



# Coyote Editions April • 2011

## Administrative Team

We are in the last quarter! Can you believe AIMS testing is this month? All Collier Students will have an opportunity to **'Show What They Know.'** Check out the Counselor's Corner for further details. Also, please remember Collier has a **TWITTER account**; please follow us on **Twitter at Collier\_ES**. The most current school information is posted and updated hourly. This will be the most up to date for Collier news!!! Parents Night Out is fast approaching 4-7-2011 at 5:17pm. Come out and hear motivational speaker, Clarence Lee, be inspired! Please remember for your child's safety Identification will be required when picking up or visiting our school grounds.

### HAVE A GREAT MONTH!!!

Important Dates to remember for this month: *April 2011*

- |           |   |           |        |
|-----------|---|-----------|--------|
| • 4-1     | Math Challenge (Grades 3-8)                       | ULC       | 9:15pm |
| • 4-7     | Title I Parent Mtg.                               | Tres Rios | 5:00pm |
| • 4-7     | PTA (PARENTS NIGHT OUT)                           | Collier   | 5:17pm |
| • 4/11-15 | <b>AIMS/Stanford Testing (Show What You Know)</b> |           |        |
| • 4-12    | Board Mtg.  | ULC       | 6:00pm |
| • 4-21    | Board President ( <i>Reading on Campus</i> )      |           |        |
| • 4-21    | Kinder Promotion Pictures                         |           |        |
| • 4-22    | <b>No School</b>                                  |           |        |
| • 4-26    | Special Board Mtg.                                | ULC       | 6:00pm |

*Look forward to seeing all of you at all the upcoming events!*

**\*\*Ms. Pitts, Principal • Miss Hill, Assistant Principal • Ms. Eastep, Dean of Student\*\***

## Kindergarten

We had a great turnout for Parent/Teacher Conferences for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter report cards. We had 98% of our parents meet with their teachers. This shows how important their child's education is to them. Thank you to all of our wonderful kindergarten parents!

In math, we are beginning addition. The kids love to add things together. We will be starting subtraction soon too.

The students are all becoming good readers! We are still working on blending and reading sight words. The students' are also learning comprehension strategies.

## First Grade

In reading we are working hard on reading fluency to prepare for the end of the year DIBELS test. Please make sure that your child continues to do their fluency homework every night. We are seeing such wonderful growth in the students that are doing it every day. In phonics we will be working on words with the following phonograms: ai, ay, long i, long o, and dge.

In math we are focusing on patterns. Your child is learning how to identify, extend, and create repeating patterns. We are also learning all about growing patterns and counting patterns. After patterns we will move onto our measurement unit, which is a fun and exciting unit for students.

In writing, we are continuing to work on using the six traits and the writing process. Your child has been prewriting, writing, editing, revising, and publishing writing pieces each week. We are focusing on the trait "voice". Your child will be learning how to implement interjections and onomatopoeias in their writing!

In Social Studies your child is learning about the past! Some of the big ideas we are focusing on are: Although Americans may have come from different backgrounds, they share some beliefs. Understanding the ways in which immigrants have helped define American Culture. In many

ways people today are the same as people who lived long ago. However, the way people live has changed over time. What can folktales tell you about cultures? How do people celebrate their cultures? How do Families meet their needs? Students will also compare transportation and schools from the present time to the past. After completing the Social Studies unit, we will be focusing on "Objects in the Night Sky" in Science!

In April, the first graders will be going on a field trip to the Wildlife World Zoo and Aquarium. We have studied animals and their habitats, and now we are so thrilled to get to go see some of them. The field trip is on April 21<sup>st</sup>.

Thank you for all of your support and everything you do to help your child succeed!



## Second Grade

In all subject areas, your students have been very busy preparing for our upcoming tests. Your students are learning how to listen, follow directions, fill in bubble sheets, and other test taking skills that will help them be successful in the coming weeks! Please make sure that your students are at school every day – on time! Students that attend school regularly always seem to perform better on their tests.

**Reading:** In April we will begin a new theme unit called, *Travel Time!* Our students will see how people expand their knowledge as they explore new ideas and places. Whether they are close to home or far away, the characters in the next few stories find that adventure awaits them.

In March, we introduced suffixes –er and -est. In the weeks to come, our phonics curriculum will study r-controlled vowels /ar/ spelled air, are, vowel digraphs /oo/, spelled oo, ou, and /oo/ spelled ou, ough.

