

Building for Success



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

{Principal's Corner}

Dedicated to serving our students

This has been a very difficult year budget-wise for education in general in California, and for CCDS as well. We are proud of the fact, however that despite losing over 20% of our State Aid in the past 18 months we have been able to preserve jobs and programs. We have not lost Class Size Reduction (as many districts have), and we still have an Art and Music program, Elective classes, and Instructional Aids. In fact, we have increased spending on instructional aides from \$86k last year to \$140k this year. The difference is in the delivery. Instead of being tied to a teacher specifically, the hours are tied to the students. This allows us to reach almost 100 students on an individual basis based on their needs—starting with IEP's (Special Education) and 504 Plans, moving to students who are Far Below Basic on the standardized tests, then to Below Basic, and to Basic, and up from there. This targets student improvements and allows us to move more kids from below basic to basic, or from basic to proficient in a more effective manner. We feel that tying our paid and trained staff to our academic goals and to the students rather than to a teacher individually, allows for the overall academic health of the school to improve.

As you know, we do always have to try to improve our API and AYP. **Speaking of which, our API (Academic Performance Index) increase 33 points this year to 861.** This is the single largest increase of

any school in Chico, and puts CCDS in the very small handful of schools in the County with an API over 860.

Additionally, we have individually assessed every single child in the school starting the first week and entered the results into a multi-year tracking system called DIBELS. This is our second year with this program, and every teacher now has access to this online database. We are able to see results from year to year, and this helps so that a student doesn't fall through the cracks.

Finally, we increased our ADA this year by over 70 students. We have slightly increased our clerical staff—we are spending \$5040.15 more on admin/clerical support this year, compared to when our enrollment was at 260 students. Overall, with the growth from 260 students to 540 students, we have increased the amount of money spent on education directed toward classrooms by over \$600,000 not including facility costs, with only a \$5000 increase in administration.

Our goal is to look for creative solutions that allow for student growth in academics and leadership, and strategically focuses our dollars on academic achievement. We also feel that when presented with what seems like an obstacle, our staff turns that into opportunity—something to celebrate!

Thank You
Paul Weber

ccn goes paperless!
This is it—your last paper copy of the newsletter (unless you don't have an e-mail address). **Look for the next edition on your computer about October 5. If you don't receive it, call the office to make sure we have your correct e-mail address.**

CALENDAR	
Sept. 21-25	—TV Turn Off Week
Fri. Sept. 25	—Cal Marching Band here! 11:00-11:30. Performing with our band students 11:30-12:00
Sat. Sept. 26	—Middle School basketball clinic.
Wed. Sept. 30	—Minimum day—WASC accreditation workday Deadline for Annie B's donations
Fri. Oct. 2	—Middle School Social; Girls Basketball Tryouts, 3:30-5
Fri. Oct. 10	—“Build-It” Festival
Mon. Oct. 12	—Picture Re-Takes
Wed. Oct. 14	—Board Mtg 6:30 MUR
Tues. Oct. 20	—PTP Mtg 6:30 MUR
Wed. Oct. 21	—CCDS Challenge Jog-a-thon; Boys Basketball Tryouts, 4-5:30
Fri. Oct. 30	—Harvest Fair at TJ Farms

Thank You!

Thanks to **Zane Schreder** for his work as Project Manager on our portable project. Zane coordinated the purchase, delivery, DSA approval and installation of our newest portable classroom. He did a terrific job and provided invaluable service. Thanks, Zane.

Thanks to **Kari Zigan and Gina Burns** who worked our last All School Clean.

CCDS Rocks API scores

API / AYP (Academic Performance Index); (Adequate Yearly Progress)

results are out and once again, good news for CCDS:

API – 861 – growth of 33 points. Met all growth targets. Low socio-economic sub-group scored 834 – highest in the County.

APY – Met all growth targets

{Art Splash}

Art contest winners

The winners for the 1st annual Dog Parade Art Contest are Heather Pembroke in 6th (2nd place in Jr Division), Elizabeth Hyder in 6th (3rd place for Jr division), and Dayne West in 1st (3rd place in elementary division).

Pastels on the Plaza

I also purchased a square for CCDS at the annual Chico Area Recreation and Park District's Pastels on the Plaza. The event will be held at the downtown park plaza starting at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday September 26th. I am need of parents and students to come have fun creating art while representing our school at the plaza. Please contact me via email at kzigan@chicocountryday.org or Bonnie in the office.

