

A Note From Our Principal

Dear Cerritos Families,

We are off to a fantastic start to the 2007-08 school year! I have truly enjoyed meeting and getting to know so many supportive parents and families. We are all so excited to be working with you and your children as we continue on our path of academic excellence. We know that the success of our students is two-fold. It takes the dedication of our teachers along with the commitment of our parents to assure each child reaches his/her highest educational and personal potential.

I am excited to announce the start up of our Princi-PAL student introductions. Throughout the year, Mr. Gibson and I will have the opportunity to personally meet every student in our school. Each Friday morning, one student from each class is selected. He/she comes to my office with an "All About Me" paper filled in and ready to share. In the hallway we have a huge display highlighting each classroom's student for the week. I have already learned so much about your kids. They have talked about their families, their interests and their hopes. You are raising our future veterinarians, pediatricians, and marine biologists! I hope you all have a moment to stop by some time to see our display.

The City of Phoenix and The Partnership for a Walkable America have selected Cerritos and Altadena to represent District 6 in the **International Walk to School**

Day. I would like to encourage your families to meet us at the park on Desert Foothills Parkway and Chandler Blvd. on Oct. 3rd. We will meet at 7am and begin the walk at 7:10am. The Phoenix Police Dept. will block traffic on Chandler Blvd. as we walk to school together. When we arrive at school, the finale will be a 20-minute assembly in the Cerritos field featuring our Superintendent, Dr. David Schauer, Councilman Greg Stanton and Altadena's Resource Officer who will announce poster contest winners. I look forward to seeing you there.

I am having such a fun time with the students. The highlights of my day include going into the classrooms to work with the students, sitting at the lunch tables with the kids to hear what is on their minds or playing a basketball or football game outside. The kids have been so welcoming to me. I have already had the honor of receiving a birthday party invitation, a letter designating seven things Cerritos should do to help alleviate global warming and a fistful of unmelted M&Ms. To me, that is acceptance in the highest form.

Thank you for making my job so enjoyable!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Darcy DiCosmo
Cerritos Principal

A Note From Our PTO President

Dear Cerritos Parents,

It's been quite a busy seven weeks since school started! I have a lot of information to pass on in this letter, so I'll get right to it.

First is the issue of replacing the sand on the playground. Roy Morris, Facilities Manager for the Kyrene School District, came to our PTO meeting on Sept. 11th to talk about our plans to replace the sand. He let us know that besides the exorbitant cost (about \$100,000 per sand box), we should be aware of potential problems with a solid type surface: the material could shrink and is subject to vandalism. There has also been one report of a solid surface material combusting in New River, AZ. Additionally, Mr. Morris mentioned that PTO would have to budget maintenance fees into future budgets since the district is only required to maintain sand. The board examined other more cost effective materials, such as rubber "chunks" to replace the sand. However, there were concerns that the rubber material would get displaced and have to be frequently replaced. We also had concerns that the intense heat in Phoenix may cause the material to give off toxic fumes. In the

end, we decided at this point, there does not appear to be a satisfactory alternative to the sand. All replacement materials come with their own set of issues. With that in mind, the PTO board is open to suggestions from you, our parents, about what other types of improvements you'd like to see at Cerritos. So far, we've heard requests for more shaded areas around the school (perhaps awnings in front where parents wait for children or over the picnic tables in the back?). Another suggestion is a school-wide art project that can be displayed on campus. If you have an idea, feel free to contact any one of us on the PTO. All of our names and email addresses on page 5. Or, you can send a note to me through your child's teacher. Just address the envelope to Stephanie Hayden/PTO.

GET READY FOR THE BEST FALL CARNIVAL EVER!!

The Cerritos Fall Carnival is set for Friday, Sept. 28th, 5:30-8:30pm. We have some great new attractions! For example: how would you like to win two tickets on Southwest Airlines? Play our new Southwest "Pin A City" (continued on the next page)

Kyrene de los Cerritos Elementary School
14620 S. Desert Foothills Parkway
Phoenix, Arizona 85048-4600
Office: 783-1200 Attendance: 783-1297
SCHOOL Website: www.kyrene.org/schools/Cerritos
PTO Website: www.cerritospto.org
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game! For a \$5 donation, you can play to win two tickets to any destination Southwest flies. The Carnival will also have some new vendors: cupcakes from the Cake Café, ice cream from Dippin' Dots, smoothies from Jamba Juice & fruit baskets from Edible Arrangements. We'll also have an extra dunk tank (with lots of teachers to dunk!!) and a second rock wall this year. You won't want to miss out on all the fun!

