

Dear Cerritos Community,

February is one of my favorite months. Right in the middle of the month we have an opportunity to appreciate those we love. Valentine's Day brings thoughts of love and friendships. A personalized poem, a flower, a card or a simple hug lets someone you care about know that he or she is important to you. This year, my Valentine's thought goes out to the parents or guardians of our students. You are the role model to your child. Your continued diligence in supporting the efforts of education serves as a strong contribution toward the success of your child. We will continue to focus on strengthening the sound educational instruction that occurs throughout each day at our school. Thank you for the continued support of our entire Cerritos staff. We truly appreciate you!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Darcy DiCosmo

Dear Cerritos Families,

There's nothing quite like throwing a great party – and I'm happy to say a couple of Cerritos parents did just that!

The PTO would like to thank Shelley Corzo and Lisa Liberta for organizing and putting on one wildly successful Sock Hop! If you were there, you know the place was absolutely packed! 50's music filled the air as girls in poodle skirts and boys with slicked back hair danced, hoola hooped and played games in between time outs for pizza, cotton candy and root beer floats. It was truly a magical night – not just for the kids, but for their families as well. Many heartfelt thanks to the Basha family as well for supplying all the drinks and ice cream necessary to make this event a big success. As always, your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Parents: be on the lookout for an email coming your way soon from Coach Benson. She is putting together a team of Cerritos students (and parents) to participate in this year's "Character Counts Run" at Wesley Bolin Plaza. The event will take place on Sunday, March 2. If Coach Benson can put together a sizable team, our school could win a free assembly just for participating! The registration deadline is coming up on February 18th so keep your eyes peeled for Coach Benson's email informing you how to sign up on line.

One final item to be on the lookout for is the "Square One Art" catalog. Square One Art is a new fundraiser for Cerritos. Every child at our school recently created a unique piece of artwork – and you will have an opportunity to order your child's artwork on items like t-shirts, totes and coffee mugs very soon. Look for your catalog to come home the week of March 17th.

As always, thank you so much for your continued support. Cerritos wouldn't be as great as it is without you!

Sincerely,

Stephanie Hayden
PTO President

A Special Thanks....

Thank You, Bashes!

The Cerritos PTO, Faculty & Staff are extremely grateful for the many generous donations your family makes to our school every year, including:

- *The Fall Carnival*
- *The Book Fairs*
- *The Sock Hop*
- *Teacher Appreciation Week*
- *Author Visits*
- *Class Parties*
- *Staff Birthday Celebrations*

We Appreciate You!!!

Kyrene de los Cerritos
Elementary School
14620 S. Desert Foothills Parkway,
Phoenix, AZ 85048-4600
Office: 783-1200
Attendance: 783-1297
Website: [www.kyrene.org/
schools/cerritos](http://www.kyrene.org/schools/cerritos)
February 15, 2008
Volume 13, Issue 7



CERRITOS KUDOS

Box Top Update

February is flying by, and we are getting closer to the end of the 3rd quarter. Remember that the class who submits the most Box Tops in the 3rd quarter will win an ice cream treat from Maggie Moo's. The deadline to turn in Box Tops is March 5.

For the on-line adventurers, go to www.boxtops4education.com, and look for the 25,000 box top Chicken Helper promotion going on now through Feb 29, 2008. There is NO PURCHASE necessary and every entry could help Cerritos win 25,000 box tops.

A huge thank you to all who clip and save Box Tops! It makes a difference!

Sock Hop Thanks

Wow! The sock hop was a rockin good time! Everyone looked great in their fabulous costumes, and enjoyed the games, candy, contests and dancing the night away to Mr. G's tunes!

Thank you to all who made this year's sock hop a great success. We especially want to thank our awesome sponsors and volunteers. Thank you to Basha's, 1 Stop Signs, Reliable Auto Glass, 5 N Diner, and Baskin Robbins for being so generous and donating items to our sock hop. Thank you Kris South, Kelly Schmitz, Chris Smith, Stephanie Hayden, Lori and Scott Giesen, Kellie Volant, Kelly Farrell, Nancy Manson, Silveria Vara, Michaela Gefrides, Brian Smith, Tisha Rose, Steph Johnson, Traci Innes, Dondi Barlay, OJ Liberta and DV Key Club for all of your time helping with the event. Thank you also to the teachers who helped out, along with Mrs. DiCosmo, Mr. Gibson, and Nelly. We could not have done this without you!

We appreciate all of you! Thank you!

Lisa Liberta and Shelley Corzo

REMINDERS

It's time to plan for next school year!

Reserve your space now to avoid waitlists later.

Online registration for the 2008-2009 Kids Club & Montessori three and four-year-old program starts February 1st.

Kyrene Kids Club, the award-winning state-licensed after-school program and the Kyrene Montessori three and four-year-old program will open online registration for the '08-'09 school year on Friday, February 1st. To register go to www.kyrene.org/eservices.

For more information on which schools offer Kyrene Kids Club, program options and rates, go to www.kyrene.org/childcare.

