



The Monthly Plunge

January 2012

In this Issue.....

- School Attendance
- Classroom Interruptions
- Science Fair Representatives
- Teacher of the Year
- Traffic Safety Reminder
- Monthly Calendar

A Note from the Principal's Desk

College Park and IUSD take student attendance very seriously. We believe that student success begins with daily attendance. As a result, we take steps to ensure that students attend school daily and that each student complies with school attendance laws and stipulations outlined in the California Education Code. The two basic attendance laws are:

- All persons 6 through 18 years of age are required by California State Law to attend school. Parents have a legal responsibility to ensure their child's attendance. (Education Code Section 48200)
- A pupil is considered truant if he/she is absent for more than 3 full days in one school year without a valid excuse; tardy or absent for more than a 30-minute period during the school day without valid excuse on 3 occasions in one school year, or any combination thereof. (Education Code Section 48260)

As parents of elementary school children, you bear the primary responsibility of ensuring that your children are in school daily, arrive on time, and remain in school the entire day. With that in mind, I encourage you to take a proactive approach in establishing positive attendance patterns and avoiding chronic truancy. This will assist your children in reaching their highest potential. By law, absences or tardies are only excused if the child is ill, is attending a funeral for an immediate family member, or involved in religious observance. In each case, documentation or proof may be required. Unless it is an emergency, it is recommended that medical and dental appointments be scheduled after school.

In order to establish positive attendance patterns, it is recommended that you teach your children the following:

- Follow all district and school attendance policies.
- Make education their top priority.
- Emphasize to them that to get the best start in life, they need a good education.

- Remind them if they do not go to school, they will fall behind other students and they can't get the grades needed to graduate.
- Explain to them that students who miss school are often victims or perpetrators of crimes.
- Understand that tardies and leaving school early should be an exception, not a norm.



Classroom Interruptions

The majority of students who have accumulated more than three unexcused absences from school or tardies at College Park are not considered habitual/chronic truants, but would be categorized as soft truants. Soft Truancy includes, but is not limited to:

In order to minimize classroom interruptions, parents should deliver forgotten lunches, lunch money, homework assignments, musical instruments, jackets, etc. to the office not the classroom.

- Bringing a child late to school (less than 30 minutes).
- Picking up your child early for family outings, vacations, frequent medical appointments or business, or even trying to avoid traffic.
- Excusing a student as ill more than 10 days without medical verification.
- Frequent excused absences.
- Keeping an older child home to baby-sit.
- Keeping an older child home to work.
- Irregular attendance.
- Taking vacation during school.

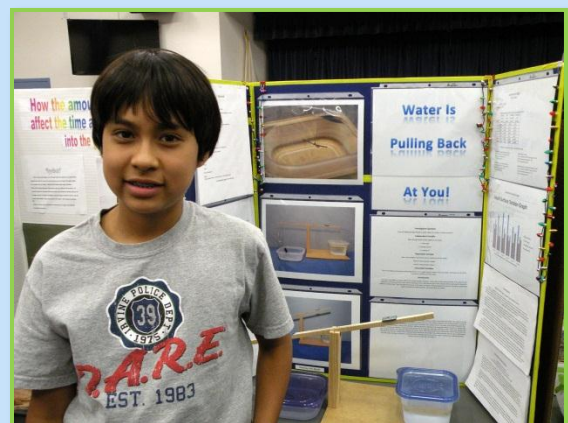
Please remember that parents should remain outside the school building after the bell rings in the morning unless they are volunteering in the class at that time and wait for their children outside the building until the dismissal bell rings at the end of school. Remember, all 4th – 6th grade students and some kindergarten classes are in session before students in grades 1-3 begin school and after they are dismissed. It is imperative that those classrooms are not interrupted by parents and their children waiting in the hallways or walking by the classrooms.

Chronic truancy almost always begins with a pattern of soft trancies that is not corrected.

Please take time to reflect on your child's school attendance and if warranted, take steps to correct any truancy issues that may apply.

