



Korematsu Kids School Newsletter

September 8, 2009
Volume 4, Issue 1

Calendar

Check for calendar updates at
www.korematsupto.org

September

8-11 Tue-Fri

- Safety drills this week.

11 Tue

- 4-6 grade music permission slips due.

16 Wed 8:15 am: front of library

- Coffee PTO member drive.

21 Mon

- Music program begins for grades 4-6.

23 Wed 8:15 am: front of library

- Coffee PTO member drive.

23 Wed

- Universal GATE testing Grade 3.

23 Wed 7:00 pm in the MPR

- Sixth grade parent meeting Walker Creek Ranch Outdoor Education.

29 Tue

- Picture Day

30 Wed 5:30—7:30 pm

- Familia Fiesta Picnic, on the quad behind the library; bring picnic and blankets. Free.

October

7 Wed 7:00-9:00 pm

- KPTO meeting, in the library. All welcome.

Next Korematsu Kids: Mon 21 Sept

From the Principal

It's two weeks into the school year and everyone has settled in quite nicely. Thank you parents and staff for helping ensure a smooth transition. Great teamwork!

Parents should have received a Korematsu "Parent Handbook" (green digest-sized booklet) and two emergency cards. (The handbook is also posted on the KPTO website). Parents should have read the "Parent-Guardian/Student Rights and Responsibilities", "Standards for Student Behaviors" and "Summary Signature Form" (among other documents) that were posted on the district website: www.djUSD.net/district/docs/enrollment/enrollment-registration.

Please return to your child's teacher or the school office the emergency cards and a signed copy of the "Summary Signature Form" as soon as possible. These documents are a requirement for school registration.

All California schools have been affected by the state-imposed budget cuts. (See article "State Budget Cuts Affect Korematsu"). Parents can help by joining the KPTO and supporting the school's fundraising. KPTO is a nonprofit partnership between parents and teachers that funds programs and activities, scholarships for field trips, and supplies teachers with classroom materials, among other things. Go to the KPTO website www.korematsupto.org and/or attend monthly meetings, held the

first Wednesday at 7:00 pm in the library. Strengthen the partnership with your school and join the KPTO today!

September is "Safety Month" at Korematsu. We will be practicing fire, evacuation and lock-down drills to ensure the safety of our students. Please prepare your children for these drills by reminding them to remain calm. Reassure them that this is only practice. We will continue with monthly fire drills as required by law.

We expect to have a positive year with your support!

Mary Ponce

TALK Language Enrichment Available

Students in grades K-6 are invited to learn second language Spanish or French through TALK (Teach Another Language to Kids), managed by parent volunteers, with enrollment through the nonprofit Davis Art Center. Students are taught by native or "near-native" speaking instructors.

Games, role plays, music, cultural and other activities increase conversational skills and teach vocabulary in a meaningful context. Classes of 6-12 assure focused, fun group instruction in a positive, supportive atmosphere. Classes have begun but enrollment is still open. Call 756-4100 to enroll (online, by mail or in-person).

State Budget Cuts Affect Korematsu

The state budget crisis has begun to take its toll on your school.

Classroom size has increased (grades K-3 to 22, and grades 4-6 to 32). We have two secretaries three days week, and one secretary twice a week. State block grant funds to support PE, art, and music are gone. The school's operating funds have been cut twice – for the phone bill, safety equipment, office supplies, photocopies, classroom and yard duty equipment, and maintenance supplies.

Certain state "category" funds were cut and temporarily filled with one-time federal stimulus money (paying for such things as computer specialist, counselor, in-school events - science fair, oral language fair, student council activities, technology equipment for computer lab, library books and subscriptions, and supplemental

teaching materials). Once stimulus funds are spent, the well will be dry and these programs and materials will lose their funding.

It could be much worse. We continue to receive federal Title 1* and EIA (English learners) funding. Davis' support of local parcel taxes and donations has avoided deeper and more severe cuts. Parcel taxes (Measures Q and W) help lower class size, fund supplemental classroom materials, a reading teacher, a quarter-time reading aid, the science program, a librarian, and the healthy foods lunch program.

More state-imposed cuts are expected this school year and perhaps in the next several years. The state has been reducing funding at a faster rate than we can backfill with local taxes, donations and spending reductions. But Davis schools are better off than many districts because of your local support of parcel taxes, and donations to the KPTO and local foundations.

* Federal funding to schools with 40% or more of its students from low-income families.

KPTO Member Drive This Month – Join Now!

A Korematsu Parent Teacher Organization (KPTO) membership drive is underway. The goal is to enroll more than half of the school's families. Member dues form the base of KPTO's support for the school. A high membership percentage helps secure grant funding. Benefactors look at the percentage as a gauge of the health and vitality of the parent teacher partnership.

The classroom with the highest percentage of parent members enrolled will win a pizza party. Enroll online at www.korematsupto.org, or pick-up an enrollment form in the school office. Completed forms and payments can be turned in to the school office.

Stop by a KPTO table for coffee on September 16 and 23, 8:45 am, in front of the library.

Custodian Eva Gutierrez Haired for Recycling Help

Eva Gutierrez was honored for her help with the school's RISE recycling program in July by the Davis Farm-to-School Connection – a nonprofit partner of the school district.

RISE (Recycling is Simply Elementary) recycles, diverts and reduces the solid waste stream. It has reduced more than 50% of solid waste that otherwise would go to the county landfill.

Korematsu RISE program's volunteer parent coordinator is Shari Dailey. More volunteers will extend the effectiveness of this program. Please contact Shari at korematsupto@yahoo.com

Sixth Grade Legacy Project Completed

Last year's sixth grade legacy project was completed over the summer. Davis Art Center instructor Heidi Bekebrede directed the creation of student-made ceramic and glass art installed on a concrete light pylon on the quad behind the library.

Future legacy projects will depend on fundraising by sixth grade parents. Parents may wish to discuss with their sixth grade teachers or the KPTO.



Familia Fiesta Picnic Sept 30

Get to know or reacquainted with school families and staff at Korematsu's annual Familia Fiesta Picnic, Wednesday September 30, 5:30-7:30 pm on the quad.

Bring a blanket and picnic for your family and friends. KPTO will provide piñatas for the kids. This is a free event sponsored by the KPTO.