You may register in person as of February 1, 2008 at the Ben Furlong Center (District Office), 8700 S. Kyrene Road, Tempe, AZ 85284. The deadline for 2008-2009 Kids Club registration is 8:00 a.m. June 16, 2008.

Please Remember to Sign In

In an effort to maintain a safe campus, we ask that you sign in at the front office each time you visit or volunteer. Please wear a volunteer badge so that we can easily spot all visitors. We thank you for your continued support.

March 3rd - New online sign up date for Kyrene SUMMER Services!!

To accommodate increased interest in the Kyrene Summer offerings, the Kyrene School District will make online registration for ALL Summer programs available at 8 a.m. on Monday, March 3. In-person registration will begin on Monday, March 17, 2008. This March 3rd on-line registration opportunity is for Summer Kids Club, Summer Academy classes and the Summer Theatre program.

As of Monday, March 17th, in-person registration will be available at the Ben Furlong Center (District Office), 8700 S. Kyrene Road, Tempe, AZ 85284. Registration for Summer Kids Club ends at 8:00 a.m. on May 12th. Registration for Summer Academy and Summer Theatre ends on May 30th. Register early before your first choice is full.

For more information on schools that offer Summer Academy, Summer Kids Club and Summer Theatre, go to <http://www.kyrene.org/supplemental/>. For customer service, please call 480-783-7314.

CERRITOS UPDATES

Kyrene Among Three Districts in Nation Chosen to Showcase Teaching with Technology

The Kyrene School District has been chosen by the National School Boards Association (NSBA) to host a Technology Site Visitation on February 20-22, 2008. Kyrene is one of three districts, nationwide, to be afforded this honor, and is the first district ever to be so recognized in the Southwest. This is a follow-up to Kyrene's selection in 2006 as one of three districts to be recognized as a Technology Salute District by the NSBA.

A Technology Site Visitation is designed so that approximately 100 educators (teachers, principals, Superintendents, and Governing Board members) from other school districts across the state and country may come together to learn about what an innovative district is doing to integrate technology into instruction, learning, management, and productivity. Kyrene has many technology initiatives, but the Kyrene Teaches with Technology Project (KTTP) is the cornerstone of Kyrene's Technology Plan.

During this visit to Kyrene, participants will not only learn about the evolution of KTTP, but will experience KTTP in action in every classroom they visit – students and teachers doing amazing things with technology in every grade level – kindergarten through eighth grade. Participants will learn more about Kyrene's wireless network, information systems, data warehouse systems, and more.

Cerritos has been selected as one of the sites to be visited on Friday, February 22, 2008.

For more information go to <http://www.kyrene.org> and select the NSBA Tech Site Visit button.

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 9th for November K-2 testing.



Are you moving out of the Cerritos attendance area for the 2008-2009 school year?

Please notify the school office at 783-1200 before April 22, 2008. We will provide a withdrawal form for you to fill out and sign.

Student Name _____

Current Grade _____ Teacher _____

Next year my child will attend:

Out of State School Name _____

Another Kyrene School Name _____

Another School District in Arizona _____

(Please return to Cerritos School office)



Prevention Services News and Events

Project Alert Kicks Off at Cerritos!

On January 11th, the Prevention Team, in collaboration with the 5th grade teachers, kicked off another year of Project Alert Drug Prevention lessons with the 5th grade students. Lessons are held weekly in each 5th grade class, and focus on learning about and practicing resistance skills for combating the multitude of pressures to experiment with tobacco, drugs and alcohol as children grow and develop. We will be discussing the influences of the media and advertising, peer and other external pressures, and internal pressures, keeping in mind that the more experienced we are at recognizing these pressures, and the more we practice ways to say no, the better prepared we will be when faced with these challenges in "the real world."

If you are the lucky parent of a Cerritos 5th grade student, ask about this week's Project Alert lesson, and see if you can answer some of their trivia questions about the risks of using Tobacco and Alcohol.

For more information on this fantastic program, please visit www.projectalert.com

Second Round of Prevention Groups begin!

The Prevention Team will begin our second round of prevention groups in February! Topics will include:

- ◆ **Focus 123** - Students learn to manage behaviors related to attention, organization, hyperactivity, completing tasks, and concentration.
- ◆ **Girl Power** - (4/5 grade) - Girls learn tools to help them build self-esteem and make positive support choices.
- ◆ **Changing Families** - Students are supported through difficult changes related to divorce, separation, and blended families.
- ◆ **Loving Me/Loving You** - Children learn coping skills, compassion and responsibility.
- ◆ **Anger Management** - Children learn ways of communicating their needs and feelings BEFORE they blow, and build confidence by practicing these strategies with peers.

Prevention Groups are for Cerritos students referred by parents, teachers, or even by themselves. Groups run for 8 weeks on Fridays for 30-45 minutes each week. For more information, or to request that your child participate in one of our fabulous groups, please let your child's teacher know that you are interested, or call the prevention director, Cara English, at 602-803-8169.