



# The Monthly Plunge

November 2011

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### A Note from the Principal's Desk

I am thrilled to announce that College Park Elementary School was recently nominated as a California Distinguished School and is expected to be visited by a California Department of Education Evaluation Team in February. The purpose of the evaluation team will be to validate the authenticity of our school's signature practices outlined in our application. Since the announcement, we have begun the process of identifying our signature practices and writing the application.

For those of you who may not be familiar with this award, an overview of the program follows. The California School Recognition Program was created in 1985 to publicize and reinforce the priorities of the State Board of Education and the State Superintendent of Public Instruction. The program identifies and honors some of the state's most exemplary and inspiring public schools with the California Distinguished School Award (the award is valid for four years). Although participation is voluntary, the award is highly sought after by schools in all areas of the state. Approximately five percent of California's public schools are selected each year, and no fewer than 40 counties are typically represented.

In order to be invited to apply for Distinguished School honors, schools must meet a variety of eligibility criteria, including designated federal and state accountability measures based on targeted sub-group academic growth and the Academic Performance Index (API) requirements. Elementary and secondary schools are recognized during alternate years. Applications are evaluated by teams of local educators from across the state under the direction of the CDE and school visitations are conducted to validate the accuracy of the information presented in the application. Schools selected for recognition are honored as Distinguished Schools at a county-wide awards ceremony where each school will be presented each school a California Distinguished School plaque and flag.

We expect the site visitation team will be impressed with our school and that their findings will validate the accuracy of our application. We look forward to officially being named a California Distinguished School and accepting the plaque and flag on behalf of all our students, parents, and staff.

On a different note, with the Thanksgiving Holiday rapidly approaching, I would like to take a moment on behalf of the entire staff to express our deep gratitude to our parent and community volunteers for the support they have given College Park throughout the years. Your contributions are enormous and our students have been significantly impacted by your generosity.

Alan Battenfield  
Principal



### **Jog-A-Thon**

Mark your calendars now, so you won't miss out on College Park's annual Jog-a-thon. Not only does this event assist us in emphasizing the importance of physical fitness to our students, it serves as one of our PTA's main fundraisers. The proceeds earned from our jog-a-thon will pay for student programs. These programs include, but are not limited to the K-3 Art Program, assemblies, Walk Through Programs, DARE, Family Nights, Dolphin Lunches, Guy Stuff, Health Clerk, Mother Daughter Tea, library, Reading Counts, Lunch Time Activities, Dolphin Games, Parent Education Seminars, Reflections Awards, Sixth Grade Promotion, Staff

Appreciation Luncheon, Student Recognition Awards, scholarships, and teacher classroom enrichment. In addition, the PTA pays for equipment maintenance contracts and various school supplies.

The Jog-a-thon will take place on **Wednesday, November 9, 2011**. Students will run for one half hour around a track set up on our field that is approximately one quarter mile. By participating in the jog-a-thon, students will have the opportunity to win prizes.

Our goal is to raise **\$40,000**. In order for this jog-a-thon fundraiser to be successful, we need your help and participation in several ways.

1. Teach your child the value of education and the importance of supporting College Park. Encourage your child to participate, run as many laps as they are capable of running, and recruit as many sponsors as possible.
2. Assist your child in obtaining sponsors and soliciting donations. Help your child identify potential sponsors and provide them with effective strategies to use in approaching those sponsors. Donors may sponsor a student for a monetary amount per lap run or give a set amount. All donations are tax deductible. Checks should be made out to College Park PTA.
3. Assist on the day of the jog-a-thon. We need people to assist their child's classroom by marking students' lap cards. In addition, we need help with set-up, take-down, filling water jugs, etc.
4. Assist your child in collecting money from their sponsors and returning it by the due date. In order to qualify for grand prizes, all money must be returned to school by **Wednesday, November 30, 2011**.

### **Administrative Designees**

During each week, there are times, and on occasion days, that the principal is not on campus during school hours. He may be attending meetings, trainings, conferences, or could be absent for illness or other unexpected

reasons. Although he most often can be reached by phone and is generally close by, there are staff members that have been designated to handle general administrative duties or provide administrative leadership in the event of an emergency during the principal's absence. At College Park, the administrative designees are Ani Bailly, Tom Giambone, Alyssa Honeycutt, and Kristal York. Each of these staff members has the full authority of the district and the principal to perform administrative responsibilities in the absence of the principal. All College Park designees have met the educational requirements for a California School Preliminary Administrative Credential and have participated in IUSD's Administrative Intern Program. The designees are supported by Kelly Connor, the Administrative Assistant to the Principal. Mrs. Connor is familiar with all aspects of the daily operation of the school and has a clear understanding of the processes and protocol in place for most situations that could arise. It is also important to note, if the principal cannot be reached, a district administrator is always available to assist if necessary.



### **Library Flag Program**

As you know, a large number of students come to College Park from other countries. This international population creates a rich and diverse

student body. We embrace this diverse population and appreciate the different cultural backgrounds. This is reflected in our school theme "Passport to the World."

To honor our student body and to promote respect among our different cultures, College Park has displayed flags from other countries that represent our students' native lands in our library.

Our goal for our library flag display is to represent every College Park students' native country. Since only a few additions have been made to our collection for several years, it is quite possible that our collection does not represent all of our students. In order to ensure all students are represented, we need your help. Please visit our library and view our collection. If your child's flag from the country in which he/she was born is missing, please consider purchasing one and donating it to the school to display. Before buying one, please check with other College Park families who share your child's ethnicity. This will help avoid duplicate flags being bought and donated. If you have any questions, please contact Julie Hicks our school's librarian at 936-5565 or by email at [jhicks@iusd.org](mailto:jhicks@iusd.org).



### **Harvest Cup Tournament**

Two weeks ago our 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grade students' soccer team, coached by Cyrus Alipour and Dan Hebert, played in the City of Irvine's Harvest Cup Soccer Tournament. Although our team controlled much of the play, they fell short on the scoreboard and were defeated by a very good team.

Please take time to recognize the players for their effort and thank them for participating. Our fifth grade students are looking forward to competing again next year.



**Title 1 Attestation**

I am pleased to inform you that all teachers at College Park Elementary School are in full compliance with the requirements outlined under the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. (Including only teachers of English, reading, or language arts, mathematics, science, foreign languages, civics and government, economics, arts history and geography) OR (Excluding teachers of physical ed, athletics, business, home economics, industrial technology). In addition, all instructional aides at our school are in full compliance with the requirements outlined under the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001.



**Upcoming Events**

November 1-4	Families Forward Food Drive
November 1	Jog-a-thon Kick-off
November 1	DARE, 6th
November 3	Astronomy Night
November 4	Principal Birthday Visits
November 8	Yearbook Committee Meeting, 8:30 AM
November 9	Jog-A-Thon <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1<sup>st</sup> &amp; 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9:00 AM</li> <li>• Kindergarten, 10:10 AM</li> <li>• 5<sup>th</sup> &amp; 6<sup>th</sup>, 11:00 AM</li> <li>• 3<sup>rd</sup> &amp; 4<sup>th</sup>, 12:30 PM</li> </ul>
November 8	DARE, 6 <sup>th</sup>
November 9	PTA Executive Board Meeting, 7:00 PM
November 11	Veteran's Day Observance (No School)
November 14	Centennial Farm Field Trip, Kindergarten
November 15	DARE, 6 <sup>th</sup>
November 21	Honeycutt/Baise Feast
November 21	Moore/York Buddy Feast
November 22	The Ned Show Assemblies
November 24, 25	Thanksgiving Vacation (No School)
November 29	DARE, 6th