GO GREEN UPDATE: Thanks to the extremely generous support of our community sponsors: Mike Mendoza of Keller Williams Real Estate, Bonnie Dillon of Keller Williams Real Estate, Industrial Graphix, Calsaway Pool Services, Inc. PLUS Cerritos parents who became "Go Green Family Sponsors," we raised enough money to purchase 600 canvas grocery bags which we will sell at our Fall Carnival for \$5 each. A set of 5 or 6 bags should accommodate a full grocery run. Considering the average family of four accumulates 28 plastic bags a week (1,460

per year), just think of all the toxic plastic our school alone will eliminate from our landfills. Way to go Cerritos!

Last but not least, a big THANK YOU to Emma Holtzapple for chairing our Sally Foster fundraiser this year! Emma and her family are new to Cerritos, yet she stepped up to chair our first big fundraiser of the year with complete enthusiasm. You are wonderful, Emma, thank you! Thank you as well to all of our families who supported this fundraiser. The final numbers aren't in yet. We'll announce them in the next Beep Beep.

In the meantime, I look forward to seeing you and your family at the Fall Carnival!

Sincerely,
Stephanie Hayden
PTO President

GREAT IDEAS WANTED!

WE WANT YOUR IDEAS!

The PTO is looking for ideas for school improvements. Our original project, to replace the sand on the playground, is not feasible at this point, so we are looking for your suggestions. Ideas can come from parents, teachers, even students! Get your creative juices going and *submit this form through your child's teacher in an envelope marked "Stephanie Hayden/PTO."* We will consider all the suggestions and there will be a report in the next Beep Beep. Thanks for your help!

HERE'S MY GREAT IDEA:

A Round of Applause Goes to...

Colette Lay for volunteering to chair Cookie Dough

Kris South for volunteering to chair Square I Art.

Lisa Kagasoff and **Christine Lum** - great job on school supplies. We appreciate your time and energy.

"Call Me"Volunteers: thanks for pitching in to help tally Sally Foster!

As always, a huge thanks to all our wonderful PTO volunteers. You are what makes the difference!

Valued Volunteers

After penciling in your fall schedule did you find that you have time for a PTO volunteer commitment? We are still looking for a Turkey Trot Coordinator, and Field Day Coordinator.

There are committees that can still use your help: Cookiedough, Square I Art and Sock Hop.

Please contact Nancy Manson nmanson@cox.net or Sharon Schramm aschramm@cox.net if interested.

You can also check out our fantastic PTO website for additional volunteer opportunities.

Sponsor Corner

A huge thanks to Ron Goodwin of Allstate G.E.S. Appliances for donating a brand new refrigerator to the staff center. We appreciate your support of Cerritos.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Time for the Book Fair!

The Book Fair is here! Please stop by any day next week during lunch or after school. We also will have our ever-popular "Donuts for Dads" on Tuesday, Sept. 25th starting at 7am until 7:45am. Donuts, coffee, and juice will be free, children must be accompanied by an adult (we love for the dads to come, but moms are definitely welcome as well - or Grandmas, Grandpas, etc.). Teachers will have wish lists available, so you can add to the classroom libraries, too. All proceeds go straight to the media center to purchase new books. In addition, this fall each teacher will receive a \$25 gift certificate to use at the fair, due to the great success of last year's fair. We would love to continue to do that, so be sure to come by and see the great selection of new books for all ages and reading levels! The book fair will also be open during the Fall Carnival, from 5:30 to 8:30, so be sure to stop in then.

Our hours are as follows:

Mon. Sept. 24 11-3
Tues. Sept. 25 7-3 and
Donuts for Dads!
Wed. Sept. 26 11-1
Thurs. Sept. 27 11-3
Fri. Sept. 28 11-3 and 5:30-8:30 at the Fall Carnival!

We still need some volunteers during the carnival. If you can help, please contact Lori Stipp at lstipp@cox.net or Chris Smith at fivesmiths@cox.net. Thanks and we'll see you at the Book Fair!

