



Korematsu Kids School Newsletter

March 22, 2010
Volume 4, Issue 11

Calendar

March

25 Thu 8:30 am-3:00 pm

- Kindergarten registration, in the Music Room

25 Thu 5:30 pm

- Parent Info Night for Incoming 7th grade parents—Spanish speakers; at Harper Jr. High

25 Thu 6:00 pm

- Harper Jr. High Open House

26 Fri 8:30 am-3:00 pm

- Grade 1-6 registration, in the MPR

31 Wed 6:30-7:30 pm

- Korematsu Open House

April

2 Fri 9:00 am

- English Learner Re-classification ceremony, in the MPR

5-9

- Spring break—NO SCHOOL

15 Thu 7:00-8:00 pm

- KPTO meeting, in the library; all welcome

19 Fri-May 7

- STAR testing grades 2-6

21 Wed 6:30 pm

- Parent Info Night for Incoming 7th grade parents; at Harper Jr. High

26 Mon

- 7th grade course work sheets due to 6th grade teachers

Next Korematsu Kids: Mon Apr 26

Korematsu Open House March 31

Enjoy an evening with your teachers at Korematsu's open house on Wednesday March 31, 6:30 pm. It's a great community event. Included will be displays of your child's work.

Friendly reminder: this is not a time to 'shop' for next year's teacher. You are welcome to visit all classrooms but please refrain from "interviewing" teachers as their focus is their current students and parents.

KPTO Seeks Officer Nominees

KPTO is seeking nominees for next year's KPTO president, vice presidents, secretary and treasurer. Some positions are open and others may have incumbents seeking another term. Nominations will be accepted until the election held at the May KPTO meeting. Current KPTO members are eligible to vote.

For more information and to be introduced to the nominating committee, please email: korematupto@yahoo.com

Notices of Possible Layoff Issued

Last week began the difficult process of notifying Korematsu staff of potential layoffs for the 2010-2011 school year. The school district administration is trying to work through this process with as much compassion as possible. To make sure parents have a clear understanding of the steps the district must take, please read this message from Superintendent Hammond:

Dear DJUSD families and friends,

It is my unfortunate duty to inform you that the district began issuing first notices of possible lay-off, or pink slips, to 149 of our valued employees.

Though it is a process no one welcomes, I would like to provide you the opportunity to understand how it works.

Following the Board's adoption of a resolution to eliminate particular services for the 2010-11 school year, teaching and counseling (certificated) staff affected will receive three

Continued on page 2

Spring Fundraising Guide — Replacing State Cuts for 2010-11

Davis Schools Foundation's Dollar-a-Day campaign **through May 1** raises funds for:

- Class size reduction (teachers) in grades K-3
- School office secretary
- Lunch yard duty staff
- Night custodial services

KPTO auction proceeds on **May 21** raise funds for items including:

- Photocopying for teachers
- Computer specialist and equip.
- Student clubs
- Supplemental teaching material
- Sixth grade outdoor education
- Library; playground equip.

Notices of Possible Layoff – Continued from page 1

separate notices. The first notice received by March 15 informed the employee that their services may not be required next year. The second notice informs them of their right to request a hearing, so they may be certain their rights to seniority are fully protected. The final notice, delivered by May 15, informs them that their employment with the district ends on June 30th.

Secretaries, custodians and maintenance staff affected by lay-off will be noticed later in the year, in accordance with state requirements for classified staff.

At this time, it is the district's intention to eliminate 88 full-time positions next year. Because we require flexibility to respond to unknowns such as changing student enrollment, or possible complications in the seniority process, more employees are typically noticed than will actually be laid-off. The additional notices also allow the district to respond should the state impose greater than expected reduction in revenue.

I want to emphasize that these notices in no way reflect upon the district's appreciation for an employee's performance or their contribution to our children's education. Many wonderful teachers, counselors, secretaries and paraeducators will receive notices. We sincerely regret the impact this will have on them, their families and the entire school community. As a staff, we will work to make sure students are protected from the negative consequences of this necessary process.

We hope that improved budget assumptions will allow us to rescind some of these notices. We continue to work collaboratively with our employees to negotiate salary concessions in exchange for furlough days next year. In addition, the early retirement incentive offered by the district will help mitigate the impact on our newer, less senior staff members.

Some of you have asked how you can help. The Davis Schools Foundation has launched their 2010 Dollar-A-Day campaign — www.davisschoolsfoundation.org — to assist us in closing the \$5.6 million budget gap. We thank them for their partnership and encourage you to visit their website to learn more.

It is inspiring to be part of a community that focuses on solutions. Together, we will overcome the challenges that face us and continue to provide an excellent education to the students of the Davis Joint Unified School District.

Respectfully,
Dr. James Hammond, Superintendent

Preparing for STAR Tests

Every year students in grades 2-11 take STAR tests (Standardized Testing and Reporting). This year: April 19 through May 7. Students are expected to attend school during the testing period. Please check with your child's teacher regarding class test schedules.

STAR assesses basic grade level skills. The results are used to plan programs for the following year. You will receive your child's scores in late August. We hope that all students will take the test. You do have the right to excuse your child from testing. A written waiver must be submitted to the principal prior to testing. If the school receives waivers for more 5% of students, sanctions will be imposed under the federal No Child Left Behind. For more information: www.star.cde.ca.gov

Grade 6 Transition to Jr. High Begins

Harper Jr. High counselor Cara Leppington invites 6th grade parents to information meetings, and will visit Korematsu 6th grade students to begin the transition process. All events are held at Harper Junior High School.

- March 25, 5:30 pm – Parent Information Night for Spanish speakers
- March 25, 6:00 pm – Harper Jr. High Open House
- April 21, 6:30 pm – Parent Information Night
- April 26 – 7th grade course work sheets due to 6th grade teachers
- May 26, 7:00 pm – Harper Jr. High Incoming 7th grade Family Night

Kindergarten Registration March 25

- In the Korematsu Music Room
- 8:30 am – 3:00 pm
- Children must be 5 years old on or before Dec 2, 2010.

Required documents:

- Birth certificate or passport
- Immunization record
- Proof of residence (Current PG&E, homeowner's insurance, rental agreement, escrow papers)

Korematsu City League Basketball Team Undefeated

Congratulations to the Korematsu Junior basketball teams, with special attention to the Tue/Thu 5th and 6th grade boys team for finishing the season with a 6-0 record.

Thanks to Coach Trevor Brady (and the other coaches) for a great season. Teams at each school site are organized by the City of Davis Community Services Department.

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