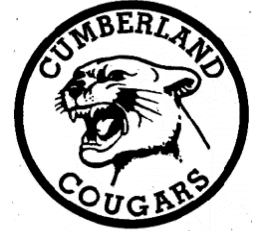




COUGAR NEWS



LEARNING & BEYOND

824 Cumberland Avenue, Sunnyvale, CA 94087

October 2006

Dates to Remember

- 10/5 Board Mtg., 7:00, DO
Motor Perception
begins
Dr. Rudnicki reads to
1st grade
- 10/9 PTA Budget mtg., 2:45
- 10/10 **Teacher Learning
Day**, all students
dismissed at 12:45
PTA mtg. 8:30 a.m.
- 10/13 **Walkathon**
- 10/17 SSC, 3:00 p.m.
- 10/18 ELAC, 8:30 a.m.
- 10/19 Bd. Mtg., 7:00 p.m., DO
- 10/26 Vision Screening, grades
K, 3, SDC
- 10/31 Halloween Parade, 1:00



Dear Parents and Friends,

The most significant expressions of our home-school partnership are the times we gather as a group to talk about our students. As we get to know one another better as Cumberland School parents, we will become better able to work together. As teachers, we will be empowered by our new knowledge as we work with your children at school. Thank you for your outstanding attendance at Back to School night! Thanks also to our talented and caring teachers who shared their knowledge of curriculum, learning strategies, and daily routines.

School wide activities such as Back-to-School Night and Family Picnic are chosen and designed for their potential to promote positive social values throughout the school community. While not everyone has to participate equally in every activity, over time it is important to create ways to involve all members of the school community. Other upcoming activities such as the October 13th Walkathon, are designed to involve you as true partners in your child's education, to help you become more deeply involved in your child's learning, and to build stronger bonds between home and school. We look forward to seeing you there!

Sincerely,

Mala Ahuja, Principal

October Character Trait

Responsibility

"Responsibility involves being trustworthy and dependable, being someone others can count on. Holding responsibility for something or someone means that we are answerable for our actions in that regard."

The Value Book, Pam Schiller and Tamera Bryant, p.136

Attendance Policy

"Students who are late (arriving after 8:15 bell) must report to the office upon arrival at school. After 6 tardies, students and their parents are required to sign an attendance contract with the principal." (*Cumberland PTA Handbook, p.7*)



Zero Tolerance

Teachers have been spending time with their students discussing safety rules and developing classroom agreements. At the beginning of school, at our Welcome Assembly, I spoke with the children about Zero Tolerance. Our district Board of Education has adopted a resolution of Zero Tolerance for violence, weapons (including toy weapons) and drugs.

State law, district policy and regulations of the California Education Code support Zero Tolerance by requiring the immediate suspension and/or expulsion of any student who possesses or furnishes a firearm, knife, explosive, or other similarly dangerous object on school grounds or at school events off school grounds.

How can you help? Discuss with your child the fact that weapons, violence and drugs are unacceptable and help him or her understand the serious consequences of any act violating district policy and state law. Most importantly, tell you child that the safety of our school and community is everyone's responsi-

District Homework Guidelines

Homework Survey



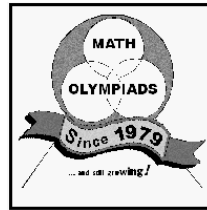
Our goal at Cumberland is to provide the best educational program for our students. As partners in your child's education, your input is certainly valued. Last year we sent out a parent survey and received great feedback to a range of questions that covered a variety of topics. In direct response to the input received on technology, we allocated funding and, supported by the PTA, were able to purchase 6 computers and 1 LCD projector for every 4th and 5th grade classroom, in addition to 8 computers and 1 projector for the library.

This year for our focus on continuous improvement, we'll take a closer look at our homework policy within the framework of district guidelines. . We will begin the process with a mini survey consisting of questions related to homework. I encourage parents to suggest questions to be included in this mini survey. These will be added to the ones generated by our teachers. Please direct any suggested questions you may have to one your School Site Council parents, Kristine Lawrence, Ray Schryver, Valerie Spierling, or Sandra Todd. At our October 17th SSC meeting we will consider all the questions generated and finalize the survey, which you can look forward to being included with the November newsletter. Once we receive the feedback from this survey, we can implement logical next steps.

