

**September 2011**

## Administrative Team

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

ATTENTION all 3<sup>rd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade students: bring your Agenda to school every day! Students are to write about what they have done or need to do in these, as well as keep track of their points based on Make Your Day (MYD). Reading logs also need to be signed by parents or guardians. Help your child make maximum progress by reading as much as possible!

Let's make sure that all of our students are working as hard as they can to achieve success. Please remember to see if your student continues to complete his or her homework. Also make sure that your child is always checking his or her work- that is a huge part of "doing one's best" and "doing what's expected."

## UPCOMING EVENTS

|           |                                     |
|-----------|-------------------------------------|
| 9/5       | No School Labor Day                 |
| 9/12-9/30 | PTSA Fundraiser                     |
| 9/13      | Board Mtg. ULC (Collier Presenting) |
| 9/22      | Math Night                          |
| 9/26      | PTSA Mtg. (Collier Cafeteria)       |
| 9/29      | Chick-Fil-A Night                   |
| 9/29-10/6 | Book Fair (Collier Library)         |

## Safety TIP

Accidents can be prevented if parents are on the lookout for potential hazards. To help you keep your kids free from harm, here is a safety tip. Plan a walking route to school or the bus stop. Choose the most direct way with the fewest street crossings and, if possible, with intersections that have crossing guards.



## Kinder

We had a great beginning of the year! The kindergartners are doing a great job of adjusting to all the rules, procedures and expectations of the school and classrooms. We are all excited to have a great school year this year!

## First Grade

This month in phonics the students are working on blending letters to form words. Reading: We're looking for details about the character and the setting. Writing: We're learning the parts to form a complete sentence. Math: We're learning to count and recognize numbers to 120. We'll be working on place value and recognizing numbers that are greater than, less than or equal to another number. Thanks for your support!

## Second Grade

Second grade is off to a roaring start. We've enjoyed getting to know one another through exciting community building activities. We've worked hard on pre-assessments which have given us a foundation for building a successful second grade academic year. We look forward to developing our reading fluency, our number sense math skills, and our ability to write interesting short stories. This is shaping up to be a great year!



## Third Grade

The third grade teachers would like to welcome parents and students to third grade. We are all excited for this year and we will continue to have high expectations for all of our students. In our language arts block we have been focusing on sequencing, ABC order, compound words, predictions, word relationships and abbreviations. The students have been learning place value and four digit addition in math.



## Fourth Grade

The 4<sup>th</sup> graders are learning about being organized and prepared. Parents we would like your help in making sure that you sign their agendas every night along with their "Readers for Life" log. This is one way we communicate with you and you can also see what your children should be doing for homework. We look forward to working with you this year.

## Fifth Grade

In Math we have been working on fractions, decimals and percentages. We have also been focusing on number lines, as well as distinguishing between prime numbers and composite 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 5s, 6s, and up to the 12s is very helpful. Always, first work on accuracy and then work on increasing the speed.

## Sixth Grade

In social studies we will be covering current news events, early civilizations and the ancient world. The focus skills for 6<sup>th</sup> grade Language Arts will be Narrative Elements and Making Predictions to confirm text. In Science, we will be learning about the different forms and types of energy and the law of the conservation of energy. In Math, the focus will be fractions, decimals and percentages.

## 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** -Classes are learning how to analyze (take apart) what they read by using literary terms.

**Math**-The first two and a half weeks of school we focused strictly on fractions. This is not an 8<sup>th</sup> grade concept, but a concept that students severely struggle with and are required to know when going to high school.

**Science**- We are beginning the Chemistry Unit with scientific measurement. We are learning how to use a variety of tools to measure and calculate the physical properties of matter that will be studied in upcoming laboratory investigations.

**Social Studies** - The opening weeks of 8<sup>th</sup> grade Social Studies has focused on the use of geography and how it has influenced the early history of the United States. Students will utilize map skills and the understanding of the five themes of geography throughout the study of the step leading to the American Revolution.



Have a safe Labor Day Holiday!

## Counselor Corner

The six pillars of Character: *Respect, Responsibility, Caring, Fairness, Citizenship and Trustworthiness* are all foundations for success. This month's pillar is Trustworthiness. Our Collier Essentials are not another set of rules, but rather ways of being and acting to help us become extraordinary people. You as parents or guardians can share your own stories with your children about a time in which you used one of these Collier Essentials in your life. You can guide them and motivate them to bring these essentials into their daily life as well.

Here are this month's essentials:

**Collier students:** *You Are honest*, no matter what the circumstances; *You Say please and thank you*, when it is appropriate; *You Are respectful by looking and facing the person who is speaking to you*; *You Always share* positive stories about others.



## Medical Minute

Welcome back to a bright and exciting school year. It is unseasonably warm outside so make sure your little ones are well hydrated as they wait for the bus. Have a bottle of water to sip from throughout the day.

Be extra diligent in hand washing as there is a bacteria called STREP going around. Your child can have Strep with or without a fever. So, if they complain about a sore throat and it is red, or they have a very fine red rash, it just might be Strep and you should take them to their doctor for a culture test.

Parents remember all sixth grade students who will be 11yrs of age by September 1<sup>st</sup> must have their MCV4 and Tdap immunizations. This is an Arizona state law, so if they are not up to date they will be sent home until they get them, unless you have made previous arrangements. Also, all those little Kinder's who are behind on shots will have until September 1<sup>st</sup> to catch up or they will also be sent home.

I look forward to assisting you and your child for a safe and healthy school year.

-Nurse Lee

## Specials

**Music** - Welcome back to school from the Collier Music Program! Great things are happening with all our music students, especially our Seventh and Eighth Grade Choir Members. Make sure to check them out at their first performance in September! Details coming soon!

**Band** - We have started the Advanced and Intermediate bands. All beginning band members will be starting next week. Band: not an elective----it's a Passion!!

**P.E. (Teer)**- Mr. Teer is looking forward to another great year of PE. We will be doing many new activities this year - so students, get ready to learn a lot and have some fun!

**P.E. (Harmon)** - Hope everyone had a great summer. I am really looking forward to teaching your sons and daughters this school year.

**Computer** - In September, third to eighth grade students work on Microsoft Word and Audacity. All students are required to practice typing after completing their daily assignments.

**Art** - Welcome to the new school year in art class! Art is in need of some supplies. If you have any extra yarn, twine, or ribbon, we can use lots of those items for some weaving projects. Thank you!

**E.P.** - This semester, the eighth graders are "stranded" on an island in which they must put their math and science skills to the test in order to devise a way to survive.



### Resource

WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL! Now that we are a few weeks into school, here are a couple of tips to help keep you organized and focused all school year.

1. Go home after school and have a snack and/or take a short break after school. Then start and complete your homework so that you do not have to worry about doing it at the last minute.
2. Get plenty of sleep and always eat breakfast. If you get enough sleep and eat a healthy breakfast you will perform better throughout the school day.
3. Try to remember that school can be fun! Put your best effort into all of your classes every day and try to enjoy school and the school year will go smoother for you.