

350 S. 118<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Avondale, AZ 85323  
School Ph. #: 623.478.5900  
Attendance Line #: 623.478.5901  
Fax #: 623.478-5920

# Collier Connection

January 2012

## Administrative Team

Ms. Pitts, Principal\*\*\* Mrs. Donna Malone, Asst. Principal\*\*\*Ms. Eastep, Dean of Students

Welcome 2012! Collier Coyotes will come to school every day **on time**, no exceptions! We have calculated students missing as much as 2 hours a week of instruction due to tardiness. We strive on being an **EXCELLING** school, therefore, attendance and tardies matter. Readers for Life will continue third quarter; have your student read at home every night.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

1/10	Governing Board Meeting	6pm
1/16	Martin Luther King Jr. Day	No School
1/23	Freshman Orientation La Joya	6:30pm
1/27	PTA Book Swap	5pm
1/30	PTA Meeting	5pm
2/2	Title 1 Parent Meeting Collier	5:30pm

*"Conflict is inevitable, bullying is not"*

## Kinder

The kindergarteners had a great first half of the school year! They have shown so much progress in just the few months that we have been in school. They will continue to grow and become successful in all that they do. Keep up the good work at home, and remember it is a team effort to get the kids where they need to be in order to be ready for first grade at the end of the year. Thank you for all that you do!

## First Grade

The first graders did a great job in the second quarter. This quarter in math we're continuing to focus on strategies to assist in mastery of: double digit addition and subtraction, comparison of place value with the symbols  $>$ ,  $=$ , and  $<$ , and solving word problems. The focus for reading, writing and language is: to use phonics skills to decode, read and write words, to write complete sentences, to identify key details in passages, and to be able to retell a story using key details. The Readers for Life program is **important**. Your child needs to read nightly for 15 - 20 minutes. Please listen, ask questions and have them retell what they read. Thanks for your support and cooperation.

## Second Grade

With the holidays behind us, we continue to work hard as we enter the 2nd half of the school year. Our students have completed Dibels testing and our goal is to reach Benchmark reading speed - **87 words per minute** - by April. Parents and teachers can unite in this goal by requiring students to do their best reading at school and at home. In math we will begin learning about measurement and geometry. Exciting times lay ahead!



## Third Grade

The third grade team would like to remind parents to have your child read at least 30 minutes every day, and don't forget to fill out the Readers for Life packet. In our language arts block the students have been focusing on identifying the speaker in a story, distinguishing fact from opinion, interpreting information in functional documents and even making their own. The students have also followed, wrote, and evaluated multi-step directions. In math the students have been working hard on fractions, input/output tables, and solving algebraic equations!

## Fourth Grade

Fourth grade is moving fast; we just finished the second quarter of the school year! In Science we will finish learning about the water cycle and how it affects the world we live in. In Social Studies the students are wrapping up a unit and will be taking their first major Social Studies test-don't forget to study. ☺ Also in December, the students took the practice AIMS test in both Reading and Math. This will help both the students and teachers know what areas they need to work on. Keep up the hard work! As 3rd quarter begins don't forget to read 30 minutes a day for your Readers for Life and have a parent sign your log.

## Fifth Grade

For our 5th grade scholars, the amount of reading done relates directly to student achievement. This means that the more kids read the better that they will do! Please encourage them and check their *Readers for Life* logs daily. Your child is already reading his or her way to college! Make Your Day ("MYD") means "doing one's best" and "doing what's expected." Your child should always be checking his or her work and bringing their Agenda to school every day. Daily practice of times tables and basic division is also expected! The 5th grade team wishes you and your family a Happy, Healthy & Prosperous 2012!



*Wishing you a Happy New Year!*

*Collier Family*

## Sixth Grade

**Language Arts-** We will begin focusing on summarizing the main idea and critical details of expository text and maintaining chronological or logical order.

**Math-** We will read, analyze, and compare different sets of data.

**Science-** We will examine the resources in ecosystems and how we affect them.

**Social Studies-** The 6th grade classes will begin studying the Greek Civilization.

## Seventh Grade

**Language Arts-** In Language Arts students will be working on expository text and poetry. Ask your child about finding the main idea in a text and how to find poetic devices used in songs or poetry.

**Math** - In Math we are starting to study geometry. Make sure to check if students have completed homework Monday through Thursday night.

**Science-** In Science we are studying the theory of plate tectonics and how scientists used evidence to build this theory. Students will be examining plate tectonics as real scientists and use the same evidence scientists used to see if they can put together the theory of plate tectonics.

**Social Studies-** In Social Studies we are studying how our nation grew with the new wave of immigrants from Europe and their struggle to fit into American society. The second half of the curriculum is going to be fun filled as we fast approach WWI.

## Eighth Grade

**Language Arts** - The January focus for Language Arts is figurative language. Come back ready to learn!!!

**Math-** Classes will be investigating the Pythagorean Theorem and its utility with solving for the missing side of a right triangle. They will soon be determining if any given triangle, whose side measurements are known, qualifies as a right triangle.

**Science-** In Science, we will be finishing up our study of Physics and starting our Genetics unit. It is also time to start thinking about a science fair project. More details about the projects and the science fair will be coming soon.

**Social Studies** - Students will be examining the rivalry between the United States and the Soviet Union shaped much of the modern world. The Korean and Vietnam conflicts will be analyzed to explore the roots of United States involvement. The collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 marked the end of the Cold War era.