Kari Zigan

what's going on...



CAL Band performs again at CCDS

Friday, September 25, 2009

11:00 AM TO 12:00 noon

The University of California Marching Band will once again perform at Chico Country Day School. The Band will be stopping for a visit at CCDS as they travel to Oregon to perform for the football game. Under the direction of Robert Calonico, the band will perform several traditional CAL songs. Be sure to stay for the entire performance when the CAL BAND plays with members of CCDS beginning and intermediate band students in the Multi-Purpose room. Last year was wonderful when several north state junior high and high school bands performed with the CAL BAND at Chico Civic Plaza. Lunch will be provided for members of the Cal Band. It is rumored that a few of the Cal musicians want a rematch in basketball and 4 square with Chico Country Day students! **Come join us!**

Turnoff Week is 9/21-15!

“Think Outside the Box!”

We hope you and your family will consider participating in the **5th annual Turnoff Week** at CCDS. This is the week when we encourage kids (and the rest of us!) to be more aware of the role of screen entertainment in our lives by taking a break from it for a week. Participation is totally voluntary, and it can done in many ways—from no screens to a reduction in screen time to elimination of one type of screen use.

Here's what will happen at school:

- On Monday 9/21, kids can opt to full out a pledge card committing to participate. They will get a “Think outside the box” button for their jackets or backpacks.
- All week, we'll take donations in the classrooms for our annual Bookswap. Please bring gently used books at your child's reading level or above (we often have a shortage of books for older readers).
- On Friday 9/25, we'll draw names from the pledge cards for some fun prizes, and after school, kids can each choose a book at the Bookswap and get a free popsicle to celebrate a screen-free week. Fun, right?

Questions? Kate McCarthy (kmccarthy@csuchico.edu; 891-0153)

{PTP Update}

Your e-mail, mixers & thanks

It is rare that I take the opportunity to thank anyone in this newsletter because everyone does so much for the school – to be honest I have tried not to do this because I didn't want to offend anyone. I do feel as though there are two people I need to recognize because they have made life for the PTP Officer's Board easier, which has helped us in communicating with parents this year. Cheryl Mortenson is our Technology / Communications Advisor. She is doing a great job by taking our e-flyer into the 21st Century.

Continue to look for improvements to school communication. Also if you are not getting e-flyers make sure to check your spam folder because some have been sent out recently. If you do find them there, just make sure to hit the "not spam" or "allow" button so the communication will get through in the future.

Kate Robinson Hicks has also done a fabulous job for us in our Committee Lists. Thank you Kate, your countless hours of organizing have saved us much needed time and we are a better organization because of you.

Class mixers – Chico Country Day School has a tradition of having parent get together for each grade. Usually a parent signs up to host and other bring and food and drinks. They are simple to put together, fun to attend and a great way to get to know the parents of your child's friends. Ask your child's teacher if you can host one at your home or in your backyard.

We have lots of exciting events coming your way so make sure to watch your calendar and prepare to have fun with the PTP.

Best regards,
Andrew Cortidge
PTP President

Calling all Strings Students

Chico Country Day strings students—beginners through advanced—are invited to participate this Fall in a Chico All-City Youth Orchestra conducted by Yoshie Muratani. This is a joint venture with the Butte County Branch of the Music Teachers' Association. Rehearsals will begin September 14 at Chico Country Day School. The semester will culminate with concerts in November and December. There is no charge for lessons thanks to a private donation; if parents are able to make a donation it will be appreciated.

Beginner Ensemble (approximate level Suzuki books 1-2) Mondays & Thursdays from 3:10-3:40pm

Intermediate Orchestra (approximate level Suzuki books 3-6) Mondays & Thursdays from 3:30-4:30pm or 6:00-7:00pm

Advanced Orchestra (approximate level Suzuki book 6 and above) Thursdays from 7:00-8:00pm.

To enroll, please contact Chico Country Day School , 895-2650.

Yoshie Muratani holds an M.A. in cello performance at Osaka Conservatory of Music in Japan. She was selected as one of ten winners of the Rome Music Foundation scholarship in 1992 and 1993. In 1994 she taught music at Osaka Conservatory of Music. After moving to the US in 1999, she studied orchestral conducting in the CSUS Masters program. Subsequently she has conducted the CSUS Symphony Orchestra in several concerts between 2002 and 2003.



