Director’s Message

Happy May!! It is hard to believe that we are rapidly approaching the end of another school year. As part of our goal to provide you with useful information and resources, especially as we approach the summer, we are happy to send you this third and final newsletter of the school year. Be sure to check out the important dates listed here for upcoming events in our schools and district.

English Proficiency Testing & Reclassification

The 2017-2018 school year will be a transition year for measuring English Language Proficiency. The California English Language Development Test (CELDT) is being phased out and all English Learners will take the new English Language Proficiency Assessments for California (ELPAC) in Spring as their summative assessment. During the transition period, we will be reviewing our current reclassification criteria with the members of our District English Learner Advisory Committee and identifying the guidelines for reclassification. Additional information regarding reclassification will be shared in upcoming newsletters, posted on the District website, and discussed at the first DELAC meeting (see meeting dates below).

Suggestions for Summer

The carefree days of summer also provide a great opportunity for students to keep learning!!! Research shows that children of all ages who keep learning over the summer often have a better start to the new school year. Reading is a great way to keep students’ language skills, especially English Learners, sharp! Here are a few summer reading tips for parents.

1. At Home
   a. Make time for reading – Set aside a quiet time each day for reading, and remember to include “reading time” when planning summer activities.
   b. Keep different kinds of reading materials at home – Keep reading materials throughout the house, including newspapers, magazines, and brochures. Also have some fun things on hand, like word games, puzzles, or the kids’ section of the newspaper.
   c. Beat boredom with books – Help your child find books that they find interesting. These might include non-fiction books, fun fact books, arts and crafts books, hands-on activity and project books, or cookbooks with kid-friendly recipes.
   d. Read aloud every day – Try to find time each day to read aloud to your children, even the older ones. Reading aloud benefits children and teens, particularly those who are struggling readers. Read aloud in different places, from the porch to the park. Do not be afraid to use silly voices and act out the story!

Other Important Dates

- Open House: May 31, 2017
  - Sycamore & Vista del Valle
- No School - Memorial Day Holiday: May 29, 2017
- Last Day of School: June 15, 2017
- Board Presentation and Public Hearing on LCAP & District Budget: June 22, 2017
- Board Action on LCAP & District Budget: June 26, 2017
- First Day of School 2017-18: August 30, 2017
e. **Encourage your child to learn new words** – Introduce your child to new words every day. Talk about what these words mean and how they are used.

f. **Write away** – Be sure to keep writing materials handy such as pencils, paper, and crayons so that your child can practice writing. Encourage them to write letters or post cards to friends and relatives over the summer, to keep a journal, make a summer scrapbook, or to write stories and poems. Ask your child to help you when making shopping lists or copying a recipe.

2. At the Library

a. **Help your child get a library card** – The Claremont Library is located at: 208 N. Harvard Ave. (http://www.colapublib.org/libs/claremont)

b. **Visit the library frequently and look for summer reading programs** – Check the library calendar for special events throughout the summer.

c. **Help your child select books at the right level** – A good way to decide whether your child is reading books at the right reading level is to have them read a paragraph from a page in the book (any page but the first page). If they are reading smoothly and understand what they are reading, the book is probably at the right level. If they make five or more errors in a passage of about 50 words, the level may be too challenging. Librarians can also help you choose books at the appropriate level for your children.

d. **Allow your child to choose what they read** – Allow your child to choose their own reading material, including popular fiction, magazines, novels, and comic books. Summer is a time when children can discover the joys of reading, and they will be more motivated if they are reading something they enjoy. If you are concerned about the content of what your child is reading, talk with them about their interests and set some guidelines for appropriate choices.

e. **Find magazines that interest your child** – Magazines are a great way for kids to practice reading, to learn new things, and to develop their vocabulary. You may be able to find your child's favorite magazine at the public library, or you can get a subscription at your home.

3. Great Summer Reading Habits

a. **Be a reading role model** – Make sure your child sees you reading and writing, whether it's reading the morning newspaper or making a shopping list.

b. **Keep it fun** – Do not set rules about reading for a certain amount of time or reading a minimum number of pages, and do not make reading a punishment.

c. **Talk about what your child is reading** – Talk about the books you and your child have read together — what you liked, what you did not like, or who your favorite character was. Ask your child to tell you about what they are reading. Libraries may also offer book discussion groups for children.

d. **Give your child a chance to read aloud to you** – Reading aloud will give your child the opportunity to practice their reading skills. Encourage rereading of favorite books they can read easily. For the older ones, ask them to read you things that are interesting to them, such as the newspaper sports page, a detective novel, or a music magazine.

e. **Listen to audio books** – If you will be spending a lot of time in the car or at home, rent books on tape or CD from the library, and listen to them together. This can also be a great way to encourage language development.

f. **Connect books to summer activities and travel** – Read books related to your summer activities and trips. Helping your child connect books with their own experiences will build their vocabulary and will make their experiences more meaningful. Older children may also enjoy helping you research your summer plans at the library or on the Internet.