

Cypress Elementary School

Scorpion Storylines

Volume 4, Issue 2 October — 2015

A Word from the Principal...



How to save money and help the school!

At Cypress, we try to do as many fun and educational activities for the students as possible. Whether it's a field trip, a special assembly or project, or an activity like our water day, we want to make sure that our students have those opportunities. At Cypress, we rely a lot on our PTO and Student Body to fund these activities, and the best way to raise funds is a little bit a time and in a way that also helps you!

Thanks to your help, we raised over \$6,000 from our fire works booth, but that's just a start! Once again we have a few easy ways to help us earn money, with no extra

cost to you!

Target REDcard Take Charge of Education – This is a great way to save money on your own purchases and raise money for the school. Once you sign-up for a Target REDcard (debit, credit, or Visa) you'll save 5% on all of your purchases. If you visit www.Target.com/tcoe you can designate Cypress School (ID # 36322) and Target will donate 1% of all of your purchases made with your REDcard. While this doesn't sound like a lot, we now have only 43 people signed up and they helped Cypress earn over \$950 last year.

Box Tops for Education – We receive \$.10 for each Box Top we send in. These are collected all year long and are sent in twice a

year: Nov. 1 and March 1. Last year we raised nearly \$835. This is an easy way for us to earn money. Just look for the Box Top for Education coupon on items that you buy, cut them out, save them up, and send them with your child to school.

With your help, we can keep doing the fun, supportive, and educational activities that we have going on at Cypress school. We can do this by simply raising money through purchases you already make, and maybe even save you some money along the way!



Upcoming Events:

- ♦ Sep. 25-Oct. 12—Cookie Dough Fundraiser
- ♦ October 2—4th Grade Fire Feud 9:00-11:00am
- ♦ October 2—Staff vs. 6th Grade Volleyball Game 1:30pm
- ♦ October 4—Annual SCICON Dinner Fundraiser
- ♦ October 6—3rd Grade Family Night 6:00pm
- ♦ October 6—PTO Meeting 6:30pm
- ♦ October 7—Positive Recognition Assembly (Trustworthiness)
- ♦ October 7—Staff Development Day Early Dismissal
- ♦ October 8—Historical Museum Field Trip (Gomes)
- ♦ October 9—2nd Grade Field Trip to Vossler Farms 9:15-11:30am
- ♦ October 9—Enchanted Playhouse Field Trip 10:15am-1:00pm (4th Grade)
- ♦ October 14—Staff Development Day Early Dismissal
- ♦ October 19-23—Coins for Caring Drive
- ♦ October 21—Kindergarten Field Trip to Vossler Farms 8:40-11:00am
- ♦ October 21—Staff Development Day Early Dismissal
- ♦ October 22—1st Grade Field Trip to Sanger Pumpkin Patch 8:30-12:30
- ♦ October 22—4th Grade Library Tour 9:45-11:15am (Kemp)
- ♦ October 22—4th Grade Library Tour 9:45-11:15am (Lawrence)
- ♦ October 26-30—Red Ribbon Week
- ♦ October 27—4th Grade Library Tour 9:45-11:15am (Braun)
- ♦ October 27—Family Pumpkin Carving Night 6:00—7:00pm
- ♦ October 28—Staff Development Day Early Dismissal
- ♦ October 29—Costume Parade 8:45am
- ♦ October 30—Fall Day (No School)

Front Office Chatter

From the Secretary:

Happy October Scorpions!

There are just a few things that I would like to go over: After your child gets out of school we need to make sure someone is here to pick them up unless they walk home or are in one of the after school programs. We worry about your child's safety and want to make sure they get home safe.

Please try and relay any message to your child before school starts. We have too many class interruptions and

want to make sure that we are not interrupting class.

Cold lunches need to be sent with the child when he/she comes to school. There are also too many class interruptions due to sending students to pick up their lunches during class time.

I hope this year is going great for everyone so far.

Let's make it a great school year!

-Stephanie Mendonca

From the Parent Liaison

Hello Cypress Families!!! I hope everyone is having a

great school year. I know I have been, and it's time for some fun. Let's have some pumpkin fun at our first family night of the school year. Join us for Pumpkin Carving Night on Tuesday, October 27, 2015 from 6:00pm – 7:00pm. It's a great opportunity to spend time with the family, and you can enter your pumpkin in our contest for most original and scariest pumpkin. We can't wait to see your pumpkin carving talents. Hope to see you there!

-Jacqueline Sanchez

From the World of Kindergarten

Kindergarten is beginning our study of "All About Us." We will be learning about our school, neighborhood, community helpers and how the farm supplies us with food. The math focus will be shapes (solid-sphere, cone, cube and cylinder and flat-square, circle, triangle, rectangle, oval and hexagon), numbers 0 - 5, and position words (examples-above, below, in front of, and behind). Please work with your student on their math apple tree. They should be able to pick a number from the bag, identify it, and put that many apples on the tree. Our science focus will be the Animals 2x2 Science Kit. We will be comparing a variety of animals, fish to guppies, sow bugs to pill bugs, etc.



