

Dragon Dispatch



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Kerstin Johnson, Principal

Cupertino Union School District

November 18, 2016

Board of Education - Anjali Kausar, Josephine Lucey, Kristen Lyn, Soma McCandless, Phylis Vogel Superintendent – Wendy Gudalewicz

Traffic Volunteers for the week of Nov. 28 – Dec. 2 are from room 9
Traffic Volunteers for the week of Dec. 5 - 9 are from room 7

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Nov. 21 – 25	Thanksgiving Recess – NO SCHOOL
Nov. 28	Vision Screening (Grades K, 2nd, 5th & SDC)
Nov. 30	Dare To Care – 12:00 Noon
Dec. 2	Mustache Day
Dec. 2	Report Cards Go Home
Dec. 6	Chorus Performance – 7:00 p.m.
Dec. 9	Dilworth Day
Dec. 10	Holiday Book Fair – 12:00 – 4:00
Dec. 12 – 16	Holiday Book Fair – 8:30 – 3:00
Dec. 16	Inside-Out Day
Dec. 19 – Jan. 2	Winter Recess – NO SCHOOL
Jan. 3	Students Return to School

Good afternoon, Dilworth families:

The fall/winter season is definitely upon us. Please make sure your children come to school prepared for the cooler weather, with a jacket or sweatshirt and close-toed shoes. It would be very helpful, too, if their clothes were labeled with their names. That way, we won't end up with an overflowing Lost and Found!

Since our last Dragon Dispatch, we've hosted one of the most memorable events of the year at Dilworth: Walkaround. Thank you to all of the parents and staff who volunteered their time to make our Walkaround a success. It was a beautiful, sunny Saturday and the kids had a great time running many laps!

Our classes have also completed their first trimester of learning. Report cards will come home on December 2nd. Cupertino uses a standards-based report card. Students will receive rubric scores to demonstrate their progress towards end of the year standards. A rubric score of 3 is considered Proficient, or grade level. What will be important to note as the year progresses is your child's growth in academic and learning skills. Please take some time to look over the report card and teacher comments with your child.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving week!
Ms. Johnson

CURRICULUM CORNER: PROJECT CORNERSTONE

Project Cornerstone is a local organization committed to ensuring youth in Santa Clara County are surrounded by a supportive community. One of their programs, ABC Reading, involves parents coming to classrooms to read stories about character building and self-esteem. We would like to pilot this program in some of our classrooms this year. If you would be interested in learning more about being a reader for this program (the time commitment is about 1 hour per month) please email Ms. Johnson at johnson_kerstin@cusdk8.org.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Two of our very own Dilworth 5th graders, Sania J. and Rutvi P., have launched a campaign called "Silicon Valley Sisters" with #SiliconValleySisters. Their goal is to encourage girls of color to get actively involved in technology and share their discoveries with each other. You can find more about their campaign here: <https://youtu.be/tq-DnSwUwec>. Here is what they say about their campaign: "We have noticed that not many girls are encouraged to be a part of the technology race, even at the heart of Silicon Valley. Our campaign is focused to raise this concern and encourage young girls like us to be active participants in getting to know and contribute towards the growth of technology." You can 'follow' or 'like' their campaign at www.saniajain.com and <https://www.facebook.com/hellosania>. We congratulate Rutvi and Sania on their initiative, creativity and vision!

SECOND HARVEST HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE - The Morning Enrichment students are hosting a food drive. We are working with the Second Harvest Food Bank. Donation barrels are located in the office and GLC. Our goal is to fill all 15 collection barrels. That would be approximately 2,200 pounds of food.

Items needed the most include; powdered milk, peanut butter, baby formula, cereal, and canned meats - like chili, stews, and pastas. **Please do not send in anything that is in a glass container as it will break in the bins.**

We look forward to your support in this effort.
Mrs. Gauthier and the Morning Enrichment students

UPPER GRADE BOOK CLUB - Does your child love to read? If so, please encourage him/her to join me on Friday afternoons for our after school Book Club. If your child is a 4th or 5th grader and is available to meet on Friday afternoons from 3:00 – 4:00, please complete the permission slip that is being sent home in the Friday folder and return it to the office by Friday, December 2nd. Please note that the Book Club will be limited to 30 students. If your child participated in Book Club last year, priority will be given to first time students. A Primary Book Club will be offered to 2nd and 3rd grades in the spring. If you have any questions about Book Club, please contact Mrs. Gauthier

DISTRICT NEWS SECTION - Vol. 8 2016-2017 - Elementary School

A MESSAGE FROM THE CUPERTINO EDUCATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOUNDATION

Your support of the events below will allow us to perpetuate the legacy of educational excellence for all 25 elementary and middle schools of CUSD for years to come.

