON

School	ELA – 7 th Grade			ELA – 8 th Grade			Science			Social Studies		
	% Advanced	% Proficient	% Total	% Advanced	% Proficient	% Total	% Advanced	% Proficient	% Total	% Advanced	% Proficient	% Total
CCDS	39%	33%	72%	54%	25%	79%	57%	21%	78%	34%	36%	70%
Marsh	26%	41%	67%	43%	28%	71%	53%	22%	74%	34%	25%	59%
Chico Junior	25%	31%	56%	36%	28%	64%	54%	26%	80%	31%	25%	56%
Bidwell Junior	27%	32%	59%	33%	27%	60%	39%	24%	63%	29%	24%	53%

School	Math – 7 th Grade		
	% Advanced	% Proficient	% Total
CCDS			
Marsh	25%	26%	51%
Chico Junior	15%	36%	51%
Bidwell Junior	14%	35%	49%

8th Grade Math scores cannot be compared as CCDS has over 90% of our 8th graders take the CST Algebra Test. The other middle schools typically have under 50% of their students take the CST Algebra test. The remainder of the students take a General Mathematics Test.

—Paul Weber, Principal

Student Council

Student Council 2010-2011 is represented by 8th graders Riley Fischer and Jordan Vasquez, and 7th graders Alyssa Hardesty, Brody Kelly, Duncan Ober and Heather Pembroke. Congratulations to Zoe Ferguson, Annabelle Trento and Patrick Whitmore on their election as 6th grade representatives for this first trimester. We started our year with a mini-retreat at Chico State, met with AS officers there and formulated our year-long plan which we are excited to bring to our student body!

We all know that much of the world's water supply comes from snow-melt runoff that starts... where? Why in the mountains of course. Therefore, our charitable focus for this year will be on clean water and water resources both locally and internationally. We are fortunate to have begun a relationship with Dr. Walt Schafer, former president of Chico Rotary Club, and are looking forward to working with him to promote awareness of water issues in Tanzania, Africa. We're putting our best foot forward as we start our climb to the top this year in student council!



Box Tops for Education

It's a brand new school year, and many of the back-to-school products you've been buying have little Box Tops for Education "coupons" on them. Each one is worth .10 for CCDS.

Please cut them out and send them to school with your children. Every classroom at CCDS has a collection envelope located just within arm's reach of the door. Last year we earned \$525 through this simple program! Thank you for your help!

Annie B's One For Education Campaign

Dear CCDS Community,

We have an exciting year in store here at CCDS! The Annie B's One for Education giving campaign has begun, and you have received information about this important fundraiser in the mail. The Annie B's One for Education Campaign is critical in bridging the gap between what it takes to operate our school and the funding we receive from the state, especially when we have already weathered 20% cutbacks the last two years, and continue to wait for a budget for 2010-2011, not knowing what that budget will bring.

Regardless of the bad news about the recession, we have work to do here! Over the course of the last two years, and this year, we have found a way to not compromise the education that we feel all children deserve. Through your generosity, we are able to offer a wide range of elective programs, maintain the 20:1 class size reduction classrooms in grades K-3, take field trips, equip our classrooms with new technology, and do so many other things that are not funded by the State of California. Great things happen at Chico Country Day, which is why we all choose to send our kids to school here. We have a librarian, music and art-filled classrooms, and continue on a wide range of study trips K-8, including the Age of Sail boat trip in 5th grade, and a few new additions that we have been waiting years on waiting lists, including an overnight hands-on experience for 4th grade studying California History at Sutter's Fort, a 7th grade Science and History camping trip at the Presidio, and an 8th grade hands-on camping and study of the Civil War on Angel Island outside of San Francisco.

We are proud of the quality of education we are able to have here at Chico Country Day School. Without your support, many activities would not be possible. This type of educational experience simply costs more than the ADA funding provided by our state, and at the same time, our school refuses to offer an education less than what they deserve. Our kids are worth it! Thank you again for your continued support and for your generosity this year! If you can donate, we appreciate whatever you can give to help. Our goal is to have 100% staff and parent participation in this important endeavor. Thank you for your help!

