



WEST CONTRA COSTA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Collins Elementary School

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Denise Steen, Principal

Tuesday, October 1, 2019

Dear Collins Families,

Fall is upon us and we are in our seventh week of school. Time surely flies. Students are settling into their daily routines in class and we have a momentum going with our new reading and writing program, Teachers' College Units of Study. By now, your student should be bringing home loads of books that they are reading both in class and at home. There should be weekly communications with your child's teacher, and of course, my door is always open for questions, concerns and congratulations!

We had a number of parents sign up for "Be a Mentor" and the final badges are in process and should be coming to you soon. Please make sure that you come to the office and let us make a copy so that we can get your support in volunteering at school and on study trips. We can use as many adults on campus as we can get. But first and foremost, if you haven't already done so, we need the Annual Forms completed in PowerSchool, or your student will ***NOT*** be going on any Study Trips. Updated contacts are necessary for the safety of your child. If you need assistance please come by the office.

Before I launch into our monthly activities and events, I want to make you aware of our Positive Behavior Support Interventions Framework. Please ask your child about the Be Safe, Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be Ready to Learn expectations that are posted in all areas of the school and in the classrooms. We are working on our climate and culture and know that PBIS is one way to build relationships, trust and equity in our redirections for behaviors and for celebrating a job well done. I have copied two posters, classroom and playground expectations, so that you can see the positive language that we are using and so that you can work with your child to meet these expectations. Consistency is key, positivity is important, and acknowledgement reinforces that the expectations have been met. Ask your kiddo if they have gotten any Cougar Cash! We have weekly drawing and rewards for students who are "caught" doing it the right way! We have a climate team and would love to have a few parents on this team to support our efforts and give suggestions for improving our school culture.

There are a number of items coming up that you need to be aware of. First and almost immediately, we need your help with our WALK-A-THON, this Friday, October 4th from 8:30 to 11:00. We can use volunteers AND for you to raise money from your neighbors, co-workers, and relatives. The money we raise goes to the students, every penny is used for study trips, supplies, assemblies and rewards! I will be sending home another fundraiser possibility, but for SCHOOLSTORE, you don't have to give any money. You will receive an envelope next week with information and instructions for how to make money for the school by simply shopping online at the stores you already use. If you sign your child up and get neighbors and relatives to use their code, they will win prizes and the school will get a percentage of the money spent. Look for the SchoolStore.net envelope in next Wednesday's blue folder.

Picture Day is Thursday, October 17th. You should be receiving your flyer. There is the possibility of purchasing the photos online. We have our second Awards Assembly, Friday October 25th. We had a great turn out for the September assembly. I hope we can get more parents out to see students getting congratulations for hard work. And don't forget that that night, Friday, October 25th at 6:30pm is our HAUNTED HALLWAY. We will be working to have a wonderful Halloween event for the whole family. More information will be forthcoming as the event draws closer. And lastly, for the month of October, Halloween is Thursday, October 31st. We will once again have the PVHS Marching Band play while we march in our Parade at 10:00 AM. Students can wear their costumes to school, but please remember, they must wear shoes to school and there are no weapons of any kind allowed at school. That day is a Minimum Day, with dismissal at 1:45 and 2:05. Friday, November 1st, there is NO SCHOOL. You should have signed up for Parent/Teacher conferences at Back-to-school night, or your child's teacher should be reaching out to you in the next couple of weeks to secure you a time.. The whole first week of November, the 4th through the 8th are minimum days for parent/teacher conferences with Monday, November 11th as a holiday with No School for Veterans' Day. Believe it or not, Thanksgiving is shortly after, and before we know it, it will be winter break. Again, time flies!

All of us at Collins appreciate what you do for us, from sending supplies, supporting the teachers in the classrooms, putting up beautiful bulletin boards or power washing our breezeway, we couldn't do this without you. As always, I hope to see you here soon and often.

Peace

Kindness Matters.

Denise L. Steen

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