

CONCORD SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

November/December 2009
Volume 9, Issue 9



Contents

Principal's News	1
PE News	2
Nutrition News	2
Recess Information	2
Counselors Corner	3
ABC Recognition	4
Concord Highlights	5

Upcoming Events

- ◆ 12/18 Holiday Parties
Winter Break Begins
- ◆ 1/4 Classes Resume
- ◆ 1/15 Early Dismissal at
11:15
- ◆ 1/18 NO SCHOOL
- ◆ 1/22 Report Cards
Issued
- ◆ 1/26 2nd Grade Music
Program

PARENT NEWSLETTER

Dr. Laura Anderson, Principal

Principal's News

December Newsletter

Wow! I cannot believe it is time for winter break already. We will reach our half way point in the school year when we get back from break. It seems like we just started this school year. The students have been so busy reading, writing, completing math problems, and learning about science concepts and the social issues of our time. Classrooms are filled with exciting, engaging activities that stretch the minds of our students. Teachers, support staff, parents and other volunteers are working with our students to bring out the best in them, both academically and socially. I am so proud to be a member of such a wonderful educational team.

I want to thank you for your continued support and advocacy for our students, staff and school. Without your valuable partnership, Concord would not be the wonderful place it is. With that said, I need to ask for your assistance and support again. Please help us to get your children to school on time each day. We have had many instances of student tardies over the past few weeks. For your convenience, we open the doors to students and start the car rider line at 8:00 AM each day. Students are expected to be in their classrooms ready to learn at 8:15 AM.

While in the car rider line, it would help us to unload safely, yet move a little faster, if everyone would pull as far up as possible and stay in line until all cars are emptied. This way, we can unload 15-20 cars at a time in a safe manner. When cars pull out of line, it could possibly create a dangerous situation or accident. We want to avoid that. Your cooperation and support is key to this working well.

On behalf of the Concord staff, I would also like to wish you and your families a wonderful holiday season. We hope you enjoy the time away from school and find time to spend with family and friends.

Happy Holidays,

Laura Anderson

NEWS FROM P.E. TEACHERS!

Dear parents,

It has been a busy month in the P.E. department to say the least. We would like to thank you for all of your fantastic support with our "Y-Ties" fundraiser. With your help, we were able to raise enough money to purchase lots of new equipment for the students to use at recess. Before Thanksgiving we took a few days to assess the students' overall fitness using several standardized fitness tests. The tests that we chose reflect the assessments included in the President's Fitness Challenge, a program we are looking to institute next school year that rewards students with high levels of fitness. Another exciting addition to the P.E. curriculum this year has been yoga. Recently we have been introducing the students to a variety of beginning yoga positions with the goal of increasing flexibility, strength, and balance. A byproduct of this program has been a very relaxed environment in the gym, providing a nice change of pace for the students. Finally, we will be implementing a fundraiser for the American Heart Association, beginning in January. There will be a culminating event called "Jump Rope for Heart," on February 2 in which all the students will participate in various jump rope activities. We would again like to extend our sincerest thanks for all of your support and our warmest wishes for a happy and safe holiday season. Thanks!
Sincerely,

Craig Damrow and Greg Kirchen

RECESS TIME!



Winter is coming! Please remind your children to dress appropriately for the weather. All students will have outdoor recess unless the temperature is below 15 degrees or if it is sleeting, windy, snowing, raining, etc. or the wind-chill factor is below zero.

LOST & FOUND!! PLEASE be sure to check out our Lost & Found section - you would be amazed as to what is in our collection already! Christmas Break, Spring Break and the end of the school year we donate the lost items to a charity.

RAINBOW FIVE!

We hope you have been eating your "Rainbow Five" of fruits and vegetables. Mrs. Joanna Schiferl, dietician, visited and got the children all excited about healthy eating.



COUNSELORS CORNER

Concord School's Counselor's Corner November-December 2009 Family Volunteering

October's rain has ceased and today the November sun is out and bright. What a difference it makes. People feel more energetic and wear smiles more often. November is the month we count our blessings of family, friends and health. During some Novembers it is easier than in others. Hopefully, in spite of all that is happening in the world presently, this November and December you can be thankful for many things, big and small.

Here at Concord we are thankful for all the supportive parents, the dedicated staff, the fine leaders, and definitely all the delightful, energetic students. We are so proud of the way the children have shared their wealth of pennies, can goods, and especially of their caring spirits. They seem to thrive on giving and caring for others. They say one feels better if one does something for someone else. It appears to work at Concord. While observing the children's enthusiasm, I thought perhaps you would like to carry on the momentum of giving and caring at home during the coming holidays. I am quite certain that many of you do. That's wonderful. It does make a difference in the world and in your child.