Special thank you to the following families for the donations we have received so far:

Colleen and Pete Pembroke
Mia and Matt McCowan
Lisa & John Strisower
Jessika Ayon
Joe Hobson
Ann Coons
Lesley Christopher
Kelly & David Clarke

Jennifer & Forrest Olson
Corey & Brenda Davies
Charles Finlay
Linda Tibbitts
Kat Clark
Rebekah Wold
Margaret Reece & Greg Gazda

Very Truly Yours,
Darren Sterling, Chair
Annie B's One for Education Campaign
and the 2010-2011 Board of Directors

SAFETY NEWS:

Safety Week (August 30-September 3) went very well this year. The school practices all of its Safety Drills, including Fire Drills, Code Red Lockdown, Code Yellow and Evacuation Drills. The students did a marvelous job and we feel we are well prepared. The Safety Committee continues to meet on the last Monday of every month at 3:30 in Rm. #2.

Reminders from the Safety Committee:

1. Please keep the flow of traffic moving along 11th Street and Broadway during pick-up and drop-off times each day.
2. Do not park in the loading zones along 11th and Broadway. Those zones are for 3 minutes loading and unloading only
3. Do not double park.
4. Do not release children from your vehicle while you are lined up waiting to pull into the loading zones. Safety first, please. Move into the loading zones before you release your children.
5. No U-Turns on 11th or Broadway at busy times in the morning and after school.
6. Do not pick-up or drop-off students in the parking lot.
7. Please use the crosswalks at all times.

Thank You!

GREAT JOB CCDS SUPPORTERS

Thank you to all the CCDS parents and supporters who purchased Chico Outlaws tickets during their school promotion earlier in the year. Chico Country Day School purchased the most tickets and won the grand prize of \$7,500. Thank you to the Outlaws, as well as the promotion sponsors: Digital Path, P,G,&E, The Hignell Companies, and the Enloe Foundation.

Climbing to the Top with Life Skills at CCDS

BY ANNE MARIE CHIK | AM KINDERGARTEN TEACHER

As a CCDS family, you will be hearing quite a lot about life skills from the staff and students of Chico Country Day School throughout the year. Not only does every teacher from primary through middle school teach life skills, you will hear us all speak the language as well.

This month, we would like to highlight the life skill of COURAGE. If you've ever observed a baby learning to walk, you will see how courage begins early in life. As my Kindergarten students walk into class on the first day and say goodbye to their families, I am in awe of their bravery and willingness to try a new adventure. As they move up through the grades, they will learn how to face more challenges with strength, confidence and perseverance.

Here are just a few ways you can encourage your child to use the life skill of **COURAGE** and help keep the life skill "conversation" going on at home:

PARENTS

- be truthful
- "walk the talk" and be a good role model
- create an atmosphere of trust
- establish behavior guidelines and be consistent
- believe in your child and be supportive
- stay educated and improve your skills

CHILDREN

- respect and follow behavior guidelines
- accept responsibility for your behaviors and actions
- take that first step
- open your mind to learn new things and accept challenges
- ask questions when you are confused
- be a friend to someone who needs one

Books are filled with stories about courage. Read Charlotte's Web, by E.B. White, or watch The Wizard of Oz and discuss how the characters in the stories showed great courage. For older children, try The Red Badge of Courage by Stephen Crane, or Call It Courage by Armstrong Sperry. Don't forget to tell your own stories as well. Children love to hear stories about their family members and learn that a hero lies in each and every one of us.

For more information about life skills, see Character Begins At Home: Family Tools for Teaching Character and Values by Karen D. Olsen and Sue Pearson.



Thanks to all who helped at our first All School Clean!

Reuben Jacobson
 Gina Burris
 Amy Powers
 Jim Aranguren
 Rob Davidson
 Corey Davies
 Joey Powers
 Rex Hervey
 Brenda Davies
 Amy Spanfelner
 Matt Meuter
 Todd Demorest
 Jacky and Kayla Smith
 Rae Morrison
 Nancy Fort
 Trevor and Jakob Stone
 John, Rochelle, Trent and Dane Garrett
 Jeff and Marian Stoner
 Michael Prefontaine
 Esther Daum
 Pete, Heather and Hannah Pembroke
 Bruce and Lisa Thomas
 Lesli McCutcheon
 Diane Stefanides
 Hal Benson
 Cassie and Erik Faith
 Patricia, Daryl , Jevon and Sara Smith
 David Clark
 Margaret Reece

Thank you to the Chico Veteran's Honor Guard – American Veteran's Post #2813 for the beautiful new flagpole, commemoration ceremony and gift of a new American Flag to CCDS.

