



The Monthly Plunge

February 2010

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A Note from the Principal’s Desk

As you all are aware, the state economy continues to spiral further and further into debt and the financial challenges facing our school district continue to rise. At this time, IUSD is currently in the process of preparing to make budget cuts of 22 million dollars. Our school’s budgets, funded through state funding sources, have been frozen and only essential expenditures associated with basic operations of our school will continue. Twenty-two million is a staggering amount and one that will negatively impact many school programs and reduce the earnings of all school district employees. To read more about the budget’s impact on IUSD and College Park Elementary School, please visit the FAQ page that was shared at the Community Forum held this past Tuesday at http://www.iusd.org/district_services/fiscal_services/BudgetFAQ.html.

After hearing about the gloomy financial situation confronting IUSD and our school, a parent who wanted to make a financial contribution to support College Park recently emailed me. The parent wanted to know the best place to direct her donation so that it directly benefitted College Park, the school her child attends. Since this is a question that often comes up in times like these, I thought it would be beneficial to share my response with all of you.

Choosing between donating to IPSF, our PTA, or the school directly probably depends most on what you want to support.

- IPSF raises funds primarily to support big ticket items like smaller classes, art & science instruction, instrument rental, health clerks, etc for all schools in the district.
- The PTA has a specific budget and conducts a couple of fundraisers to support their programs. I assist them in deciding what they should support each year. Currently, they are supporting things like Lunch Time Activities, health clerk, awards programs, teacher appreciation activities, etc.
- Money donated directly to the school is used at our staff’s discretion, unless the donor designates it for a specific purpose.

Further information about what each organization supports is available through our website.

Generally, my suggestion would be to join the PTA each year and participate in their fundraisers. That will help keep some of our basic support programs in place at CP. In addition, I would encourage our parents to give something each month to IPSF. If you wanted to donate a one-time larger amount, I would also suggest giving through IPSF. IPSF monies are the ones that may be able to assist our district in keeping class sizes smaller. Site funds would not be able to be used for that purpose.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. Any support our families can give is greatly appreciated and will benefit our students.

Alan Battenfield, Principal

PARENTS APPRECIATING TEACHERS AND STAFF

Thank your child’s teachers and special staff members for all of their hard work through the **Parents Appreciating Teachers and Staff (PATS)** program.

There are many reasons to participate in PATS:

- It is a great way to recognize those individuals who make a difference in your child’s education.
- Your tax-deductible donation goes directly back into the classroom through the Innovative Teaching Award Program (ITAP).
- Your child’s teachers and staff members receive a personalized certificate of recognition with a small gift expressing that you think they are special and how much you appreciate them.

APPRECIATE YOUR FAVORITE TEACHER OR STAFF TODAY! OUR TEACHERS AND STAFF DESERVE “P.A.T.S.” ON THE BACK!

\$20.00 donation recognizes one (1) teacher or staff

\$40.00 donation recognizes three (3) teachers or staff

\$60.00 donation recognizes five (5) teachers or staff

\$80.00 donation recognizes seven (7) teachers or staff

\$100.00 donation recognizes nine (9) teachers or staff

All Donations Must Be Received By March 5, 2010

- Please make checks payable to IPSF
- Mail check with this page to IPSF
18552 MacArthur Blvd., Suite 200, Irvine, CA 92612.
- Please write “PATS” on your envelope!

Teacher/Staff Name:

If you are recognizing multiple teachers or staff, please include the necessary information on a separate sheet.

School or Location:

Student’s Name:

Optional Personal Message to be printed on certificate (20 words or less only, please): _____

Parent’s Name:

Home Address:

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Irvine Public Schools Foundation is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization.



6th Grade Video Production Program

Two years ago, College Park developed and implemented a program for sixth grade students designed to teach them the complete process of producing a video. Thus, the College Park Network News was born. Although the school does not have the ability to broadcast a video in all classrooms at this time, all students are able to view the most recent College Park newscast during their library time. This program is taught by our librarian, Mrs. Hicks and our computer lab technician, Mrs. Dusenbury.

