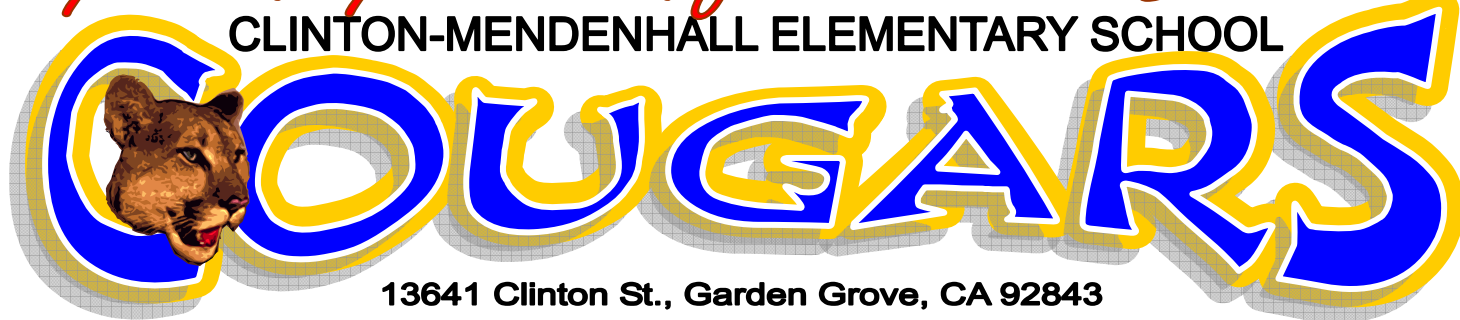


Garden Grove Unified School District

CLINTON-MENDENHALL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



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Laura Schwalm, Ph.D., Superintendent

Carrie L. Mitchell, Ed.D., Principal

SEPTEMBER 2009

PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

From the Principal

Welcome Back!

I am extremely proud to report that Clinton-Mendenhall Elementary School's students made wonderful growth in English Language Arts and in Math last year, as measured by the California Standards Test (CST). The state's Academic Performance Index (API) ratings were recently released, and our score leapt to

761

That's a 20-point jump from last year! In addition, Clinton-Mendenhall's students met the state's goals for Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP), showing that our students are making terrific progress toward meeting their learning goals.

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.

This year we're looking for more reasons to celebrate our students' achievements in learning and behavior. Our students and teachers have a clear focus on meeting District Goal 1. We expect all of our students to advance a level a year toward proficiency in Language Arts and Math, and then to maintain Proficient or Advanced levels once they arrive. When you meet with your child's teacher for goal setting conferences in October, you'll learn more about the high expectations we have for your child's success this year.

We're also setting a higher standard for student behavior. Our new positive behavioral intervention & support program is designed to encourage and reward positive behavior and to improve self-esteem at school and at home. Students participated in a **Cougar Parade** to learn how to follow school rules at all times and in all in all areas. Already students have earned a number of Cougar Cards for meeting expectations – and we even have several students who have earned 25 Cougar Cards and have been presented with a "**This Cougar Really PRRRS**" certificate by the principal in their classrooms!

We're already off to an impressive start to the school year. I can't wait to see the great results we get as we work in partnership for your child's success!

Parent-Teacher Goal Setting Conferences

Fri., Oct. 9 – Fri., Oct. 16

MINIMUM DAYS

ALL STUDENTS Grades 1-6 ATTEND

8:00-1:00

(PreK & Kindergarten schedules do not change)

A Clinton Cougar

PRRRS with Pride!

Be **P**roud

Be **R**espectful

Be **R**esponsible

Be **R**esourceful

Be **S**afe



BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT

Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2009

Grades K-3 – 2 sessions in classrooms
5:00-5:30 & 5:30-6:00

6:00-6:30 – Parent Meeting in the MPR with the Principal

Grades 4-6 – 6:30-7:30 in classrooms

Back to School night is planned for one evening this year and includes a meeting with the principal. Our hope is that this schedule allows for more flexibility for busy parents with children in more than one grade-level. Please to come and learn about the exciting opportunities your child will have this year, plus how you can help your child be successful.

Dr. Mitchell will present to parents in the MPR from 6:00-6:30. Her agenda includes:

- Introducing our teachers
- Testing results from 2008-09 & Goals for 2009-10
- Our school-wide behavior plan

Dates to Remember

September

- 24 – Fire Drill
- 25 – Fall Fundraiser Begins
- 29 – Back to School Night

October

- 8 – Lock Down Drill
- 9-16 – Goal Setting Conferences (Dismissal @ 1:00)
- 15 – The Great Southern California ShakeOut Earthquake Drill
- 22 – Evening Principal Awards Ceremony

November

- 6 – Picture Day
- 9 – 1st Quarter Language Arts Benchmark Testing begins
- 11 – Veteran's Day – NO SCHOOL
- 16 – Make-Up Picture Day
- 19 – Fire Drill
- 25 – 1st Trimester Math Benchmark Test
- 26-27 – Thanksgiving Holiday – NO SCHOOL

CONGRATULATIONS!

Clinton Kid's Club

was voted **Best Child Care Center in Garden Grove** by the Orange County Register!

Be **G**reat!

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 over 250 Clinton School students** for reaching this goal when they took the CST last spring. Look for a special invitation with more details coming soon!

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

Family **encouragement and support** means so much to children as they work hard to achieve at high levels. When you and your child leave the goal-setting conference with the teacher, you will know *exactly* what your child's goal is for the year. We encourage you to **put your child's goals on the refrigerator and celebrate when your child brings home work that meets or exceeds their goal**. Wouldn't it be great if your child exceeded their goal and needed a *new* goal before the year is over?

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 child if they have a question about their homework. If your child brings 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!

Principal Awards

At Clinton-Mendenhall, we will have **Awards Assemblies three times a year** – in December, March, and June. This year, Dr. Mitchell is watching students' performance on the **Language Arts and Math Benchmark tests** (which are given several times a year) to see which students meet or exceed the goals they set with their teachers during goal setting conferences. Students who reach this goal will receive the coveted Principal's Award at the Awards Assembly. Parents will be invited to attend to see their child honored.