GREAT SCHOOLS GROCERY DAY AT WHOLE FOODS

Wednesday, December 7th, 2016 - 8 AM – 10 PM

Whole Foods Market - 20955 Stevens Creek Boulevard, Cupertino

Turn your grocery purchases into dollars for our Great Schools! 5% of net sales all day on Wednesday, December 7th will benefit our 19,000+ elementary and middle school students of CUSD! Spread the word to your family, friends, and colleagues about this great opportunity to support our students. And please be sure to visit us at our table that day, where we will have activities for all to enjoy!

ANNUAL GALA: "SPRINGTIME IN PARIS"

Saturday, March 18th, 2017 - 5:30 PM – Midnight

The Fairmont San Jose

Please join us at our annual gala, "Springtime in Paris," as we celebrate over 30 years of partnerships with parents, businesses, and our local community in support of our CUSD schools. The Gala will honor not only the 2016 - 2017 CUSD Teachers of the Year and the 2016 - 2017 District Teacher of the Year, but also the recipients of the Sandy Liu Community Service Leadership Award, the Innovative Technology Educator Awards, and the Patricia A. Lamson Endowment Fund for Reading Literacy Scholarship. Additional highlights of the evening shall include tastings with local wine makers and breweries. Live and silent auctions, as well as a casino and dancing, will make this celebratory evening complete. www.ceefcares.org
<https://www.facebook.com/ceefcares/>

ATTENDANCE REMINDERS - For every child to be successful, s/he must be healthy and attend school regularly. It is our desire to be supportive and work collaboratively to help you with your child's educational success. Regular attendance plays a significant role in student achievement.

Student Absence Reporting Expectations:

- If your child is going to be absent from school, please **notify the school office** either before the absence or in the morning of the absence.
- Office notification does not automatically make an absence excused.
- If your child has a fever, diarrhea or is vomiting, please keep your child at home.
- Students returning to school should be symptom-free for 24 hours.
- If your child has a doctor's appointment during the school day or is seen by a physician resulting in a school absence, please submit to the school office a doctor's note verifying the appointment/absence within five days of the absence.
- Per Education Code, an **advanced written request** must be submitted to the **school office** to receive a full day excused absence for participation in a religious exercise or holiday.
- *Failure* to provide the advance written request will result in your child receiving an unexcused absence.
- A partial day absence for religious instruction or participation in religious exercises may be considered excused; please discuss options for such purposes with the school office.

The District does not support the practice of taking trips/vacations on school days, and parents are urged to schedule their travel during school breaks. If a family must plan a trip during the school year, parents may request a Short-Term Independent Study provided the student will return to school at least five (5) days before the last day of school. Such absences are unexcused unless it is prearranged and a Short-Term Independent Study contract has been approved by the school principal. Requests for Short-Term Independent Study will be evaluated by the school principal on a case-by-case basis after consideration of the criteria set forth below, including whether the student possesses the necessary motivation, commitment, organizational skills, and academic skills to work independently.

1. Requests **must be made at least ten (10) school days in advance** of the planned absence
2. The student must be in attendance at their assigned school for at least three (3) weeks before the commencement of the independent study
3. Absences for this purpose must be for a minimum of five (5) school days and a maximum of ten (10) school days per school year and shall not occur during the Spring assessment period
4. Student truancy patterns, including the number of unexcused absences or tardy (more than 30 minutes) for three days without a valid excuse, will be considered before approval

Student assignments under Short-Term Independent Study contracts are due on the first school day immediately following the student's return to school.

MINDFULNESS SKILLS FOR PARENTS

Tuesday, November 29, 2016 – Time: 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

**Location: Fremont Union High School District Professional Learning Center
589 West Fremont Avenue, Sunnyvale, CA 94087**

Presenter: Linda Lotspeich, MD, Med, Child Psychiatrist and Clinical Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences Autism and Developmental Disabilities Clinic at Stanford

Dr. Lotspeich will explore topics including: What is mindfulness? How can we better manage our own difficult emotions as parents? How can we move from coping to living more meaningful lives? How do we stay present and responsive to our children while planning for the future? This education program offers instruction in mindfulness practice including meditation and its application for reducing stress and improving self-esteem and quality of life and how mindfulness can address specific challenges of parenting a child/adolescent/adult with disabilities.

CAC SPEAKER SERIES - JANUARY 18: INCLUSIVE SCHOOLS PANEL

**Location: Fremont Union High School District Professional Learning Center
589 West Fremont Avenue, Sunnyvale, CA 94087**

Time: 7:00-9:00 p.m. - Presenter: General and special educators from SELPA II

Teaching all children, regardless of their needs, together in a single classroom is what "Inclusion" is all about. This panel discussion will cover how inclusion is currently being implemented within SELPA II. Our speakers from all three school districts will encompass general education and special education teachers from different grade levels. They will discuss strategies to include children in mainstreaming opportunities and meaningful inclusion in general education classrooms. They will address issues like communication and training with the general education staff and how they work together to ensure all student's needs are being met. Please come prepared with your questions about how inclusion is being successfully implemented at our schools.

