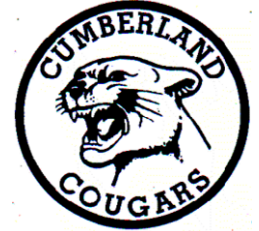




# COUGAR NEWS



LEARNING & BEYOND

824 Cumberland Avenue, Sunnyvale, CA 94087

January 2007

### Dates to Remember

#### January 2007

- 1/2 School reopens
- 1/5 Student of the Month, "Cooperation"
- 1/8 PTA Budget Mtg., 2:45
- 1/9 Teacher Learning Day, all students dismissed 12:45
- 1/11 Band Performance, 7 p.m.
- 1/16 School Site Council PTA Mtg., 6:30  
International Pot Luck Dinner
- 1/18 4th Grade Performance, 1:30, 7:00 p.m.
- 1/26 Student of the Month

Dear Cumberland Families,

On behalf of the entire staff, I extend New Year's wishes to you and your family. May each day bring new hope and new joy as 2007 proves to be the best year yet! This is the time of the year when we traditionally stop to take stock of our goals. Please make regular, punctual, school attendance one of yours for this new year! The positive impact of students coming in on time and being here every day that school is in session affects learning, not only for your child, but also for the others in the classroom.

I enjoyed the rewards of the Walkathon last month. Arianna Mandelli from Mrs. Cheng's class was the lucky winner of the "Principal for a Day" drawing. She spent the day visiting all the classrooms with me, working in the cafeteria, and getting an insiders' view of the role of the principal. I also had fun bowling with Nicole and Michelle Hunt, winners of "Bowling With the Principal", and having lunch with Kyle and Brooke Schryver and Ashley Helfinstein, winners of "Lunch With the Principal".

We are in the process of planning how to spend a very nice "gift" we have received from the state--a one time allocation of approximately \$28,000. Based on the priorities established in our School Plan, a determination on how to spend that amount will be made by the School Site Council after considering input from staff. Please feel free to offer any insights you may have to any one of our School Site Council parents: Kristine Lawrence, Ray Schryver, Valerie Spierling, Sandra Todd or Lindsay Jacobson. The criteria that were determined for this expenditure is that it be sustainable, provide maximum benefit to students, and not incur recurring costs (since it is a one-time allocation.)

I look forward to seeing you all at the International Potluck on January 16<sup>th</sup>!

Warmly,

Mala Ahuja, Principal

### January Character Trait

#### *Self Discipline*

Self discipline gives you the power to make good decisions for yourself. You don't need to depend on other people to determine your behavior.

*From What Do You Stand For, A Kids' Guide to Building Character by Barbara A. Lewis*

### **ELAC Meeting, February 2, 2007**

Parents of English Learners please join us for our next meeting of the English Learners Advisory Council (ELAC). Topics for discussion include:

- CELDT scores: Please bring your child's CELDT scores to the meeting.
- Helping your child with homework
- Report cards and ELD addendums

The meeting will be in the Cumberland Library from 8:30 a.m.-9:30 a.m. Coffee and muffins will be served. Please plan to join us and bring a friend.

## ***Attendance***

We know that regular school attendance is critical for educational achievement. It helps develop patterns of behavior essential to professional and personal life success. Our school district receives approximately \$40.00 daily in state funds for every student present in school. This is our District's primary source of funding. In the first three months of this school year (September-November 2006) Cumberland had a total of 708 absences, which resulted in a total loss of revenue of \$28,320!

ALL absences, excused and unexcused, result in a loss of state funding that negatively impacts our school's funding. This being said, when students are ill, they **MUST** remain at home. Children must be temperature-free without medication for 24 hours before returning to school, and should stay home if they have thrown up within the past 24 hours as well. Please make sure you follow the school calendar when making vacation plans. We appreciate your scheduling any medical or dental appointments after the school dismissal time. Your child's daily attendance in school must be a high priority.

That being said, the importance of being on time is also critical. A student entering a classroom late is disruptive, not only to the child, but also the other students. During the same time period as above, six hundred seventeen (617!) students were tardy. With an average time per tardy of five minutes, 3,085 minutes of instructional time were lost, which equals 51.1 hours.

