



Korematsu Kids School Newsletter

February 8, 2010
 Volume 4, Issue 9

Calendar

February

8 Mon 3:30 pm

- School Site Council meeting, office conference room; all welcome

11 Thu 8:30-11:00 am

- Oral Language Fair competition; parents welcome; see schedule next page

15 Mon

- Presidents' Day holiday
 — NO SCHOOL

16 Tue 7:00 pm

- Oral Language Fair performance; in the MPR; all welcome

19 Fri

- Day of Remembrance (Never forget World War II internment of Japanese Americans and immigrants)

19 Fri

- Oral Language Fair student assemblies

22 Mon

- Washington's Birthday holiday
 — NO SCHOOL

23 Tue 9:00 am

- GATE 3rd grade orientation, MPR

24 Wed 6:30 pm

- Harper Jr. High 7th grade parent information night, MPR

Next Korematsu Kids: Mon Mar 1

From the Principal

Celebrating Diversity

What does diversity mean to you? We hear the word frequently, but do we really understand or help each other understand its personal meaning? Diversity to me means a celebration – an understanding of differences of values and beliefs. It also may mean cultural awareness of underrepresented groups, who feel left out.

As I work toward a graduate degree in educational leadership at UC Davis, the course work challenges my personal thinking about institutions and their effect on equity and student achievement.

In the spirit of our school's name-sake Fred T. Korematsu, I ask: How do we think about social justice and equity by our institutions? How do we include the full range of views in institutional thinking? And how do we ensure that our school is alert to institutional discrimination?

In this month's Day of Remembrance we will discuss with students the injustices towards the internment of Japanese Americans and immigrants on the WWII home front. I challenge

all of us to reflect on our own unconscious biases. We all have them – assumptions and biases that shape our thinking. But, how do we monitor them? How do we help our own students understand them?

Take time during February's celebrations of Black History Month, Day of Remembrance, Chinese New Year and even Valentine's Day to think about diversity. What it means to you and your family and how you celebrate our differences. Discuss with your child Fred T. Korematsu – the injustices he fought against, and how one person; one voice can make a difference.

- Mary Ponce

Student Council Haiti Relief Fund

Students are collecting cash to support relief efforts, via \$1 donations through Feb 12. Any amount is appreciated. Proceeds to the Red Cross. Cash donations are collected in the classroom or school office. (Those wishing to write checks should donate directly to the relief organizations). Thank you to our students for their generous support and kindness.

Have You Heard the News?

Principal Ponce is expecting! The Korematsu community congratulates Mary and her partner Sean as they expect their first "Korematsu Coyote" in late May. When Ms. Ponce goes on leave, a replacement will serve out the remainder of the school year, hopefully a Korematsu staff member to ensure a smooth transition. We will keep you posted. We send Mary and Sean our warmest wishes!



Oral Language Fair; Parents Welcome

Students are memorizing their poems and working on expression and voice. Competition is Feb 11; times below. Arrive about 10 minutes early, as we move forward when ahead of schedule. (Do not enter or exit the classroom while a child is reciting). Top groups chosen will perform in the MPR on Feb 16, 19. (See calendar page 1).

- 8:30: Ms. York
- 8:35: Mrs. Arvin
- 8:40: Mrs. Murphy (and Tonio Corbett)
- 8:50: Mrs. Chan
- 9:00: Ms. Olmstead
- 9:25: Mrs. Smith (and Ophir, Haley and Kirsten)
- 9:50: Intermediate classes: Creely, Carlson, Miille and Krueger
- 10:20: Third grade large group; small groups and solos
- 10:40: Mrs. Sobottka

Battle of the Books!

Reading for the March 19 Battle of the Books has begun! For 4-6th grades, in teams of four. Each student reads at least two of the 8 titles. Each team will try to answer questions about each of the titles:

- Eager by Fox
- Fair Weather by Peck
- Sasquatch by Smith
- Danger on Panther Peak by Wallace
- Riding Freedom by Ryan
- Letters From Camp by Klise
- Strider by Cleary
- Snow Treasure by McSwigan

We will need parent volunteers to act as judges. (Judges will be given the answers).

- Sandy Pattison,
Library Media Teacher

New Semester for TALK

A new semester is underway for TALK (Teaching Kids Another Language). This parent-run non-profit organization offers before or after school French and Spanish classes to children K-6 grade on the Korematsu campus. Teachers are fluent speakers and student-teacher ratios are small.

Beginning French or Spanish classes are offered M-Thu 7:40-8:10 am. Afternoon beginning French classes are also offered M, T, and Thu 3-3:45 pm. Intermediate Spanish classes are offered M-Thu 7:50-8:20.

Registration is handled by the Davis Art Center (online, phone, or in person; see specific class information in the DAC catalog). For questions or more information, contact Kristen Alexander: kalexander@csus.edu

RISE Recycling Expands; Needs Volunteers



The RISE (Recycling Is Simply Elementary) program has expanded to accept more items. Place items on this list in the recycling container just inside and to the left of the school office front door, or students may place food packaging in marked containers at lunch time.

- Cell phones
- Ink and toner cartridges
- Household batteries (no large commercial or auto batteries)
- Wine corks

Recycling firm TerraCycle will pay the school's recycling program two cents each for the following items. They convert recycled packaging into things such as purses, back packs and tote bags sold at national chain stores. We ask your help in collecting, cleaning and depositing:

- Aveeno brand tubes
- Bear Naked brand cereal bag or wrapper
- Candy and cookie wrappers (any brand)
- Chips: Frito-Lay, Ritz Toasted, Wheat Thins Toasted brands
- Energy bars: Balance, Clif, Luna, Nature Valley and Power brands
- Glue: Elmer's brand (bottle and stick)
- Kashi brand containers
- Lunch kit containers, such as Lunchable brand
- Malt-O-Meal cereal bags
- Pen-pencil-markers: Expo, Sharpie, Paper Mate brands
- Plastic Huggies brand diaper packaging
- Pouches: Juice and sprout pouches
- Scott brand packaging for bath tissue, flushable wipes, napkins, towels
- Stonyfield Farm brand yogurt container (6 and 32oz size)

We need volunteers to assist with the recycling program. There are many ways to help big and small, with a lot of potential for easy money for the school. Please consider assisting us in our recycling program.

- Shari Dailey, Recycling Coordinator, email: sharindavis@sbcglobal.net