Theme and topic-related books that you might want to consider checking out at the library as a supplement to our reading:

- ✓ *Grandpa Takes Me to the Moon* by Timothy R. Gaffney
- ✓ *Out of the Ocean* by Debra Fraiser
- ✓ *Around the World: An Atlas of Maps and Pictures* by Rand McNally & Co.
- ✓ *Dinosaurs, Beware! A Safety Guide* by Marc Brown
- ✓ *Flyers* by Jillian Powell

**Writing:** Second graders this month have continued to focus on writing summaries, narratives, and a little bit of poetry! With summaries, the main spotlight has been on having students identify the main idea and the details of a non-fiction, then are able to summarize what they learned. Non-fictional texts are stories that are true and give real details about a certain topic. We know that next year especially, students begin to move from learning to read – to reading to learn. This includes non-fictional stories that give true information about a specific topic. Ask your students what they have learned this month from our reading series!

**Math:** In math, we have been reviewing all the concepts that we have taught all year long. We know that many times, students do not get a full understanding of a particular concept until they have seen it a few times, so repetition is the key! This is especially true since we are preparing for our Stanford 10 test in April. Stanford 10 is the test that just second graders take in the State of Arizona. This test prepares them for next year, where in third grade; they will begin to take the AIMS test.



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**Science:** Second graders are continuing to learn about the different systems of the body: digestive, respiratory, circulatory and nervous systems. Our goal for this unit continues to be that our second graders will be able to identify the major parts of each system and be able to tell what their functions are. Students have watched fun, informational videos from the Discovery website that helped them learn each part and their function, identified parts on diagrams of the human body, even done a few hands-on experiments in class.

**Social Studies:** In Social Studies, the students are learning how communication and transportation have changed over time. We are also learning about the different ways New Year's Eve is celebrated in China. This is in support of Chinatown, one of our stories in March. The students shared how their family celebrates New Year's Eve. Some classes are also learning about how our American culture compares to the cultures of other countries around the world; comparing languages, traditions, clothing and food.



## Third Grade

**Language Arts:** In our Language Arts Block, students have been studying many different concepts. The students have been working with multi-step directions, persuasive text, clarifying questions, and cause and effect.

**Writing:** The students have been writing personal narratives and how-to papers. Students will be studying different types of poems in the upcoming weeks.

**Math:** In math class, the students have been working with estimation, place value, measurement and graphs. It is important that students continue practicing multiplication facts daily!

**Science:** The students have been learning about animal adaptations, and will be learning about different habitats and environments.

**Social Studies:** In social studies students are learning about different landforms that help form different environments and habitats for animals.

Fourth graders are working hard to prepare for the end of the year! The AIMS test is approaching and we in the 4<sup>th</sup> grade are taking the Steps necessary to achieve our goals! These next few weeks are dedicated to the review of skills; here is an outline of the next few weeks itinerary.

**Math:** Students will be reviewing Plot lines and elapsed time. Ask your student simple questions about minutes and hours related to an analog clock. Every bit of at home review helps. Nightly math review homework is usually assigned Monday through Thursday. Sign your student's math worksheet!

**Reading:** Students will be reviewing Authors Position and Major and Minor Characters in literature. Students will also review functional texts, fact and opinion. Reading logs are due every Monday. Students should be reading at least 20 minutes nightly. Spelling contracts are due on Friday.

**Science:** Students will be continuing to review the scientific method.

**Social Studies:** Students will be using their reading skills in order to comprehend Arizona history.

**Test taking tips for AIMS:** Get a good night sleep the day before. Eat a wholesome breakfast. Review 4<sup>th</sup> grade concepts. Be prepared with pencils and erasers. Good Luck!

## Fifth Grade

Our students are being prepared to do their very best on the upcoming AIMS tests, which are from Monday, April 11<sup>th</sup>-Friday, April 15<sup>th</sup>. These tests are important measures of student progress. You will hear many

different suggestions to help your child. The most useful ones are actually the same thing one should follow throughout the year: Get enough sleep / rest; eat well; do your best; and always check your work. The one main recommendation that we would make is to **read and reread all** questions. This is where the challenge starts. Often, wrong answers are just the result of misreading the question. *So, reread it right and get it correct!*

Thanks to all the families who showed up for the Honor Roll and Perfect Attendance Assembly! Your support is appreciated! This 4<sup>th</sup> quarter moves very rapidly. Please make sure that your child is completing all homework so that they are well on their way to earning Honor Roll. Just as importantly, be sure that your scholar misses as few days as possible. This is the best way to maximize academic achievement.

