

## A Note From Our Principal

Dear Cerritos Families,

I hope you are all enjoying the change of weather as much as I am. Each fall, I find myself feeling rejuvenated and excited for the activities of the upcoming months. This is such a beautiful time to take walks around our beautiful neighborhoods and trails. Speaking of walking, the International Walk to School Day was a huge success. Thank you to everyone who participated. What a fantastic way to start a school day! I would like to encourage those of you within walking distance to walk to school once or twice a week. Not only is it great for our environment, it is also great for our students' brains. The fresh air gets the oxygen flowing and open to learning.

An exciting part of this brisk, new season for school is our fall party. During the fall parties, students will be allowed to wear costumes for the day. As you choose your child's costume, please keep a few things in mind:

- Costumes should be appropriate for the classroom (i.e. no attire that shows too much skin, inappropriate sayings, etc.)
- Please, no masks at school.
- All costume "props" should stay home. Too often these items may appear to be dangerous and/or become an issue in the classroom.
- Lastly, no blood or gore on costumes or your child's body.

Thank you, in advance, for your understanding and agreement in upholding these goals for costumes.

Congratulations are in order for our entire Cerritos community. We received an "Excelling" label from the state. This recognition comes to our school because of the wonderful teachers, assistants and support staff, but it also reflects the importance of parental involvement in your children's education. We are proud of these partnerships.

Teachers have begun to schedule parent/teacher conferences. Our teachers are on tight schedules to ensure each family receives the same amount of time to discuss their child's successes and areas of refinement. The scheduled time seems to come to an end so quickly. As a mother myself, I often had questions I wanted to ask of my children's teachers, however, when it was time to meet, I could not recall what questions I had for my individual children and their teachers. I recommend that prior to your conferences, prepare a list of 2-3 specific questions you may have for each of your children. On page 2, there are some questions you might consider.

I look forward to seeing you during conference time. Please feel free to stop by my office before you leave that day. I would love to meet you or just have you say "hi" on your way out.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Darcy DiCosmo

## A Note From Our PTO President

Dear Cerritos Parents,

Something arrived in my daughter's backpack today that made me stop and think for a moment. It was a small envelope tucked in her homework folder...a report card! A small, yet solid reminder that the 1st quarter has already come to an end. Yikes!

I am happy to report that 1st quarter PTO events have gone phenomenally well. The fall carnival was a HUGE SUCCESS, taking in more than \$7,000 in profit, thanks to the planning and hard work of Chairs Janet Mooneyham and Erica Riordan. These two amazing women put together what many people are calling the BEST carnival Cerritos has ever had! The kids loved being able to dunk Mrs. DiCosmo, Mr. Gibson & their teachers in the dunk tanks. They also really enjoyed all the rides, games and new varieties of food the carnival had to offer. *Thank you so much, Janet & Erica!*

A big thank you as well to Chris Smith and Lori Stipp for running another successful book fair. As always, the book fair was set up beautifully and had great selections from which to choose. The book fair took in roughly \$10,000 which will go directly into the media center to buy new books and materials for our students.

Box Tops for Education Chair Kelley Schmitz deserves

kudos for helping to bring in a *record number* of box tops this quarter. We've already collected well over 6,000 box tops, which means more than \$600 in FREE MONEY! Congratulations to 4<sup>th</sup> Gr. teacher Heather Kringen for winning the quarterly contest by collecting more than 700 box tops in her class. Keep the box tops coming!

The PTO is working hard to make sure we use the money we raise on both educational and health promoting items. We have had requests from both parents and teachers to continue adding shade structures around the school - particularly over the lunch tables out near the playground - over the swings - and out in front of the school where parents wait for their children. More shade is likely to be where we spend a large chunk of the money we raise this year.

Our next big event is our cookie dough sale which will run from Oct. 26-Nov. 9<sup>th</sup>. We'll be offering delicious (trans fat free) Otis Spunkmeyer cookie dough just in time for the holidays! These cookies are always a hit and seem to make this busy time of year just a little bit easier.

