



13641 Clinton St., Garden Grove, CA 92843
714-663-6146 • (FAX) 714-663-6481 • www.ggusd.us.clinton

Laura Schwalm, Ph.D., Superintendent

Carrie L. Mitchell, Ed.D., Principal

October 2011

Cougar News

2011-12: THE YEAR OF THE COUGAR

In my time as the principal at Clinton-Mendenhall, this has been the most memorable start to a school year! There has already been so much to celebrate — let me count the ways:

1. Our school's API (Academic Performance Index) score went up 37 points to **788!**
2. Again, we made **all** of our AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress) goals on the CST (California Standards Test), in English Language Arts and Math!
3. **338 of last year's 2nd - through 6th Graders met our District Goal** by advancing a level toward proficiency, or maintaining "Proficient" or "Advanced" in English Language Arts or Math - or both - on the CST.
4. **Over 150 parents** have attended each of our family events so far this year. Parents have set academic goals for their children, and have learned about how to keep their kids safe in our community.
5. **Over 90 students** volunteered to serve on our Student Council this year, and are already asking how they can

help around our school!

6. Our **Parent Greeter Program** has begun with over 30 volunteers to welcome students to school each morning!
7. A local Eagle Scout brought a group of his friends to **hang backpack racks** outside of many of our classrooms! We're looking forward already to the next Eagle Scout Project!
8. Our new **T-Shirt & Hoody sale** is going strong, launching our new logo and affirming our school's behavioral expectations!
9. We welcome **Mrs. Prado** (6th Grade) and **Mrs. Maloney** (2nd Grade) to our team of teachers!
10. We get to know **190 new K-6 students** at school!
11. Our **Boys & Girls Club ASES program** has moved onto our campus, and is growing stronger every day!

I could go on and on... But here's all you need to know:

THIS IS THE YEAR OF THE COUGAR!

This is the year that we ...

- ...exceed the state-wide

API goal of 800.

- ...set a school record for the most students achieving District Goal 1 by reaching learning goals in English Language Arts and Math.
- ...cultivate a strong base of parent leadership.
- ...set an all-time record for the fewest suspensions from school.
- ...make sure all of our students attend school daily and on time (even if it's raining).

This is the year that all of our efforts come together for our kids — School, Teacher, Parent, and Student.

This is the year our school and students excel beyond our wildest dreams.

This is the year to get involved, and to be a part of our success story.

To find out how you can be part of our winning team, READ ON! This issue of the Principal's Newsletter is full of ways YOU can make a difference!

Check out our school's website for much more information about our school!

- Dr. Mitchell, Principal

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

Important Dates:

- ☺ **Oct. 12:** Deadline for students to turn in Cougar Cards for 100s Clubs
- ☺ **Oct. 13, 5:00-7:30:** Back to School Night
- ☺ **Oct. 14:** Cougar Cards 100s Clubs announced at Flag Assembly
- ☺ **Oct. 14:** Last day for T-Shirt & Hoody pre-sale
- ☺ **Oct. 14:** 100 Cougar Cards Extended Recess
- ☺ **Oct. 17-18, 6:00-8:00 PM:** K-8 Family Connection, Family Literacy Program @ Doig (Week 3)
- ☺ **Oct. 17:** Anti-Bullying Curriculum starts in 2nd Grade
- ☺ **Oct. 17:** School Library Opens
- ☺ **Oct. 19, 4:00-6:30 PM:** Community Resource Open House @ Clinton Corner Family Campus
- ☺ **Oct. 20:** Raffle for Pizza Lunch (lunch on 10/21)
- ☺ **Oct. 24-25, 6:00-8:00 PM:** K-8 Family Connection, Family Literacy Program @ Doig (Week 4)
- ☺ **Oct. 24-28**—Red Ribbon Week WEAR RED ON WED. 10/26!
- ☺ **Oct. 26:** FIELD TRIP—4th - 6th Grades @ Orangewood Academy for DEA Helicopter Landing & Red Ribbon Week Curriculum
- ☺ **Oct. 27:** Fall Picture Day
- ☺ **Oct. 28:** BE RESPECTFUL Awards at Flag Assembly
- ☺ **Oct. 31, 1:00 PM:** ASSEMBLY "The NED Show" to celebrate our school-wide academic achievement and to reinforce our PRRRS program.
- ☺ **Nov. 1 5:00 & 6:30 PM:** Principal's Honor Awards
- ☺ More dates - see page 4

HOORAY FOR PARENT GREETERS!