We were especially pleased with the large turnout for Science Night. *Thanks for caring; thanks for sharing.* The 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Team wishes you an enjoyable Spring!

If you have any questions or comments, please call us. You can always leave a message, too!

|            |          |              |          |
|------------|----------|--------------|----------|
| Ms. Burns: | 478-5935 | Mr. Cedor:   | 478-5934 |
| Ms. Shira: | 478-5943 | Mr. Wakeley: | 478-5942 |

## Sixth Grade



**Social Studies:** This April we will be very focused on preparing for AIMS and even though social studies is not tested in AIMS specifically, we will be working on informational text (through our text book) in preparation

for AIMS. Please make sure your student is well prepared every day to learn in this critical time right before AIMS. We will also be finishing up Ancient Greece and starting Ancient Rome around the end of the month. Students completed a short paper on a Greek Deity at the end of March and will be working on a class project for Ancient Rome. Please be on the lookout for progress reports/grade checks as Ms. Nick will be sending them out every two weeks.

**Reading:** The month of April is now upon us, and so the next few weeks we will continue to review what we have learned thus far. We will continue with Poetry and its vocabulary along with Narratives and then the final Theme #5 of "Expanding Worlds" that is Expository Nonfiction with some Science and Social Studies. Please help review with your child what they know about the Reading Strategies:

1. Use Decoding/Phonics
2. Make and Confirm Predictions
3. Create Mental Images
4. Self-Question
5. Summarize
6. Read Ahead
7. Reread to Clarify
8. Use Context to Confirm Meaning
9. Use Text Structure and Format
10. Adjust Reading Rate

**Writing:** Sixth graders will be working on research papers and projects after AIMS. I am still only able to be afterschool most Fridays and most Tuesdays if a student needs additional assistance in writing or grammar. We will continue to work on strengthening their writing skills. As always, they need to continue working on the skills they have been learning for their future and for AIMS. We will still be spending a lot of time on grammar and editing, as these are crucial skills necessary for your child to become a great writer. Expect your student to have homework 2-4 times a week. Please remind your



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students to write their first and last names, their block, the date on all assignments, and to turn them in on time. We are now well into the final quarter of the year. Encourage your child to do their absolute best so they can gain the knowledge they need to be successful and to finish the year off strong.

**Math:** In math we are preparing for AIMS! Your child will be reviewing the sixth grade standards to help them prepare. Please make sure your child is here every single day so they don't miss out! Don't forget, I stay after school on Tuesday and Thursdays for extra help.

**Science:** This April we will be covering metric conversions. Metric conversions are a critical part of the AIM's test along with the information text that we have been covering. Please be sure to stress the importance of coming to learn as we prepare for AIMS and afterward. We will also be moving into the Physical Science part of the class. The students will be learning about the different types of energy.



## Seventh Grade

**Science:** In 7<sup>th</sup> grade students will be continuing to study Earth Science. The students will finish studying rocks and minerals and begin looking at plate tectonics. Students will begin by looking at the interior of the Earth and plate tectonics. They will then look at how plate tectonics are related to these natural events and how they affect us in real life. They will also get to do some interesting hands on activities and experiments.

Thanks to everyone that came to science night. It was a great success and everyone that participated had a lot of fun.

**Social Studies:** In Social Studies we are continuing to learn about WWI, and will be going into the roaring twenties and finally the Great Depression.

**Language Arts:** In Language Arts this month we've been working hard to conclude our preparation for the AIMS test. We've reviewed the main skills that students will see on the AIMS test. Also, we've been analyzing writing prompts to identify the purpose, audience, and structure we should use to write an essay. Students have taken several practice tests in preparation for the real test next week.

I am confident that all of the 7<sup>th</sup> grade students can be successful on the AIMS test if they try their hardest. Please encourage your child to go to bed early and eat a healthy breakfast in the morning during testing.

After the AIMS test, we will be reading the novel The Outsiders. While we read, students are reviewing important reading skills that we learned throughout the year, such as summarizing, making connections and making predictions. Please ask your child about the book as many of the students are eager to discuss it!

**Math:** In 7<sup>th</sup> grade Math we are busy preparing ourselves for AIMS. We have just finished up a difficult unit of probability and are eagerly reviewing first and second quarter Math concepts. Please remind your student to get a good night's rest before AIMS!

