



# Korematsu Kids School Newsletter

June 6, 2011  
 Volume 5, Issue 12

## Calendar

### June

8 Wed 7:00-7:30 pm

- KPTO officer election, in the library.

9 Thu

- Last day of school — 12:30 pm dismissal (report cards sent home with students).

### August/September

Aug 18 Thu

- School registration in MPR; times by family last name:
  - 5:00-6:00 pm A-G
  - 6:00-7:00 pm H-N
  - 7:00-8:00 pm O-Z

Aug 23 Tue

- School opens

Aug 31 Wed 6:30-8:00 pm

- Back to school night

Sep 5 Mon

- Labor Day Holiday — NO SCHOOL

Next Korematsu Kids:  
 Late August or early September

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.

## From the Principal

As we come to the close of another academic year, I think about our successes and where we need to continue to improve. But most importantly, I reflect on how my leadership supported student learning and where it needs to continue to support our school.

For the past two years I have been participating in UC Davis' doctoral program in Educational Leadership, CANDEL. My professors have continuously challenged me to reflect on my leadership, how it's influenced by political, social and economic demands and what my next steps are. So, I thought it was appropriate to share a few of my next steps.

I want to continue to support student learning by supporting our staff in participating in professional communities – providing them with the time to collaborate, analyze and observe effective student lessons and reflect on their pedagogy (the process of teaching).

I want to continue to support our students' learning by continuously questioning our practices and programs in order to ensure resources and funds are effectively used for their success.

I want to communicate clearly to our community our shared vision and be aware of the resources they bring to our school to ensure that Korematsu Elementary can offer enriching opportunities to all of our students.

As I continue to reflect throughout the summer, I hope you will join me in doing the same. Think about your hopes, fears, values and beliefs. Reflect on what resources you and your family bring to our school to make it positive. Share with us what we are doing well, where we may have challenges, and how we all can be part of positive solutions. Thank you and I hope the best for your family this summer.

- Mary Ponce

## Fall 2011-12 Mandatory Registration Process

Last fall, Korematsu participated in a "paper parade" in which families brought to school on a designated date mandatory paperwork for the start of the year. We have learned lessons from this and hope this coming year is smooth. Here is the process for this fall, aligned with all district elementary schools:

- Class lists will not be posted in order to ensure the school receives the mandatory paperwork for each child (including emergency cards, which ensure the safety of your child).
- Parents may receive, complete and turn in paperwork on Thursday, August 18, 5:00-8:00 pm (times by family last name: 5:00-6:00 A-G, 6:00-7:00 H-N, 7:00-8:00 O-Z).

Continued on Page 2

## Postponed KPTO Officer Election June 8

The postponed KPTO officer election will be held June 8, 7:00 pm in the library, followed by some end-of-year refreshments. Election results will be posted on the KPTO website: [www.korematsupto.org](http://www.korematsupto.org)

## Thank You from KPTO!

- RISE Recycling Coordinator: Thank you to Dawn Hardaker for volunteering to become the new recycling coordinator. Anyone interested in helping her with school recycling please email: [rise@korematsupto.org](mailto:rise@korematsupto.org)
- Asian Pacific Festival; School Garden: Thank you Mark Ishisaka-Nolfi for making this year's festival a success, and for your continued dedication to the school garden.
- Auction: Thank you volunteers, donors, and bidders who helped us earn over \$13,000! The proceeds will benefit next year's school and classroom activities for our students. The auction is also in need of a new committee chair for next year. For more information regarding this vital position please contact: [president@korematsupto.org](mailto:president@korematsupto.org)
- Applebee's Fundraiser: Thank you to all who attended the fundraiser at Applebee's restaurant. KPTO proceeds were \$89.
- Walker Creek fundraising: Thank you to Stephanie Armstrong, Emily Ault, Eileen Bergevin, Jodi Ensunsa, Dawn Hardaker, Marc Ishisaka-Nolfi, Tracey Jersey, Naomi Lee, Laney Mangney, Camille Melendres.

## Fall Registration

Continued from Page 1

- Forms will also be available at [www.korematsupto.org](http://www.korematsupto.org) beginning August 12. Optional paperwork is not needed for fall registration.
- After August 18, paperwork may be turned in to the school office anytime before school begins on Tuesday, August 23.
- Mandatory paperwork must be turned in to the office prior to beginning of school to receive your child's classroom teacher assignment and to begin school.

Mandatory paperwork includes:

1. Two emergency cards for each student.
2. Parent Signature Summary Form (acknowledging you have read Parent Rights & Responsibilities and Standards for Student Behaviors).
3. Release of Student Directory Form.
4. Permission/Decline to Display Student Work, Video Images, or Student Photos Form.
5. School Lunch Program for Free/Reduced Lunch.

---

## Myths About Combo Classrooms

Staff are aware that some parents have reservations about classrooms with combined grades. Enrollment and classroom capacity sometimes require schools to combine grade levels. Be assured that our staff are very conscientious about class configurations and truly strive to create healthy classrooms. Some clarifications:

*"My child is a language learner that is why she/he was placed in a combo."*

We may cluster language learners within a straight or combo class in order to be more efficient with our resources, but they are never purposely placed in combos.

*"All the low kids are placed into combos"*

This would be bad practice. Staff realize the importance of having heterogeneous classrooms in order to have a well-balanced healthy class.

*"My child will regress if placed with younger students"*

There is no evidence or research to support this. The older students become leaders in combos mentoring their younger classmates.

*"My child will not receive academics because the class's time will be split between two grades"*

Although combos may take a little bit more planning, the standards are explicit and the same as students move up each grade; the difference is depth and breadth. For example, Language Arts standards are nearly the same in each grade level but become more complex as children's understanding deepens.

*"There are too many levels in a combo, how does a teacher respond to individual needs?"*

All classes have a wide range of levels in the classroom. Teachers use differentiation, homogenous grouping, and block teaming to meet individual needs of students regardless of straight or combo class.