## Counselor Corner

*Our Character Counts Pillar for the month is **Caring**. The color for that Pillar is Red, reminding us that caring is from the heart. Have you ever heard of "Random Acts of Kindness"? If you Google it, you will find hundreds of websites dedicated to the positive aspects of kindness.*

Speaking of caring. I met an amazingly caring Dentist at **Litchfield Dental Care**. I was talking with **Dr. Kim** about some ideas I had to work on social interactions with our high functioning Autistic students. I told him I needed an iPad 2 in order to accomplish some specific skills. He read over my proposal and said he wanted to support my effort. In December, Dr. Kim gave me my wish, an **iPad**. I am excited to begin using it for video social stories and friendship groups, where the typical students and the Autistic students have ways to interact with something that both will see as challenging and fun.

***Acts of kindness can come from places or individuals where you might least expect.***

**This Month's Collier Essentials are:**

**Collier students:**

- Offer to help someone in need
- Pick up trash they see on the ground
- Tell others they appreciate their help
- Chew their food with their mouth closed



## Medical Minute

Schools are a living laboratory for most epidemics and diseases," says Wayne Yankus, M.D., a pediatrician, and Chair of the American Academy of Pediatrics' school health committee. "Flu epidemics come from kids in school so we know most of our seasonal epidemics will come from schools." Since it's virtually impossible to escape the bugs in schools, the key is to learn how to keep these illnesses at bay. Adequate sleep, regular hand washing, and eating breakfast every day will help protect your child from many contagious illnesses.

*Here's why:*

**Sleep:** Experts say children and teenagers need at least nine hours of sleep a night to ensure good health. TV's and computers in the bedroom are the culprit of children staying up too late.

**Hand Washing:** One of the most common ways people catch a cold is by rubbing their nose or eyes after their hand has been contaminated with the cold virus. For that reason, the best insurance policy against colds and the flu is teaching your kids to wash their hands before they eat and after they use the bathroom. No exceptions.

**Breakfast:** It may sound cliché, but eating a healthy breakfast gives your student a head start. Studies have shown that children who eat breakfast learn better, participate in class more often, behave better, and attend school more often.

## Specials

**Art** - I welcome the 3rd quarter art students to the art studio! Collier's art education begins with the basic literacy of visual art. Line, shape, color, value, space and form are the language of art. As the students participate in art project opportunities, they learn how an artist works. Student artwork will be saved in portfolios for our year-end art showcase, and then the artwork will be returned to the student.

**Band** - The Collier bands finished a successful December program with their concert on December 8. The Beginning and Advanced Bands performed well for an appreciative audience. Looking ahead to the 3rd quarter, the several Advanced Band members will be participating in the Arizona Solo and Ensemble Festival on February 25 and three of our students will represent Collier in the Arizona All State Band Festival on March 10. These are important dates so band students need to keep them open so we can distinguish our school at the State level.

The Beginning Band will now be known as the Intermediate Band and will be continuing their music studies so that near the end of the school year, they will be playing sheet music with the Advanced Band members. Thank you to the parents and friends that support the music program at Collier by your attendance at our concerts and your encouragement for our students.

**Computer** - In January, third to eighth grade students will practice typing and work on Microsoft Word projects. First and second grade students will work on reading and math on interactive educational web sites.

**Music** - Welcome to January everyone! The Collier Music program would like to welcome a new group of classes to general music this quarter. Also, if you are a seventh or eighth grader, it's still not too late to sign up for choir. Third quarter is the last time you can join. Get in contact with Mrs. VK if you are interested.

**P.E. - Harmon:** It has been a great semester in Mr. Harmon's Physical Education Class. I hope everyone had a restful and enjoyable Holiday Break.

**Resource-** Parents to help your children complete reading/language arts homework try the following suggestions:

1. Help your children improve reading skills by having them pre-read non-fiction reading assignments (reviewing the headings, picture captions, reviewing tables, charts, and graphs). Children can pre-read fiction by reading the front cover, back cover, and introduction. Skimming the first quarter to determine setting, character, and plot.
2. Encourage your child to determine the meaning of unfamiliar words by using the context or by looking them up in a dictionary and writing them down.
3. Help your child learn effective reading techniques such as SQ3R, where the reader:
  - **Surveys:** Looks over the material before beginning to read to obtain a general orientation.
  - **Questions:** Writes down questions about the material before beginning to read.
  - **Reads** through the material in the normal way.
  - **Recites and Writes:** Writes down or gives the answers to another person.
  - **Reviews:** Goes over the material several times before being tested.
4. Encourage your child to outline or "map" reading material for better understanding. To "map," a child places the main topic in the middle of a blank sheet of paper. He then draws a branch for each subheading, and places supporting details on smaller branches going out from the subheadings. This creates a visual aid that increases organization and comprehension.
5. Make sure your children understand their textbooks. Children should be able to read 9 out of 10 words accurately and answer a least 3 out of 4 questions correctly.
6. Help your child predict outcomes, distinguish fact from opinion, discern emotional appeals, recognize bias, and discern inference as they read.

## Safety TIP

Traveling to and from school for the month of January:

Help children memorize their phone number and full address, including area code and zip code. Write down other important phone numbers such as your work and cell phone on a card for your children to carry with them.