Thank you to John and Lisa Strisower for arranging a visit to CCDS from the Barry Kirschner Wildlife Foundation. And special thanks to Hannah Strisower for being an excellent animal handler.

Basketball Team News

Basketball Skills Clinic for CCDS Boys and Girls grades 5-8:

A basketball clinic will be held on September 25 from 11:30-1:30 pm at the Butte College Gym with Ron Brown, Coach for the Women's Basketball Team at Butte. Cost is \$10.

Girls Basketball Tryouts:

Friday, September 17: 1:30-3:30 pm
 Saturday, September 18: 8:30-10:30 am
 Tuesday, September 21: 3:30-5 pm
 All located at Grace Community Church Gym, 2346 Floral Avenue
 The girl's basketball coach is Charles Thompson.

Boys Basketball Tryouts:

Friday, October 1: 3-4:30pm
 Saturday, October 2: 8:30-10:30am
 Thursday, October 7: 3:30-5pm
 The boy's basketball coach is Andy Epstein.

Sports & Tryout Policy:

The CCDS athlete preferably will make all three tryout days, but must make at least two to be placed on the team. We encourage student athletes who are interested in trying out for the team to make it to the clinic. There is a cost to participate in the basketball program, \$200, and scholarships are available. Due to the high cost of playing basketball and entering tournaments, the cost for basketball is higher than the cost to play volleyball. The goal of our Athletic Program is to break-even and we are not allowed to have an impact on the general fund budget. We do offer a competitive and fun program and we will be traveling to several games and tournaments throughout our area. There will be an at the door cost to watch the game, even if your own child is playing. This varies depending on the game, but is usually \$3 per person and \$5 per family. Thank you for your continued support of our athletic program.

While exceptions to the tryout rules are strongly discouraged, if you plan on being out of town for the basketball tryouts and your student will miss one of the days, please contact Kelly Clarke, President of the Athletic Committee (kclarke@chicocountryday.org) or Margaret Reece, (margaret@chicocountryday.org) immediately. Tryout exceptions may be considered by the Athletic Committee on a case by case basis and only if the student makes the clinics and/or the tryouts. Please keep in mind that only a certain number of students will make the team, and students that make the tryouts will be considered first.

Volleyball Team News

Coach Michelle Regalia will lead the Volleyball teams this year.

Please come and support our Volleyball players! Anyone is welcome, admission is free to Volleyball games and concessions are available for purchase. Home games are played at Grace Community Church Gym with the generous support of the Grace Community Church and Joy & Luke Buyert. Our Volleyball players will be announced this Friday at All School Sing. Look for our players on game days, as they will be dressed up and ready to represent! Go Eagles!



September 22, 2010 | 4:00 PM Volleyball Game | Away vs. Hamilton City
 October 5, 2010 | 3:30 PM Volleyball Game | Away vs. Richfield
 October 12, 2010 | 4:15 PM Volleyball Game | Home vs. CK Price
 October 13, 2010 | 3:30 PM Volleyball Game | Away vs. Capay
 October 18, 2010 | 3:30 PM Volleyball Game | Home vs. Hamilton City

RATHER THAN PRINT A PAPER COPY OF THE 2010-11 STUDENT-FAMILY HANDBOOK FOR EACH FAMILY, WE'RE HOPING SOME WILL READ IT ON THE SCHOOL'S WEBSITE. IF YOU CHOOSE THIS OPTION, PLEASE SIGN IN THE FIRST SPACE. IF YOU'D LIKE A PAPER COPY, WE'D BE HAPPY TO SEND YOU ONE—PLEASE INDICATE THAT IN THE SECOND SPACE. THEN SEND THIS PAGE BACK TO SCHOOL WITH YOUR CHILD.

I. ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF 2010-2011 STUDENT-FAMILY HANDBOOK

I understand and agree that I have read and will comply with the 2010-2011 CCDS Student-Family Handbook as posted on the school website, www.chicocountryday.org.

Parent/Guardian's Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian's Printed Name

Child's Name

OR

Please send me a paper copy of the 2010-2011 CCDS Student Family Handbook.

Parent/Guardian's Printed Name

Child's Name

PLEASE RETURN TO THE SCHOOL OFFICE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE