Dragon Tales

Volume 4, Issue 6 April 2010

The official newsletter of Arthur S. Dudley Elementary School

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Special point of interest:

Please visit our website at www.DudleyElementary.org for consistently updated news and information concerning Dudley Elementary School. The on-line calendar can also be accessed from this site.

Teacher Requests

As the end of the school year approaches, many parents turn their thoughts toward next school year and the selection of a teacher for their child. According to Center Unified School District Board Policy, several important factors are considered in determining placement of students into classes. These include: recommendation from the previous teacher; a balance of primary language, gender, and academic levels; the behavior and motivation of each student; the strengths of individual teachers; and creating a balance of students that may have special educational, social, or emotional needs.

Board policy does give provision for parent requests, but indicates that the request of a specific teacher shall be used as only *one* of many determining factors. More helpful to us in making placement decisions is a parent's description of the child's personality traits; strengths; academic, social, and/or emotional needs; and the specific characteristics or teaching style of a teacher that would best match that student's needs. With this information, we are better able to match student needs and teacher strengths, and keep classrooms balanced.

Another factor to consider is that due to the increase in class sizes, several teachers will no longer be at our school site, or will change the grade level they teach. Due to these uncertainties, and the before mentioned factors used to balance classes, please understand that some requests may not be honored.

To make a request, please submit in writing the type of teacher you would like your child to have. You can include specific teachers in this request. It would also be helpful to know which teachers your child has already had and you would prefer not to have again. Requests are due to Mrs. Coronado in the office no later than Friday, April 23rd.

The Biology of Addiction

On February 25, 2010, Dudley was lucky to have Dr. Victor J DeNoble speak to our fourth and fifth grade students about the biology of addiction. Victor DeNoble, PhD, former research scientist for Philip Morris, maker of Marlboro cigarettes, was a key witness in government hearings examining the practices of the tobacco industry. DeNoble headed a secret lab in Virginia for Philip Morris from 1980 to 1984, where he led experiments on rats to explore the effects of nicotine on the brain and central nervous system. In 1984, Philip Morris shut down the lab, hid the finding and fired DeNoble and his fellow scientists. Dr. DeNoble became the key government witness in the Federal trial against the tobacco industry. DeNoble did Post Doctoral Fellowships with the National Institute of Drug Abuse and the National Institute of Alcohol and Alcohol Abuse. His groundbreaking research in the 1980's on the addictive nature of nicotine is considered to be one of the most significant scientific breakthroughs in several decades. Talk to your fourth or fifth grader about his/her favorite part of the assembly or what he/she learned. Thanks to Mr. Silverman and Kaiser Permanente for bringing Dr. Victor J DeNoble to Dudley.

One of the biggest concerns from parents is student safety during arrival and dismissal times. Because we don't have the resources to monitor all areas, please call Mrs. Coronado if you are able to volunteer as a crossing guard.

Early out day change

The early out date that was scheduled for March 8th has been changed to **May 3rd.** On this day, 1st-5th grade students will be dismissed at 1:50pm. Please make note of the change in your calendar.

THANK YOU!

For the Supply Donations

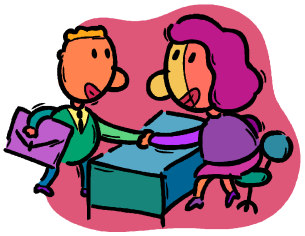
- Bailey Brown, Mrs. Kasai's class
- Anakin Highsmith, Mrs. Payne' class
- Attikus Highsmith, Mrs. Stolfus' class
- Cheyenne Smith, Mrs. Oliver's class
- Sabrina Smith, Mr. Carlson's class
- Diego Pantoja, Ms. Tarner's class
- Martha Pantoja, Mrs. Underwood's class
- Manjot Kaur, Mrs. Dzida's class
- Viviana Ho, Ms. Skogebo's class
- Benson Nguyen, Mrs. Nelson's class
- Ankit Sompura, Mrs. Chamberlain's class
- Blake Ross, Mrs. Chamberlain's class
- John Montoya, Mrs. Nelson's class
- Audrey Montoya, Mrs. Oliver's class
- Tomasito Montoya, Mr. Weidman's class