As always, the PTO sincerely appreciates all of your generous support.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Hayden

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](http://www.kyrene.org/schools/Cerritos)

PTO Website: [www.cerritospto.org](http://www.cerritospto.org)

October 26, 2007

VOLUME 13, ISSUE 3



# MANY THANKS!!

## A Round of Applause Goes to...

**Linda Wambolt** for decorating the Character Café

**Janet Mooneyham and the Carnival Committee:** it was a fun and exciting event.

**Stephanie Hayden, Sue Frost and the Go Green Committee:** for innovative and interesting ideas

**Emma Holtzapple and Fall Fundraiser Committee:** Emma is a first year parent at Cerritos and we thank her for tackling such a big job.

**Chris Smith and Lori Stipp:** the book fair was wonderful as always.

## Valued Volunteers

**Coach Benson needs you.....**First Step Kids and the Mileage Club will be open on Tuesdays and Thursdays during the grade level recess lunches 10:20-12:20. You would help hand out the "feet," assist runners in finding their name on the sheets and cheer them on. Please let Coach Benson know if you can help [hbenso@kyrene.org](mailto:hbenso@kyrene.org)

**If you think you signed up for a committee** and have not heard anything please contact Nancy Manson [nmanson@cox.net](mailto:nmanson@cox.net), or Sharon Schramm [aschramm@cox.net](mailto:aschramm@cox.net)

**Thinking about volunteering but don't know where.....**sign up to be on the "Call Me List" A great opportunity to work on a variety of projects.

*As always Cerritos PTO would not be strong without the support of our wonderful volunteers.*

## Book Fair Volunteers

Thanks to many people who helped out at the Book Fair. Your efforts helped make this a very successful year! Thanks goes to Stephanie Giel, Kris South, Silveria Vara, Elaine Hicks, Sue Frost, Kellie Volant, Yumi Goswick, Juli West, Stephanie Brouwer, Laura Zgoda, Karen Billica, Amy Alcorn, Michaela Gefrides, Karen France, Jennifer D'Oliveira, Christine Quah, Deb Cook, Rebecca Skidmore, Kelly Tielke, Belva Miller, Haojin Shen, Lisa Kagasoff, Vicky Ridley, Christine Lum, Bobbye Hicks, Paige Swaine, Sharon Schramm, Colette Lay, Cher Knebel, Ro Traxler, Lee Ann Schneider, Amy Alme, Cathy Harris, Pam Porter, Lorraine Tornga and Amy Smith. Special thanks to Michelle Basha and the Basha Family for donuts, and to Starbucks for coffee.

## Picture Day Thanks!

*Shift 1 (8 - 11am)*

Runner: Leah Zack

Camera 1:Linda Wambolt

Camera 2: Erica Riordan

Camera 3: Pat Goldberg

Camera 4: Juli West

*Shift 2 (11am- 2pm)*

Runner: Kristie Wright

Camera 1: Megan Kopec

Camera 2: Amy Alme

Camera 3: Amy Alcorn

Camera 4: Monica Hedeby

## Thank you to the Directory Committee!

Many thanks to the wonderful Directory team of volunteers! They made great suggestions like seasoned team players, worked hard like private detectives, and stayed in touch like good pen pals. Thank you for persevering and thank you for your patience! Cerritos is lucky to have: Tara Fisher, Amy Alme, Liz O'Neill, Shelley Corzo, Haojin Shen, Cindy Mercado, Anna Shigley, Celeste Jamieson, and Theresa Pace. THANK YOU!!

## Good Questions to Ask at Parent-Teacher Conferences

The questions below are a few suggestions from *The Kaboose Family Network*.

- Does my child seem happy at school?
- Do you see any special interest or strengths? What can I do at home to foster those talents?
- Are there any subjects that my child needs extra help or seems less motivated? How can I assist in those areas?
- How does he/she react to trying new things?
- How does he/she react to making mistakes?
- How does my child interact with other children and adults?
- Does he/she seem well-accepted among his/her peers?
- Are there any behavior problems? How does he/she react to authority when corrected for talking out of turn, misbehaving, etc.?
- How are my child's creative thinking and problem solving skills? What do you recommend for development in these areas?

# SCHOOL NEWS

## Parents of Fifth Grade Students Advanced Language Arts & Mathematics For Incoming Middle School Students 2008-2009

Advanced Mathematics and Advanced Language Arts classes are available at the middle school for the 2008-2009 school year for incoming 6<sup>th</sup> graders.

