

Dear Cerritos Families,

I am always so impressed as I walk the halls and campus of our school. I am continually reminded of why I love Cerritos. Your children are remarkable. They each bring such character, quality, and dedication to learning. As I walk through classrooms, I see and hear your children working together to solve math problems, practicing and reviewing skills in small groups, and most impressive to me, utilizing technology in unique and inventive ways in every classroom. It is an incredible treat for me and a testament to the power of excellent teaching. I observe students and teachers displaying the Six Pillars of Character on a daily basis. I know how proud you are of your children. Rest assured, your Cerritos staff is most certainly proud of them too!

Our annual AIMS testing was a success as our students (and their parents) demonstrated a commitment of ensuring they were prepared and rested during these important testing days. We use these exams as an opportunity for teachers and our school to not only reflect on our strengths in reaching our students, but to evaluate the data to discuss areas of refinement and focus for the next year. Thank you all for your support during the two weeks of testing. I look forward to communicating our results as we receive them.

Sincerely,
Darcy DiCosmo

IN THIS NEWSLETTER...

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Dear Cerritos Families,

With the school year quickly coming to a close, I thought this would be a good opportunity to revisit some of the PTO's goals for the year, advise you about our progress on those goals...and, briefly cover our plans for the final five weeks of school.

As you may recall, one of the PTO's main objectives this year was to replace the sand on the playground. The idea was to try and get rid of the mess and allergies it creates. However, after investigating the alternatives, we learned that rubberized replacement material can combust in extreme heat. We also learned that the district will not maintain anything other than sand.

Next, the PTO looked into the possibility of installing security cameras on campus due to incidents of vandalism. However, we learned that the Kyrene school district is now considering installing security cameras on all campuses throughout the entire district.

Now, as we're approaching the end of the school year, a very popular idea is back on the table: whether to install another shade structure. This time, it would be over the snack tables on the playground. It gets very bright and hot out there throughout much of the year and we know both the kids and the teachers would really welcome some relief! The board is currently considering bids and is hopeful that the budget will allow us to install a new structure before school begins in the fall of 08.

This issue could very likely be up for a vote at the final PTO board meeting, which is open to the public, on Tuesday, May 13 at 7:00 pm in the library. We hope that you will be able to attend as we will also be electing board members for the 08 - 09 school year!

Until then, mark your calendars for these upcoming school events we know you won't want to miss:

- April 17: Celebration of learning/opening night of the book fair
- April 18: Lunch on the lawn
- April 25: Ice cream social, 5:30 - 8:00 pm at Cerritos
- May 5 - 9: Staff Appreciation Week

Many thanks to all of you amazing, involved parents for all of your support throughout the school year. You truly make Cerritos the wonderful place that it is!

Sincerely,
Stephanie Hayden

KNIX/Fulton Homes' Teacher of the Week: Eileen Byrne-Quinn!!

A huge congratulations goes out to Mrs. Byrne Quinn for winning the KNIX-Fulton Homes "Teacher of the Week" contest!

Student Cole Beck sent in a poem he wrote to KNIX radio station about what a great teacher Mrs. Byrne Quinn is (see below) – and wouldn't you know...she won \$500.00 plus other assorted prizes!! Way to go Cole – and way to go Mrs. Byrne Quinn! You should feel very proud!

Mrs. Byrne Quinn's winning moment will be featured on KNIX (102.5) with Ben & Matt on May 2nd between 6:20 & 7:20 am. Her picture – and Cole's poem – will also be featured on the Teacher of the Week page on www.knixcountry.com. WOO – HOO!! WAY TO GO!!!

<p><i>TEACHER OF THE WORLD</i> <i>By Cole Beck</i></p> <p><i>Roses are red</i> <i>Violets are blue</i> <i>Mrs. Byrne-Quinn is blue and red</i> <i>She is a Wildcat!</i> <i>She helps me all day when she teaches me</i> <i>math, science and most of all</i> <i>READING!</i></p> <p><i>Mrs. Byrnn-Quinn makes first grade great. I</i> <i>think she is the best teacher in the world.</i> <i>Her heart is made of silver and gold. Sun-</i> <i>flowers are gold like her heart. She holds</i> <i>everyone in the class to a great task. She</i> <i>challenges us in math. Mrs. Byrnn-Quinn</i> <i>is in school both day and night. Learning is</i> <i>her favorite thing in life.</i></p> <p><i>She is really nice and makes me smarter</i> <i>and smarter. All these things come true.</i> <i>Please come and meet my red and blue</i> <i>teacher. Wildcat or not, she is my special</i> <i>teacher.</i></p>

To all fifth grade parents/families

Mark your calendars for Tuesday, May 20th, for our 5th grade End-of-the-Year Celebration at Amazing Jakes! All 5th graders will be wearing their Project Alert shirts that day. More details to follow through your 5th grade teachers.

As some of you may have known, Matthew Miller in Ms. Rowe's class, has been seriously ill this year. It's with deep sorrow that I report to you, our Cerritos community, of the passing of our beloved first grader, Matthew. We have, and will continue to extend our deepest sympathies to the Miller family for their untimely loss.



As you can imagine, this is a difficult time for all those who knew Matthew. Information regarding this sensitive subject is available for you by Stepping Stones of Hope: <http://www.steppingstonesofhope.org/index.html>. This information may be helpful in explaining the situation to your child and helping him/her cope with this loss.