Community Service Book Drive

Cerritos PTO is providing a win-win situation for kids, parents, and a local school of need. We are collecting books to donate to Maryland Elementary School in Phoenix. You and your child can participate by donating gently used books from your home library or by purchasing new books from the Book Fair. Donation bins will be located at the Book Fair and in the school. Donations will be accepted during Book Fair hours (see above). Please consider going through your shelves and choosing books appropriate for elementary age students, or buying from the Book Fair to donate. We sure hope you'll be part of it!



The Fall Carnival Is Coming!

Cerritos Family & Community Fall Carnival will be held Friday, Sept. 28th from 5:30-8:30pm. This just may be the best and most fun carnival ever!

This year will include everything from games to win **2 Round Trip Tickets on Southwest Airlines**, K-Bella Gift Certificates, and Bag Full of Groceries from Trader Joes, TWO DUNK TANKS (with your favorite teachers and staff) Fun Bounce Houses, Rock Wall, Carnival Games, Cerritos Spiritwear, Go Green Canvas Bags, Glow in the Dark Necklaces by Student Council, and Halloween Grab Bags. There will be a Community Information Center, Community Performances by the Chandler Yo-Yo Club and Team USA Martial Arts. The yummy Cake Walk with baskets and cakes donated by Nothing Bundt Cakes and Edible Arrangements as well as homemade cakes and goodies from Cerritos families.

DUNK TANKS: There will be a list of all teachers and staff that will be in the dunk tanks along with the time that they will be in it. This will allow students to know ahead of time when their favorite teacher will be in for the fun!

We are also honored once again to have the world famous D.J. at our Fall Carnival..... the Awesome, Wonderful, Mix Master Mr. G!

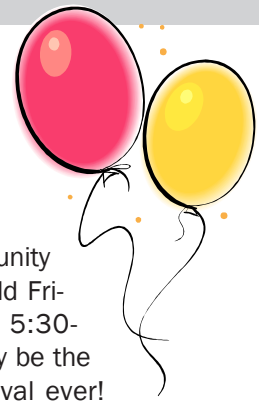
Pre-Order Ticket Forms went out Monday, Sept. 17th to all students. Please fill out the forms and return them to your child's teacher by Sept. 26th. Pre-Ordering has advantages! No long ticket lines the night of the event, easy entry and free carnival tickets with your order. (See order form for details.)

If you have any questions; please e-mail Sunshark2@msn.com.

**CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU
AT THE CARNIVAL!!!**

CAKE WALK VOLUNTEERS

This is a reminder that the Fall Carnival Committee needs baked goods and cakes for the cake walk. They can be homemade or store bought. We will collect the items the morning and afternoon on the day of the Fall Carnival, Friday, September 28th at the Curbside Drop Off, or you may bring them in the office. Please mark your calendars, this is very important and FUN!



SCHOOL NEWS

CHARACTER COUNTS

During the month of September we will be kicking off our Character Counts Program with a book mark contest. The goal of the bookmark contest is to pick one bookmark for each of the six pillars that students can receive throughout the year from the teacher when they are caught being a person of character. Each grade was given a pillar to illustrate.

Kindergarten: Trustworthy

1st Grade: Responsibility

2nd Grade: Respect

3rd Grade: Fairness

4th Grade: Caring

5th Grade: Citizenship

Each class will pick the bookmark or bookmarks they will enter into the contest. Students can receive one of the bookmarks throughout the year when they are caught being a person of character.

When talking to your students about Trustworthiness here are some things to keep in mind. This was taken from the official Character Counts Website.

Trustworthiness

Be honest

Don't deceive, cheat or steal

Be reliable — do what you say you'll do

Have the courage to do the right thing

Build a good reputation

Be loyal — stand by your family, friends and country

HELP WANTED

I'm looking for help with the website for Cerritos PTO. The current site is located at www.cerritospto.org. Please let me know if you are interested in recreating and maintaining this website. You can be as creative as you'd like. The important thing is to try to maintain it so that it is current (which can be a challenge!). If you have any questions or if you'd like more information, please email Sue Frost at sue_frost@msn.com.

GO GREEN!



GET YOUR GO GREEN BAGS!

Attention Cerritos Families! Our new Go Green canvas grocery bags are cooler than cool! Get your bags for \$5 each at the Fall Carnival on September 28th!!! Great for you! Great for family members! Great as gifts!

