



Got Success?



Springbrook School

September 25, 2008

Got Success? I'm excited about Springbrook's new Spiritwear! As I've met with students and classes to review goals for the year, Springbrook rules, and their best behavior for a new grade level; I've enjoyed reiterating a common theme for each student. Every student can use their classwork and social interactions to build key character traits that will enable them to be their personal best and lay a foundation for success.

Now that we have finished the first few weeks of school and the students are accustomed to their new routines, we begin to introduce **academic and social programs** that extend beyond the immediate classroom.

One such program is paraprofessional counseling services sponsored by the **IUSD Guidance Resources Department**. We are fortunate to have Julianne Humphrey returning to Springbrook to build social skills among students by working with different classes. She uses a curriculum called **Second Step** that teaches skills that help children get along with other people and be more successful in school and throughout life. Mrs. Humphrey teaches the class in an interactive style so that the students are participating in discussion and role-playing. To enhance the learning experience, books are carefully chosen and read so that they correspond to the lessons being taught. The topics covered in the Second Step program include Empathy, Impulse Control, and Anger Management. Mrs. Humphrey also acts as a reference for families seeking more intensive counseling services.

Students with multiple languages in their background may also be eligible for additional academic support through our Language Minority program. At the beginning of each school year, we are required by law to administer a standardized test to students who have a language other than English in their background and are currently identified as English learners. We administer the **California English Language Development Test**, or CELDT, to assess and monitor the development of the student's English proficiency in the skill areas of Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing. Springbrook will be administering the CELDT during the first full week of October. As a parent of a student learning English you are invited to be part of our English Language Advisory Committee (ELAC) to learn about our efforts to meet the needs of our English learners. If you have any questions concerning the annual assessment or participation in ELAC, please contact our front office at (949) 936-6050.

Within the next two weeks, every grade level will have begun common differentiated reading instruction. We call this time period RTI, for **Response To Instruction**. Most grade levels will begin their reading instruction between 8:15 and 8:30.

It is very important that you make every effort to have your child here **at school on time**; if they arrive late it will negatively impact their core reading instruction on a daily basis.





This last month the teachers have focused on Hard Work and Enthusiasm as the two cornerstones of success. For the month of October **Friendship** will be our focus. In the month of October the Inchworm and Miles the Mouse will be introduced to Charlie the Chimp, who will teach them that friendship is a two-way street, where friends are gained by being a friend. When students respect their friends, they will be respected in return. We want the students to think about respect for each other, their families, teachers and other adults. It is important for us as adults to model respect to each other for the Springbrook students. This is an important enough characteristic, the School Board recently adopted a Civility Policy. This policy states the Board's expectation that parents and staff will strive to address concerns and resolve problems while maintaining open and productive communication. The policy emphasizes mutual respect, civility, and orderly conduct among staff, parents, and the public. All School Board policies can be found on the district's web page at www.iusd.org. In addition to emphasizing Friendship, we will encourage our students to demonstrate sensitivity and genuine care for others, so that they can also learn **Compassion**, the Irvine Ethical Value for the month.

Thank you to those of you who were able to be here on Back-To-School Night and learn about how your son or daughter will spend their day and what you can do to support them from home. If you are interested in being involved in **School Site Council**, a two-year commitment on a committee that reviews Springbrook's annual plan and our progress on our goals, please contact me today. California Education Code requires that we hold an election for those interested in serving on School Site Council and I'd like to prepare the ballot for next week's conduit.

We appreciate you who have been able to be involved in PTA. Look for the **Springbrook Pledge Drive** packet to arrive in your mailbox next week. This is our fall fundraiser. We hope to raise \$20,000 for educational supplies, music lessons for primary grades, new library books, additional student computers, and student assemblies without the hassle of coordinating order forms, jockeying for prizes, or delivering merchandise. Your donation is tax deductible and 100% of what is raised is given directly to our PTA.

Please update your **Ralphs Shopping Card** and designate Springbrook PTA as the recipient of residual earnings. Over the summer, Ralphs gave almost \$1,400 to the Springbrook PTA for the grocery shopping done by friends and family of Springbrook students. We greatly appreciate your support and work of our PTA to enhance the students' classroom experience.

Tomorrow is our last **'Beach It Up' Spirit Day**. Students are encouraged to wear their Springbrook Spiritwear or Hawaiian style clothes. October's theme is 'Colors of Fall.' Students may wear their Spiritwear or bright fall colors each Friday of the month.

Have a great weekend!

Bob Curley