If you are interested in having your child considered for Advanced Mathematics and/or Advanced Language Arts placement in middle school, the November Parent-Teacher conferences will be the first opportunity to receive information concerning placement. Advanced Mathematics and Advanced Language Arts eligibility will be discussed between you and your child's fifth grade teacher and/or gifted teacher at the Parent-Teacher conference in November. If for some reason you are not able to attend your child's conference in November, please contact your child's classroom teacher and/or gifted teacher to discuss eligibility and receive additional information on the processes for placement.

## Kyrene Gifted Child Find

Gifted students are defined as those who score at or above the 97th percentile on national norms in one or more of three areas-verbal reasoning, quantitative (math) reasoning, and nonverbal reasoning on any State Board-approved test.

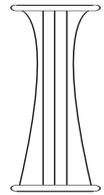
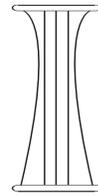
Kyrene's gifted program is designed to provide academic assistance to students who demonstrate instructional needs that are not normally addressed in the regular classroom. Kyrene makes testing available for students in K-8 three times a year. Third through Fifth grade typically occurs in August, January, and May; while Kindergarten - Second grade typically occurs in November, March, and May.

Referrals for the gifted testing in kindergarten through eighth grade come from teachers, parents, and students. If you have a K-8 student and feel that, your child might qualify in one or more of the three assessed areas, or if you have any questions about referring your child, please talk with the gifted resource teacher or administrator at your child's school. Children must not have been tested within the past year.

Please contact Mrs. Lamp at 783-1200/1265 prior to November 9<sup>th</sup> for November K-2 testing.

## Trustworthiness

The following students received recognition for displaying this month's character trait of the month. They celebrate by having lunch on the stage at our "Pillar Patio."



Hurkes	Ethan Kopec
Hurkes	Caroline Cowley
Guerrero	Alexander Hansen
Guerrero	Jordan Ferguson
Gershanov	Winona Velasco
Gershanov	Soren Hansell
Crisci	Nicholas Basha
Crisci	Sachi Sengupta
Wolf	Sam Myers
Wolf	Mariam Kahn
Rowe	Jasmynt Pintor
Rowe	Tristan Acosta
Makela	Amber Allenspach
Makela	Jack Malone
Murtoff	Christopher Hedgecock
Murtoff	Jannie Nam
Byrne-Quinn	Coryn Tormala
Byrne-Quinn	Jack Brake
Rogers	Tyler Magin
Rogers	Kayla Ellexson
Talarico	Olivia DiGioia
Talarico	Evan Garvey
Bordelon	Eric Mazowiecki
Bordelon	Cecilia Collins
Norman	Brandon Schlaback
Norman	Elyssa Goswick
Eger	Garrett Chavez
Eger	Gracie Daniel
Corrion	Lauren Conway
Corrion	Nasim Mohandes
Johnson	Keilliani Fang
Johnson	Christopher Zingali
Burch	Grace O'Toole
Burch	Brycen Riordan
Tibbott	Carley Rogers
Tibbott	Brock Burton
Bell	Miles Barrios
Bell	Shanna Scribner
Elmore	Charlee Wambolt
Elmore	Mark Kastellic
Nordahl	Lexi Hayden
Nordahl	Leo Crowder
Sannes	Cameron Whitely
Sannes	Amelia Day
Kringen	Amanda Warner
Kringen	DJ Harris
Mandola	Kasey Cook
Mandola	Alex Zgoda
Moulton	Kathryn O'Brien
Moulton	John Wagner
Pysher	Sarah Colbourn
Pysher	Brett Wooley
Cook	Kristen Mazowiecki
Cook	Ryan McDowell
Baumann	Amber Wright
Baumann	Alan Pacheco
Callaghan	Raiden Fortun
Callaghan	Raynee Cooper
Zarbo	Scott Selke
Zarbo	Eliza Quah
Hunt	Emily Giel
Hunt	Skyler Riske

# GO GREEN!

## Go Green Tips

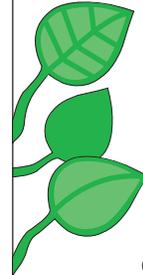
**FOR UNIQUE, RECYCLED GIFTS,** see ReFormSchoolRules.com. The L.A. reduce, reuse, recycle lifestyle shop is full of reinvented goods, and they've just launched online. Find thrift store china reborn as Esther Derkx Improved Crockery and repurposed seat belts woven into a Ting hammock; hemp and reclaimed textiles take pillow shape thanks to Maxine Sutton. They've got first incarnation products, too, like ecoaware books; Jorg & Olif bikes; and tees created as part of the Student of the Month screen-printing project. But don't worry: Under no circumstance will they bend on their organic and sustainable principles.

