

CLINTON-MENDENHALL COUGARS

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Laura Schwalm, Ph.D., Superintendent

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PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

From the Principal

Welcome Back!

I am extremely proud to report that Clinton School's made wonderful growth in their proficiency in English Language Arts and in Math last year, as measured by the California Standards Test (CST). Our API score will be available in just a few weeks, and we're anticipating a big jump up!

It's due to the commitment from teachers and families that we were able to make such great gains. Congratulations and thank-you to all of our teachers, staff, students, and parents for a job well done!

Last year we took on a lot of changes and we worked really hard – and our dedication has paid off with strong test scores that show us more of our kids are meeting the grade-level standards set by the state of California!

I hope you looking ahead to a wonderful school opening with your child, and that you're geared up for another great year with us at Clinton!

I look forward to another rigorous school year with impressive results for your child!

REMINDER - CELL PHONES

If a child brings a cell phone to school, it must remain in the backpack and be **turned off** (not set to "silent" or "vibrate") for the entire school day. Any cell phones seen or heard will be confiscated by the principal, and a parent will have to pick the phone up. Abuses of the privilege will result in the loss of the privilege.



PARKING LOT

Traffic during arrival and dismissal can create dangerous situations for our students. Here's how you can help:

In the morning...

1. Arrive to school early. The parking lot gets very busy – and more dangerous – close to 8:00.
2. When arriving to school, please **pull all the way up** and let your child out **by the gate** up so the cars behind you don't back up into the street. Your kids can walk to the gate.
3. Never leave your car unattended in the loading zone. You **MUST** stay in your car!

Always...

4. Load and unload children **only** from the passenger's side of the car.
5. Do not walk your children through traffic to the car. Stay on the sidewalk & use the crosswalk!
6. Be nice to the adults who are helping keep your child safe during arrival and dismissal.
7. Follow the rules of the road. Obey street signs and curb painting, and stop for pedestrians in the crosswalk.
8. **DRIVE SLOWLY!**

Clinton School Rules

Beginning in the 2009-10 school year, Clinton School will use a positive behavioral intervention & support program designed to encourage and reward positive behavior and to improve self-esteem at school and at home.

A Clinton Cougar PRRRS with Pride

This helps our students remember our five school rules:

- Be **P**roud
- Be **R**espectful
- Be **R**esponsible
- Be **R**esourceful
- Be **S**afe

You and your child will learn more about this once school starts. Our new Clinton School Handbook has lots of information about our school rules and programs. It'll go home with your child on the first day of school. Please review it and return the sign-off sheet.

Getting ready for September...

This year's teacher...

Class lists for the 2009-10 School Year will be posted on the windows on the afternoon of Friday, September 4th. Stop by then and find out who your child's teacher will be!

School Attendance

As you're planning your vacations for next year, please remember to avoid school times! The fast pace of learning in our school requires all students to be here every day. Parents are obligated under state law to compel their child's school attendance. Children may only miss school if they are sick. Absences due to family vacations are unexcused. Families whose students accrue an excessive number of unexcused absences will be referred to the School Attendance Review Team. (Education Code §§48293, 48454 and Penal Code §272.)

Cafeteria

On the first day of school, please remember to bring money to be added to your child's meal account. Any money left in your child's account from last year will be carried over to the 2009-10 school year. Money in the accounts of students moving to middle school were transferred over the summer.

All students need to know their lunch ID numbers by heart on the first day of school. The number does not change from year to year.

Breakfast will continue to be served from 7:35-7:55. Students may not be on-campus before that time! We do not provide supervision for students before breakfast.

Principal Honor Awards Assemblies

Our Goals

As we move toward the day when 100% of our students are proficient readers and mathematicians, we want to celebrate each of our students' gains. And so, we set a goal for each of our students – that they **advance at least one level toward proficiency** on the California Standards Test (CST) in English Language Arts and in Math each year. Once a child reaches Proficient in English Language Arts and Math, the goal is to maintain proficiency each year.

Evening Awards Ceremony

On October 22nd, **Dr. Mitchell will honor Clinton School students** for reaching this goal when they took the CST last spring.

Goal-Setting Conferences

During goal-setting conferences in October, your child's teacher will show you how your child is progressing toward this goal, and will work with you to set a goal for a **new personal best**.

Family Support

Please help your child to do their best at school by ensuring that they have a **dedicated time and place to complete their homework**. Check to make sure homework is completed. Help your children if they have a question about their homework. When your children bring home a test, applaud the work they did well, and help them to see what they need to improve. **Stay in communication** with the teacher – you can call or write a note to the teacher any time!

Dates to Remember

<u>August</u>	<u>November</u>
31 – School Office Opens	6 – Picture Day
	9 – 1 st Quarter Language Arts Benchmark Testing begins
<u>September</u>	11 – Veteran's Day – NO SCHOOL
4 – Class Lists are Posted	16 – Make-Up Picture Day
10 – First Day of School	19 – Fire Drill
14 – CELDT Testing Begins	26-27 – Thanksgiving Holiday – NO SCHOOL
24 – Fire Drill	
29 – Back to School Night	<u>December</u>
	4 – Non-Student Day – NO SCHOOL
<u>October</u>	5 – Santa's Breakfast
8 – Lock Down Drill	10 – Disaster Drill
9-16 – Goal Setting Conferences (Dismissal @ 1:00)	18 – Awards Assemblies
15 – The Great Southern California ShakeOut Earthquake Drill	20 – Jan. 1 st – Winter Recess – NO SCHOOL
22 – Evening Principal Awards Assembly	<u>January</u>
	4 – School Resumes