One of the results of our September 22nd "Parents as Partners" evening meeting was the creation of our **Parent Greeter Program**. Over 30 wonderful parent volunteers, who understand how important it is for our kids to be welcomed to

school with a kind smile, are giving their time and energy to do just that! You may have noticed them hanging around the front of our school in the mornings, just saying "Good Morning!"

In the next few weeks,

you'll see them more visible than ever—they'll be wearing vests that identify them as a Parent Greeter. These parents are safe resources for your kids as they walk to and from school.

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PARENT GREETERS (continued from Page 1)

So, say "Good Morning" back to our greeters, and thank them for helping to make our kids safe at school.

If you'd like more information about becoming a Parent Greeter at Clinton, call or email Sergio Alvarado, the Parent Greeter President:

Sergio Alvarado

sergiogreeter@gmail.com

(714) 489-5482

Thanks to the following

Parent Greeters:

- Sergio Alvarado
- Maria Isabel Arroyo
- Maria Arvizu
- Jaime Barragan
- Irene Bautista
- Juana Bonilla
- Ana Camacho
- Nancy Gomez
- Filberto Gonzalez
- Martha Gutierrez
- Margarita Hernandez
- Gabriela Higareda
- Rosa Hurtado
- Angelica Lopez

- Leticia Luna
- Leticia Maldonado
- Mariela Martinez
- Teodora Ortiz
- Laura Ovando
- Manuela Portugal
- Taide Ramirez
- Eunice Reynaud
- Estela Rodriguez
- Maria E. Ruiz
- Brenda Salas
- Zenaida Sanchez
- Edith Santana
- Estela Serrano
- Brenda Sindt Roque
- Yessenia Vasquez
- Hector Zamora

Remember!

NEW THIS YEAR:
Parent-Teacher Conferences are scheduled for

Nov. 29th — Dec. 6th.

(not in October)

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

HAVE YOU FILLED A BUCKET TODAY?

To kick off the school year with an eye on building positive relationships, our principal, Dr. Mitchell, has been reading

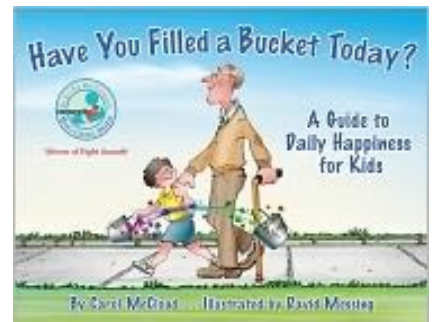
"All day long, we are either filling up or dipping into each other's buckets by what we say and what we do." (pg. 18)

to all of our classrooms. She's been sharing the idea of "bucket filling" by reading a picture book called, Have you Filled a Bucket Today?

According to the idea presented in

the book, everyone walks around with an invisible bucket that holds their positive feelings about themselves. People feel good and happy when their bucket is full, and sad or upset when their bucket is empty. Everything we do or say either fills or empties someone's bucket. While it's true we can empty someone's bucket by saying or doing things that make others feel bad, we also fill others' buckets by making them feel special. When we fill someone else's bucket, we also fill our own. By becoming expert bucket fillers, we make our

homes, our school, and our neighborhood better places to be. So, have you filled a bucket today?



Ask your child about this book!

A CLINTON COUGAR PRRRS WITH PRIDE!

Be Proud

Feel satisfaction and esteem for yourself or someone else for doing something good.

Every month, we are highlighting one of our school-wide behavioral expectations. In September, we were looking for Cougars displaying pride, and we were pleased to honor the following students. Each of these students was selected by their teachers.

