



The Monthly Plunge

February 2012

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A Note from the Principal’s Desk



I shared with you back in November that College Park Elementary School, once again, was nominated as a California Distinguished School and would be visited by a California Department of Education Evaluation Team in February. That visitation will take place on Thursday, February 9th from 7:30 AM until 3:30 PM. The purpose of the evaluation team will be to validate the authenticity of our school’s signature practices outlined in our application. In addition to the overall education provided at College Park, the signature practices that will be reviewed are Response to Instruction (RTI) in kindergarten through sixth grade and our Early Intervention Reading Model (EIRM) used in kindergarten and first grade.

During the visitation, as part of the review process, the CDS Evaluation Team will interview teachers, support staff, parents, and students. In addition, they will observe the use of Response to Instruction in all classes and watch the instructional delivery of the Early Intervention Reading Model in small groups of kindergarten and first grade students. The CDS Team will also be treated to a luncheon in the multi-purpose room provided by our PTA.

We expect the site visitation team will be impressed with our school and that their findings will validate the accuracy of our signature practices described in our application. We look forward to officially being named a California Distinguished School and accepting the plaque and flag on behalf of all our students, parents, and staff.

Cordially,

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!

\$25.00 donation recognizes one (1) teacher or staff

\$50.00 donation recognizes three (3) teachers or staff

\$75.00 donation recognizes five (5) teachers or staff

\$100.00 donation recognizes seven (7) teachers or staff

\$125.00 donation recognizes nine (9) teachers or staff

All Donations Must Be Received By March 2, 2012.
Forms are also available on our web page.

- 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: _____

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Booster Shot To Prevent Pertussis

In response to the national epidemic of Pertussis, commonly known as “whooping cough,” the state of California requires for students who will start grades 7 through 12 on or after July 1, 2012.

Assembly Bill 354 mandates that children entering these grade levels show proof that they’ve recently received a Pertussis booster shot called “Tdap.” In fact, the shot is a condition of enrollment.

Pertussis is a contagious disease that brings about a persistent cough, which may be followed by a distinct crowing – or whooping – sound when inhaling, according to the Orange County Health Care Agency. The deep cough can also be accompanied by vomiting, gagging, choking or turning blue. Agency officials note that it poses a great risk to newborns and other vulnerable populations.

Early booster shots are effective but can weaken over time, which is why health officials are now requiring children 10 years and older to get the Tdap vaccination. Children as young as 7 years old may receive the vaccination, but the state does not require it until 7th grade. (It includes boosters for tetanus and diphtheria.) Adults are also advised to get the shot if they haven’t

already, and this is said to be critically important for those who may be in close contact with infants.

For more information, please visit IUSD’s Health Services website by clicking here, or contact the department by phone at 949-936-7520. (Additionally, Health Services has a list of frequently asked questions and answers here.)

Parents can also get more information about Pertussis from their family doctors or by visiting the county Health Care Agency’s website at www.ohealthinfo.com/pertussis.



Fiscal Challenges, “How Can You Help?”

As you all are aware, the state economy continues to struggle. As a result, significant financial challenges will continue to face our school district.

In response to these lean budgetary times, parents and community members have stepped up to help. I am grateful for those that have done so and more importantly, our students have benefitted greatly from their generosity. With that in mind, I wanted to provide a little information that may be of assistance for those of you who want to make a financial contribution to support College Park and IUSD. The question that comes up most often by those looking to make a financial contribution is; “Where is the best place to direct my donation so that it directly benefits College Park and my child?”

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.

Generally, my suggestion would be to join the PTA each year and participate in their fundraisers. 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 reducing class sizes or providing extra instructional support. Site funds would not be able to be used for those purposes.

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

The Fainting Game

For many, many years students have participated in a very dangerous activity often referred to as the "Fainting Game". An incident involving this game recently occurred at one of our elementary schools that resulted in injury. This activity may be also be called a number of other things -The Choking Game, Rising Sun, Pass Out, California High, Knock Out, Airplaning, Space Monkey, Funky Chicken, Flatliner, Suffocation, Roulette, Gasp, Blackout, Tingling. The game essentially involves causing one or oneself to faint or lose consciousness. Hypocapnia (or hypocapnea) also known as hypocarbia, is a state of reduced carbon dioxide in the blood. Hypocapnia usually results from deep or rapid breathing (hyperventilation), and has become a popular practice among youth playing the fainting game. The game can cause brain damage, disability, and even death.

There are different ways that children/teens cause themselves to pass out. You may want to take a look at

these examples on YouTube on how kids are making themselves faint:

- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2MYRA7IcBQI>
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wgVrc2TAdo&feature=related>
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mW7M-SZJdS8&NR=1>

It is important that parents are aware of the dangers of playing the game and take steps to educate their children in those dangers. Everyone is encouraged to be vigilant in order to ensure that our students are not playing or not participating in this dangerous activity.



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 3* **Progress Reports Go Home**
- February 3* **Duck & Cover Drill**
- February 6* **Student Council Meeting, 2:30 p.m. - P4**
- February 8* **Kindergarten Dolphin Lunch**
- February 8* **Talent Show Upper Grade Auditions, 1:30 p.m. - MPR**
- February 9* **California Distinguished School Site Visit**
- February 9* **Talent Show Primary Auditions, 2:15 p.m. - MPR**
- February 10* **Walk thru the Revolution, Ryan-Dudley, 8:30-11:00 a.m. - MPR**
- February 10* **2nd Grade Disneyland Band Fieldtrip, 10:00 a.m. - Mariners Church**
- February 10* **Walk thru the Revolution, Thompson, 11:30-2:00 p.m. - MPR**
- February 13* **Lincoln's Day Observance, No School**
- February 15* **Meet the Masters Assembly**
- February 16* **PTA Family Night, MPR**
- February 17* **Walk thru the Revolution, Johnson, 8:15-10:45 a.m. - MPR**
- February 17* **Walk thru Ancient Times, Lewis, 11:45-2:15 p.m. - MPR**
- February 20* **Washington's Day Observance, No School**
- February 21* **School Site Council Meeting, 2:45 p.m. - Room 19**
- February 23* **Talent Show Practice, Upper Grade, 2:30 p.m. - MPR**
- February 23* **Outdoor Ed. Parent Information Meeting, 6:30 p.m. - MPR**
- February 24* **5th Grade PLC Day**
- February 24* **Walk thru Ancient Times: Hunt, 8:30 a.m. Counsellor, 11:45 a.m.**