## Eighth Grade

**Science:** In Science, the 8<sup>th</sup> graders are continuing with their studies in Biology. They will be studying the different adaptations that allow plants and animals to survive in their environment and the relationships that occur between organisms. We have wrapped up the science projects and the science fair was a success! Thank you to everyone for your help and hard work.

**Math:** This week in class, 1<sup>st</sup> block is finishing up (chapter 8) exponents and exponential functions, and heading into (chapter 9) quadratic equations and functions. This week in blocks 2, 3, and 4 we are

reviewing graphs, and working on linear equations.

**Language Arts:** In Language Arts we are preparing for the AIMS test. Students are focusing on getting a Meets or Exceeds on the test. Students are taking the AIMS practice test and analyzing the results as to determine areas of strengths and weakness. Students will focus on their individual weakness in order to be successful on the test. Students are working in classrooms without walls which mean they are working at their own individual levels. Students have been tracking their own progression and should be prepared to be successful on the test and beyond high school!

**Social Studies:** The 8<sup>th</sup> grade is focusing more and more on current influence the presidential elects of the modern era. The 1980's and 1990's ushered in a period of great change. With the collapse of communism in Europe, relation between East and West changed dramatically. Former foes sought close ties. At home, new advances in technology, medicine, and industry helped the nation move forward. The technological innovation during this period accounts for today's communications revolution and globalized economy.

## Physical Education

**Mr. Harmon:** Hello, all Collier parents. It has been a great month of physical education in Mr. Harmon's class. The 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> graders have been working on their locomotor skills and are becoming very proficient with skipping, galloping, jumping, sliding, hopping and running. The 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students have started to learn about pedometers and how to track their steps during exercise. The 6<sup>th</sup> grade girls have started a fitness unit designed to increase their overall health and their effort has been amazing. The 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls have started a new quarter of Physical Education. This month the girls will participate in fitness, team building and softball.

**Mr. Teer:** My 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> graders have been focusing on hitting and throwing, which has helped them improve their aiming and striking abilities for many different activities. My 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders just finished learning a variety of baseball skills including hitting, throwing and catching. We are also learning the rules and positions of the game. My 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders students just finished a flag football unit. We learned the rules and have played quite a few games, which has given the students the opportunity to use their skills and demonstrate sportsmanship. As the weather continues to get warmer, please remind your child to bring water to my class to help them stay hydrated.



## Technology

In the technology lab, we will have lots of fun and educational activities in the month of April. First and second grade students will continue to use educational websites (mathplayground.com, brainpop.com...) to learn simple addition and subtraction. Third, fourth, fifth and sixth grade students will use their word processing skills and computer knowledge, to work on short Microsoft Word projects. Seventh and eighth grade students will practice typing and learn Microsoft Word. They also learn technology vocabulary required by the State Standards. All students using the computer lab are encouraged to take advantage of the visual elements of the computer in studying and locating information. Students use interactive educational websites to sharpen their math and language skills while having a joyful time in the lab. Our goals are to guide students in learning how to use computer technology as a learning tool in both school and at home.



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## Art Classes

Many works of art show the wonders of the artist's imagination. Artworks reflect the beauty and mystery artists find in their own imaginations. Artists often draw or paint pictures based on scenes of their own imagination. They use individual style, perspective, visual rhythms, and color schemes to depict the world of the imagination.

Artists across time and place have used the mythic creatures and landscapes of their imaginations as subject matter for artworks, showing us magical places and surreal events. As we view an artwork, we journey to the artist's inner realm of dream and fantasy. It is imagination that fuels creative energy, inspiring artists to show us worlds of wonder.

Please visit [www.alver.tumblr.com](http://www.alver.tumblr.com) to view the work of Collier's artists. The district art show will be held at Maricopa County Library, Avondale Branch, 11350 W. Civic Center Drive, Avondale, AZ on April 27<sup>th</sup> through May 4<sup>th</sup>. Reception for the featured artists will be held on May 2<sup>nd</sup> from 5-7 PM.

## Music Time

Happy April, Collier Parents and Students! Right now the Collier Music Program has many exciting things to look forward to. The month of April is filled with rehearsals for our Kindergarten through fourth grade students. All these students are preparing for their Spring Concerts. Kindergarten and first grade are preparing a fun, animal-themed concert that will take place on Tuesday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6PM. The second, third, and fourth grade students are preparing their "color" concert to take place on Thursday, May 5<sup>th</sup> at 6PM. Our middle school choir and band have many exciting events coming up, as well. Check out next month's newsletter to see what they are up to!