With so much emphasis on volunteerism this year, have you ever thought of volunteering as a family? Perhaps you are busy and wonder where you would fit in another activity. Are you worried about the time commitment? Volunteering with the family can earn you quality time together. You will get to know your child in a new way. Don't have too much time; the sites I visited give ideas for making a difference in just 15 minutes or for just a few hours. The site suggests you can pick a month that is best for you and share different monthly themes for giving of your time. In November they suggest sending cards and letters to current troops to show your appreciation. In December they mention caroling for the neighbors and making decorations and cookies for people in a shelter to enjoy. The websites also enable one to investigate and pick a particular cause like animal welfare, children's issues, literacy, seniors, health and safety. The opportunities are endless. One of my favorite was about planning a volunteer project for a child's birthday party. The author Jamie Littlefield believes that children taught to volunteer at a young age will be more likely to help others when they get older. Not only will the child's birthday party make a difference to the recipient of the volunteerism, but the child and his or her friends will learn that doing good can be fun. From my experience volunteering has a lasting experience with young people. Several years ago, my daughter, granddaughter and I volunteered in Costa Rica for several weeks helping a women's group, Casem, update their facilities. We hammered, nailed, painted, tiled, gardened, built handicap ramps (we had to gather the gravel and sand from the roads, no hardware store nearby) to name a few of the activities we participated in. Even to this day my granddaughter in college recalls this experience with fondness. On another occasion my grandson and I worked at a soup kitchen. We helped serve turkey to several hundred visitors. He remembers washing and rinsing all the dishes, pots, and pans by hand. These volunteering experiences do make lasting impressions.

If you are interested in a family volunteer experience; Google: Volunteering with your family. It is interesting to read about all that is available. To make it easier, one can even request ideas for a specific area where they live. I will be interested in hearing from you about your family's experience. As Katharine Graham, publisher of the Washington Post said, "To love what we do and feel that it matters--how could anything be more fun?"

We wish you and your family a lovely holiday season.

Mrs. June Scott
Concord Counselor

ABC RECOGNITION PROGRAM

Concord is using the ABC Recognition Program for students this year and listed below are the students who were recognized by their teachers in the month of October. This recognition program is to support our school beliefs in strong academic performance (A), excellent behavior (B) and good character (C). Our hope is that ALL students will earn recognition by the end of the school year.

FIRST GRADE

The following students received "C's"

Caroline Collins
 Rayva Radu
 Grace Bervid
 Gillian Coffey
 Angelina Barrera
 Zaire Maybin
 Meda Jonaityte
 Arnas Timofejevas
 Katilin Clark
 Lucas Kozak (Also for PE)
 Alicja Iwaniec
 Megan McGinley
 Rhea Ramento
 Zaire Maybin
 Zachary Icenogle

SECOND GRADE

The following students received "A's"

Petra Al-Allan
 Isabel Villagomez
 Aileen Medrano
 Kellie Slowik
 Dylan Chen
 Billy Durkin
 Kennedy Hagen
 Sawyer Jones
 Shannon Ahern
 Johann Tabbilos
 Nathan Santo
 Orion Allston
 Emily Knutte
 Kevin James

The following students received "B's"

Kaleb Evers
 Neveah Allston
 Griffin Isberg

The following students received "C's"

Kerry Glimco
 Ajay Raigaga
 Shannon Ahern
 Johann Tabbilos
 Gina LaMontagna
 Nevaeh Allston
 Mia Tommasone
 Gia Colonna
 James Ruzicka
 Matthew Uccardi
 Jimmy Kirin

THIRD GRADE

The following students received "A's"

Marc Davis
 Jessica Hendrickson
 Alissa Banks
 Frankie Klemm
 Elise Anderson
 Ugne Dragunas

The following students received "B's"

Alexis Mendoza
 Katie Nigohosian
 Ashlinn Thomas
 Ansh Joshi

The following students received "C's"

Rachel Ng
 Zainab Wardhawala
 Ben Dorrance
 Nicholas Bortman
 Francesca Markos
 Cristo Cervantes

FOURTH GRADE

The following students received "A's"

Skylar Stafford
 Tyler Matsunaga
 Patricia Miskinyte
 Wills Hawley
 Carlos Castillo

The following students received "B's"

Mark Euske
 Jenna Deolitsis
 Robert Barnes
 Connor McGinley
 Carlos Castillo
 Mikayla Icenogle
 Jessica Kaleta

The following students received "C's"

Tiffany Truong
 Mark Euske
 Connor Madden
 Robert Barnes
 Amanda Kazlauciunaite
 Tomas Korolenko
 Brian Baumbach
 Gina Cavalli
 Stephanie Spytek
 Racquel Blumenstein
 Eddie Ma

PRESCHOOL/KINDERGARTEN

The following students received "A's"

Zachary Belletini
 Dana Euske
 Julian Ocasio
 Billy Quinn

The following students received "B's"

Caroline Custardo
 Gino Roncone
 Justin Hill
 Natalia Vasilveski

The following students received "C's"

Sai Kujala
 Grace Wilcox
 Anna Farina
 Peyton Wiley



CONCORD HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2009!

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AUTHOR VISIT

Author Don Carrillo (pen name Dnate Carr) donated his time and came to visit the students and talk about his book. He was reading children's literature to his daughter, Jade, a second grader at Concord. His book is about a story of a Native American boy named Micco, which is also the book title. It's about Micco's passage into tribal manhood by receiving a leather wristband and going on his first hunt. Mr. Carrillo explained that Micco became a man when he gave back the wristband to the tribal leader, who had been his mentor, upon his death. That wristband was the thing Micco had desired most.

Mr. Carrillo explained the steps involved in writing the book, finding a publisher, editing, finding an illustrator, then re-editing the story. It took him 4 months to write his draft prior to acceptance by the publisher. He explained that he got 80 rejection letters before a publisher wanted to produce the book



We're on the Web!

www.cassd63.org

Please check the website for more information.