Kindergarten is excited to be going to the Vossler Pumpkin Patch! We will be going on October 21st, this will be a part of our Fall theme. Due to space limitations, there is no room for parents on the buses.

Please remind your K student to follow school rules especially those focusing on showing Respect. Examples of showing respect would be to keeping their hands to themselves and listening to their teacher.

We wanted to thank of all the parents who were able to come and help us on the field trip to the fair. We couldn't have done it without you.

1st Grade News

First Grade has been busy reviewing math, reading, writing, and classroom expectations. We are ready to start learning new concepts such as addition and subtraction in math; reading and taking AR tests; and writing complete sentences. Our Character Counts pillar this month is RESPECT.

By the end of October, First Graders are expected to be able to:

- Count and write numbers 1-50
- Write upper and lower case letters correctly
- Write complete sentences that include finger spaces, capitals and ending punctuation
- Read words and books at their level

The Tulare Public Library is an excellent resource and a great place to take your children to choose books to read and enjoy over vacation! Library cards are FREE and we encourage you to get your child their very own library card to use when checking out books. Also, ask about the FREE tutoring services offered by the library for students during the school year!!!

Here are some great FREE educational websites you can check out at home:

www.starfall.com; www.abcya.com;
www.cookie.com; gonoodle.com

2nd Grade Information

Second Grade Celebration of Books Night was Tuesday, September 8th. We hope all who attended enjoyed the time spent with their child, listening to several wonderful books and the videos that went with the stories. Remember ... we will be taking a field trip to the pumpkin patch in October. We expect this to be an exciting learning time for your second grade child! In math, we are working on fact families to show the relationship between addition and subtraction. Please assist your child in memorizing math facts to 20.

Fact Family

$$6 + 1 = 7 \quad 1 + 6 = 7$$

$$7 - 1 = 6 \quad 7 - 6 = 1$$



3rd Grade Reflections

Fall has arrived! What a delight to see the nuances of color soon shared when the autumn light experience begins to change the colors of the leaves. We'll notice the many ways the fall season reveals itself in Tulare. Third grade looks forward to experiencing the Tulare County Symphony field trip in October—connected with our weekly music classes. It's also a joy to see the number of different ways students are learning to show their thinking about getting accurate answers in math. From sketching to base ten pieces to number lines, number charts and manipulatives; students are thinking about their learning and proving their answers—deepening their understanding.

It's helpful when parents talk about the checks/balances also used in many walks of life (bankers, cashiers, accountants, grocery shoppers, home budgeters, financiers, sales clerks, tax calculators, etc.) Children can then comprehend place value, systems of problem solving, and math operations as they relate to real life.

We'll continue to study arrays and multiplication models in the coming weeks—emphasizing problem solving. We'll be making use of real-world problems, as well as becoming fluent with facts and systems of persevering in problem comprehension and curacy. Thank you for supporting your children in their daily learning.

News from 4th Grade

We have a wonderful group of 4th graders who are ready to learn and have some fun! In language arts and social studies, we continue to learn about the four regions of California: the valley, the coast, the mountains, and the desert. We have practiced drawing them, identifying them, and learning the special things about them. We were even able to create an art piece out of different colored



beans! Next, we will be working on a brochure to help convince someone to move to a specific region. It's been a lot of fun learning all about our great state! Our next unit will be all about storytelling. We will learn how to write entertaining stories.

In math, we have been talking about multiplication and division. We have been using a lot of different strategies to help us with both of these operations. An important strategy is using partial products or quotients. This is done by breaking

up one of the numbers into two different parts to make it easier to multiply (or divide.) People use multiplication and division in their everyday life. Please take time to help your child practice these skills as the opportunities arise.

In science, our 4th graders will be learning more about rocks and minerals. If you have any fun rocks or minerals at home, feel free to send them in for observation (when the time comes). Be sure to take time to ask your child about this.

There are a few fun events coming up in 4th grade! On

Friday, October 2, we have our annual Fire Feud where we learn all about fire safety and meet with our local firemen and women. On Friday, October 9, we have a fun field trip to the Enchanted Playhouse to see the play "Treasure Island". This is an exciting story and will be fun to watch in action. Our classes will also get to visit the Tulare Public Library this month. Mr. Kemp's class will be attending on Thursday the 22nd, Mrs. Lawrence's will attend on Friday the 23rd, and Ms. Braun's class will visit on Tuesday the 27th. It's going to be a great month!

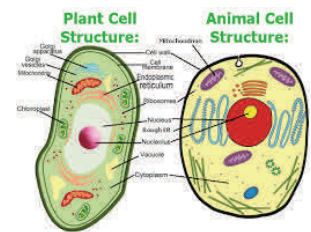
5th Grade Happenings

Hello 5th Grade Parents and/or Guardians! As you know parent/teacher conferences were held at the end of September, which is an indication that we are halfway through Trimester One. Our students have become acclimated to their classroom and engaged in our curriculum. We still have more foundational skills to cover before bringing the trimester to the end. Below is a brief description of what we'll be covering next.

