



September 24, 2009



Springbrook School

It's been a great start to the school year. I've enjoyed seeing many of you again, and I'm surprised about how much the students have grown over the summer. As I've visited classrooms and supervised students over the last week, I've been impressed with the maturity and respect demonstrated by the students. In the classrooms, the students are already in high gear writing, solving math problems, reading stories, investigating science concepts, along with exercising in physical education, beginning music lessons, and expressing themselves through art. The primary music and art lessons were purchased through PTA donations and we are grateful that they are looking for ways to enhance our students' instructional experience. There is a positive, energetic tone around campus and in every classroom.

As this year begins, we have a window of opportunity to establish positive habits and tone in the classrooms and on campus. Your role, as parents, is essential in creating and reinforcing a climate of safety, respect and high expectations. There are a number of practical ways you can support these efforts.

- Come to **Back To School Night** and learn the teacher's expectations and the rationale behind classroom practices and assignments. Then reinforce these underlying characteristics of hard work, perseverance, responsibility, and critical thinking. Your teacher will give you strategies to support homework and guide your children so that they can develop areas of independence – sometimes this means allowing your children to experience the consequences of procrastination or poor organization. Although it is painful as a parent to see your children learn these lessons through their own personal experience, these learning opportunities are often the ones that leave the deepest impression.

Back To School Night begins at 6:00pm for 1st – 3rd Grades & 7:00pm for 4th – 6th Grades Please be prompt to each session, for the time with the teachers is limited. We ask that students remain at home this evening and that the time is honored for parents only.

- Support **Coach Wooden's Pyramid of Success** at home. Springbrook has a strong emphasis on building student character. We accomplish this through teaching Coach Wooden's Pyramid of Success in conjunction with the District's Core Values. Our teachers explain how students can practice these traits in the classroom, on the playground, and in their community. The Student Organizer for 3rd – 6th Grades focuses on a couple of different Building Blocks each month. I give some insight each Monday morning with a PA announcement. You can also talk with your children at home. Your modeling and demonstration of these Building Blocks are the greatest influence for your children. This month our students will focus on **Hard Work** and **Enthusiasm**. Our District Core Value is **Perseverance**.





- Model **Civility** and **Respect**. As a means to support a safe and respectful environment over the last few years, the School Board has revised and implemented a couple of Board Policies. The first policy is a Civility Policy that outlines means to respond to parental concerns and resolve problems in an efficient and respectful manner while allowing parents to express concerns. The second policy defines Bullying and Cyber Bullying. This policy explains the complaint procedures and appropriate steps to maintain a safe school climate.

These policies are found on the district webpage,
http://www.iusd.org/board_of_education/board_policy/index.html.

- Follow **School & Traffic Safety** laws. The following guidelines protect the safety of students:
 - ❑ Every time you enter the campus during the school day, sign in at the office and wear a volunteer badge. Please return the badge when you sign out.
 - ❑ Refrain from bringing dogs on campus.
 - ❑
 - ❑ Do not arrive at school prior to 8:00 in the morning. There is no supervision available.
 - ❑
 - ❑ Do not leave primary students unsupervised while waiting for the dismissal of the upper grade students. Pick students up within 15 minutes of school dismissal.
 - ❑
 - ❑ Always use the crosswalk to cross the street, do not cross the street in the middle of the block.
 - ❑
 - ❑ Follow all traffic laws on the streets around Springbrook. U-turns on Springbrook North are illegal in front of the school; double parking on Fallingstar is illegal; vehicle traffic must stop for pedestrians crossing the street, it is illegal to park in red zones.

In support of district and state guidelines, Springbrook will conduct an extensive **Disaster Drill** on October 15th. The students will be evacuated and on the field for approximately 60 to 90 minutes. Two days earlier, October 13th, we will dismiss our primary students following our emergency guidelines for releasing students to parents and guardians; this process will take about an hour as well. Next Thursday, you will receive more detailed directions for this reunification drill.

Springbrook Spirit Days this year will all be organized around monthly themes. September is 'Beach It Up' month. Every Friday of September, students are encouraged to wear their Springbrook Spiritwear or Hawaiian style clothes.





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Aloha! We look forward to seeing the students tomorrow and celebrate with them as they complete the first full of week of this year!

Bob Curley

