



# Coyote Editions May • 2011



## Administrative Team

Collier Elementary had its first ever Career Day on April 29<sup>th</sup> for the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. Speakers from all over the community presented to the students and answered questions about their profession, including a coach, a teacher, a project manager, a city of phoenix park and recreation division representative, a police officer, a make-up artist, an engineer, a trainer, an athlete, and a speaker from Estrella Mountain Community College. The students found the day to be very worthwhile and had a great time listening and learning. Special thanks to the speakers, Mr. Teer for coordinating and overseeing the event, and the Collier PTA for providing refreshments for our special guests.

All our general music students have worked exceptionally hard this year. Ten of Collier's 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students will be presenting at the LESD #65 School Board Meeting on Tuesday, May 10<sup>th</sup>. The Board Meeting begins at 5:45 at the District Office. The students will be demonstrating how they use music technology to create original songs. Please join us in experiencing the students' creations!

As the 2010-2011 school year comes to a close, on behalf of all the Collier staff, I would like to offer our greatest thanks to each of you for all you have done for the students and staff of Collier this year . . . and every year. Thank you, Collier Community and Friends, for your ever-present encouragement and support. I consider it a privilege to have been part of such a wonderful school community!

There are new and very exciting curricular improvements and educational initiatives on the horizon. We, the Collier staff, are very proud of our Collier School Community and extremely appreciative of your constant support and encouragement.

May you and your families have a sensational summer, filled with good health and relaxing activities.

### HAVE A GREAT MONTH!!!

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

- 5-3 K-1 Concert Collier 6pm
- 5-5 2-4 Concert Collier 6pm
- 5-10 Board Meeting ULC 6pm (*presentation*)
- 5-17 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Battle of Books 5pm
- 5-19 Chorus and Band Concert 6:30pm
- 5-24 Special Board Meeting ULC 6pm
- 5-25 Kinder Promotion Collier 8am
- 5-26 8<sup>th</sup> grade Promotion Collier 8:30am

*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

Our first year half-day kindergartners have done an excellent job! We are so proud of them and all that they have accomplished this year. We also want to thank all of the parents for sharing their children with us and working so hard with them. They are prepared for 1<sup>st</sup> grade and will do great!

We will be having a Promotion Ceremony on Wednesday, May 25<sup>th</sup> at 8am for both the AM and PM classes in the cafeteria. We look forward to seeing everyone there!

Please remember to continue to have your child read throughout the summer. It is important that they do not lose any of the skills that they have learned this year and the best way to do that is by making sure that they read all summer. Have a Wonderful Summer!

## First Grade

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 using all of the traits in our writing!

In science, we will be focusing on "Objects in the Night Sky." Your child will be learning about the phases of the moon, what makes day and night, and about the sun!

In Social Studies we will be learning about natural resources while we celebrate Earth Day. Please encourage your child to reduce, reuse and recycle at home. We are also beginning our unit on ancient Egypt! The kids always have a great deal of fun and learn so much during this unit.

It is hard to believe that in just a few short weeks we will be ending the 2010-2011 school year. It has been such a pleasure teaching each and every student in first grade this year. As always, thank you for your dedication and support.



## Second Grade

Thank you all for your help in getting your students ready for testing these past few weeks. Although we did not have perfect attendance, we could see a tremendous effort on behalf of all second grade families to get their students to school on time, and ready to do their best!

**Reading:** In Reading this month, we have been working on a variety of skills. Right now, second graders have been hard at work to increase our fluency to prepare for DIBELS testing coming up in the beginning of May. This is when your student will read for one minute and are timed. The goal for the end of second grade is 90 words per minute. Also, second grade has been working on making inferences about why certain things happen in the story, predictions, cause and effect, as well as learning about character traits. Additionally, we have been learning about different resources we can use to get information, such as dictionaries, atlases, encyclopedias, and the internet. We have been reading such a variety of books lately, we hope your students are having fun reading, learning, and having adventures with the characters!