Academic Work at a Glance
Reading/Language Arts: As for our Reading and Language Arts curriculum, students are expected to read for literary experience and read to improve comprehension. In language arts we will continue to build upon our grammar skills and concentrate on developing our narrative writing skills.

Math: The next unit of the math curriculum will focus on utilizing different methods of multiplica-

tion and division along with learning a how to add and subtract decimals. Students will also learn how to interpret and solve multi-step word problems.
Science and Social Studies: In science we will be focusing on plant cells, animal cells, and the human body systems. Students will learn that all living things are made of cells and that each body system has an important function that aids in the transportation of materials and information that allow us to do our life processes. In social studies we will continue our work on the



fifty states and their capitals and learn about the early explorers.

From all of the Fifth Grade Teachers we look forward to working with you in assisting our students and your children in reaching their full potential.

Information from 6th Grade

6th Grade Social Changes: Taking Charge of Learning

by Patti Ghezzi

School and Family Media

Don't be surprised if your child is less engaged and motivated at school. Try different ways to help him become more interested in learning. Talk about current events. Ask to see his schoolwork just to check whether you remember it.

(Don't be surprised if you don't—adolescence hasn't changed much, but the school curriculum has.)

Encourage your child to speak up when she doesn't understand something and ask for help before she gets completely lost. Encourage your child to set high goals for himself rather than waiting for you and the teacher to set goals for him.

Parents should be careful not to pass on to their children their own negative attitudes about learning—especially in subjects with a reputation for rigor, like math and science.

Keeping a positive attitude during your child's 6th grade year may not be easy, especially for parents who struggled when they were that age. But it's important to embrace the changes as a part of your child's normal transition to

adulthood—even if you can't bear the thought of your child becoming an adult. Consider it one more contradiction that is just part of 6th grade.

Cypress Elementary School

1870 S. Laspina St.
Tulare, CA 93274

Phone: 559/685-7290



VISIT US ON THE WEB
AT OUR NEW WEBSITE
CYPRESS.TCSDK8.ORG

Scorpion Pride!

The Last Word

Notes From Cypress PTO

Cypress Families,

Cookie Dough is Back! This year for our Fall Fundraiser we will be selling cookie dough. Our fundraiser kicked off on September 24, 2015. Students should have brought home their fundraiser packets that day. Order forms and money for the fundraiser will be due on October 12, 2015. Cookie dough will be delivered before Thanksgiving Break.

Our 3rd annual Pancake Breakfast will be on November 14, 2015. This year we will be asking each grade level to help donate items we will need for the breakfast. More information will be coming home with your student on how you can donate items for this event.

PTO will be sending Kindergarten, First, and Second grade classes to the pumpkin patch in October. In addition, PTO will be purchasing a new camera that will be used to take pictures for our year book.

Save The Date: October 27, 2015

Cypress Pumpkin Carving Night 6pm-7pm
Popcorn, water, and fall pictures will be available for \$1.



Pillar Focus: A Parent's Guide to CHARACTER COUNTS!

RESPECT

- * Treat others with respect.
- * Follow the Golden Rule.
- * Be tolerant of differences.
- * Use good manners, not bad language.
- * Be considerate of the feelings of others.
- * Don't threaten, hit or hurt anyone.
- * Deal peacefully with anger, insults and disagreements.

WHAT YOU CAN DO AT HOME

During mealtime each day, have each family member name a good trait for each person at the table. For example: "Dad is a good storyteller." By focusing on what each person does well, you are appreciating their unique abilities.
Set family goals. Have each

member of the family complete the following sentence and post it where it will serve as a reminder: I will show respect for others by: _____.

PARENTS CAN PROMOTE RESPECT

Model respect and expect your children to treat you and others in a respectful way. Make a list of ways to show respect in your home.

Treat each youngster as equally as possible recognizing that children may have different needs. Help your family understand that you provide for their needs and that sometimes that means not everyone gets the same thing.

Embrace diversity and cooperation with individuals that are

ethnically and culturally different.

Respect privacy unless suspicious behaviors necessitate otherwise.

Talk to your child about the differences between "treating everyone with respect" and admiring them.

FOR YOU TO CONSIDER

The "Rule of Universality": Do only those acts which you are willing to allow to become universal standards of behavior, applicable to all people in similar situations. Ask yourself, "If everyone did it, would it be a good thing?"

TO HELP YOU TEACH THE SIX PILLARS

Focus Area: Movies

Many movies provide a rich

content to have character discussions with your children. But, selecting the right movie, watching it together and discussing it is very important. One resource for parents is "Teach With Movies", a CC! partner organization. For more information, visit www.teachwithmovies.org.



RESPECT