Kindergarteners

- Camila Castellanos
- Yaretzi Vazquez
- Alex Ceballos
- Anayely Franco
- Katelyn Nguyen
- Alex Lopez

1st Graders

- Tiffany Ngo
- Leonardo Ramirez
- Lesly Apolinar
- Noe Diaz
- Luis Flores
- Yuritzi Aguilera
- Kevin Wong
- Keisi Gomez

2nd Graders

- Shirley Ruiz
- Gigi Gonzalez
- Melissa Barajas
- Brandon Gutierrez
- Maya Salcedo
- Anna Huynh
- Yahaira Ruiz
- Luis Salazar
- Alexa Fregoso
- Vincent Tran

3rd Graders

- William Hin
- Madison Reynaud
- Anysa Duran
- Emmanuel Calderon
- Frank Mendoza
- Liliana Jimenez

4th Graders

- Alberto Ponce
- Jeannine Morales
- Mary Pham
- Jonathon Diaz
- Angeles Delarosa
- Paul Gray

5th Graders

- Andrew Garcia
- Karla Garcia
- Andy Arroyo
- Ana Nava
- Johnny Vega
- Perla Aguilera

6th Graders

- Betsy Lobos
- David Alarcon
- Jason Flores
- Ingrid Maldonado

Be Respectful

Show acceptance, respect, and regard for peers, and deference to authority.

New to our PRRRS Program this year is the opportunity for students to win ice cream or pizza in a raffle we hold once a month. Each time a student earns 25 Cougar Cards, they can choose a prize from the prize bucket or an entry into the Pizza Party Raffle or an entry into the Ice Cream Raffle. Students who win the raffle can invite two friends to share in their prize with them!

Students earn great prizes with their Cougar Cards!
100 Cougar Cards = Extended Recess (10 extra minutes)
200 Cougar Cards = Electronics Recess with 2 Friends
300 Cougar Cards = Lunch with the Principal & 2 Friends
400 Cougar Cards = Movie & Popcorn
500 Cougar Cards = Cougar Lanyard (to keep!) and get the Principal's Chair for a day!

In October, are looking for Cougars showing respect. Awards will be announced on Friday, October 28th at our regular 8:00 AM Flag Assembly.

Be Proud

Be Respectful

Be Responsible

Be Resourceful

Be Safe



HELP WANTED

If you've been waiting for an invitation to get involved at Clinton-Mendenhall, here's your chance! Shop around these want-ads and see if something strikes your fancy. There are many ways to contribute to our school, and we'd love to have YOU help out!

Volunteers Needed in Kindergarten Classes

(Regular & on-going classroom help needed)

If you have a few spare hours a week and love working with young children or prepping teacher materials, our Kindergarten teachers would love your help! Due to state-wide budget shortages, we no longer have full-time aides in our Kindergarten classes — even though we have 33+ students in each of our 3 classes.

Your child doesn't need to be a Kindergartener. All you need is a current negative TB-test, fill out our Volunteer Form, and let us see your state-issued ID in our school office.

Call the school office (714-663-6146) and let us know you want to help out in Kindergarten, and we'll put you in touch with our teachers. You'll be busy in no time at all!

Reading is Fundamental (R.I.F.)

If your child has attended Clinton for a while, you know that our students have an opportunity to select free books to take home several times a year. This is part of a federal literacy campaign called "Reading is Fundamental" (RIF), whose purpose is simply to get high-quality literature into kids' hands and homes.

Our first RIF Book Give-Away is scheduled for Tues., December 13th.

Here's the help we need:

Mon. Dec. 12 - Sorting & organizing books by grade-level

Tues. Dec. 13 (7:30-8:00 AM) - Setting up for the book give-away

Tues. Dec. 13 (8:00-2:00) - Assisting teachers to supervise students while they visit the book give-away.