In order for all sixth grade students to participate, the program is organized in the following manner.

Each 6th grade class is broken into 3 groups. Each group is allocated eight days to complete their production.

Day 1- The students are introduced to the various types of equipment they will be using and how the equipment works. They experiment using the teleprompter and cameras. Time is provided for them to practice recording each other. This gives them the opportunity to role play as anchors, camera operators, and directors.

Day 2- Students view what they recorded the previous day. They quickly learn from any of their mistakes. Previewing helps them to understand the best use of the camera. Students then brain storm and decide what topics they will use for their news broadcast. Students are divided into groups and begin to create their storyboard.

Day 3- Time is spent refining their scripts and they begin cold reads on them. When they finish the revision of their scripts, they must then type them. Students who complete the process first are able to use the cameras first the next day.

Day 4- Five, Four, Three - ACTION... and the filming begins. They quickly realize how important their script writing was when they forget their lines.

Day 5 Time to complete filming the last news article.

Day 6 The students' favorite part is downloading the cameras and viewing their project on the Apple Computer. Using Final Cut Express 4 editing software, they learn how to view, select, and name the clips they are going to use to complete their project.

Day 7 The students learn how to add clip art and music using Garage Band software.

Day 8 The students select their clips and build the timeline using transitions and audio to see their completed newscast.

When production is completed, every student has participated in making a very professional presentation. Most importantly, they have worked hard, learned much, and are very proud of their video.



iPods at School

Since the holidays, we have seen an influx of students bringing their iPods to school. Unfortunately, we have had a number of them reported as lost or stolen in the last few weeks. For this reason and because they are so expensive, we do not allow iPods, other electronic devices, games, or toys at school. Please do not allow your child to bring them to school. There is no way we can guarantee they will not be damaged or stolen. Thank you for your cooperation with this request.

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.

Safety & Disaster Preparedness

We want to reassure you that College Park has an extensive emergency plan. In compliance with California law, the Irvine Unified School District uses the Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) in its emergency plans and procedures. Response procedures are in place to activate the emergency plan. Each year the staff reviews and practices the plan in mock drills to ensure the safest and most efficient response to an emergency. State law requires each elementary school to conduct monthly fire drills, a lock-down drill, and a drop-and-cover drill as part of the emergency preparedness plan.

How can you help ensure our students' safety as a parent?

- Always sign-in your child in the office if your child is arriving late or sign-out your child in the office if your child is leaving school.
- Volunteer in your child's class. Make sure to sign-in and out and wear a visitor/volunteer sticker at all times.
- Be familiar with the school site and report anything out of the ordinary to the school office or after school hours to the police.
- Carefully read newsletters and correspondence sent home by the school.

In the event of an emergency:

- Remain calm.
- Walk to the playground and follow student release procedures.
- Ask, "How can I help?"
- Volunteer and follow the instructions and guidelines carefully.

Upcoming Events

February 2	Earthquake Evacuation Drill
February 2	Upper Grade Talent Show Auditions
February 4	Disneyland Band Field Trip, 2 nd Grade
February 4	Primary Grades Talent Show Auditions
February 5	5 th Grade Field Trip to Nixon Library
February 8	Lincoln's Birthday (No School)
February 10	Mime Over Matter Assemblies
February 11	Red Ribbon BBQ Picnic Lunch
February 11	Upper Grade Talent Show Practice
February 12	Walk Thru Revolution & Ancient Civilization, Johnson & Lewis
February 15	Washington's Birthday (No School)
February 16	Seegerstrom Concert Hall Field Trip, 5 th Grade
February 18	SCR's "A Wrinkle In Time" Field Trip, 6 th Grade
February 18	Primary Grade Talent Show Practice
February 19	PTA Executive Board Meeting, 8:30 AM
February 20	Science Disneyland Field Trip
February 25	Upper Grade Talent Show Practice
February 25	Chuck E. Cheese Family Night (Foothill Ranch)