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**Writing:** This month we have been working on writing good paragraphs. Our focus has been writing descriptive paragraphs and paragraphs of information. We are learning that our descriptive paragraphs need to be really interesting so that someone will want to read them. We are studying about word choice – using exact and descriptive words that help the readers see or hear what is happening in our paragraph. For our information paragraphs, we are learning that we need to make sure our ideas are organized (sequenced) correctly. A reader may become confused if information is out of order. We want to use a lot of details in our writing as well as descriptive words that will help our readers understand the topic better. In upcoming weeks, we will be writing a how-to paragraph, directions, and a grand finale of writing activities: postcard, persuasive posters, timed writing, news article, and a transportation schedule!

**Math:** In math, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade worked hard to prepare for our big Stanford 10 test. Addition, subtraction, number sense, data analysis, patterns, probability, fractions, geometry, algebra, and word problems, we did it all! We practiced and practiced to become champion listeners and test takers, and we have done our best!

**Social Studies:** In social studies we are continuing our study of transportation. The students thought of many ways people move. Some students thought of rockets, sled dogs and motor homes! We are also studying maps and made a map of the classroom. The students located Arizona on the map of the United States. We also learned about the seven continents and four oceans. These activities go perfect with our reading series story, Beginner's World Atlas. The children learned what an atlas is and various places where maps are found such as in the mall, at the zoo, and Disneyland. We also gained knowledge about what a compass rose is, what is a legend, and how a scale is used. Collier second grade Coyotes are growing in our knowledge of the world!

Also, some classes have continued their trip around the world, learning about other cultures. Last month, students learned about how our American culture compares to the cultures of other countries. Now, second graders are writing friendly letters to their pen pals in The Netherlands. Students are sharing their favorite things about American culture: sports, music, movies, etc...



## 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 poetry and will be working on research papers.

**Math:** In math class, the students will continue reviewing different math concepts, especially subtraction with borrowing, and multiplication! Please make sure you are studying every night.

**Science:** The students have been learning about rocks, 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, and ancient and modern cultures.

## Fourth Grade

The fourth grade is glad that AIMS testing is over. Students were asked to work extra hard prior to testing and we are all hoping that the hard work pays off as we should get test results by the end of May  
**Math:** In Math we will review the year's concepts and will look into working on fifth grade concepts.

**Reading:** In Reading we are on the last two stories of our reading series and then we are planning on doing literary studies.

**Social Studies:** In some of the 4<sup>th</sup> grade classes we have been studying bullying and how to build friendships.

Remember we still have four weeks of school left and expectations in the classrooms and all common areas still need to be met. Reminder to all, spelling and reading homework still need to be turned in.

## Fifth Grade

Our Fifth Grade Scholars were able to meet students visiting from the northern part of Germany during the week after AIMS. These visitors from the state of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern ranged in age from 11-14, and they were able to tell us about their schools, local traditions, and German way of life. They all live within 30 minutes of the coast (Baltic Sea), and some even live on an island about 12 miles from Poland. Our Collier students were able to share their own experiences and compare and contrast living in America with living in Europe. The eight German students were accompanied by two teachers, and they were all impressed by the warm welcome they have received here in Arizona.

Thanks to all the families who made sure that their students arrived prepared to do their best on our AIMS tests. Your continued support is appreciated! This 4<sup>th</sup> quarter has several more weeks left, and it is critical that students continue to focus on maximizing their academic progress. Please make sure that your child is completing all homework. Just as importantly, be sure that your scholar misses as few days as possible. This is the best way to be prepared for success in 6<sup>th</sup> Grade!

Thanks for caring; thanks for sharing. The 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Team wishes you a marvelous month of May!

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:** We are finishing up Ancient Greece and ending off the year with Ancient Rome. Even though AIMS is over, we still have a few more weeks of school and a lot of work to do. Many students did not turn in their Greek God/Goddess essay and it is GREATLY impacting their grade. Please help your student be successful and make sure they are turning in their work!

**Reading:** For the last of the school year we will continue to apply the Reading Strategies using some of the 7<sup>th</sup> Grade reading books to acquaint the students for next year reading. The students have great



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confidence in their reading and comprehension in all reading materials. Benchmarks for 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter will be coming up soon and I have all assurance that the students are ready and prepared.

