



Korematsu Kids School Newsletter

September 12, 2011
Volume 6, Issue 1

Calendar

September

13 Tue

- Picture Day.

14 Wed 7:00-8:30 pm

- KPTO meeting, in the library.

21 Wed

- 'KidzArt' begins, in Music Room.
- Welcome Back family picnic 5:00-7:30 pm.

23 Fri

- Music instruction begins.

October

5 Wed 7:00 pm, in the MPR

- Sixth Grade Walker Creek outdoor education orientation.

12 Wed 7:00-8:30 pm

- KPTO meeting, in the library.

November

4 Friday

- Teacher work day — NO SCHOOL.

9 Wed 7:00-8:30 pm

- KPTO meeting, in the library.

11 Friday

- Veteran's Day — NO SCHOOL.

14-18 Mon-Fri

- Conference week and book fair.

Next Korematsu Kids:
October 3

From the Principal

Thank you staff, students and parents for making the opening weeks of school a success. I'm excited to continue this momentum throughout the year.

We will continue to work on school climate and culture and focus on social justice. We had a wonderful celebration honoring the first Fred T. Korematsu Day of Civil Liberties and the Constitution last January, and are excited to build upon our school's identity. Working alongside KPTO, student council, site council and other community and staff organizations, we want to develop an inclusive school where we all feel that we belong to a community filled with passion about equity and equality.

This past week I visited every classroom through "principal chats". We discussed school expectations and the importance of making good choices to ensure personal success.

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Funds Needed to Upgrade Computers

KPTO is raising funds to upgrade computers used by students in classrooms and the library. District and state technology funds are unavailable in the next few years for upgrading or replacing computers. These upgrades will make teaching more effective and reduce frustration for students.

The first priority will be to increase computer memory and upgrade operating system and application software. Software installation will be managed by Korematsu computer specialist Julie Cuetara.

Fundraising goals: 45 computers – 4 GB RAM at \$60 each (\$2,700) and Windows 7 at \$100 each (\$4,500); 35 computers – upgrade MS Office at \$100 each (\$3,500). Total goal: \$10,700.

Donations may be made in the office or look for KPTO tables during drop-off and pick-up.

Welcome Back Family Picnic Sept 21

Join the fun with the Welcome Back Family Picnic! Parking is limited so we encourage families to walk or bike.

- 5:00–6:00 pm – Bring your dinner and a blanket or chairs, reconnect with old friends and meet new families. Sixth grade students will be selling homemade crafts to raise funds for Walker Creek outdoor education camp. Jamba Juice drinks will be available for purchase.
- 5:45–6:45 pm – Aztec Dancers.
- 6:45–7:00 pm – Raffle drawing for an iPod Touch and other items will benefit upgrades to campus computers (See article above).
- 7:00–7:30 pm – Relay races in the quad for the kids (with rewards to participants).

From the Principal

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We discussed how to build an inclusive school and how each of us has the responsibility to promote and practice this idea.

With staff, we will be discussing equitable classrooms and how to provide educational opportunities for all students, in particular students that do not have success in our system. Rethinking our classrooms and envisioning critical skills needed in the real world should be a goal for every school. Our schools should be more than academic repetition. Instead, we should envision classrooms where students' lives are the resources used for curriculum and instructional planning, where students think critically and ask questions, where they collaborate and try to solve problems. I hope our children participate in envisioning a society beyond the one they live in now.

With support from you, staff and community allies, I wish again everyone a year filled with new experiences, warm connections and fond memories. Have a wonderful year!

- Ms. Ponce

Welcome New Staff

Please welcome these new staff members: Jack Dapkewicz, math specialist; Christina Mathiesen, 4th grade teacher; Susie Carrel, school counselor; and Kristy Labourdette, kitchen manager.

School Website Online

A school website is now online. It's a work in progress but check it for updated information about the school. The URL is at the bottom of this page. The site is also accessible by link from www.DJUSD.net

TALK Language Enrichment Available

Students are invited to learn a second language Spanish or French through TALK (Teach Another Language to Kids).

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 positive, supportive atmosphere.

Classes have begun but enrollment is still open (tuition will be prorated). Classes held Monday - Thursday 7:40-8:10 am, in the MPR. Email: TALKprogram@hotmail.com

Mrs. Smith Publishes Children's Book

Congratulations to fourth grade teacher Mrs. Nicole Smith, whose first published book, *The Little Christmas Elf*, has been released by Random House/Little Golden Books. Mrs. Smith has a great love for reading. And "Nina", Santa's littlest elf, discovers that perseverance pays off!

New Korematsu Counselor to Focus on Social Skills

School Site Council voted to support our classrooms with social skills development. Please welcome Mrs. Susie Carrell, who will be working in classrooms throughout the year to support this goal. She will begin with the primary grades K-2. Students will learn how to solve problems and make choices using the Kelso's Choice conflict-management curriculum. For more information please contact your child's classroom teacher.

From the KPTO

- Ice Cream Fridays are back. Sixth graders are selling ice cream after school on Fridays to help raise funds for Walker Creek outdoor education camp and other sixth grade programs.
- Attention 6th grade parents. We are compiling an email list of sixth grade parents so that we can communicate information about the Walker Creek outdoor education camp. Sign up for the Walker Creek list-serve by sending your email address to: walker creek@korematsupto.org
- Show your school spirit and order your school shirt — T-shirts and sweatshirts. Youth and adult sizes. Place orders in the KPTO box in the office by Friday September 30. Shirts will be delivered to classrooms in October. If ordering a sweatshirt please remember that they run small so order a size up.

Reminders...

- The school playground does not open until after the 8:10 am bell.
- All visitors must check in at the office.
- Absences must be called into the office.
- If your child is late and ordering hot lunch, please call the office.

Please refer to the Parent Handbook for more information on school routines and procedures. (All families should have received a 2011-12 Parent Handbook. If you did not receive a copy, please drop by the office and ask for one).