NOVEMBER 15: AMERICA RECYCLES DAY

The Go Green Committee is interested in planning some fun activities for America Recycles Day. We are looking into having a school-wide art project, a "green" contest, and an opportunity to recycle lots of stuff such as cell phones, old running shoes, ink cartridges, and eye glasses to name a few. If you are interested in being part of this planning or want to know more, please contact Stephanie Hayden (steph27064@aol.com) or Sue Frost (sue_frost@msn.com). Thanks!

Go Green Tips

Wash in cold: "By washing clothes in cold water rather than warm or hot," says [EcoMom Alliance](#) president Kimberly Danek-Pinkson, "you can eliminate 500 pounds of carbon dioxide emissions a year." (Bonus: Your clothes will last longer.) If cold water isn't going to cut it with your kid's grimy duds, opting for warm water over hot still saves energy and gets clothes clean. To make laundry day even more energy-efficient, wait until you have a full load. Danek-Pinkson also advises rethinking what constitutes dirty. "Kids go through lots of outfits that wind up on the floor, and then you toss them in the laundry basket," she says. "Ask yourself, 'Is this really dirty?' If not, think of all the energy you'll spare — for the planet and yourself — by not washing them."

LIGHTS OUT SAN FRANCISCO: From small daily changes in your own habits, to larger public shows of support, there's much we can do on the local level. A good example is the San Francisco energy conservation event, [Lights Out San Francisco](#). On Oct. 20, at 8pm, **Lights Out San Francisco** will invite the entire city to turn off all non-essential lighting for one hour. To promote long-lasting energy saving, they plan to distribute free compact fluorescent light bulbs throughout the city. **Lights Out San Francisco** is working closely with City Hall, and other city and community authorities. They are not affiliated with any political party, corporation or institution, just simply concerned Bay Area residents who are passionate about fighting global warming and finding ways to take action locally.

REMINDERS

FYI: Credit Card Fees

Cerritos PTO gladly accepts cash and checks at PTO functions. In addition, we can take credit cards at certain events such as the book fair. If you are interested in saving the PTO some money, please note that a small service fee is incurred for each credit card transaction. You may want to bring your checkbook to avoid this fee. Thanks for considering!

SPIRIT DAYS

Every Friday is Spiritwear day at Cerritos. However, the first Friday of every month we will host a Spiritwear contest. The classroom with the most students wearing Spiritwear will win a prize. Contest days will coincide with the Friday Fitness Days. Can't wait to see you show your winning spirit!

CERRITOS PTO BOARD 2007-08

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Nancy McGilvra	783-1286
Darcy DiCosmo, <i>Principal</i>	783-1280
Brian Gibson, <i>Assistant Principal</i>	783-1282

Box Tops: Let's make Cerritos "A Cut Above!"

Last year, our school received \$894 in FREE MONEY from BoxTops. That's simply from parents clipping out the box tops from cereal, Kleenex, zip lock bags, etc. and turning them in to their child's teacher.

Cerritos ranked 711th out of 796 participating schools in Arizona for the 2006-07 school year. Sierra Elementary school down the street earned more than twice the amount we did last year with \$2,044.00. **WE CAN DO BETTER!!!**

With this in mind, here is what we are asking of you:

1. Please clip your box tops and turn them in monthly (or when the bag is full) to your child's teacher (you can keep a zip lock bag on your fridge to help remind you). Ask family and friends to save their box tops for your child as well. Classes are awarded quarterly prizes* for the most box tops collected and this year, teachers will also be earning quarterly prizes. At the end of the year, the class that collected the most box tops during the 1st three quarters of the school year will win a free "Pump It Up" party and the teacher will win a free one year membership to the Ahwatukee YMCA!

2. Log on to www.boxtops4education.com and register under Cerritos. You will receive approximately two emails a month which contain money saving coupons, recipes and a whole lot more. Just signing up will earn our school 5 bonus points per person. Have your friends and family sign up as well in order to rack up points! IN ADDITION – while online, if you shop at the "BoxTops Market Place" (stores like Gap, Nordstrom, Target, Barnes & Noble), Cerritos will get a percentage of what you spend! Think of all the money we can earn during the holidays!

Let's all do our best to get as much **free money** as we can for our school and our children. Don't forget the exciting prizes the kids can win through this generously sponsored program.