## Counselor's Corner

This month (April 11-15) our students in 2-8<sup>th</sup> grade will be taking annual standardized tests. We have a Campaign here at Collier called "**Show What You Know**" where students have a chance to win a prize for arriving on time the day of those test and doing their personal best. You as a parent or guardian can help by:

1. Making sure your child gets a good night sleep each night, including Sunday
2. Getting them up in time to arrive so they can eat a good breakfast, either at home or here at school.
3. Discuss with your child that this tests is a way to help the school know what we did a good job teaching and what we can improve on.
4. Save family conflict discussions until they arrive home in the evening instead of in the morning.
5. Do something fun with them at night, as a way to celebrate the hard work of test taking! Kinders and 1<sup>st</sup> graders don't take these tests, but teachers will be giving them a test this week to teach them that all tests are important and to always do their personal best.



**Our Collier Essentials for the month are:**

**Collier Students:**



- ❖ Sit quietly and pay attention during an assembly.
- ❖ Do their personal best on all tests.
- ❖ When walking in a line, are single file, and a few steps behind the person in front of them.
- ❖ Stand up for what they believe, when it comes from their heart.

## Medical Minute

Aims' testing is here, so let's keep each other healthy and strong. We want to do our very best. Get a good night sleep, drink plenty of water,

eat a good breakfast, take our vitamins and above all **WASH OUR HANDS.**



*These are 3 very important announcements for our parents:*

(1) If your child feels ill during the school day – please remind him/her to ask their teacher for a pass to the nurse. For safety reasons, we do not permit children to call home via a cell phone. If your child has been ill, please be sure that they have recovered enough to return to school (no fever for 24 hours). We are committed to preventing the spread of illness to others. The nurse is available to determine whether or not a child needs to go home.

(2) Immunizations for all new, incoming 6<sup>th</sup> graders will be due August 8<sup>th</sup>, the first day of school. The entire grade has been checked and found that almost **ALL 6<sup>th</sup> GRADE STUDENTS NEED THESE IMMUNIZATIONS.** The shots are called a Meningococcal and Tdap. It is an Arizona state law for all **11yr. olds going into the 6<sup>th</sup> grade.** Please get these immunizations over the summer and avoid having your child sent home from school.

(3) If you have an e-mail address and would like to communicate with me on anything concerning your child's health, please feel free to do so. I will include my e-mail and keep your address if I should get one from you, so we can always stay in contact. [holland@littletonaz.org](mailto:holland@littletonaz.org)

If you have any questions, please call me at 623-478-5910, between the hours of 7:00 am to 3:20 pm my door is always open.

## Safety Tip

As nice weather has arrived, the number of children riding bikes and walking to school has increased.

Drivers – please be careful to be especially observant of our children in the bike lanes. Also, please observe that there is **NO PASSING 15 MPH SCHOOL IN SESSION** and **STOP WHEN CHILDREN ARE IN THE CROSSWALK.**

Parents – please review bike safety with your children. For optimal safety, children should use the designated bike lanes when going to and from school. Please caution them against weaving in and out of the bike lane into oncoming traffic. We know that cars weigh a lot more than bikes and cannot stop as quickly.

We appreciate the support of the Avondale Police Department in keeping our children safe to and from school. **Special thanks to the officer assigned to our school, Officer Alt.** We appreciate his extra effort in enforcing safety measures to protect our children.

### Tips for Pedestrians and Bike Riders

- Never walk alone – always travel with a buddy. Try and find a friend, or make a new friend in the neighborhood to walk to school or ride the bus with.
- Wear reflective or bright color clothing to increase visibility.
- Respect traffic lights and street signs.
- Always wear a helmet when riding a bicycle.
- Avoid loose fitting clothing that could get caught in spokes or pedals.

### Tips for Car Drivers and Passengers

- Make sure young children are in safety seats at all times, and that the seats have been properly installed.
- All children under 13 years of age should ride in the rear seat of vehicles.
- Remember that many crashes occur while novice teen drivers are going to and from school. You may want to limit the number of teen passengers to prevent driver distraction. Do not allow your teen to drive while eating, drinking, or talking on a cell phone.