Helping Parents Improve Their Children's Reading Fluency

One of the most necessary tools for improving reading outcomes for children is *wide reading*. *Wide Reading* refers to both the amount and type of reading in which children are engaged. When students read widely, they read often—at least 20 minutes a day—and they read across many genres. This means that they read different types of books, not just narrative or information books but biographies, history and technical books. Parents and other family members can support *wide reading* with their children by:

- ♥ Establishing a time each evening when you read with your child. For beginning readers, this may mean that you take turns reading from a book on his or her level. If your child is a more advanced reader, you may each read different books, but you sit near each other and are engaged in the reading process.
- ♥ Determining many ways to access books and print materials. Libraries, bookstores, and online activities are excellent resources for parents to provide access to a wide range of books and print materials. Take advantage of every opportunity to examine and discuss books and other print materials.
- ♥ Sharing what you are reading. Discuss the books and materials that you are reading with your child. If your child is an able reader, share materials or sections of your reading so that the child can access the same information and knowledge that you have.
- ♥ Asking questions about what your child is reading. The types of questions that parents ask about what their child is reading can promote continued reading because the children are likely to engage in and extend reading when their parents show interest in what their children are reading.
- ♥ Reading different types of print materials and sharing them with your child. Sources that adults read include recipes, newspapers, magazines, reference books, and leisure books. Share these types of reading materials with your child, and engage your child in reading different sources of text. Remember wide reading is associated with overall improved vocabulary and knowledge.



Math Olympiads!!

Math Olympiads will again be offered for 4th and 5th grade Cumberland students.

Mathematical Olympiads for Elementary and Middle Schools (MOEMS) is a nonprofit public foundation which provides opportunities for children to engage in creative problem solving activities that develop a child's ability to reason, to be logical, to be resourceful, and occasionally to be ingenious

The Math Olympiad goals are for children to:

1. Develop enthusiasm for problem solving and mathematics,
2. Deepen understanding of mathematical concepts and strengthen ability to use these concepts,
3. Consider concepts that they might not otherwise encounter, and
4. Enrich experiences in intellectually stimulating and significant mental activities.

Might there be a potential "Mathlete" sitting in your house, enjoying a logic puzzle right now?

Does your child like to explore challenging problems?

Is "Thinking outside of the box" when approaching questions and problems a way of life?

Did they score in the "Advanced" or on the high end of the "Proficient" level on the California State Test?

If you answer "YES" to most of these questions, consider encouraging your child to join the Math Olympiad After School Club. We will be meeting every Thursday from 2:40 until 3:30 in Mrs. Cooper's room 24. Our first meeting will be on Thursday, October 5th!

Attention 5th Grade Parents

Did you know your child's Walkathon pledge could be applied to the 5th grade Science Camp on 5/21-5/25/07? The first \$50 of your child's pledge will go to PTA and up to \$245 will go towards your child's science camp tuition. Please encourage your child to pledge as much as possible and ask for his/her academic support from your friends, families and neighbors. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Emily Mazzarino
2007 5th Grade Science Camp Coordinator



**ESL Citizenship Classes
Intermediate**



**October 30, 2006- January 10, 2007
Mondays & Wednesdays, 6:30-9:30 p.m.**

- ·Fill out the N-400 Application
- ·Learn about American history & government
- ·Practice written tests
- ·Meet government representatives
- ·Get answers from immigration experts

Room 82, Fremont H.S.

**Citizenship Preparation
Advanced**

**October 30—December 13, 2006
Mondays & Wednesdays, 6:30—8:30 p.m.**

- Fill out the N-400 Application
- ·Learn about American history & government
- Study the Constitution
- ·Practice written tests
- Practice interview questions
- ·Meet government representatives
- ·Get answers from immigration experts

Room 83, Fremont H.S.

Register in class on the first night. Please bring Social Security and Alien Registration Cards

For more information, please call (408) 522-2703.
Must be at least 18 years old to register.

**ESL Citizenship—Saturday Mornings
Beginning to Intermediate**

September 23, 2006—June 2, 2007

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

**Templo el Monte Horeb
(Room 1, second floor)
455 E Maude Avenue
Sunnyvale, CA**

ALL CLASSES ARE FREE!



Halloween Festivities

Halloween is Tuesday, October 31. The morning schedule will be normal. Right after lunch children, staff and fun-loving parents will change into costume. At 1:00, the festivities begin with a costume parade followed by classroom celebrations. Costumes and make up are to be put on just prior to the parade. Students may not come to school in costume or with make up on.

Our purpose on Halloween is to help children share their costumes, learn customs and enjoy the spirit of this time of year. Even celebrations in the classrooms are opportunities for children to practice sharing and good manners. I encourage you to review with your children how to participate in a celebration while continuing to demonstrate respect and responsibility.

I also want to encourage you and your children to make costume choices that are consistent with our school policy. Costumes **must not display violence or evoke fear** in young children. Decorations or hand carried items should be safe and **not resemble any type of weapon or symbol of violence.** Please keep in mind that the costume needs to be comfortable and easy to walk in, and your child's vision should not be hampered in any way. Rollerblades, skates, scooters, skateboards, and bicycles are not permitted on campus during school hours, *even on Halloween.*

SOM Assembly



The mayor of Sunnyvale, Ron Swegles, will be honoring us with his presence to address the students on our focus trait for the month of October, Responsibility



Safety Reminders

"All students and adults must walk their bicycles, scooters, skateboards and roller blades **across streets and on school grounds.**" (*Cumberland PTA Handbook, p.8*)

Thank you for helping us reinforce our 'No wheels on campus' policy. Wheels include skateboards, bicycles, scooters and wheelies!

