



# The Monthly Plunge

December 2009

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### A Note from the Principal's Desk

A couple of weeks ago, there was a reported incident at College Park that caused me to review a Facebook site of one of our students. During this review, it became very evident that a significant number of College Park students are on Facebook. Although this was not surprising, it caused me to wonder how many parents of these students with Facebook accounts are aware that their child has one. Especially, since you must be 13 years old to have a Facebook account. Thus, students with accounts must lie about their birth date in order to be on Facebook. Please keep in mind that Facebook, nor any other social networking site or chat room, have any way of determining whether or not a person registering is telling the truth about their name, sex, or age. A portion of Facebook's policy is below.

*No information from children under age 13. If you are under age 13, please do not attempt to register for Facebook or provide any personal information about yourself to us. If we learn that we have collected personal information from a child under age 13, we will delete that information as quickly as possible. If you believe that we might have any information from a child under age 13, please contact us.*

*Parental participation. We strongly recommend that minors 13 years of age or older ask their parents for permission before sending any information about themselves to anyone over the Internet and we encourage parents to teach their children about safe internet use practices.*

So why am I bringing this information to your attention? Over the last number of years, there has been a significant increase in the amount of incidents involving students writing, recording, adding pictures, and creating inappropriate and offensive material on their internet social networking pages that targets another student or several students. In many cases, these actions have resulted in students being suspended from school, expelled, and even arrested. Unfortunately these types of incidents have occurred in IUSD. We have even had a few incidents involving College Park students either as a victim or as the one doing the harassing, threatening others, using profane and vulgar language, and/or making sexual innuendos.

As a response to this trend, our PTA sponsored a Parent Education Seminar on the topic of Internet Safety for Parents in October. Sadly, only about 25 parents attended. The information presented was eye-opening and painted an alarming picture of the hazards and dangers to our children lurking on the internet especially through chat rooms and social networking sites. The training also reviewed the negative ramifications for students using profanity, racial slurs, making sexual innuendos, and posting questionable material or pictures on their MySpace, Facebook, or other social networking pages. It is important to note, that a student may not only be negatively impacted because of items he or she posts or writes, but can suffer consequences because his/her page is linked to other pages that have offensive material.

In addition to potential school or law enforcement consequences, what I find most detrimental and a cause for concern among parents, is that students may be denied entrance into preferred universities and denied employment because of content deemed unacceptable by those institutions that a student posted on his/her website. Please note that it has become common practice for universities and employers to review applicants' social networking sites as part of their normal background check. The review of these sites allows the university and prospective employer to gain a glimpse into the true character of the applicant that may not be seen in an interview or on an application. It would be a shame if your child was not accepted into a university or hired for a job because of content he/she had on their personal networking site or because of a transcript of a chat room conversation he/she had.

With this information in mind, I strongly encourage you to check right now to see if your child has a social networking site, pay attention to your child's computer use, require that he/she allow you to have access to their networking site if he/she has one, and be sure to monitor their email accounts, text messaging, tweets, and the internet sites they visit.

The advancement of technology is a wonderful thing and it is imperative that our students have access and experience with the very best. Networking sites, tweets, the ability to text, and the internet have great value when used responsibly. As has always been the case, regardless of the temptations facing our youth, parents must parent. Protect and guide your child when it comes to their use of technology.

Alan Battenfield,  
Principal



### **Book Fair & Family Night**

Our first Book Fair of the year will be held at Barnes & Noble in Tustin Market Place on Tuesday, December 1<sup>st</sup> from 9:00 A.M. until 11:00 P.M. A percentage of the net sale of the total amount spent by College Park families and friends will be donated to our library. The funds will be used to purchase new books. In addition, Jerry's Wood Fired Dogs, located next to the book store will be participating in this event by donating 20% of their proceeds generated from College Park families' purchases back to our school. Family nights are always a blast and well attended. Opportunities for students to listen to teachers read a story, students sing, get their picture taken with Splash, and enjoy some dessert in the café will be available beginning at 5:00 P.M. I encourage you to bring the whole family to eat at Jerry's Dogs and then visit Barnes & Noble to purchase some books for the holiday season. There isn't a better way to spend a Tuesday evening than hanging out with your family and friends, eating scrumptious food, and buying books for the holidays in which the proceeds benefit our library. We hope to see you all there!

## **Jog-A-Thon**

Our entire student body finished our jog-a-thon a couple of weeks ago. It was a rousing success. In addition to improving our students' physical fitness and emphasizing exercise, its purpose was to raise money to assist the PTA in supporting programs, supplies, and events for our children. Approximately \$20,000 was raised through this event that will go for the purchase of document cameras for each classroom.



