

The Monthly Plunge

May 2009

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A Note from the Principal's Desk

To get the most out of Open House, I would like to suggest the following tips for parents to follow as they participate in our Open House program on Wednesday, May 20, 2009:

- Ask questions. If something said by a school employee, or something you see is unclear, ask your child's teacher or the principal for clarification.
- Feel free to visit other areas of the school such as the computer lab and library. It might be helpful to become familiar with the facilities offered at our school.
- Encourage your child to join you. He or she can serve as a helpful aide in guiding you through the classroom and the school. It gives your child a chance to show you their hard work and accomplishments.
- Expect a lot. If you cannot find evidence of what the teacher has been teaching all year and what your child has been learning, probe for details. The purpose of Open House is for the school to share with parents what took place throughout the year.
- Celebrate your child's successes; no matter how large or small. Children need positive reinforcement for their hard work. Show them you recognize their academic achievement by praising them for what you saw at Open House.
- Learn how you can get more involved. Research tells us that greater parent involvement leads to greater student success.

Cordially,
Alan Battenfield
Principal

Swine Influenza (Flu)

The occurrence of the Swine Flu has generated concern among communities, families and schools. Currently, in California there have been six (6) confirmed cases in San Diego and Imperial Counties. There have been no (0) cases confirmed in Orange County. The Orange County Health Care Agency is on enhanced surveillance, monitoring hospitals, emergency departments and outpatient clinics to ensure the health and safety of all individuals.

Currently, the Orange County Health Care Agency, the California Department of Health Services and the CDC (Center for Disease Control and Prevention) are working together to monitor this situation and will alert the public of changes if the need should occur.

At this time they are encouraging individuals to continue their daily routines with increased awareness and practice in the techniques of preventing the spread of communicable disease.

What is Swine Flu?

Swine influenza A virus infection (swine flu) can cause a wide range of symptoms, including fever, cough, sore throat, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue. People with swine flu also can have vomiting and diarrhea. Like seasonal flu, swine flu in humans can vary in severity from mild to severe. Certain groups might be more likely to develop a severe illness from swine flu infection, such as persons with chronic medical conditions.

How Swine Flu Spreads:

The main way that influenza viruses are spread is from person to person in respiratory droplets of coughs and sneezes. This can happen when droplets from a cough or sneeze of an infected person are propelled through the air and deposited on the mouth or nose of people nearby. Influenza viruses may also be spread when a person touches respiratory droplets on another person or an object and then touches their own mouth or nose (or someone else's mouth or nose) before washing their hands.

People with swine flu or any form of influenza should:

- check with their health care provider about any special care they might need if they are pregnant or have a health condition such as diabetes, heart disease, asthma, or emphysema
- check with their health care provider about whether they should take antiviral medications
- stay home until fever free and/or all symptoms are gone
- get plenty of rest
- drink clear fluids to keep from being dehydrated
- cover coughs and sneezes. Clean hands with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand rub often and especially after using tissues and after coughing or sneezing into hands.
- avoid close contact with others – do not go to work or school while ill
- treat fever, headache and body aches with non-aspirin pain reliever

What You Can Do to Stay Healthy:

There are everyday actions people can take to stay healthy.

- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based hand cleaners are also effective.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread that way.

Try to avoid close contact with sick people.

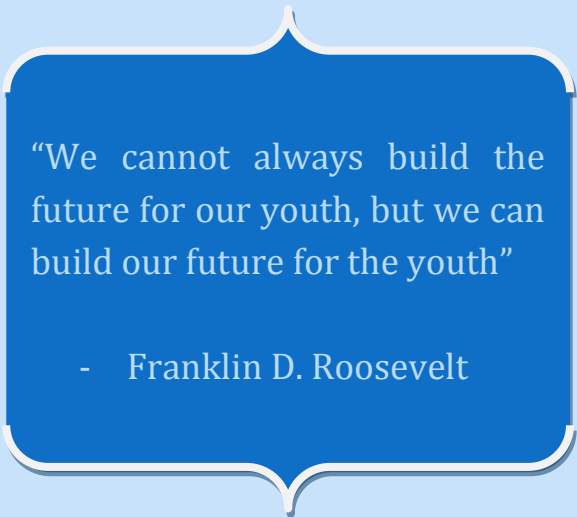
- Influenza is thought to spread mainly person-to-person through coughing or sneezing of infected people.
- If you get sick, CDC recommends that you stay home from work or school and limit contact with others to keep from infecting them.

