



Korematsu Kids School Newsletter

January 9, 2012
Volume 6, Issue 5

Calendar

Check school website for updates...

January

9 Mon 3:30 pm

- School Site Council/Climate meeting, Music Room.

11 Wed

- Power of One assembly.
- KPTO meeting, 7:00-8:30 pm in the library.

13 Fri

- Spirit Day: crazy hair day.

16 Mon

- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - NO SCHOOL.

17 Tue

- Assembly: Cary Trivanovich, motivational speaker on Peer Leadership.

18 Wed

- Science Night, in the MPR.
- ATS testing, 1:45 pm, library.

19 Thu 8:10 am

- Volunteer meeting, Music Rm.

20 Fri

- Spirit Day: school shirt/colors.

27 Fri

- Spirit Day

30 Mon

- Fred Korematsu Day of Civil Liberties and the Constitution; day and evening programs.

February

9 Thu

- Oral Language Fair competition.

Next Korematsu Kids: Feb 6

From the Principal

Happy New Year! The first week back was wonderful. We are excited to begin 2012 and want to continue this momentum and enjoy the rest of the winter trimester.

This month we focus on our namesake Fred T. Korematsu, as we prepare to celebrate his birthday on January 30th. We will prepare students by focusing on personal responsibility and our democratic community. The concept of social justice is not possible without an understanding of 'deep' democracy. Each holds within the notion of individual rights and the good of the community. Justice is usually related to the idea of individual rights but strengthened by the idea of 'social', while democracy is related to the protection of individual rights. But community reminds us that we are bound by the way we live in society. We must understand our personal responsibility to democratic community and how we partake in creating deep democracy.

To conceive deep democracy we must have high expectations for our behaviors and learning within the community. We will focus school-wide on staff and student expectations to ensure a high level of learning.

"There must be ample room in a democratic society for a healthy individualism and a healthy pluralism; but that individualism and that pluralism must also partake of a continuing quest for community. In fact, individuality itself is only liberate and fully realized as the individual interacts with an every widening variety of communities."

Cremin, 1975

January is a busy month, please check this newsletter and school website for upcoming events, and join us as we continue our quest towards a socially just and equitable school.

- Ms. Ponce

Progress with Student Computer Upgrades

Fundraising is progressing to maintain computers used by students (necessary due to cutbacks in technology funds). Computer lab PCs are over 11 years old and can no longer accept software upgrades. Classroom and library computers are 7 years old and are being upgraded.

THANK YOU! ...

- University of Phoenix (with help from parent Dawn Hardaker) for donating three year old computers.
- ACCESS/Davis Kids Klub for donating \$8,135 to fund 50 new monitors, software and computer memory.
- Korematsu families and KPTO for raising about half of the \$10,000 cost to upgrade classroom and library computers. This will allow memory to be upgraded. Continuing donations will be applied to software upgrades.

Volunteers Needed...

- Grade 1-3 Lunch Recess

Want to have some fun and help our kids feel engaged and supported? Be a part of it by volunteering for grades 1-3 lunch recess, once a week or every other week.

Parent volunteers will set up and/or support a game or activity from 11:45 am-12:15 pm. Anything you enjoy is possible: tag, kick ball, dance, jump rope, jacks, board games.

If interested or direct questions to Diana: email: dianahjmft@yahoo.com or phone 530-757-6510. Volunteers will meet with Ms. Ponce on Jan 19, 8:10 am, in the Music Room.

- Computer Care

Korematsu computer specialist Julie Cuetara needs assistance in the computer upgrade project. (See page 1). To help, please email: jcuetara@djusd.net

- Science Night Jan 18

Help present Explorit Science Night on January 18 with Explorit staff. This is a fun activity that requires no knowledge of science (though experts are always appreciated). Contact Gerrit Michael: vp1@korematsupto.org

- Korematsu Day evening program Jan 30

Help staff activity stations with teachers on the evening of January 30 during KPTO's community celebration for Fred Korematsu Day of Civil Liberties and the Constitution. Contact Wes Hardaker: president@korematsupto.org.

Measure C Parcel Tax Renewal; Mail-in Voting Feb 6-Mar 6

The school district has placed a parcel tax renewal on the ballot to be decided in a vote-by-mail election. Ballots will be mailed to district voters on February 6 and are due to the Yolo County Elections Office by March 6. Measure C would provide \$6.5 million, or more than 10 percent of the district's budget, for:

- Math, science, and reading and English programs for elementary and high school students.
- Classes and teachers for music, art, social studies and foreign languages.
- School counselors, nurses and others providing direct student support services.
- Athletics, sports teams, and physical fitness programs.
- Librarians and instructional aides.
- School-based technology support, classroom and library materials.

For more information: www.YesforOurStudents.org

Thank You

- Volunteers who participated in the December 11 car wash fundraiser generating \$203 for the E-wing teaching garden.

Around the school...

- Motivational speaker Cary Trivanovich will present an assembly to students on Jan 17 about Peer Leadership. Cary's program mixes pantomime with verbal humor. His life was changed by students of his school who demonstrated unselfish and giving character. Cary will relate how students can impact the lives of their peers simply by having such a positive influence on them.
- Thanks to a donation from the Davis Schools Foundation, the school hired two para educators to support conflict resolution, organizing games at lunch recess, and to work in classrooms to support students in bridging the "achievement gap."

Academic Talent Search Testing

The Academic Talent Search (ATS) qualifying exam will be offered on Jan 18 and Feb 15 in the library at 1:45 pm.

This is for students in grades 4-6 (although there is no obligation to apply). Students take the test to qualify for the ATS summer program at Sacramento State University. Taking the test gives students the opportunity to attend fast-paced unique fun courses this summer.

ATS sign-up forms and parent information was sent home the first week of January. Please return sign-up form and fees to the office. Fee waivers are available for those who qualify. For information about ATS: <http://edweb.csus.edu/projects/ats>

Remember to collect **Box Tops for Education** logos from consumer product packaging and deposit them in the container in the school office.