

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

Collier Connection

November 2011

Administrative Team

Ms. Pitts, Principal*** Dr. Matera, Asst. Principal***Ms. Eastep, Dean of Students

Thanks for the great participation in our 1st Quarter's Parent-Teacher Conferences, as well as attending the Honor Roll Assembly. Together we are making a huge difference in improving your child's education!

Among the many improvements this year, the **Readers for Life** program has started to increase reading among our students. The amount of reading this past quarter was amazing! Let's increase our reading minutes this 2nd Quarter to even more than 30 minutes, Monday-Thursday. Our Collier Academic Achievers have new reading logs. Please check daily to see if your student is writing/reflecting about what they have read as part of our **Readers for Life** program.

Thanks again for continuing to make sure that your child is always checking his or her work. This is a huge part of "doing one's best" and "doing what's expected." These are the pillars of the Make Your Day Program ("MYD"). Please make sure that your child is bringing the Agenda to school every day in grades 3rd-8th! The students write about their assignments, as well as keep track of their MYD points.

Parents we invite you to come and join us during November's Board Meeting. Collier Elementary will be the highlight of the night! Students will receive an incentive if their parents/guardians attend the meeting.

Remember: "Everyone needs to learn to live in peace"

UPCOMING EVENTS

11/3	Fresh and Easy 4pm-8pm
11/4	PTA Movie Night 6:30pm
11/8	Board Mtg ULC (Collier Presentation)
11/11	Veterans Day (No School)
11/17	PTA Peter Piper Pizza 4pm-7pm
11/24-25	Thanksgiving (No School)
11/28	PTA Mtg 5pm



Kinder

The kindergartners have completed their "No More Letter of the Week" program. The students should know all of the letter names and sounds now. We are beginning to blend sounds into words and to write sounds we know to make words. In math, we are beginning geometry and learning about two and three dimensional shapes. Thank you for reading with your child each and every day!

First Grade

The students did a great job in the first quarter. This quarter, the focus in reading and language is on developing good reading and writing skills. The focus in math is on place value, addition and subtraction. The students are excited to continue the **Readers for Life** program. Thanks for your support.

Second Grade

Even though the weather is cooling down, 2nd grade is still working up a sweat as we strengthen our reading and math muscles! We continue to practice reading fluently, both, in class and at home, as we make it a part of our lives. We are learning to make predictions and connect stories to our own experiences. We will dig into expository text and learn to identify the main idea and locate facts in response to questions. In math we continue to develop our understanding of numbers by adding, subtracting and comparing.



Third Grade

The third grade teachers are very excited by all the growth the students have made so far this year. Please remember to have your child read at least 30 minutes every night and fill out the **Readers for Life** packet. Also, please don't forget to check your child's agenda and sign it every day. Thank you so much for all your help and support at home!

Fourth Grade

In 4th grade students are continuing to work with fractions and decimals along with describing number patterns and using symbols to represent unknown quantities. In reading, all students received a new **Reader's for Life** packet. Please remember to read 30 minutes each night. In Science we are learning about wreathing and erosion. In Social Studies the students are learning how to read product maps.



Fifth Grade

Another fantastic program is "The Battle of the Books," which is meeting after-school. The 5th grade's participation is awesome, and we are extremely proud of our students. We are all looking forward to the final rounds of team competition in December.

Thanks for having your child continue to practice multiplication tables (up to 12), as well as basic division, at home. These must be automatically known- just like the ABCs. Even just practicing skip-counting by 4s, 6s, 7s, and 8s is very helpful. First work on accuracy! Afterwards, please work on increasing their speed at answering correctly.

Sixth Grade

Language Arts- In Language Art, we will be focusing on nonfiction text and main idea. If you have not done so, please e-mail one of your student's teachers so we may compile a contact list.

Math- In Math, we will be focusing on analyzing, interpreting, and comparing different sets of data

Science-In Science, we are beginning our studies in Life Sciences which involve growing and looking at microscopic organism under a microscope.

Social Studies -In Social Studies, we are still working on ancient civilizations with a long-term project and paper. The students will be working on it primarily at home, as well as, another "BIG" unit test at the end of November.

