

Collier Connection

October 2011



Administrative Team

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

Thanks for making sure that all our students are working as hard as they can to make maximum progress towards Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). Please check daily to see if your student is writing about what they have read as a part of our Readers for Life program. Each student should read at least 30 minutes every day-Monday through Thursday. Also please continue 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.”

3rd-8th grade parents’, please make sure that your child is bringing the Agenda to school every day! The students write about their assignments, as well as keep track of their points based on Make Your Day (MYD).

UPCOMING EVENTS

10/4	Board Meeting ULC
10/5-10/7	Parent Teacher Conferences
10/10-10/14	Fall Break
10/21	Fall Dance (6 th -8 th grades)
10/24-10/28	PTSA Halloween Grams
10/31	Trunk or Treat (Collier Parking Lot)
11/8	Collier Board Presentation (ULC) 6pm

Safety TIP

- Cross the street at corners, using traffic signals and crosswalks.
- Never run out into the streets or cross in between parked cars.
- Make sure to always walk in front of the bus where the driver can see pedestrians.



Kinder

In Kindergarten we have been learning all of our letters and sounds, and how to write them all. We have also been learning how to count to 25, recognize numbers to 20 and how to count objects to 20. The students are now in the swing of things and enjoying school very much.

First Grade

Thanks for your support! Reading: Key words are character, setting, and events. Writing: We’re learning about asking and telling sentences. Math: We’re learning addition and subtraction strategies to solve word problems.



Second Grade

Second graders are digging in **working hard!** We are practicing writing personal narratives with well written sentences and good details. In language arts we have discussed and written about character traits, and we are learning to sequence events in a story. We continue to use manipulatives and problem solving to make our math come alive and to help us develop a concrete understanding of number sense and operations. Overall, we are practicing our self-control and good citizenship skills as we work together and support one another.

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

This is a reminder to all Fourth grade parents: Please remember to sign agendas and Readers for Life Journals nightly. We have many students who are doing this, but we are finding many that aren't. Our thanks go out to all parents who consistently hold their child accountable.



Fifth Grade

In Math we have been working on the order of operations, reducing fractions to their lowest terms, and determining ratios. We have also been focusing on using number lines to solve problems involving fractions, decimals and whole numbers.

Please have your child practice multiplication tables (up to 12), as well as basic division problems, at home. These need to be automatically known just like the ABCs. Even just practicing skip-counting by 3s, 7s, and up to the 9s is very helpful. Remember, always first work on *accuracy*! If your scholar has very good accuracy with these, it's fine to work on increasing their speed when answering correctly.

Sixth Grade

In Science, we will continue to study energy and construct different items that create energy. In Language Art, we will be learning about how the setting of a story influences the problem and resolution. In social studies, we will begin learning about the Ancient World. Also, ASU will come visit us before Fall Break to talk about college. In Math, we will be covering integers. If you have not done so, please e-mail one of your student's teachers so we may compile a contact list.

Seventh Grade

Language Arts-Students are learning comprehension strategies to help them be successful readers. Please ask your child about making connections, visualizing, summarizing and evaluating.

Science- Students are learning about rocks and minerals and they will be identifying the different characteristics of rocks and minerals, how they form, and how they are important in our everyday life.

Math -We are currently working on data analysis and central tendency. Soon we will be moving on to integer operations.

Social Studies- We are learning about the Five Themes of Geography. We also are identifying states and countries on the map. Our next unit will be beginning stages of the Civil War.

Eighth Grade

Language Arts - Our Language Arts classes are focusing on plot development, with a lot of exciting stories in the works! Don't forget the quiz each Monday.

Math-In Math we will cover: order of operations; absolute value; finding percent increase and percent decrease; simple interest. 8th grade tutoring will be available Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday after school.

Science-In Science, the 8th graders are studying the physical and chemical properties of Matter.

Social Studies - Students will learn that the purpose of the Declaration of Independence was to justify the American Revolution and to explain the founding principles of the New Nation. They will also learn that the Constitution established a republic, in which power is held by voting citizens through their representatives.



Come join us Sept 29th-Oct. 6th
for our Book Fair!!!

Counselor Corner

The First week in October is National Bullying Prevention Awareness Week. Our Collier Community takes Bullying seriously. Students will be receiving a series of lessons from the Curriculum: Bully-Proofing Your School. The latest research shows that the key to stopping a “Bully,” has a lot to do with the bystanders, those peers who see it going on. As a parent, you should also talk with your children about Bullying. The PACER Center has developed an interactive website about Bullying. There are also links for adults who would like more information on what to do and how to talk to their children about Bullying: <http://www.pacerkidsagainstbullying.org/>.

Beginning this month we will start a **Bully Prevention Program**. Each month will focus on a different aspect of Bully prevention. All grades will focus on the same Key Message. This month's message is: “Bullying is Not Acceptable”. We also will be using a catch phrase to help student remember to report any Bullying behaviors. “If You See Something, Say Something”.

This month's **Pillar of Character** is: **Respect**

The **Collier Essentials** are :

Collier Students: 1. Get help from an adult when anyone is being Bullied. 2. Say excuse-me when someone bumps into them. 3. Congratulate people who have done something well. 4. Shake hands when they introduce themselves.



Medical Minute

YES! It is finally starting to get cooler out there. I have seen fewer complaints about sore throats, so I think we are passing the Strep season. Soon we will be entering the Flu season, so make sure your little one is immunized this year. I haven't heard anything in regards to the Mollen Clinic coming this year, so don't wait too long before you find an alternative resource.

Once again I am stressing the importance of HAND WASHING. This, on its own, can help prevent many common illnesses from spreading. Teach your children to wash their hands after going to the bathroom, before and after eating.

Drink plenty of water and get plenty of rest, and you should sail right through the Flu season. ~Nurse Lee

Specials

Music - Hello Collier! The 7th and 8th Grade Choir performed at Chick-Fil-A as a fundraiser Concert, Thursday, September 29th. The performance was amazing and the chicken nugget eating contest was very funny. Hope to see you next time!

Band - We have 33 beginning band students at Collier this fall, and 16 returning advanced band students. The advanced band members will be wearing band shirts in the future for our performances. Plus, all band students will have band shirts in the future. Looking great, Collier! “BAND—not an elective, it is a passion!!”

P.E. - The P.E. classes have been enjoying many different sports and skilled activities for different grade levels. These sports and skilled activities include: locomotors skills, tossing, soccer, volleyball and scooters.

Computer - In the month of October, 3rd – 8th grade students will be working on Microsoft PowerPoint and Publisher projects. First and second grades continue working on math and language websites.

Art - The 7th and 8th grade art students are working on weaving projects, while 6th grade is working on a collage project. Fourth and 5th graders are working on optical illusions, and 1st – 3rd grade students are working on compositions containing lines.

E.P. - 6th graders are fulfilling the roles of architect, interior designer, and contractor as they design and decorate a home, within a budget, for a client family.



Resource

When you are at the grocery store, with your parents/guardians turn your shopping trip into an opportunity for you to practice your math skills. For example, fruits and vegetables are sold by the pound. Estimate how much a bag of fruit would cost after weighing it and looking at how much the fruit is per pound (use multiplication to figure this out). You can also keep a running total of what you or your parents/guardians are buying to the nearest dollar, and then see how close you are to the actual amount when you check out. You could keep this running total on a calculator, in your head, or with pen and paper.