Dudley Band

By Amber Reeves and Alyssa Williams

Thanks to Mr. Myers and Mrs. Merdinger, Dudley has one of the best sounding and biggest elementary bands in the area. Fourth and fifth grade students learn to read music and play music together. Mrs. Merdinger teaches the beginning band students and Mr. Myers works with the intermediate band members. The Dudley band has performed at many events such as the grand opening of the Center High stadium, the Center Unified School District Board Meeting and at all school assemblies. Upcoming events include the Center Endowment's Make It Happen event and marching in the Memorial Day parade. Playing an instrument in the Dudley band is fun.

What to do if you have concerns



Step #1—Meet with your child's teacher to discuss the issue or concern.

If an issue arises during the school year, we ask that you follow our concerns procedure as follows:

1. Make an appointment to speak with your child's teacher. Besides you, the teacher has the most direct contact with your child. Calmly explain your concern or issue. The vast majority of issues can be resolved at this level.
2. If you are not satisfied with the resolution, ask your child's teacher to set up a meeting with an administrator.
3. If the issue is still not resolved, the principal will contact other appropriate district personnel.

Getting to Know Mrs. Coronado

Interview by Vivian Kringle

Vivian: Have you always wanted to be a principal? What did you want to be?
Mrs. Coronado: No, I first wanted to be a veterinarian.
Vivian: What is your favorite animal? Do you have any pets?
Mrs. Coronado: I love dogs. I have two dogs and three cats. Plus, I take care of neighborhood strays.
Vivian: Do you have kids? Are you married?
Mrs. Coronado: I am married. I do not have children of my own, but I have thousands that I care about very much.
Vivian: What are your hobbies?
Mrs. Coronado: I enjoy running, traveling and watching baseball. Go A's!
Vivian: Where did you go to college?
Mrs. Coronado: I went to Fresno State.
Vivian: What was your major?
Mrs. Coronado: Food and Nutritional Sciences was my major. Liberal Studies was my

Dudley PTA is now on Facebook

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"Academically Sound, College Bound"

We are on the web!
www.DudleyElementary.org

Dudley Elementary Office	338-6470
Dudley Elementary Fax	338-6472
Food Services	338-6416
Transportation	338-6418
Center USD District Office	338-6400

School Website:
www.DudleyElementary.org

Please call Dudley's office to report your child's absence. When illness is the reason, please let us know if your child is experiencing a fever, coughing, and/or muscle aches.

April/May 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
4	5 NO SCHOOL	6	7 *Entertainment* Fundraiser Kick-Off CUSD Board Meeting - W.C. Riles 6pm	8 Spaghetti Dinner sponsored by the Dudley PTA 6-8pm	9	10
11	12	13 CST/STAR TESTING	14 CST/STAR TESTING	15 CST/STAR TESTING	16 CST/STAR TESTING	17
18 Dudley Day at Sacramento Rivercats vs. Reno Aces 1:05pm	19 CST/STAR TESTING	20 CST/STAR TESTING	21 Fundraiser sale end date CST/STAR TESTING CUSD Board Meeting - W.C. Riles 6pm	22 CST/STAR TESTING Volunteer Breakfast sponsored by the PTA 9:30-10:30am	23 CST/STAR TESTING	24
25	26 Book Fair	27 Book Fair Dudley $ Store	28 Book Fair Dudley $ Store PTA General Mtg 6pm in room 10	29 Book Fair Dudley $ Store Dudley Day at Papa John's	30 Book Fair	1
2	3 Early Out Day - 1:50pm dismissal	4	5 CUSD Board Meeting - Oak Hill 6pm	6	7	8