



Korematsu Kids School Newsletter

October 19, 2009
Volume 4, Issue 4

Calendar

Check for calendar updates at
www.korematsupto.org

October

19 Mon 4:00-9:30 pm

- Habit Burger fundraiser for sixth grade buses to Walker Creek.

23, 30

- Ice cream sales by sixth graders for buses to Walker Creek; after school in the front plaza.

27 Tue 5:00-9:00 pm

- Round Table fundraiser for sixth grade buses to Walker Creek.

November

4 Wed 7:00-8:00 pm

- KPTO meeting, in the library; Silent Auction committee meets at 8:00 pm. All welcome.

6 Fri

- Elementary school holiday — NO SCHOOL

11 Wed

- Veteran's Day — NO SCHOOL

16-20

- Parent conference week; Scholastic book fair; KPTO lunch time staff hospitality. 1:30 dismissal grades 1-6.

23-27

- Thanksgiving break — NO SCHOOL

Next Korematsu Kids: Mon 2 Nov

Library Losing State Funding for Books

The school library is an essential foundation for reading and learning in the classroom. It's also a place that helps students learn to read and to enjoy reading for pleasure.

Libraries need librarians – and they also need books.

A consequence of the state budget crisis is that dwindling state funds for library books and learning materials will soon be reduced to zero. The state cut the funding in the current budget but the Davis school district used federal stimulus funds as a one-time backfill.

Ten years ago, the state education budget included a line item for library books and materials at \$28 per child per year – about \$13,000 for a school our size. In recent years that was reduced to \$1.70 per child, or about \$807.00, and now to \$0.

State building funds were used to buy the initial books for K-1 when the school opened, and we inherited much of the library from Valley Oak. Books go out of date and wear out. Importantly, library titles need to reflect current topics and be in line with the adopted curriculum. And there are expenses for periodicals and supplies.

Last year, the library spent about \$4,000 for books and materials, as the school expanded to grades K-6. Scholastic book fair and fundraising filled the gap. But that gap is



widening, and funding has to be sustained over time.

The librarian's salary is funded by local parcel taxes, and it's important those funds continue to support the people who keep the libraries open and ensure that the books are read.

KPTO is working with librarian Sandy Pattison and principal Mary Ponce to develop a long-term plan to fund library books and learning materials. We need to plan to fund purchase of books and materials next year and beyond. It will be a long time before tax supported library funding returns. We will be following the same process for other critical needs that are losing state funding.

In the meantime, proceeds from the fall and spring Scholastic book fairs will continue to be dedicated to library titles, including titles placed in classrooms.

Korematsu Library Fast Facts

- Number of titles: 14,200
- Top requested (checked) books by subject (in order): History, science, math, technology, literature.

Scrip Raffle for Korematsu

Sign up or use your already enrolled eScrip or Nugget scrip card during October and be entered in to a raffle to win a \$100 Nugget gift card. Go to www.escrip.com to sign up for eScrip. For Nugget scrip, pick up a card from the customer service desk at Nugget. Contact KPTO fundraising coordinator Joanne Ayers with questions: joanne.ayers@sbcglobal.net

GATE Testing Schedule

Grade 3 testing for those who were absent during universal testing in September, who are new to the school district, or who live in the school district but do not attend public schools will be held 2:00 pm on January 20.

Grades 4 and 6 test dates are 2:00 pm on November 18, December 2, December 9 and January 27.

Space is limited for all tests. Please contact Cindy Hoffart, GATE secretary, to reserve a space. Call 757-5300 ext. 146 or email choffart@djud.k12.ca.us Tests will be held at the school district office 526 B Street.

Conference Week Hospitality Donations Needed

Parent conference week is November 16-20 and we want to show our appreciation to teachers and staff. KPTO's hospitality committee is organizing buffet style lunches to sustain them. We ask for your help with food donations. For details and if you can help, please contact: Melinda Swift 757-7412 melindasbc@sbcglobal.net, Camille Melendres 297-7268 camelend@hotmail.com or seansharonadams@comcast.net



Korematsu Kids Running Club Grades 1-3

The Korematsu Kids grades 1-3 running club is back. We meet Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:35-3:00, through May, on the sports field west of the playground.

This is an after-school commitment so kids should sign up only if they plan to participate. Parent volunteers are needed and encouraged to help make it successful. Please contact teacher Ms. Belinda Kesser if you have questions or would like to help: bkesser@djud.k12.ca.us

Olmstead's 4th Grade Wins Pizza Party

Ms. Cheri Olmstead's 4th grade class had the highest percentage of new KPTO memberships, and earned a pizza party as part of KPTO's fall membership drive. Thanks to all. It's never too late to join or renew. Enroll online (address below) or pick-up an enrollment form in the school office.

Still Time to Order Innisbrook

There is still time to place your Innisbrook order! The deadline has been extended until Thursday, October 23rd. After your order form is ready, remember to go to www.innisbrook.com and click on EZ and enter our school number (104350) to enter your orders. Print and return your vouchers and payments to the school office. Thank you!

STAR Test Results Update

Every spring 2nd-6th grade students take the STAR test (Standardized Testing and Reporting). The state's school accountability system uses STAR scores to calculate an API (Academic Performance Index), a formula used to rate each school. Korematsu received an API of 894 out of 1000. This is a good rating. We grew over 20 points last year, meeting our targets.

The Federal accountability system, through 'No Child Left Behind', uses AYP (Annual Yearly Progress) to measure academic performance. We must meet specific annual proficiency rates school-wide, and for significant subgroups in our student population in Language Arts and Mathematics. Korematsu met 22 out of the 23 AYP requirements.

Under No Child Left Behind (NCLB), a school receiving Title 1* funding (including Korematsu) is obligated to meet three criteria: annual proficiency rates, participation rates of 95%, and API targets. If the school does not meet the proficiency rates two years in a row, in the same content area, school wide and/or in a significant subgroup, the school enters into "Program Improvement".

Staff works diligently to ensure we meet federal and state proficiency goals, in particular focusing on subgroups that did not meet these goals last year.

We will continue to keep you posted on our progress.

For more information:
Federal: www.nclb.gov
State: www.cde.ca.gov/nclb

* Title 1 is federal funding to schools using a formula based on low income information.