**Writing:** Sixth graders will be finishing their research project and paper before finalizing their Final Writing Portfolios. This is where they will look at all of their papers from the year and choose their favorite topics to rewrite while applying what they have learned this year. I am looking forward to seeing the changes they make from their first papers to their final portfolios. As the end of the year approaches, students begin to get into summer mode and start to lose more and more focus, including paying attention in class and turning their work in on time. Please remind your students to still put forth effort and to turn their assignments in ON TIME. Encourage your child to do their absolute best so they can finish the year off strong. I have really enjoyed getting to know all of the 6<sup>th</sup> graders this year and wish them the best of luck in 7<sup>th</sup> grade!

**Math:** Wow, I can't believe this year has already come to an end. The 6<sup>th</sup> graders have worked so hard in math! They have been very flexible with all the changes that went on this year. The last quarter we will be reviewing different math topics and preparing for what's to come in the seventh grade. Keep up the awesome work in 7<sup>th</sup> grade!

**Science:** This year has flown by with all of the excitement of the changes that the 130 students have been through. The students will finish up their chapter on different forms of energy. I wish them all the luck in 7<sup>th</sup> grade and their future. I hope they continue their great work ethics in 7<sup>th</sup> grade.



## Seventh Grade

**Science:** In science the 7<sup>th</sup> grade students will study weathering and erosion, and how these have caused the earth's surface to change. They will be doing several

hands-on experiments to help them test different conceptions they may have about weathering and erosion. Students will be finishing up the school year by studying plate tectonics, earthquakes and volcanoes. 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.

**Social Studies:** We are almost finished with the school year and it has been a pleasure to teach your son or daughter. We will be finishing up the year by learning about the Roaring 20's and the Great Depression. There will be one more project the students have to do; details will be up-coming. Have a great summer, be safe and see you next year.

**Language Arts:** In Language Arts this month we are 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.

Students will have a final project for The Outsiders which will be a large part of their grade. Students will be able to choose their grade and the assignments that they complete to earn that grade.

Please ask your child about the book as many of the students are eager to discuss it! Also, please talk to your child about making an ambitious choice for their final project. Have a great summer and best wishes!

**Math:** 7<sup>th</sup> grade Math students just completed their yearly AIMS test. This month we will be continuing to review Probability and other Math concepts that they had difficulty with this year. As they master these concepts we'll begin getting them ready for 8<sup>th</sup> grade Math.

## Eighth Grade

**Science:** In Science class the 8<sup>th</sup> graders are continuing with their studies of animal adaptations, relationships among living organisms, and historical and current events in Science.

**Math:** In all math blocks we are covering various topics in Algebra to get students ready for the high school math placement tests.

**Language Arts:** The 8<sup>th</sup> grade Language Arts will be completing writing assignments. They will be producing books that detail their life from birth to 8<sup>th</sup> grade and their expectations of entering high school. We also will be finalizing six minute solutions, writing and reading benchmarks. Research papers will also be completed.

**Social Studies:** We will be focusing on landmark Supreme Court decisions. Then we will transition to basic economics to supplement the Create a City project that will touch the skills and knowledge that has been taught throughout the 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

## Physical Education

**Mr. Harmon:** 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 throwing and catching, and their progress has been amazing since the beginning of the year. The 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students are still working with pedometers and working on tracking their steps during exercise. The 6<sup>th</sup> grades girls have been playing softball and they have learned a lot about the game and have become very good players. The 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls have been working on team handball and will finish the year playing floor hockey, volleyball, soccer, and various other games.

**Mr. Teer:** My 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> grade students, have been playing Bucket Ball, which has helped them with their hitting, striking, and teamwork skills. My 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders just started a basketball unit and have been working on dribbling, passing and shooting. My 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders students just started a soccer unit – learning the rules and the skills necessary to play the game. They have been displaying excellent sportsmanship. As the year warms up, please remind your child to bring water to my class to help them stay hydrated.

