

December 10, 2009



Springbrook School

It has been so good to see the excitement and energy of the students as they participate in the **Team Kids Challenge**. They are gearing up for the student led carnival next Wednesday, December 16th from 12:00 to 1:00. Our 5th and 6th grade leadership team has selected the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, ASPCA, as the charity recipient for our final Team Kids Challenge. Money raised at the carnival and from the sales of carnival tickets will be donated to ASPCA. All family members are invited to attend the carnival that afternoon.

At this point in time our Springbrook students have surpassed both goals for the first two challenges! We were hoping to collect 7 large bins of food and household goods and we collected twice as much! We filled 14 large bins with food! These items were delivered to **Human Options**, a local organization that supports families that have been subjected to domestic violence. On Monday a van from the **Southwest Community Center**, a center that supports homeless families in Santa Ana, picked up the clothes that were collected last week. Again, we almost doubled our goal! Instead of filling a large passenger van full of clothes, two trips were made and the second van was almost full!

This week our students are turning in recyclable cans and bottles. They will be turned in for cash and a donation will be made to the **Pacific Marine and Mammal Center** that provides rehabilitation for injured and sick sea lions along our coast. Please drop off the recyclable materials outside the lobby near the picnic table area.

Our first trimester has concluded. **Report cards** will be sent home on Thursday, December 17th. Report cards are given three times a year at the end of each trimester; December, March, and June. Student progress is measured and reported in regard to achievement on essential grade level standards. The standards were presented by your child's teacher at Back To School night, and a full explanation is available online at: http://www.iusd.org/education_services/CurricularPrograms.html. For parents who actively use the Parent Portal, report cards grades will be accessible online that Thursday afternoon.

For the students who are participating in the **Astounding Inventions Competition**, inventions will be on display in the library January 5th – 7th. This is always a good opportunity to observe the creative problem-solving skills of our students.

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) 936-6051. If your child is sick for multiple days, call the attendance line each day your child is absent.





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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 18th. The survey can be found at

www.speakup4schools.org/speakup2009

Parents who would like their children to attend a school other than their assigned school of attendance need to complete a yellow **School Choice Request** card. The cards will be available beginning January 4th, 2010 and need to be turned in by February 26th 2010. If your child is currently attending Springbrook and this is not your assigned school of attendance; it is not necessary to complete a card. You will be notified if enrollment capacity precludes you from returning to Springbrook next year.

Likewise, **Montessori Interest Cards** will be available during the same time period, January 4th through February 26th. We will host a Montessori Night during this time period to provide an overview of the program and details on the enrollment process for the 2010/2011 school year.

Our 6th grade students have almost completed their DARE class. The **DARE program** is a 10-week program taught by an Irvine Police Department Officer, emphasizing healthy and safe decisions and lifestyles. We are fortunate to again have Officer Christine D'Alena as our DARE officer; it is good to have strong community support for our students. In celebration of the decisions and commitments the students make we will hold a DARE graduation ceremony on the afternoon of Monday, January 11th.

The December Building Block for Success is **Self Control**. We are encouraging students to practice self-control in class by attending to work and completing homework. On the playground we are focused on students controlling their actions while they play, by keeping their actions from getting too physical during sports and watching their words and remaining polite when they talk and play. In addition to Coach Wooden's Building Blocks of Success we also emphasize one of Irvine's Core Values. **Honesty** is the value for December, we think of ways students can demonstrate integrity in their work, words, and actions.

December's Spirit Days are Celebrate Your Holiday, wear holiday or winter colors.

Enjoy the upcoming holidays and time with your family and friends
Bob Curley