The entire middle school spent a day team building together in Bidwell Park. Each student contributed to a mural that will be displayed at school.

Middle School

CCDS Middle School Basketball Clinic

Any sixth through eighth grade students who want to improve their basketball skills are invited to join us for this one day clinic. Many of our CCDS coaches will be teaching skills at this clinic.

When: **Saturday, Sept 26th**

Girls: 10:00-Noon

Boys: 12:30-2:30

Where: Grace Community Church Gym
2346 Floral Avenue, Chico

Cost: \$10 no pre registration required

Basketball Tryout Dates:

Oct 2nd, 3:30-5:00: Girls Tryouts

Oct 21st, 4:00-5:30: Boys Tryouts

We are hoping to have 2 girls and 2 boys teams this season. Feel free to contact Joy Buyert with any questions at 828-6890.

Build It Festival

The 8th grade leadership class, facilitated by Student Council, is hosting the "BUILD-IT FESTIVAL" on **Fri., Oct. 9th.**

Based on our "Building for Success" theme, participating classes will compete to build the longest, biggest, most creative, strongest, etc. structures.

Structures will be available for viewing in the field between 10 and 11 on Friday October 9th.

{One for Education}

Continue giving to Annie B's

Thank you to all of our CCDS families who have already contributed to the very important One for Education (OFE) fundraising campaign. With your help we are continuing to build the best school in Chico! If you haven't contributed, please donate to the OFE campaign before 9/30/09 so we can receive matching money for your gift. Donations can be sent to Michelle Trulin in the main office or contact Matt Meuter (566-0425) if you have any questions. Thank you for all of your support!

As of 9/17/09 the following 68 families have helped us to get started with our best fundraising campaign ever! We'd like to have all families participate at whatever amount you can afford. Please join these families by making your own tax-deductible contribution to our school!

Bitker	Garrison	Law	Rose
Bridge	Gazda	Lovgren	S. Peterson
Butikofer	Gomersall	Luallen	Sadler
Chambers-Prieto	Greenfield	Lundberg	Sayer
Christopher	Hansen	Mace-Wong	Schroth
D. & K. Clark	Harris	Meichtry-Kelly	Sims
Colwell	Herin	Meuter	Sioux-Thorup
Darlington	Hoiland	Milani	Sitton
Davidson-Rogers	Hobson	Miller	Snyder
Donnelly	Hopson	Morrison-Fort	Stein
Dunbaugh	House	Mott	Stemen
Dunkley	K. Hunt	Nichols	Sterling
Ely	C Johnson	Nye	Teal
Farrell	Jones	Pasquale	Trites
Finlay	Kelly	Pembroke	Vance
Fischer	Kusumoto	Polosky	Walsh
Gardner	Langford	Roberts	Weatherman
Garrett			



Middle School Volleyball Schedule

Cheer on your CCDS Eagles at one of our upcoming games!

September 21 vs. Vina @ Grace Community Church – 3:30pm

September 28 vs. Willows @ Willows – 3:30pm

September 30 vs. Capay @ Capay – 3:30pm

October 6 vs. Vina @ Vina – 3:30pm

October 14 vs Capay @ Grace Community Church – 3:30pm

October 19 vs Hamilton @ Grace Community Church – 3:30pm

Budget anyone?

The CCDS Budget has undergone many revisions over the last several months due to continued changes and cuts from the State of California. If anyone is interested in reviewing the school budget, please contact Margaret Reece and she will be happy to go over it with you. Additionally, the independent audit results of our budget are posted on the CCDS website.

Flu prevention in the classroom

In anticipation of an active flu season this year, Chico Country Day School has implemented the recommendations of the CDC and the California Department of Public Health, which includes the supervised use of hand sanitizer in addition to good hand washing, in the classroom. Alcohol-based hand sanitizers are very effective germicides against many viruses and bacteria, including influenza and MRSA, according to the CDPH.

The sanitizers will be used in the classroom under the direction of a teacher or other authorized adult periodically during the school day, in addition to hand washing, after coughing/sneezing, toileting, and before eating. Students are instructed to keep product away from eyes, mouth, nose and open cuts or sores. Any adverse reactions will be reported to the school nurse.

For additional information on hand hygiene and hand sanitizers, please visit the CDC website at <http://www.cdc.gov/features/handhygiene/>.

