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## Cougar News

### 2011-12: THE YEAR OF THE COUGAR

#### CONFERENCES COMING

The three-week crunch between Thanksgiving and Winter Break brings us something new to chew on this year - Parent/Teacher Conferences! Usually we hold conferences in October and send home report cards before Winter Break, but this year our district made a shift in the calendar. Our conferences are being held even before our first trimester ends. So, what does that mean for you?

- **Dismissal is at 1:00** from Tuesday, Nov. 29th through Tuesday, Dec. 6th.
- This holiday season is busy and stressful enough as it is. **Still, we need you here for conferences!** We are shooting for 100% parent attendance!
- **You will receive your child's report card** either during your parent/teacher conference OR in your child's backpack on Friday, Dec. 16th. Because teachers are meeting with you before our trimester is officially over, they may need more time to get report cards ready.

Happy Holidays!

© Dr. Mitchell, Principal

#### NO SCHOOL

**Fri., Dec. 9**

Non-Student Day

**Mon., Dec. 19**

- **Mon., Jan. 2, 2012**

Winter Break

#### SCHOOL RESUMES

**TUES. JAN. 3, 2012**



**DECEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup>**

Bring your family and join us for our choral Winter Concert at **6:00 PM.**

Our singers have been practicing and are ready to put on a great performance!

Children must come with an adult!

#### BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

**Sat., Dec. 3, 2011**  
 9:00-11:00 AM

A Clinton School Tradition! Come enjoy a pancake breakfast and enter to win a variety of wonderful raffle prizes! Breakfast for kids is \$3, and \$4 for adults. You can even get your picture taken with Santa for just \$2.



#### Don't Forget!

Parent-Teacher Conferences are scheduled for **Nov. 29th — Dec. 6th.**

These are minimum days with **dismissal at 1:00!**

### 1ST TRIMESTER PRINCIPAL AWARDS DECEMBER 15, 2011

It's that time of year already - time to acknowledge our students who are making the learning goals they've set for the year! On December 15th, our school will honor students who have made their goals in English Language Arts and/or Math. Students will be recognized by their teachers for outstanding citizenship, and we will acknowledge our students who have had perfect attendance in the 1st Trimester. Congratulations, Cougars!

December 2011

Welcome to Clinton,  
 where every Cougar  
**PRRRS** with Pride!

#### Important Dates:

- ☉ **Nov. 29-Dec. 6:** Parent-Teacher Conferences **DISMISSAL 1:00**
- ☉ **Dec. 1:** Raffle for Pizza Lunch (lunch on 12/2)
- ☉ **Dec. 2: COUGAR SPIRIT DAY**
- ☉ **Dec. 3 (Saturday):** Santa's Breakfast
- ☉ **Dec. 6:** Turn in Cougar Cards for 100s Clubs
- ☉ **Dec. 8:** Cougar Cards 100s Clubs announced at Flag Assembly
- ☉ **Dec. 8:** 100 Cougar Cards Extended Recess
- ☉ **Dec. 8:** Winter Choral Concert
- ☉ **Dec. 8: COUGAR SPIRIT DAY**
- ☉ **Dec. 9:** Non-Student Day **NO SCHOOL**
- ☉ **Dec. 13:** RIF
- ☉ **Dec. 13:** 200 Cougar Cards Extended Electronics Recess
- ☉ **Dec. 15:** 1st Trimester Awards Assemblies
- ☉ **Dec. 16:** BE RESOURCEFUL Awards at Flag Assembly
- ☉ **Dec. 16:** 300 Cougar Cards Lunch with the Principal
- ☉ **Dec. 16: COUGAR SPIRIT DAY**
- ☉ **Dec. 19-30:** Winter Break **NO SCHOOL**
- ☉ **Jan. 2:** Local Holiday **NO SCHOOL**
- ☉ **Jan. 3 (Tuesday):** School resumes
- ☉ **Jan. 6:** Raffle for Ice Cream
- ☉ **Jan. 6:** ASSEMBLY- GRIP (5th Grade)
- ☉ **Jan. 6: COUGAR SPIRIT DAY**
- ☉ **Jan. 11:** Turn in Cougar Cards for 100s Clubs
- ☉ **Jan. 12:** 5:30-7:30 PM - Parent Night!
- ☉ **Jan. 13:** Cougar Cards 100s Clubs announced at Flag Assembly
- ☉ **Jan. 13:** 100 Cougar Cards Extended Recess
- ☉ **Jan. 13: COUGAR SPIRIT DAY**
- ☉ **Jan. 16:** Dr. MLK Jr.'s Birthday - **NO SCHOOL**
- ☉ **Jan. 18:** 200 Cougar Cards Extended Electronic Recess