The NED Show Yo-Yo Sales

As part of our school-wide celebration for reaching our academic goals, to build excitement toward reaching new goals, and to reinforce our P.R.R.R.S. expectations, we are bringing **The NED Show** to Clinton! We are paying for this \$1500 assembly not with PTO cash, but with a "Pay it Forward" program. For five days after the assembly, we will be selling NED yo-yos before & after school - that's where when we need you! We need volunteers to sell yo-yos:

Nov. 1 - 7, 2011

7:40-8:00 AM

2:15-2:40 PM (M,T,Th,F)

1:25-1:50 (W)

One day or all of the days, it doesn't matter - we just want you to be here to help out!

SCHOOL SITE COUNCIL (S.S.C.)

School Site Council is a group of elected parents, teachers, staff that acts in an advisory capacity to the principal. We meet three or four times per year to discuss school programs, student progress, funding, and other issues. We have vacancies for **three** parents this year! This is an excellent opportunity to represent the voice of parents and families in school decisions, and a wonderful way to become involved in the way the school runs.

Please don't let language stand in the way - we will have Spanish translation available! If you are interested in participating in the School Site Council, please complete the interest form on the back of this newsletter and return it to school with your child **by Friday, October 21st**. Feel free to call the school office if you would like more information.

ENGLISH LEARNER ADVISORY COMMITTEE (E.L.A.C.)

The **English Learner Advisory Committee** is a group of teachers, staff, and parents of students who are learning English. The role of this group is to make recommendations to the School Site Council, with the interests of English Learners in mind. We usually meet in conjunction with the School Site Council. We have room for **three** parents on this year's council—and this is another great way to get involved in school.

SNACKS

Did you know that over 20% of school-age children in Orange County are obese? Obese kids are more likely to have high blood pressure and high cholesterol (risk factors for heart disease), type-2 diabetes, asthma and sleep apnea. They are also more likely to suffer from poor self-esteem. Overweight children are also more likely to become severely obese adults with very serious health problems.

If you look around our playground at recess time, it's not uncommon to find groups of kids sitting at the lunchtables eating a family-size bag of high-calorie chips for the entire 20 minutes. These kids are missing out on play, exercise, and building healthy relationships—and they're eating hundreds of extra calories in one sitting! This is the formula for weight gain: **Eating too many calories and not getting enough physical activity.**

We need your help:

- If you allow your child to eat chips as a snack at school, send them with a single serving only. **No family-sized bags of chips!**
- Consider sending healthier snack options like cheese crackers, fruit, granola bars, or yogurt tubes.
- **No candy at school!** Especially as we are getting near Halloween, please don't allow candy to be brought to school. You know how hyper your kids can get with sugar—now imagine a classroom full!

STUDENT COUNCIL

Our Student Council is back and better than ever this year! With over 90 students involved in showing pride and leadership, we are off to a rocking start!

Student Council's first fundraiser is Spooky Smencils—on sale for just \$1 each on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 7:40-7:55 **only through the end of October (or until the Smencils run out!)**. Smencils are delivered to classrooms after recess.



REMEMBER October 31st is a regular school-day. **Students are not allowed to wear Halloween costumes to school.**

Please do not allow your child to bring Halloween candy to school - and please don't allow them to eat candy before they come to school! It's frightfully difficult for kids to concentrate on learning when they're hyped up on sugar!



Welcome to Clinton,
where every Cougar
PRRRS with Pride!

