



Korematsu Kids School Newsletter

June 7, 2010
Volume 4, Issue 15

Calendar

June

7 Mon 3:30 pm

- School Site Council meeting, office conference room

7-9

- Yearbook distribution

9 Wed 1:30 pm

- Reception and artwork unveiling in honor of Mrs. York, in the Kindergarten playground

10 Thu

- Sixth grade promotion ceremony, in the MPR, 9:30 am
- Last day of school — 12:30 pm dismissal (report cards sent home with students)

14-25

- Summer school

August

24 Tue 4:00 pm

- Class lists posted in windows of school office

25 Wednesday

- School opens

September

1 Wed

- Back to school night

6 Mon

- Labor Day Holiday —
NO SCHOOL

Next Korematsu Kids: early September

From the Principal

We've been a K-6 school for two years, and it's been exciting to watch us grow as a community, with some wonderful traditions: Honoring Fred T. Korematsu, Oral Language Fair, Asian Pacific Festival, silent auction, student leadership clubs, and the sixth grade legacy project, among others.

We have worked together to fill the gaps left by a dwindling budget. Our community, once again, stepped up to protect our schools by donating money and saving jobs. We have worked together to educate the children and provide needed support and enrichment. Our staff, facing displacement, layoffs, furloughs, and higher class size, forge on with smiles on their faces, an unwavering work ethic and a love for what they do each day.

This year we say good-bye to some of our cherished staff members, but we do so in celebration, knowing that wonderful things lay ahead for each one.

Although my own role as principal has been brief, it has been long enough to see our school from a more global perspective, and it has been truly delightful. Thank you for all of your kindness and support, and for all you do to make Korematsu a great place to be. We have wonderful children, staff members, and families. We are a resilient, caring, diverse, flexible, brilliant, cooperative, generous, professional, creative, committed community. It is a joy to be a part of the Korematsu team.

- Nikki Smith
Principal-in-charge

California Assembly Passes Korematsu Legislation

Nearly 70 years after Fred Korematsu refused a federal order at the outbreak of World War II to evacuate to an internment camp, the California Assembly voted to honor him as a civil rights leader by designating an annual day in his honor.

Assembly Bill 1775, which passed 63-0 in May, would recognize his January 30 birthday as a special day of significance in which schools would be urged to commemorate his memory.

Mr. Korematsu's daughter Karen Korematsu Haigh visited our school and met with staff prior to her testimony in support of the bill. "My father's experiences around the unconstitutional incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II and his subsequent redemption shape how we discuss civil liberties today," she testified to the Assembly. "Honoring my father on 'Fred Korematsu Day of Civil Liberties and the Constitution' on his birthday keeps his legacy alive."

The bill needs to pass the Senate and be signed by the governor. To support the Senate version of the bill, please contact Fifth District Senator Lois Wolk; State Capitol, Room 4032, Sacramento, CA 95814, Phone 916-651-4005, Email: senator.wolk@senate.ca.gov

*Teachers, staff and parent leaders wish you a safe and happy summer break.
Good luck sixth graders in junior high.
We look forward to seeing everyone else in August.*

Baby News!

Our newest Coyote has arrived! Ms. Ponce's baby was born May 23. His name is Benicio Reuben Wilson. Mama and baby are both doing well. Congratulations Ms. Ponce!

Yearbook Distribution

Yearbooks will be distributed during the last week of school. Staff is currently planning a "signing party" for the sixth graders, held during the school day.

Thank You for Festival and Auction Support!

Despite unseasonable cool and damp weather, the Asian Pacific Festival delighted families and friends, and the fun-filled auction brought in critically needed revenue for core school programs.

Thank you to all who participated, and to the dedicated corps of volunteers—including some busy sixth graders.

The auction's gross receipts are about \$16,000, with some items still for sale. A final net tally and accounting of how the funds will be budgeted next year will be available in the fall.

Special thanks to festival organizer Marc Ishisaka-Nolfi and auction chair Monica Reeves, who with their teams, put in countless hours to bring you these successful events.

Keep Learning this Summer!

Don't forget that learning doesn't stop after school. This summer students should continue to read every day for 15-30 minutes. It can be fun and easy to continue to develop reading and writing skills:

- Draw a picture of a scene from a story, and write a sentence / paragraph telling about it.
- Create a new cover for a book you read.
- Draw a picture of a character in the story. Write a list of words that describe him/her.
- Rewrite the ending of the story. Tell it the way YOU want it to be!
- Write a letter to your favorite character in the book.
- Write a letter to the author of the book. Check online for an email or PO Box address.
- Read a book that is also a movie, then watch the movie. Write down how they were the same and how they were different. Or, write a review of the movie. Was it as good as the book? Why or why not?
- Put on a play that tells the story!

The possibilities are endless! Have a great summer!

School Resumes Aug. 25

The 2010-2011 school year will begin on Wednesday, August 25. Staffing and enrollment are not yet finalized, and it is common for things to continue to change throughout the summer. We are planning to post class lists after teachers have returned to work and reviewed final lists.

You can expect to view class lists in the office windows at 4:00 pm on Tuesday, August 24. Teachers will not be available prior to the first day of school, as they will be setting up for the new year. We look forward to another great year at Korematsu.

School Site Council Members Still Needed

We still need community representatives for the 2010-11 School Site Council (SSC). Site council monitors the implementation, evaluation and update of the School Improvement Plan (SIP), and makes decisions on spending certain state "categorical" funds.

If interested in serving, please submit a brief bio/statement of interest. You may email this to: nsmith@djUSD.k12.ca.us.

Voting will occur either the last week of school, or in the fall, depending on how soon we have enough candidates.

ACCESS After-School Rec Program Available

ACCESS is now enrolling for summer camp and fall session. Affordable, homework help with UCD math and language arts tutors, snacks, and fun fitness. To enroll, visit www.daviskidsklub.com; e-mail: daviskidsklub@aol.com or phone 530-220-4731 for more information.

Recently updated: District Dollars, a web-based interactive program to help you understand the DJUSD budget situation: www.districtdollars.org