**TUNE IN!** Satellite radio's green channel, Lime, features shows about everything green: herbal medicine, business, fitness, and more. For more information, go online to sirius.com. On television, you can check out "The Green," Sundance Channel's dedicated venue for green series such as "It's Not Easy Being Green," Tuesdays at 9pm. (Check out <http://www.sundancechannel.com/thegreen> for more information.)

**IN HONOR OF WALK TO SCHOOL DAY...** Given that roughly a quarter of daily car trips are one mile or less, there's a health-friendly alternative way to get to the local market or park. "Get out of your car," says Rachelle Carson-Begley. "Walk a little and get your exercise." And when you do climb into your car, plan your trip so you hit all your stops along the most efficient route — you'll save time, money, and gas.

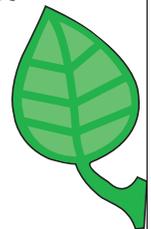
### **TRIM YOUR TRASH: RETHINK THE BABY WIPES**

Most baby wipes take several hundred years to break down, says Joanna Yarrow. Considering the number of wipes used in the United States (about 5,000 per baby), that's a lot of landfill. The most earth- and baby-friendly alternative, Yarrow says, is to make your own by cutting cotton fabric into small squares and washing them when dirty. At the very least, when just a quick swipe of a wipe is needed for easy cleanups, rip a wipe in half.



## Go Green Canvas Bags

I'd love to help support the Cerritos Go Green efforts by purchasing our new "Cerritos Cactus Huggers" canvas bags! These bags are perfect for all kinds of shoppin', totin', and gatherin'! Buy several to make your weekly grocery run, or get a few for early holiday gifts! They are made of 100% cotton, have sturdy handles that fit over your shoulder and feature all of our Go Green Family Sponsorship names. Each bag is only \$5 and can be used over and over and over again. Limited inventory left, so order your 100% earth friendly bags today! We take checks (made out to Cerritos PTO) and cash (sorry, no credit cards). Just send in this order form with payment to your teacher and they will be delivered through your teacher/child's backpack. Thank you!



Name of person ordering:

\_\_\_\_\_

Student name:

\_\_\_\_\_

Teacher and grade level:

\_\_\_\_\_

Number of bags at \$5 each: \_\_\_\_\_

Total enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

# PTO NEWS



## Otis Spunkmeyer Chippery Cookie Dough Is Coming!!

Our annual cookie dough fundraiser will be running for the next 2 weeks. This is a great opportunity to stock up on cookie dough, brownies and pretzels for the upcoming holiday season, while benefitting the Cerritos PTO. Teaming up with Sally Foster has resulted in some *fantastic* benefits! We will be receiving 50% of all sales this year, along with great perks for our staff and students. Watch for the flyer to come home with all the details. Plus, the delicious Chippery line of Otis Spunkmeyer cookies has ZERO trans-fats and is offered in the Easy-Scoop tub OR in pre-portioned cookies; it's YOUR CHOICE this year.

The deadling for ordering is Friday, **NOVEMBER 9** and delivery will be during the week of December 10. If you have any questions please contact Colette Lay at [colettelay@cox.net](mailto:colettelay@cox.net) or (480) 283-1713. Thank you for your participation!!

## Book Fair Update

This fall's Scholastic Book Fair Blizzard was a great success! Due to all the hard work of the volunteers, and to the support from our awesome Cerritos families, we took in just under \$10,000! From this total, we will receive \$1800 in books from the Scholastic warehouse, and some of those books were taken right from the fair and are in the library already! We also get \$1600 in cash to purchase books from other distributors, as well as \$150 in catalog credit for Instructional Resources. Be sure to look for the new audiobooks, you just plug your earbuds in and listen to such great titles as, "Black Beauty", "Charlotte's Web", "Hoot", and "Call of the Wild." In addition, each Cerritos teacher (classroom and specials) received a \$25 gift certificate to spend at the fair to improve their classroom libraries. Special thanks goes out to Nancy McGilvra, who gave a lot of her time to help us out, Karen France, who made our amazing decorations, Michelle Basha and Basha's Supermarket who donated the donuts for Donuts for Dads, and Starbucks on 42nd and Chandler who donated the coffee for Donuts for Dads. We look forward to seeing you all again at the end of April for the Spring Book Fair.