MORE DATES

- Ⓢ Oct. 31 & Nov. 1: K-8 Family Connection, Family Literacy Program @ Doig NO CLASSES THIS WEEK
- Ⓢ Nov. 1 5:00 & 6:30 PM: Principal's Honor Awards
- Ⓢ Nov. 3 5:30 PM: Family Math Night
- Ⓢ Nov. 4: Raffle for Ice Cream
- Ⓢ Nov. 4: ASSEMBLY-GRIP (5th Grade)
- Ⓢ Nov. 7: Language Arts Benchmark Window (Gr. 2-6), thru 11/18
- Ⓢ Nov. 7-8, 6:00-8:00 PM: K-8 Family Connection, Family Literacy Program @ Doig (Week 5)
- Ⓢ Nov. 8: Turn in Cougar Cards for 100s Clubs
- Ⓢ Nov. 8: FIELD TRIP Shipley Nature Center (Gr. 3)
- Ⓢ Nov. 8, 8:15-9:45: Pastries with Principals
- Ⓢ Nov. 8: ASSEMBLY Bowers Museum (6th Grade)
- Ⓢ Nov. 10: Cougar Cards 100s Clubs announced at Flag Assembly
- Ⓢ Nov. 10: 100 Cougar Cards Extended Recess
- Ⓢ Nov. 10: ASSEMBLY Orange County Opera "Tales of Hoffman" (Gr. 1-6)
- Ⓢ Nov. 11: Veteran's Day - NO SCHOOL
- Ⓢ Nov. 15: 200 Cougar Cards Extended Electronics Recess @ Kids Club
- Ⓢ Nov. 18: BE RESPONSIBLE Awards at Flag Assembly
- Ⓢ Nov. 21-23: Furlough Days NO SCHOOL
- Ⓢ Nov. 24-25: Thanksgiving Holiday
- Ⓢ Nov. 29: 1st Trimester Math Final (Gr. 2-6)
- Ⓢ Nov. 30: Make-Up Picture Day
- Ⓢ Nov. 29-Dec. 6: Parent-Teacher Conferences DISMISSAL 1:00
- Ⓢ Dec. 1: Raffle for Pizza Lunch (lunch on 12/2)
- Ⓢ 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. 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. 19-30: Winter Break NO SCHOOL
- Ⓢ Jan. 2: Local Holiday NO SCHOOL
- Ⓢ Jan. 3 (Tuesday): School resumes
- Ⓢ Jan. 6: Raffle for Ice Cream



If you've missed our parent meetings, it's not too late!

We know parents and families are busy. Sometimes parents just can't make it to our school events. That's why we are collecting all of the hand-outs and presentations on our school's website. So, if you haven't been able to attend our parent meetings, you can still see what we've been up to! Check out the Parent Page on our Clinton Cougar website:

www.ggusd.us/clinton

You can gather all kinds of great information from our website, and we want you to check out the Parent's Page for sure:

www.ggusd.us/clinton/parentspage.htm

BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT

Thursday, Oct. 13, 2011

5:00-6:00 – Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, & 3rd Grade Classroom Presentations

(Presentations at 5:00 & 5:30)

6:00-6:30 – Parent Meeting with the Principal in the MPR

6:30-7:30 – 4th, 5th, & 6th Grade Classroom Presentations
(Presentations at 6:30 & 7:00)

Back to School night is planned for one evening and includes a meeting with the principal. We hope this schedule allows flexibility for busy parents with children in more than one grade-level.

Dr. Mitchell will present to parents in the MPR from 6:00-6:30. Her agenda includes:

- Introducing our teachers
- Testing results from 2010-11 & Goals for 2011-12
- Our school-wide behavior plan

This evening is meant for **parents only**. **Childcare will NOT be provided** for Back to School Night.

Please leave children at home. If your child must come with you, please be sure they stay with you at all times.

The playground will be closed.

PRINCIPALS HONORS

As we move toward the day when 100% of our students are proficient readers and mathematicians, we want to celebrate each of our students' gains. And so, we set a goal for each of our students – that they advance at least one level toward proficiency on the California Standards Test (CST) in English Language Arts and in Math each year. Once a child reaches Proficient in English Language Arts and Math, the goal is to maintain proficiency each year.

On November 1st, Dr. Mitchell will honor almost 270 Clinton School students in Grades 3-6 for reaching this goal when they took the CST last spring. Look for your child's special invitation coming soon!

Tuesday, Nov. 1, 2011

5:00 - Grades 3 & 4

6:30 - Grades 5 & 6

By Invitation Only

YES!

Count me in! I am interested in becoming involved with either our (choose one)

(see page 3 for more information)

_____ School Site Council or _____ English Language Advisory Committee

Parent's Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Child's Name: _____ Grade/Teacher: _____

Child's Name: _____ Grade/Teacher: _____

Child's Name: _____ Grade/Teacher: _____

The school will contact you with information about what happens next. Thank you for your interest in how our school works! Return this slip by Friday, Oct. 21, 2011