

ccn

chico country news

Happy
Thanksgiving

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

{Principal's Corner}

WASC Self-Study underway

Our entire staff, as well as several parents and students have been working hard at completing our WASC Self-Study. WASC (Western Association of Schools and Colleges) accredits Universities, High Schools and Elementary Schools throughout the United States and in several overseas countries. The Self-Study process is very exhaustive. We have been examining and evaluating all of our school programs, as well as our finances, communication systems, parental involvement level, school culture, and every aspect of our operations. The goal is to honestly evaluate how we are doing throughout our operations with a special focus on student learning.

Through the WASC process we have identified three critical academic areas – of which we have developed a 6 year Action Plan for implementation of each. Those three areas are:

1. Improve and support learning by developing instructional strategies and supports that best meet the needs of struggling learners as well as advanced students.
2. To insure that students develop basic competencies in Reading and Mathematics within a Thematic Instruction approach.
3. Improve and support student learning in the acquisition of good writing skills and their performance on the STAR writing test.

These are broad categories of which each have several sub-goals, or benchmarks towards implementation. For example, in the Action Plan for each of these critical academic areas is the development of a Peer Observation/Coaching program for teachers that will put supports and resources in place to increase teaching effectiveness with students and insure the use of best practices in the classroom.

Our WASC document will be completed in December. Then on April 10-13 a visiting team from the commission will be at our school for 3 days to observe in the classroom, examine evidence and meet with stakeholder focus groups. Our goal is to receive a full 6 year accreditation term.

Besides our dedicated faculty and staff, thanks for WASC work goes out to:

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| Emma Mavis | Lucy Greenfield |
| James Chenevey | Dylan White |
| Kyleigh Marcott | Morgan Heffley |
| Sterling Winter | Rachel Schlund |
| Sophia Leiker | Bridgett Sutton |
| Zane Ferguson | Jeff Reid |
| Eloise Jones | Kate McCarthy |
| Kristina Trento | Mary Rose Lovgren |
| Lee McClung | Kat Clark |
| Janelle Keontopf | Eric Hoiland |
| Nancy Heffley | Ruth Greenfield |
| Jen Sanchez | Stacy Owen |
| Geoff Lawson | Clara Leech |
| Tami Farrell | Ruba Powell |

-Paul Weber

CALENDAR

Nov. 23-27 – Thanksgiving Break

Sat. Dec. 5 – All School Clean

Dec. 8-10 – Book Fair

Fri. Dec. 11 – Middle School Social

Wed. Dec. 16 – Band and Chorus Concert, 6:30 pm in MUR

Thurs. Dec. 17 – Orchestra and Strings Concert, 7-8 pm in MUR

Dec. 21-Jan. 1 – Holiday Break. No School

Calling All Siblings for Kindergarten 2010-2011

Chico Country Day School's Kindergarten lottery will be held January 15, 2010. We need to know how many siblings of current students will be starting Kindergarten here in the Fall so we know how many openings are available for new families. If you haven't already, please call Bonnie Fitzgerald in the office at 895-2650 ext. 201 to be placed on the list.

Lottery for First through Eighth Grades 2010 will also be held January 15, 1:30 in the MUR. If you have friends interested in applying, please let them know.

Life skills from a 4th grade perspective

Our 4th graders offer some personal antidotes about our lifeskills.

"I like to use flexibility when I don't get my way. I don't care if I don't get my way. I care about what my friend says."

—Austin Garey.

"I have to use flexibility when I play with my four year old cousin, Luc. He is little and gets angry very easily."

—Olivia Stover

"I was resourceful when I made a guitar out of a tissue box, rubber bands, and a toilet paper roll."

—Dylan McCowan

"Right now in class we are reading the book, Island of the Blue Dolphins. In the book, there is a girl alone on an island, and there is hardly any trees. She has to use the life skill of resourcefulness to survive and protect herself from the wild dogs."

—Hannah Pembroke

"I use flexibility when my friends come over. I let them pick out the game we play."

—Destiny Juers

"Resourcefulness is using all of the stuff in the environment like the Indians. They made spears out of tree branches and flint."