Happy Reading!

Lori Stipp and Chris Smith

## The Cerritos Box Top Bus Is On A Roll!

The total number of Box Tops collected for the first quarter was 6110!! This is equivalent to over \$600 for Cerritos!! WOW!! Last year's we earned \$894 for the entire year!! The winning class brought in a total of 768 Box Tops!! Congratulations to Ms. Kringen's 4th Grade Class!! They will be awarded their T-Shirts after Fall Break. The 2nd quarter prize for the class who collects the most box tops is a pizza party from Hungry Howie's!!! The 2nd quarter will close a few days before Winter Break.

If you would like to see how well your class did so far in the Pump It Up Contest, there is a graph located above the Box Tops For Education drop off box by the attendance window!!

Remember to keep your eye on the prize and clip those Box Tops! Thanks for all of your support!!

## NOVEMBER 15: AMERICA RECYCLES DAY!



The Go Green Committee is going to celebrate America Recycles Day! We are going to provide an opportunity to recycle a variety of items such as old sneakers, newspapers, catalogs, magazines, junk mail, any paper, (no card-board) cell phones, ink cartridges, and eye glasses. The sneakers will go to the City of Tempe. They are working with Nike and their Reuse A Shoe program to recycle old sneakers and turn them into solid sports surfaces for this area! The paper products will be tossed into our own money-making Abitibi Recycle Bin, and the cell phones and ink cartridges will be recycled through our eScrip Recycling program. You can participate in two easy ways: You can drop off curbside! Go Green volunteers will be available to meet you at the curb from 7:15-7:45 (drop off) and 2:15-2:45 (pick up) on November 15. You can hand over your recyclables and we'll take it from there. If you have just a few small items you can send them in your child's back pack and we'll gather them up from classroom teachers. That's what's planned so far - we'll keep you posted! If you are interested in taking part or want to know more, please contact Stephanie Hayden ([steph27064@aol.com](mailto:steph27064@aol.com)) or Sue Frost ([sue\\_frost@msn.com](mailto:sue_frost@msn.com)). Thanks!

## Community Service

The second annual Book Drive was a success. We were able to give the Maryland Library many gently used books. They were so excited about the donation. If you happened to miss the Book Drive, Student Council will be having one in the Spring. Start saving those books now.

The fourth annual Giving Wall/Adopt A Family will be unveiled at the Turkey Trot. This will be an opportunity for you and your family to pick a wish and help make a local family's holiday enjoyable.



# Tuition Tax Credit 2007

ARS 43-1089.01

**W**ould you like to contribute up to \$400 dollars to Cerritos and have it cost you nothing? If you pay more than \$400 in Arizona state income tax that's exactly how the Tuition Tax Credit works!

By participating in the AZ Tax Credit program **you** are deciding how a **portion of your state income taxes** are to be spent at your child's school!

You simply write a check to the Kyrene School District for up to \$400 for married filing jointly and \$200 for single or head of household. Please designate on the check that it is a tax credit donation for Cerritos. When you file your taxes, the amount you designated for Cerritos can be **subtracted** from the taxes you paid or owe. **So, in actuality it costs you nothing.** (On your Federal Taxes it's a Schedule A charitable contribution which offsets the state tax decrease.)

**Cerritos will use the money to benefit your child.....to fund assemblies, character education programs, field trips, author visits, after school programs, lunchtime intramurals, Artist in Residence, Publishing House, Art Masterpiece and more.** These are programs that are **not funded** by the state. The PTO has funded some of these programs in the past, but freeing up PTO monies allows the PTO to help with curricular needs, classroom supplies, and large projects i.e., outdoor benches and tables, school beautification, a school communication sign, shade structure, etc.

**Anyone who files a tax return (and owes taxes ☺) in Arizona can participate, even if they do not have a child in school.** This means you could ask grandparents, aunts, uncles, neighbors, co-workers to contribute and they'd get the tax credit too.

**To receive the credit for the 2007 tax year, here's what you do:**

- 1. Make out a check to the Kyrene School District for up to \$400.00\***
- 2. Write the words "Cerritos Tax Credit " on the check and please send to Cerritos. We will send you a receipt for tax purposes.**

\* \$400 for Married, or \$200 for single filers.