## A MESSAGE FROM STUDENT COUNCIL



A big THANK-YOU to all of our families who contributed to our canned food drive! The **Elk's Club** was overjoyed with your contributions! Thanks for "filling a bucket" for our community and helping hungry families celebrate the season.



Just when you thought the fun with smelly pencils was over..... We introduce the **SMEN!** Yes, that's right - holiday season smelly pens will be on sale each Tuesday and Thursday morning from 7:40-7:55 until Winter Break. For just \$2, kids can choose their smen and carry it away with them to class.



# TASTE TEST

Thirty two lucky upper-grade students had an opportunity to taste-test new lunch items from GGUSD Food Services. They evaluated three different foods based on their appearance, flavor, aroma, and texture. Sampled foods were a fish slider sandwich (yum!), sweet potato bites, and sweet potato waffle fries. The kids gave the fish two thumbs up! They'd be willing to try the sweet potato waffle fries again, but we all gave a thumbs-down to the sweet potato bites. Look for the fish slider sandwich on the February 2012 lunch menu -- it's really yummy!



We hope Food Services asks us to taste-test again. This was fun!

# MORE DATES

- ☺ Jan. 19. Raffle for Pizza Party (lunch on 1/20)
- ☺ Jan. 20: 300 Cougar Cards Lunch with the Principal
- ☺ Jan. 20: 400 Cougar Cards Movie & Popcorn
- ☺ Jan. 20: **COUGAR SPIRIT DAY**
- ☺ Jan. 23-24, 6:00-8:00 PM: K-8 Family Connection, Family Literacy Program @ Doig (Week 6)
- ☺ Jan. 24, 8:15-9:45 AM: Pastries with the Principals
- ☺ Jan. 26, 6:00 PM: Instrumental Music Concert
- ☺ Jan. 27, 8:00 AM: BE SAFE Awards at Flag Assembly
- ☺ Jan. 27: **COUGAR SPIRIT DAY**
- ☺ Jan. 30-31, 6:00-8:00 PM: K-8 Family Connection, Family Literacy Program @ Doig (Week 7)
- ☺ Feb. 2: ICE CREAM RAFFLE
- ☺ Feb. 2: **COUGAR SPIRIT DAY**
- ☺ Feb. 3: NON-STUDENT DAY - NO SCHOOL
- ☺ Feb. 6-7, 6:00-8:00 PM: K-8 Family Connection, Family Literacy Program @ Doig (Week 7)
- ☺ Feb. 7: ASSEMBLY "To Tell the Tooth" (Gr. 2)
- ☺ Feb. 8: Turn in Cougar Cards for 100s Clubs
- ☺ Feb. 10: Cougar Cards 100s Clubs announced at Flag Assembly
- ☺ Feb. 10: 100 Cougar Cards Extended Recess
- ☺ Feb. 10: **COUGAR SPIRIT DAY**
- ☺ Feb. 13: Lincoln's Birthday - NO SCHOOL
- ☺ Feb. 15: 200 Cougar Card Extended Electronics Recess
- ☺ Feb. 16: Raffle for Pizza Lunch (lunch on 2/17)
- ☺ Feb. 16, 5:30-7:30: Parent Night
- ☺ Feb. 17: ASSEMBLY- GRIP (5th Grade)

# NEW GRADING SCALE FOR BENCHMARK TESTS

Our district has recently changed the grading scale for Language Arts and Math Benchmark tests so that they better predict a student's performance on the spring California Standards Test (CST). For all students in grades 2-6, it will be a little more challenging to score Basic and Proficient in Math. The scale for Language Arts benchmarks will also be steeper in grades 2 and 3. But, in Grades 4-6, the cut points have been lowered, making it easier for students to score in the higher bands. Changes take effect with our Trimester 1 Benchmarks. If you have questions about this, please ask your child's teacher or our principal.