—Ethan Bainbrige

"Flexibility is when you don't get your way, but you use someone else's. In soccer, if you have a good idea and someone else has one, too, and they choose the other person's idea, you can be flexible."

—Tonie Leech

"I played four square. I got out and didn't think it was an out. But I got out anyway. I was flexible."

—Sam Massa

{Prop 1D}

An Update on Prop 1D

Dear CCDS Parents, Staff and Friends,

The CCDS Board of Directors and Administration would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the Parent Action Group for Proposition 1D, as well as all of our parents and community friends who have worn T-shirts, written letters and attended rallies in support of our Proposition 1D request to CUSD. On a personal note, I would like to thank all of the parents for their passionate efforts for this cause. I have heard from many different sources - both locally and at the State level, of how the CCDS parent population has lobbied in a positive manner for these important modernization funds.

Currently there is an offer on the table from CUSD. This offer was given to the CCDS Administration at 4:00pm Monday (November 16). The CCDS Board of Directors called a special Board meeting to review that offer, and did so for over two hours that very evening. The offer is complex and contains provisions which impact our liability exposure, as well as our long term financial projections. The CCDS Board decided not to take any action at this time and directed CCDS Administration to research insurance and liability issues along with the financial implications of accepting the offer. The Board will meet again soon - no later than December 9 with hopes of making a decision at that time. Our goal is to attain Proposition 1D funding to rehabilitate our school site, but at the same time protect our interests and insure that any agreements do not adversely affect our educational programs or financial future.

Our Proposition 1D application is not on the CUSD Board agenda for today (Wednesday). Since we are still considering the offer the District has tendered, it's not necessary for CCDS to have a presence, or speak in support of our application at that Board meeting. It would also be appropriate at this time to hold off on contacting CUSD Board members or conducting rallies. Our parent body has done a marvelous job of applying pressure in a positive way, and to a large extent that is why we have been able to make progress on this issue. It's time to take a break, enjoy the Thanksgiving holidays and let the process play out. We will keep you posted as any developments unfold...but be prepared for further action. As hopeful as we are, the finishing line has not yet been crossed.

—Paul Weber

Recycle your 2009 calendars for our Art classes

As the end of the calendar year approaches, you probably have 2009 calendars that you will be throwing out. If your old calendars have art work or pictures, our Art Teacher, Kari Zigan would love to have them to use with her students. Please drop them off in the office for Kari. Thank you.

{Girls Basketball}

Lady Eagles off to a strong start

Our girls basketball team is off to a great start. On Nov. 16 we played Plaza from Orland. The 6th graders played great. Caitlin Buyert was the leading scorer with 8 and Kara Kremer had 7. CCDS won 28 to 12.

The 7/8 graders had a rough start. It was 17-10 at half with Plaza leading.

We stepped it up in the second half and came out on top by a basket. Final score 29-27. Katy Colwell lead the team with 7 points. Tiffani, Rachel and Katy all went to the line and made 1 and 1 securing the win for us in the last minute of the game!

Previously our 6th grade team took on Bidwell 7th grade team. They played great defense. The final score was 24-6 Bidwell.

Our 7-8 grade team took on Marsh 8th grade team. We played a great game all around. The final score 52-15 C.C.D.S. Top scorers Tiffini Kelly with 17 and Megan DeLaTorre with 13. And a couple of the girls with 6 points each.

Both teams also played Capay at home. Our 6th great team came out on top 28-16. Kara Kremer and Heather Pembroke with 6 and Claire Morrison, Caitlin Buyert, and Olivia Najera all with 4. It was a great game.

Our 7/8 team beat Capay 45-20. Tiffani Kelley was the leading scorer with 21. This includes her 3 3pointers. Way to go Tiffiani. Adrian Stein picked up a 3 and Alyssa Buyert sunk a basket on the 4th quarter buzzer. They all played a great game and racked up the points. Way to shoot girls!

{Update from the Business Office}

Keeping an eye on our budget

Happy Thanksgiving. I hope all of you enjoy a very nice week off with friends and family. We have a lot to be thankful here at CCDS! I would like to thank our parents for their continue support of our school.