*1st quarter class prize = "Box Tops Class Winner" T-shirt for each child in the winning class.

2nd quarter class prize = Hungry Howie's pizza party delivered to the winning class.

3rd quarter class prize = Maggie Moo's ice cream party for the winning class.

Annual Award = Free Weekday Classic Party at Pump It Up including pizza and drinks.

Vision and Hearing Screening

Children in Kindergarten thru 2nd grade have successfully been evaluated for their hearing and vision. This was made possible by an incredible group of women who volunteered their time. I would like to thank Wendy Callaghan, Dr. Libby Hunt, Amy Heineman, Erica Riordan, Kris Conway, Dee Hartman, Shirley Lee-Kin, Lisa Kagasoff, Michelle Kaske, Theresa Mazowiecki, Lori Chubliiski, Debbi Jalaghi, Janine Ganser and Joan Sample. Thank you ladies, you ROCK!!!

2007-08 Spiritwear Orderform

Date: _____ Your Name _____ Phone _____
 Student's Name _____ Teacher's Name & Grade _____

Please circle your choice

Item Description	Price	Sizes
Cerritos Water Bottles	\$5	n/a
Cerritos Windshield Decal	\$5	n/a
Short Sleeve Cotton T-Shirt w/round logo, (White)	\$12	Youth S, M, L, Adult S
Short Sleeve Cotton T-Shirt w/round logo, (Gray)	\$12	Youth XS,S, M, L, Adult S
Boys sleeveless T-Shirt w/distressed logo, (Gray)	\$14	Youth S, M, L, Adult S
Boys sleeveless T-Shirt w/distressed logo, (Black)	\$14	Youth S, M, L, Adult S
Girls tank w/roadrunner logo, (Black)	\$13	Youth M, L, Adult S
Girls tank w/roadrunner logo, (White)	\$13	Youth S, M
Girls Cheer Shorts, (Black)	\$10	Youth S, M,L
Mesh basketball shorts (Black)	\$12	Youth M, L, Adult S
Embroidered Hoodies (Black or Gray) **Special order	\$24	Any size
" (personalized)	\$26	"
Short Sleeve Cotton Chess Club T-Shirt, (Gray)	\$5	Youth M, L, Adult S, XL

Cash, Check (made payable to Cerritos PTO), or Visa are welcome at Cerritos!

If you'd like to use your Visa credit card, note that it does cost the PTO extra money. Please provide the following information:

Card Number: Visa ONLY _____ - _____ - _____ - _____ EXP: ____/____ (Month/Year)

Please charge the above credit card in the amount of \$ _____ dollars.

Name as it appears on card: _____ Signature (required): _____

Address (required to process): _____ City _____ Zip _____ Phone: _____

If you have any questions, please call Monica Hedeby (480) 437-4996 or Deb Allenspach (480)241-4474

Yearbook 2007-08 Pre-Order Form

PRE-ORDERS for the 2007-08 Cerritos Yearbook are now being taken at a price of **\$22**. The cost will increase to \$27 in January 2008, so be and sure and take advantage of the special pre-order price. Complete the form below and return it to Cerritos in an envelope marked "Yearbook Order" to your child's teacher along with a check (payable to **CERRITOS PTO**) or enter the credit card information below. **OR** to avoid paperwork completely, go to the Cerritos PTO website at www.cerritospto.org and click on "Order Forms." From there, you can order your yearbook via an on-line form and pay via PayPal.

Order confirmation/receipts are being sent via email, so please input the information below**. Please be assured that your email address will be used solely for this purpose and will not be distributed for any other reason. If you do not wish to receive an email, a paper receipt will be sent home via your child. If you have any questions, contact Frances Lynch, Yearbook Committee Chair, at cerritosyearbook@msn.com or at 480-460-4220.

Please reserve _____ yearbooks @ \$22 each

Student _____ Teacher _____ Grade _____

Student _____ Teacher _____ Grade _____

Parent(s) Name: _____ Email address:** _____

Payment Method (check one): _____ check (payable to Cerritos PTO) _____ Visa _____ Mastercard
 Phone (required): _____

VISA/MASTERCARD ONLY

Card #: _____ - _____ - _____ - _____ Exp date: _____/_____

Name as it appears on card: _____ Signature: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

TOTAL AMOUNT OF CHECK OR CHARGE: _____