Grades 2-3				Grades 4-6			
	Current	New ELA	New Math		Current	New ELA	New Math
Far Below Basic	0-50%	0-50%	0-50%	Far Below Basic	0-50%	0-46%	0-50%
Below Basic	50.01-61%	50.01-66%	50.01-66%	Below Basic	50.01-61%	46.01-57%	50.01-66%
Basic	61.01-74%	66.01-79%	66.01-79%	Basic	61.01-74%	57.01-70%	66.01-79%
Proficient	74.01-89%	79.01-89%	79.01-89%	Proficient	74.01-89%	70.01-80%	79.01-89%
Advanced	89.01-100%	89.01-100%	89.01-100%	Advanced	89.01-100%	80.01-100%	89.01-100%

**FRIDAYS ARE SPIRIT DAYS!**  
**WEAR YOUR COUGAR OR KIDS CLUB GEAR!**  
**BE PROUD!**



# FILL A BUCKET...

Here's a bucket-filling opportunity we can all get in on. **Operation Mail Call!** Find your leftover holiday cards from last year, address a holiday card "To a Soldier," sign it with your family (no identifying information, please), and bring it to our office **by Dec. 7th**. You could even write in a few words of appreciation and encouragement for the soldier who opens your card. Veterans-For-Change will collect the cards and ship them out to our troops in various units in Iraq and Afghanistan. This simple gesture makes a huge difference to our men and women in uniform.

**SUPPORT OUR TROOPS!**

# EMERGENCY KITS JANUARY 2012

In an effort to be more organized and planned in case of a real disaster or emergency during school hours, our school is beefing up our Emergency Plans. One much-needed improvement is making sure each of our kids has food and water to sustain them until parents can pick them up. **Every student will be required to have an emergency kit at school.** In January, Student Council will be offering Emergency Kits to students for \$5 each. Kits will be organized by classroom and stored centrally in our school. Hopefully we won't need them, and your child can bring it home to snack on at the end of the school year. More info will come home in January.

# A CLINTON COUGAR PRRRS WITH PRIDE!

**Be Responsible**  
Behave properly without needing to be supervised.

In November, we were looking for Cougars displaying responsibility. Congratulations to each of these students who were specially selected by their teachers:

**Kindergarteners**

- Zoey Prough
- Monica Lam
- Sophia Duran
- Edgar Rangel
- Tommy Nguyen
- Randy Magana

**1st Graders**

- Anthony Santana
- Tiffany Ngo
- Stanley Nguyen
- Alondra Gonzalez
- Angel Estrada
- Ruth Avila

**2nd Graders**

- Brisa Camacho
- Alejandro Reyes
- Juan Saucedo
- Salvador Martinez
- Elise Tran
- Melissa Ramirez
- Eriannah Benjamin
- Nestor Vega
- Jimmy Nguyen
- Nayeli Dominguez
- Alondra Arguera
- Denny Quach

**3rd Graders**

- Akane Garcia
- Hector Garcia
- Tina Huynh
- Miguel Leyva
- Nancy La
- Christopher Truong

**4th Graders**

- Maritza Garcia
- Tommy Pham
- Angela Garcia
- Ivan Flores
- Melannie Valdez
- David Cuen

**5th Graders**

- Cristain Gonzalez
- Natalie Quijano
- Tiffany Phan
- Christopher Santana
- Tristie Le
- Angelina Le

**6th Graders**

- Caitlyn Beltran
- Miguel Sanchez
- Sandra Zavala
- Antonio Lucas

**Be Resourceful**  
Deal quickly and effectively with problems.

**Be Proud**  
**Be Respectful**  
**Be Responsible**  
**Be Resourceful**  
**Be Safe**