Our charter has been submitted for renewal, so please keep an eye out for a date for our hearing, which must be heard by CUSD within 30 days. We will let you know.

While the news has been dominated by our ongoing facilities "issues", we have been following the state budget closely and keeping an eye on our budget for this year, next year, and revising our Multi-Year projections. Unfortunately, the news continues to be dire and depressing!

This week, the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO), which is the nonpartisan fiscal and policy analyst for the Legislature, [released its five-year fiscal forecast](#) for California. When the budget finally was passed, we did expect that it was overly optimistic, and the LAO confirmed that in their report. The following is from an email alert that I receive:

The LAO projects that the governor faces a \$21 billion eighteen-month budget problem as he crafts his January budget. The huge shortfall is mostly attributable to:

- overly optimistic revenue projections in the budget adopted in July
- failed budget solutions, such as selling the State Comp Insurance Fund
- higher than expected prison costs
- expiration of temporary tax increases and implementation of new tax cuts
- an increase in the Proposition 98 funding guarantee by \$1 billion in 2009-10
- sunseting state fiscal stabilization funds from the federal government

The LAO projects that 2010-11 will essentially be a "flat" revenue year, although \$5 billion in temporary taxes will sunset. While 2011-12 will see an organic increase in revenues of \$5.5 billion, \$9 billion in temporary taxes will expire, causing a net reduction in state revenues.

What this means for CCDS is declining revenue and no American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding, which did help us significantly this year, and was a one-time investment from the Federal government. We will have to continue to be very conservative in our budgeting.

One easy way to help us is to make sure our students get to school. We were hit very hard by the H1N1 virus, the flu virus and a lot of bugs going around and had the highest absence rate we ever have had. We need your help to prevent further erosion of our attendance rates. Please seriously think about not taking vacations or days off during the school year. This has a profound impact on our school and budget cuts and adjustments have to be made.

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

—Margaret

Attendance and the budget

California attendance laws require that a student attend school for a full day for the school to receive ADA funding. When you take your child out of school early, for reasons other than illness or doctor/dentist appointments, your child is unexcused from school and truant. Students will be marked as such in our attendance program. Please avoid early pull-out of your student for any reason other than a medical one. Thank You.



HAVE YOU HEARD THE NEWS?

The Chico Country Day Science Fair is scheduled to take place March 25, 2010! This exciting event needs all of our upcoming scientists to put on their thinking caps and start looking around our amazing world! One of the secret ingredients to a great science project is to PLAN AHEAD....consider some of the following reasons to inspire your kids to start thinking about their science project now:

PARENTS

Top Ten Reasons to Start Science Fair Projects Early

- 10. fewer gray hairs, less yelling and fewer time outs
- 9. spread the pain out over time in small, manageable pieces
- 8. potential for a better grade for your student
- 7. blow stuff up
- 6. your student can actually do his/her own project
- 5. no "science project headache"
- 4. science projects are good, clean, family fun
- 3. there's still time to get a science project kit for your student for Christmas
- 2. no midnight trips to Kmart
- 1. **be as cool as Mr. Massa!**

STUDENTS

Top Ten Reasons to Start Science Fair Projects Early

- 10. force your parents to take you on cool field trips
- 9. understand how recycling can save the planet
- 8. save the world
- 7. blow stuff up
- 6. wear cool goggles
- 5. start your mad scientist career early
- 4. more time to play with ooey, gooey stuff
- 3. find out how things really work
- 2. have fun
- 1. **be as cool as Mr. Massa!**

TEACHERS:

Top Ten Reasons to Start Science Fair Projects Early

- 10. focus student energy for good, not evil
- 9. get science projects over with early
- 8. the more time students have, the more likely they'll turn assignments in on time
- 7. . . . and the more likely it is the projects will be good
- 6. decrease nasty emails from parents
- 5. find out what your students are really capable of
- 4. science is well, cool
- 3. increase teachable moments in sustainability
- 2. potential to be thanked in speech by future Nobel prize winner
- 1. **be as cool as Mr. Massa!**