Patricia Mott R.N.
School Nurse



Chico Country Day
SCHOOL

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{All about the business...}

Portables, thanks and the website

Have you noticed our new portable? It fits right in, so a person can easily walk right by and not notice that it's a new addition! Without Zane Schreder, and his wife, Karen, this essential part of our middle school and campus would not be possible. I'd like to send a special thank you out there to Zane and Karen for all of the work done to install it and make it possible to have our full middle school wing. This is the last in a series of installations where the Schreder's have been instrumental, and this little thank you somehow seems inadequate. So, if you happen to see Zane or Karen on campus, please extend a warm-hearted thanks. We wouldn't have been able to do this without them. A special thanks also goes to Matt Colwell for helping on the installation as well.

Thanks also goes to Randy Korte for help in ordering and putting together the desks for the 8th grade. He organized a work party and put those desks and chairs together in no time. Finally, I'd like to thank Rusty Stevens and Home Depot for donating all of the supplies for the Rotary Work Day.

I know there are more parents out there who help to make this school what it is, and we appreciate you. We are so glad to have parents so willingly help out, especially in the fiscal climate we are in right now. This spring our staff will be hosting a "Thank you parents" event, so keep your eyes out for a date for that.

Finally, we are making it a priority to keep our website up to date, something that has easily fallen to the back burner in the past. If you have any suggestions, concerns, ideas, please let us know.

If you have any questions, please contact me at any time! My extension is 204, and my email is margaret@chicocountryday.org

Margaret
Executive Director

Safety reminders please!

- No double parking along 11th St. and Broadway when you are picking up or dropping off students.
- Students should use crosswalks at all times – no jaywalking.
- Do not drop off or pick up students in the parking lot.
- The curb along 11th St. and Broadway is "3 minute loading/unloading only". You may get ticketed if you get out of your car – even if for less than 3 minutes.

{Life skills of the month}

Problem Solving and Cooperation

BY KARIN DAVERSON AND RENEE DOOLY | FIRST GRADE

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. This month, we would like to highlight the life skills of PROBLEM SOLVING and COOPERATION. These two go hand in hand.

{Problem solving} to create solutions for difficult situations and everyday problems.

Problem solving is an innate capability that we've been perfecting since we were infants. We developed signals and cries to tell our parents we were hungry. We learned to be charming when we wanted attention. We worked out playground problems in elementary school and divided our space with our siblings. We've been solving problems all our lives!

To enhance the problem solving abilities of our children, we need to provide them with lots of practice and make them aware of the problem solving process. There are simple things you can do at home to help!

1. Allow your children to make mistakes and experience the consequences. If the consequences are not dangerous or life threatening, allow your child to experience the discomfort of a poor problem decision. They will become better at learning from experiences.
2. Teach your child to talk to him/herself. Useful self talk could include "Where have I seen this before?"
3. Teach your child the simple steps to problem solving. 1) identify the problem 2) come up with possible solutions 3) try the choice 4) check to see if it is working.

Examples of problem solving at home include: finding ways to care for toys, pets and other belongings; saving allowance/birthday money for a big ticket item, resolving differences with friends, neighbors and siblings in an amicable way.

There are many books that deal with issue of problem solving that you could read at home. For the younger child, [Flat Stanley](#) by Jeff Brown and [Math Curse](#) by Jon Scieszka are good books. [Dragonwings](#) by Lawrence Yep, [Stones in Water](#) by Donna Jo Napoli are appropriate for older students.

You'll know your children are successful problem solvers when they begin asking for other's opinions and perspectives, clearly understand and state problems, share their thinking with others and enjoy puzzles and challenges.

{Cooperation} To work together toward a common goal or purpose.

Cooperation is a working relationship that develops between two or more people as they perform certain tasks. It is characterized by a sense of "give and take" among the group members.

To enhance the cooperation skills of our children, we need to provide them with lots of practice and make them aware of cooperating with others. There are simple things you can do at home to help!

1. Have your children assist in maintaining the house and yard without having to be reminded.
2. Work together as a family on a variety of projects, such as "Earth Day" and "All-school Clean" or any other community events.
3. Organize a "family entertainment night", where each family member needs to help contribute to the night in some way or form.

There are many books that deal with issue of problem solving that you could read at home. For the younger child, [Araminta's Paint Box](#) by Jeannine Atkins and [Frightful's Mountain](#) by Jean Craighead George are good books. [Lord of the Flies](#) by William Gerald Golding and [Snow Bound](#) by Harry Mazer are appropriate for older students.