



December 10, 2008



Springbrook School

This is my favorite time of year! I enjoy the change in weather and the spirit of celebration. Holiday decorations are found everywhere, there are many family gatherings and parties, stores and malls are busy – it all creates a sense of anticipation and children especially seem to thrive on the excitement. Then winter break brings closure to the quickened pace and New Year’s celebrations encourage reflection on the previous year and renewal for the year ahead.

Take the opportunities that come with the holiday season to spend time with your children and family. Our teachers have suggested some games that you may play with your children that will also build foundation social and academic skills. These games are listed on our website along with the skills they reinforce. I encourage you to play some of them with your children over the holidays.

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.

The following students participated in the **PTA’s Reflections art contest**. This year’s theme was ‘Wow!’ Student work was submitted in the categories of Visual Art, Literature, and Photography. We recognized these students last Friday, when our students met for the Pledge of Allegiance. I want to give a special thanks to Kalpana Singh-Chitnis for her work in coordinating the contest.

Photography

Victoria Quin

Literature

Eddy Yoon
Pranati Kuppala
Katherine Yoon

Musical Composition

Nikolai Genuin
Madeline Milligan

Visual Arts

Clara Rosandich	Tulsiraman Sankar	Ryuto Nakatani	Ashley Sun
Touma Kondo	Kenny Yoon	Amy Yu	Ryusuke Kondo
Anlon Zhu	Mansi Joshi	Kyle Chen	Katherine Yoon
Esther Lee		Shivana Anand	

In addition to thanking Kalpana Singh-Chitnis, I also want to thank Aimee Alessi for her work to coordinate the **Holiday Gift Boutique**. This gave the students the opportunity to buy surprise gifts for family and friends. We are fortunate to have parents committed to our students and coordinate these extracurricular activities for them.





We held our second **School Site Council Meeting** this morning in the library. The School Site Council learns about the current goals of our staff for student learning and discovers the way these goals are being met at different grade levels. These meetings are open to parents and we will meet next on January 15, 2009 at 7:30 in the morning.

Next Monday, December 15th at 2:30, we will hold an introductory ELAC meeting. The **English Language Advisory Committee** (ELAC) will meet in the library and we will present a brief overview of the services and strategies used to help students learn to read, write, and speak English.

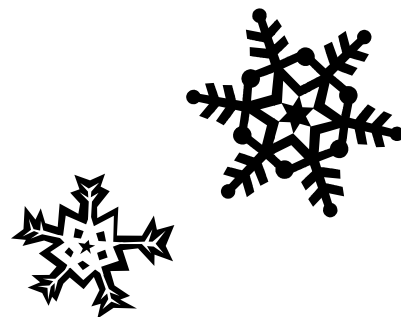
Our **first trimester** has concluded. Report cards will be sent home in next Thursday's conduit. Report cards are given three times a year at the end of each trimester; December, March, and June. Student progress is measured and reported in regard to achievement on essential grade level standards. The 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.

There is quite a bit of **Lost and Found** that has been gathered and stored this fall. It is currently located in both the upper and primary pods. If you are missing a sweatshirt or lunchbox, check what has been turned in; please pick it up. At the end of the month, the additional Lost and Found will be donated to shelters that provide clothing for children.

The Irvine Public School Foundation is again launching the **Parents Appreciating Teachers and Staff** (PATS) campaign. This campaign allows parents to recognize a teacher or staff member through a donation to the Irvine Public School Foundation. The Foundation enhances the district's academic program by supporting small class size and funding the after school ACE program. In addition to academic support health services are enriched by offsetting the costs of nurses and health clerks. Your donation is a good way to support Springbrook's educational program and acknowledge meaningful teachers.

Thank you for your ongoing support at home and your volunteer efforts in the classrooms. Enjoy the change of routine and the time away from school over the next few weeks.

Bob Curley



Winter Calendar Update

December 19 – Minimum Day; Winter Recess begins
January 5 – School resumes
January 12 – 6th grade DARE graduation (1:00PM in the MPR)