Cordially,

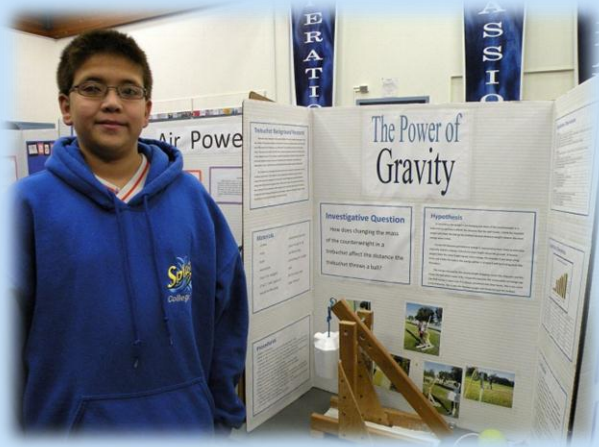
Alan Battenfield
Principal



Science Fair Representatives

A big round of applause is in order for College Park students *Meha Magesh, Luke Tan, Sayan Sarkar, Abby Lee, Aki Miyake, Jarrod Shephard, Avadh Patel, Liam Dwane, Geneva Daniels, Katie Smith,*

and Clara Hess whose science fair projects were selected to represent our school at the IUSD Science Fair. Bravo!!



Teacher of the Year

Congratulations to 5th grade teacher Clare Ryan-Dudley who was selected by her peers as College Park's 2011-2012 "Teacher of the Year." She will be honored at a dinner Friday evening May 11th at the Irvine Marriott. Way to go Mrs. Ryan-Dudley! It is recognition well-deserved.



Traffic Safety Reminder

Around any elementary school, there are a few challenges present. Of greatest concern is the automobile traffic around the school and the danger that presents to our students. Our concern is elevated and the danger increases when the weather is rainy. Visibility is reduced, students are rushing to get out of the rain, and the roads are slick. Unfortunately when it rains, there is also an

increase in the amount of people ignoring our safety guidelines and traffic procedures. With this in mind and the predictions of a wet winter, I wanted to remind everyone to keep our students safe by following our arrival and dismissal traffic procedures and obey all traffic laws all the time, even when it is raining.

Please read carefully the information below. Your cooperation is requested with these established guidelines.

- *Use caution when driving around our school.*
- *Our parking lot is closed to parents and visitors between the hours of 7:30 A.M. to 8:30 A.M. and 1:00 P.M. to 2:30 P.M. each school day.*
- *Students are not allowed to cross the parking lot, even with a parent, at any time without using one of the crosswalks located at the entrance and exit of the parking lot.*
- *Drop off and pick up students in the designated areas on Fir Ave and Chaparral Ave.*
- *When dropping off your children, please pull as far ahead as possible next to the curb in the loading zone before letting your child out of your car.*
- *Pull next to the curb to unload or pick up your child. Do not unload or pick up children in the street away from the curb. Not only is it illegal, but incredibly dangerous.*
- *Bicyclists and pedestrians must use crosswalks and utilize the assistance of a crossing guard or staff member when provided.*
- *Do not leave your car unattended in the loading and unloading zones.*
- *When parking in the neighborhood, please obey all traffic laws and be considerate to our neighbors.*

- *Please do not block driveways, leave trash in the area, allow your children to play on someone's yard, or make excessive noise.*



Upcoming Events

| | |
|------------|---|
| January 3 | School Resumes |
| January 3 | Read 180 Session II Begins |
| January 9 | Young Playwrights Assembly, 1 st & 2 nd Grade |
| January 11 | Meet the Masters Art Assembly |
| January 11 | PTA Meeting, 7:00 PM |
| January 13 | Walk thru California – Johnston & Evers |
| January 16 | Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday |
| January 18 | Young Playwrights Assembly, 3 rd & 4 th Grade |
| January 20 | 4 th Grade Walk Thru California – Miller & Giambone |
| January 24 | 6 th Grade DARE Graduation |
| January 27 | Walk thru California – Patterson |
| January 27 | Walk thru Ancient Times - Counseller |
| January 27 | Talent Show Paperwork Due |

