



Culverdale Elementary School



Koala News



CALIFORNIA DISTINGUISHED SCHOOL

2 Paseo Westpark ♦ Irvine, CA 92614 ♦ (949) 936-5600 ♦ www.iusd.org/cu

January 31, 2008

Vol. 1 Issue 16

Allie Nixon, Principal

Principal's Corner

Dear Culverdale Families,

Reading is a key that will open the door to all areas of your child's education. That's why we're excited about a special program at Culverdale called *Scholastic Reading Counts!* The goals of the *Reading Counts!* program are simple and truly important:

- 1.) Promote Reading - Reading books independently helps develop a lifelong love for reading.
- 2.) Improve Test Scores - Research shows that independent reading has a positive impact on student achievement.
- 3.) Develop Language Arts Skills - Reading develops and promotes comprehension, vocabulary knowledge, and writing skills that students use in all subject areas.

Culverdale students are expected to read at home at least twenty minutes every day. *Reading Counts!* is a terrific way to earn rewards for reading at home. Look for a list of *Reading Counts!* rewards in this week's conduit and ask your student about his/her *Reading Counts* book today. For more information on how the program works, read the article below.

Allie Nixon, Principal
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UPCOMING DATES

Title I Parent Meeting - Library 1/31/08 6:00pm

ESL Reading Smart Registration Due 2/01/08 6:00pm

Parent Conference Week, 1:05 Dismissal All Week 2/04/08 - 2/08/08

No School - Lincoln's President Day 2/11/08

ESL Reading Smart Program Begins 2/12/08

PTA Board Meeting 2/12/08

No School - Washington's President 2/18/08

Reading Counts! at Culverdale

Culverdale School has a great reading incentive program called *Scholastic Reading Counts!* Students in grades 2-6 are encouraged to select *Reading Counts!* books from the library to use for their nightly reading homework.

To participate in *Reading Counts!* your child will select and read books independently or as part of a group. After reading the book, your child will take a computerized quiz that will assess whether he/she completed and understood the book. Points are earned for each quiz passed.

Culverdale currently has 2,500 quizzes available, and more are being purchased regularly. Culverdale's list of quizzes will be posted on our new web-site next month.



Families can help their student with reading in many ways! Ask your child what he/she is reading each day. Set goals together for the number of books read, the number of pages read, or the number of points earned. Help your child find books at his/her Lexile level at the local library, in Scholastic book orders, at book stores and on the Quiz List posted on the school's website at www.iusd.org/cu.

The goal of the *Reading Counts!* program is to promote independent reading in a positive way and to make reading a fun part of daily life! We hope you will share our enthusiasm for reading by supporting our *Reading Counts!* Program at home. Many thanks to our librarian, Mrs. Freeman, and our *Reading Counts* parent volunteer, Mrs. Kodja, for coordinating the *Reading Counts* awards.



Culture Day Thank You

Thank you to the volunteers who helped make the 19th annual Culture Day a great success!

Thank you to the following performers for entertaining us: Grandpa Jim from the South Coast Story Tellers, Joanne Kang and the Irvine Korean Dance Troop, Anu Baja and friends from India, Alisa Yang, a Northwood high school student who performed a Chinese ribbon dance and played the Chinese trumpet, Arash Hushmand from Iran who played the sitar, and Mrs. Natalie Parsons and the Memories Swing



Dance Team.

Thank you to the many communities within our school for their help with the outstanding table displays. Special thanks to Sachiko Yoshikawa and the Japanese community for decorating the PAC and to Mitsuwa Market Place for the rice crackers and Marukai Corp. for the Japanese toys.

Thank you to the PTA for hosting the hospitality suite and to the lunch volunteers who helped serve 700+ lunches. We appreciate you being a part of our favorite day of the year!



P.A.T.S. Parents Appreciating Teachers and Staff

The Irvine Public Schools Foundation (IPSF) is sponsoring the PATS program again this year. The PATS program gives families an opportunity to thank teachers and/or special staff members by donating to IPSF. PATS recipients will receive a certificate personalized with your message and a small gift of thanks.

PATS donation information is on the reverse side of this newsletter. Donations are due to IPSF by March 4, 2008.