Resources

Following are resources for information about preventing the spread of flu in school:

- CDC has prepared a poster for schools that illustrates the message: “Be a Germ Stopper.” This is available at www.cdc.gov/germstopper
- It’s a snap (www.itsasnap.org/index.asp) offers free educational program materials about making hand cleaning an integral part of the school day.

For continued updates and further information check the Center for Communicable Disease website at: www.cdc.gov/swineflu



“We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our future for the youth”

- Franklin D. Roosevelt

STAR Testing

Beginning on Monday, May 4th, students in grades 2nd through 6th will be participating in the Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) Program. Established by Senate Bill 376 in 1997, the program requires that all public school districts use a single, standardized achievement test. California currently uses the California Standards Test (CST) for all students in grades 2-6 for this purpose.

Students will be taking the test during the weeks of May 4th and May 15th. Please make sure that your child is in attendance unless ill and ensure that they are well rested and have eaten breakfast before coming to school each day. Although rarely done,

parents may choose not to have their child tested. If you choose not to have your child tested, please speak with your child’s teacher.

College Park is committed to evaluating our instructional program and constantly looking for ways to improve our educational program. We look forward to using these test results to further strengthen our instructional program.

Classroom Placement 2009-2010

Every year about this time, the staff and I begin to hear from some parents who want to request a specific teacher or have a special request regarding the classroom placement for their child next school year.

College Park recognizes that parents do have valuable information, which could assist, in the class placement of their child. Examples of this may be:

- an unsatisfactory experience between an older child and a teacher.
- neighborhood problems that may necessitate the separation of two children.

We do know that parents sometimes have preferences for teachers and consideration is given to their request. However, we cannot place children in classes only on the parent’s preferences or the teacher’s reputation in the community. We group children for instructional purposes, and placing them in class for other factors would defeat those purposes.

Most parents do not request a specific teacher for their child or have any additional information to give us, and leave it to us to place their child in an appropriate classroom. However, if you have a specific request or pertinent information related to the classroom placement of your child for next school year, please communicate to me your information in writing or email before May 29, 2009.

Playground Caution

As you know, we have a large amount of play equipment for our students to use at recess and before school. While this is very exciting for the

children, it does require caution. For your safety and the safety of others, please pay attention, watch your young children, and be on the lookout for balls going astray and students playing. A misguided ball or an unexpected collision has the potential to cause an injury.

World's Fair

The PTA is currently in the planning stages for our school's World's Fair. It will be held on Friday, June 5th. This event is the highlight of our school year. It involves our entire school population and requires the assistance of many volunteers. Parents are needed to operate game booths, organize food booths, donate food, solicit or donate items for the silent auction, set up and take down, sell tickets, and a multitude of other things. Please contact Kathleen Sarangay, our PTA President, if you can help.

2009-2010 Enrollment

On Monday, May 4th our office will be sending home with each student in grades 1-5 our annual enrollment letter asking if your child will be returning to College Park for the 2009-2010 school year. Only those students that will not be returning to College Park are requested to complete and return it to their child's teacher or the school office in a timely manner. This information assists us in accurately staffing our school for the upcoming year and ensures that we have the appropriate facility space to serve our students. In addition, it allows us to prepare to forward student information to the receiving schools of those students who will be leaving College Park at the end of this school year. If for any reason the information you send us changes, please notify our office immediately by phone or through email. Please be advised that this process is separate from the recent IUSD Residency Verification Forms and Documents that were recently requested. Once again, if your child will not be returning to College Park next year, please make every effort to complete the requested

information and return it to the school office by May 8th, 2009.

Things to Remember:

- Mrs. Mashburn will be honored as College Park's Teacher of the Year at an Awards Dinner being held at the Irvine Marriott on Friday, May 8th.
- The STAR Testing window is May 4th – 15th.
- Third Grade Teachers are being awarded a \$2500 Innovative Teaching Award Grant by the Irvine Public Schools Foundation on Tuesday, May 12th.

Upcoming Events

May 1	Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon
May 4-15	STAR Testing Window
May 6	Teacher Appreciation Luncheon
May 7	Venado Choir Auditions
May 8	Minimum Day
May 8	6 th Grade Panoramic Photograph
May 8	IUSD Teacher of the Year Awards Dinner
May 13	School Site Council Meeting
May 14-20	Book Fair
May 15	Parent/Student Picnic Lunch & Book Fair
May 20	Open House
May 21	Minimum Day
May 22, 25	Memorial Day Holiday
May 29	Kindergarten Field Trip to Zoo