A big "Thank You" goes out to our PTA Jog-a-thon Committee for their efforts in leading this event. It was extremely well organized and a tremendous amount of fun for all. In addition, we are thankful for the U.S. Army volunteers who led our students in warm-ups and jogged along with them, and to the many additional parent volunteers who helped set up and take down, marked laps, solicited donations, and cheered on the students.

## **College Park Going Solar**

Recently IUSD School Board members voted unanimously to enter into a historic agreement with SunEdison and SPG Solar, which will establish energy-generating solar power systems at 21 sites throughout the school district. Although no specific time table has been set, College Park is fifth in line for installation. Under the terms of the agreement, IUSD will incur no upfront costs. SunEdison will own, operate and maintain the solar photovoltaic systems, with IUSD purchasing energy at a discounted – and predictable – rate. While final design plans at each site will require individual board approval, the project as a whole is poised to be the largest solar deployment for a public school system in California, and possibly the United States.

The district's savings has been conservatively estimated at approximately \$17 million over the next 20 years. The unique partnership is also expected to pave the way to the development of a valuable curricular component. Utilizing an Internet-based monitoring system, students will be able to track solar energy production and consumption at their sites in real time while taking part in lessons on how solar panels work and how weather impacts energy production. IUSD previously explored solar installation at a single site. The recent agreement could generate more than 6.6 million kilowatt hours of solar energy in the first year alone. Over 20 years, the solar installation is expected to offset 127 million pounds of carbon dioxide, or the equivalent of removing more than 12,000 cars from the road for one year.



## **Lost and Found**

Throughout the winter, we accumulate a large number of sweaters, sweatshirts, and jackets. If your child is missing any of these articles, please ask them to take a few minutes and visit the lost and found racks located near the lunch tables. Please be advised that any items not claimed in June will be donated to charitable organizations.

## **Reflections Winners**

A number of College Park students took advantage of the opportunity to participate in the PTA Reflections Program. Each participant was able to demonstrate his/her creativity and express his/her artistic talents by creating a piece of artwork, taking a photograph, composing a song, or writing a story that illustrates their interpretation of the theme.

We are proud of each participant and are pleased to announce the following award winners whose entries were sent on to the next level.

**K- 2 Visual Arts**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Wyatt Andraos
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Kyle Freedman
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Ethan Chang

**K-2 Literature**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Olivia Hall
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Wyatt Andraos
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Emma Hanson

**K-2 Photography**

- 1<sup>st</sup> John Fong
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Amin Boukour
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Daniel Tong

**3-5 Dance**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Meha Magesh

**3-5 Music**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Kelly Tran
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Megan Daneman

**3-5 Visual Arts**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Ryan Freedman
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Candice Sarangay
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Claire Tsau

**3-5 Literature**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Meha Magesh
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Jenny Kim
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Kate Fong

**3-5 Photography**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Brian Compton
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Emily Kubisty
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Megan Daneman

**6-8 Visual Arts**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Riya Desai
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Makayla Hobbs
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Courtney Bui

**6-8 Literature**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Michael Ly
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Prosperity Fields
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Ara Najarian

**6-8 Photography**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Nicholas Kendig
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Kyoya Ishii
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Allison O'Brien

**6-8 Film**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Wells Wu

**Upcoming Events**

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| December 1       | Barnes & Noble Book Fair and Jerry's Wood Fired Dogs Family Night   |
| December 2       | Make -Up Picture Day  |
| December 4       | 1 <sup>st</sup> Trimester Ends  |
| December 8       | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade Field Trip Environmental Nature Center  |
| December 9       | College Park Science Fair Family Night  |
| December 10      | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade Gingerbread Houses  |
| December 11      | Jog-a-thon Prizes- During Lunch   |
| December 14      | Student Recognition Assemblies<br>5 <sup>th</sup> Grade, 11:00 AM<br>4 <sup>th</sup> Grade, 12:10 PM<br>6 <sup>th</sup> Grade, 1:30 PM            |
| December 15      | Student Recognition Assembly<br>Kindergarten, Mrs. Spencer- 8:00 AM   |
| December 16      | Student Recognition Assemblies<br>Kindergarten, Mrs. Schmidt- 8:00 AM<br>Kindergarten, Ms. Kumjian- 9:40 AM<br>Kindergarten, Mrs. Allan- 12:40 PM |
| December 17      | Student Recognition Assemblies<br>3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade, 12:10 PM<br>2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade, 1:10 PM   |
| December 18      | Student Recognition Assemblies<br>1 <sup>st</sup> Grade, 8:30 AM  |
| December 18      | Minimum Day-All kindergarten students attend AM session.  |
| Dec. 19 - Jan. 3 | Winter Break  |