



November 19, 2009

Yesterday morning we had an exciting assembly led by **TeamKids** that inspired students to expand their potential by serving their community. This week begins a month long experience of community service with the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students volunteering for leadership roles to guide the school's activities and events. We began with a Food & Supply Drive for Human Options. Human Options is a local shelter assisting women and children who have experienced domestic violence. There is a constant need for non-perishable items such as cereal, canned fruits, pasta, baby food, juice, rice, infant supplies, diapers, wipes, all toiletries for women and children. A detailed list of food supplies will be posted on our school's webpage. Three years ago, our students collected 6 barrels of food, we'll see if we can surpass our previous efforts and fill 7 or 8 barrels of food and supplies. The week following Thanksgiving break, we will fill a passenger van with used clothing for homeless people through the Southwest Community Center. The third week, we will collect recyclable materials for the Pacific Marine Mammal Center. I know that we are the Springbrook Seals and not the Springbrook Sea Lions, but this is a good center that focuses student attention on local environmental concerns. The Student Leadership Team will select the charity for the final week and coordinate a school carnival to raise funds for the charity. What an exciting month of involvement and service we have before us!

Many families will have out-of-town guests or relatives visiting during the Thanksgiving holidays later this month. Therefore, we will hold **Loved Ones Day** on Wednesday, November 25<sup>th</sup>. This is an opportunity for grandparents, aunts and uncles, or other special family friends to visit students' classrooms. Classes will have special crafts, presentations, or activities for the parents and relatives of their children. Listed below are times each grade level has scheduled activities for your children.

Kindergarten	9:45 – 10:30
1 <sup>st</sup> Grade	10:30 – 11:30
2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade	10:15 – 11:40
3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade	9:30 – 10:00
4 <sup>th</sup> Grade	11:15 – 12:35
5 <sup>th</sup> Grade	10:30 – 11:50
6 <sup>th</sup> Grade	10:30 – 11:50

Upper grade times include their music instruction; the music teachers have conducted their classes this day as an open rehearsal with parents and loved ones watching. If you have travel plans for the holidays, you may sign your child out of school for the day after visiting your child's classroom. Your classroom teacher will have a sign out sheet available for you. I hope you enjoy this glimpse into your student's day.

The **Holiday Gift Boutique** is an annual event in which the students are able to purchase holiday gifts for family members and friends. Gifts range in price from 25 cents to \$7.00. Your child will receive an envelope to bring their money to school. We welcome parent volunteers to help students as they shop and learn to budget the amount of money they bring to school. Thank you to Mrs. Budgell for coordinating the boutique.





Each year our students, parents, and staff have an opportunity to participate in the **SpeakUp survey** facilitated by Project Tomorrow. This survey is used to determine student and teacher use of technology, trends in instruction, and impact on achievement in math and science. Participation in the survey allows our district staff to access the survey results and compare trends in Irvine with national trends. This will guide our district and school continuous improvement efforts. The deadline to complete the survey is Friday, December 18<sup>th</sup>. The survey can be found at

[www.speakup4schools.org/speakup2009](http://www.speakup4schools.org/speakup2009)

In the event that you are absent from school, call the **attendance phone** line to inform the school of the absence and the reason your child is not in school. The phone number for the attendance line is (949) 936-6501. Excessive tardiness is a violation of California Education Code and will result in a series of letters informing you of the district's School Attendance Procedures. It is important for students to be in class to maximize their learning opportunities.

Thank you for your participation in the **Springbrook Pledge Drive**. We had almost 50% of our families participate in the drive and reached our goal for this fundraiser. As more families participate it allows our whole school community to share the load for the instructional services provided by PTA. We appreciate your generosity.

Our students have been focusing on **Loyalty** and **Cooperation** this month. Beginning in December Inch the Inchworm and Miles the Mouse will meet Tess the Trout who teaches them to use common sense and good judgment to practice **Self Control**. In addition to learning about self-control, we will also emphasize the character trait of **Honesty**.

In November, we have been celebrating our servicemen by observing Veteran's Day and **Red, White, and Blue Fridays**. Wear patriotic colors this Friday or any Springbrook Spiritwear. December's Spirit Days are **Celebrate Your Holiday**, wear holiday or winter colors.

Have a great weekend!

Bob Curley