## Technology

In the technology lab, we will do a lot of fun and educational activities in the last couple weeks of the quarter. First and second grade students will continue to use educational websites (multiplication.com, mathplayground.com, brainpop.com...) to learn math and language arts. These interactive websites will help students learning new materials in a fun and interactive environment. In the month of May, third to eighth grade students working on Microsoft PowerPoint presentations and Publisher projects. Eighth grade students will work on their ECAP (Education and Career Action Plan). Students will create their own folders in the website to reflect their career aspirations. In this website, they will learn about their chosen careers and learning opportunities to achieve their academic and career goals. It is one of the last steps that we get them to be ready for high school.





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## Art Classes

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>, 5-7 PM. Everyone is welcome for the festivities and an evening of great artwork!

## Music Time

May brings an exciting end to the school year for all the music students here at Collier. On May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6 PM, our Kindergarten and first grade students will be presenting their Spring Concert. Two evenings later, on Thursday, May 5<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM, our second, third and fourth grade students will be presenting their Spring Concert, as well. Stop by to see these students present their awesome singing skills!

The 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade choir members are looking forward to an exciting month, too. The Collier Band and Choir will be having their Spring Concert on Thursday, May 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM. Parents and students, please note, that this is a time change from our normal concert time. To follow up the Spring Concert, our music students will be performing at Castles and Coasters on Friday, May 20<sup>th</sup>. Congratulations to all the Band and Choir students on a fantastic year full of quality performances!

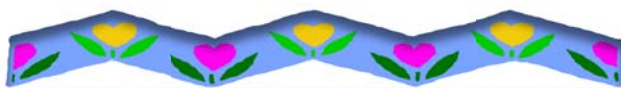
## Band

As we approach the end of the year, many exciting things are coming up in the band department! For our advanced band students, we have three concerts to finish off our busy year. Our students will be playing in our spring concerts at Country Place and Collier. The first concert will be at Country Place at 6 PM on Wednesday, May 11<sup>th</sup>, and our second one will be at Collier at 6:30 PM on Thursday, May 19<sup>th</sup>. For our beginning band students, we will be playing at the Collier spring concert on Thursday, May 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM. We hope to see you all there! Finally, all of our band students will be attending a field trip on Friday, May 20<sup>th</sup> to Castles n' Coasters in which the Littleton District Honor Band will be giving a performance. It will be a great opportunity for all of our students to perform or participate as an audience member for a great concert!

## Counselor's Corner

Get your kids reading this summer! One very important thing you can do with your child this summer no matter what age, grade or academic ability, is to READ to them and have them READ to you! PBS has a wonderful website for parents and Kids! You can find lots of Tips on helping your child with reading. There are recommended books, online games, and articles on many different topics. A summer routine that includes daily time with a book will benefit your child as they return in the Fall. Here is the website to get you started:

<http://www.pbs.org/parents/readinglanguage/>



Our Collier Essentials for the month are:

Collier Students:

- ❖ Are always quiet and respectful in a Public Library.
- ❖ Always follow the expected dress code.
- ❖ Live so that they will not have regrets, knowing mistakes are opportunities to learn.
- ❖ Make safe choices around water.



## Medical Minute

The end of school is near. Aims' testing is over, whew, and almost everybody is in good health. Congratulations to all of our parents and students for a job well done.

It is now time to concentrate on the few items that we will need to finish up before school ends. Remember if your child is going in to the 6<sup>th</sup> grade and is 11 years old now, or will be by the start of school in August 2011, you will need to update their shot records by getting a Meningococcal and a Tdap immunization. Children need to have these shots before starting school on August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

If you have medication that your child has been taking throughout the school year, you will need to pick it up no later than 3:00 pm, May 26, 2011, or it will be discarded.

I hope each and every one of you has a wonderful relaxing summer. See you next year.

## Safety Tip

The City of Avondale is conducting a survey for traffic flow in the Collier community. We value and support student and community safety. Please complete the survey in order to provide us with the feedback we need to serve the needs of the community and the school.