Seventh Grade

Language Arts- Students in the Blue & Purple classes are reading the novel, **The Hunger Games** and working on making prediction, inferences and connections. Students in the Orange & Green classes are reading the novel, **Stargirl** and working on describing characters using their words, actions, thoughts, and feelings. All students have homework Monday – Thursday.

Math – In math 7th graders are starting algebra. We will be working on expressions, equations, graphing equations, and functions. Expect homework Monday thru Thursday unless otherwise stated in their agenda.

Science- In science, 7th graders are finishing up the unit on rocks and minerals. After rocks and minerals students will be studying weathering and erosion, and the geologic time scale to help them explain how the Earth's surface has changed over time.

Social Studies-In Social Studies, students will be learning about the Reconstruction Era. Chapter 17 will discuss how the South was reconstructed after the Civil War. We also will be discussing Lincoln's Assassination and how that affected the reconstruction effort.



Veteran's Day:

*Thank you to all the Men and Women
who serve our country!!!*

Eighth Grade

Language Arts - Reading this month will include suspense stories. Don't forget Monday quizzes!

Math- This quarter, 8th grade Math will be focusing in on basic algebra concepts. A few of the concepts include: functions, inequalities, linear equations and inequalities, identifying and computing slope, and intercepts of linear equations. Tutoring is available Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

Science- The 8th grade scientists are finishing up the Chemistry Unit and will begin their studies of Physics, including Newton's 3 Laws of Motion.

Social Studies - Students will be examining important documents that have shaped the ideals of the United States, such as the Declaration of Independence, Articles of Confederation, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights. Students should constantly be looking over their notes for Thursday quizzes.



Counselor Corner

*Our Character Counts Pillar for November is: **Responsibility***

The color for that Pillar is Green, to remind us we all have a responsibility to preserve our green earth. We at Collier have a recycling box in each classroom to help do our part to not abuse our earthly resources. Take some time to discuss with your child ways you as a family are showing responsibility to the earth, but also to family members, the community, our state and our country.

This Month's Collier Essentials are:

Collier students will:

Recycle paper and Plastic whenever possible

Shake hands when they introduce themselves

Wash their hands to avoid spreading germs

Walk on the right when in hallways, staircases or in a crowded area

Medical Minute

Its fall, weather is cooler, and we are outside a lot more, so let's not forget to use our sunscreen. Even on cooler, overcast days we need to be protected from the sun's harmful rays.

Specials

Music - November is an exciting month for the music program. Many students are preparing for their holiday concert, especially, the Kindergarten and First Grade students that will perform on Tuesday, December 6th at 6PM!

Band - Collier advanced band members will be performing at the State Fair on November 3rd at 5 p.m. Our band is combining with Country Place, Littleton and Quentin bands to perform. Several of the students will be wearing their new band shirts for this first performance of the year. Beginning band students are actively involved in learning music that they will perform at our December concert. This is a very excited band with very high expectations for their future performances.

P.E.-(Teer) I am excited to start the next 9 weeks with new students. Please remember to bring water to class and dress in the appropriate attire.

(Harmon) I am excited to start a new quarter of physical education. I look forward to teaching a new group of middle school students.

Computer - In November, third through eighth grade students will practice typing and work on Microsoft Word projects. First and second grade students will do lots of reading and math problems on interactive educational web sites.

Art - Welcome to the 2nd quarter students attending art class! The art room could use your old magazines for our collage projects. If you would like to donate, please drop them off in the art room, or leave in the front office for me to pick up.

E.P. - First and second graders are researching an animal to create a presentation using online tools.

Resource-“Life doesn't require that we be the best, only that we try our best.”-H. Jackson Brown Jr.

To help you try your best and focus at school, try this simple game to help you improve your concentration: The first player makes one motion, like clapping or spinning around. The second person copies him and adds another movement. Continue adding new motions until someone forgets the sequence. The last player to get it right starts a new game. To challenge yourself with this game, use groups of more than two people.

Safety TIP

Bike Safety month of November:

- Always wear a bicycle helmet, no matter how short or long the ride.
- Ride on the right, in the same direction as auto traffic.
- Use appropriate hand signals.
- Respect traffic lights and stop signs.
- Wear bright color clothing to increase visibility.
- Know the "rules of the road."