Matthew was honored by the entire first grade with the release of blue balloons. Students were able to write a note to Matthew, attach it to the balloon, and after some thoughtful and caring words from Ms. Rowe, free their balloon as a class. The sky lit up as one hundred sapphire balloons floated upward. It was a moving and emotional time for the students, teachers and parents.

Cerritos would like to continue to honor Matthew. Our Student Council and PTO are collaborating with Ms. Rowe's students to establish a memorial in Matthew's name. Please keep the Miller family in your thoughts during this challenging time.



To the Family of Matthew Miller:

The Cerritos PTO and staff wishes to extend its heartfelt sympathy for the loss of your beautiful son Matthew. We've learned from his teacher and his first grade friends what a loving, sweet and delightful little boy he was. We are at a loss to express how sad and upset we all feel. Please know that Matthew was and always will be a part of our school. We would be honored to work with you on a memorial for Matthew to keep him in our hearts and thoughts forever.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Spring Family Appreciation

Ice Cream Social
Friday, April 25, 2008
5:30 to 8:00 pm

We will be serving ice cream with all your favorite toppings!

There will be music provided by our own Mr. G!

Please plan to join us in the Cerritos Courtyard.

This is a family event so please attend with your children.

Spring Book Fair!

It's time once again for the Spring Book Fair! This season's theme is: Take a Reading Road Trip! What a perfect time to stock up on summer reading selections, and help the library at the same time! Instead of bringing only a Nintendo DS or Sony PSP on your summer vacation, you can also take along a Scholastic B-O-O-K! Be sure to look for teacher wish lists as well - it's a great end of year gift opportunity for your favorite teacher.

Due to the many family events coming up, as well as restocking issues, we will not be having the popular Donuts for Dads this time. However, you can catch us at the Celebration of Learning, Lunch on the Lawn, or at the Ice Cream Social, as well as during school hours and after school. The dates and times are as follows:

Thurs April 17	8-3 and 5:30-7:30	at Celebration of Learning
Fri April 18	8-3	(including Lunch on the Lawn)
Mon April 21	11-3	
Tue April 22	11-3	
Wed April 23	11-1	
Thurs April 24	11-3	
Fri April 25	11-3 and 5:30-8	at the Ice Cream Social

If you'd like to volunteer an hour or two of your time, contact Lori Stipp at LStipp@cox.net, or Chris Smith at fivesmiths@cox.net.



CELEBRATION OF LEARNING!

Don't miss this fun evening at school! This is a great time to enjoy all of our students' hard work and fantastic achievements!



SPRING BOOK FAIR

The Spring Book Fair is right around the corner! It will open on the evening of Celebration of Learning and be open the entire next week.



LUNCH ON THE LAWN

If you missed it in the fall, you definitely don't want to miss it this spring! Come eat lunch with your child and enjoy entertainment from the DV choir. It's a great way to spend time with your child!



ICE CREAM SOCIAL

This family event is a great way to celebrate school spirit, see other Cerritos families, and enjoy our wonderful Arizona weather!



STAFF APPRECIATION WEEK

Okay, time is running out to show our appreciation for a wonderful year to our beloved Cerritos staff! Let's give them a lot of recognition this week! They deserve it!

go green!

Paper, plastic, beef or veg It's not the bag. It's what's in the bag.

by Adam Stein, Terrapass E-newsletter

People are often trying to find a solution to deal with the plastic bags in this issue. Seattle has proposed a twenty-cent charge on grocery bags, and a company called Sightline has done lots of research and published a study of the environmental impact of paper vs. plastic.

The bottom line is that the stuff in the bag matters a lot more than the bag itself. In fact, it matters about 186 times as much. The analysis compared "four servings of two different diets: the first, a meat-based diet that included beef, potatoes, tropical fruit, and drinks such as soda; the second a vegetable-based diet composed of produce grown within the country where it was consumed and a soy-based protein source."

The moral, obviously, is not that we should waste bags. But if you're looking to lower your environmental impact, paper vs. plastic is maybe not the only question to be pondering.

GREAT WEBSITE!

www.unscrewamerica.org

Great music, and... Small changes can make a difference. That's the idea behind Unscrew America. Because if we all switch out our old lightbulbs with energy-efficient CLFs and LEDs, ridiculously good things will happen.

- We'll save billions in energy.
- We'll reduce carbon emissions.
- We'll reduce our dependence on fossil fuels.
- Not to mention, we'll each save \$30 for each lightbulb we change.

At this website you'll learn all you need to know to make the switch and spread the word!

- CLFs are the way to go now (because LEDs are widely unavailable right now).
- That LEDs will be the way to go in the near future (when they become more available).
- And that CLFs contain mercury and can't be thrown in the trash (they must be disposed of properly, such as through a recycling program like they have at IKEA or by following the guidelines at www.Earth911.org. More of these disposal programs are popping up, you'll see).

Unscrew America is made up from everyone who helps spread the word about energy efficient lighting. It was started by Lesley Chilcott, one of the producers of An Inconvenient Truth, along with Roy Spence, a founder of GSD&Ms Idea City.

Box Top Update

In case you have not heard, Ms. Kringen's class won the third quarter Box Tops For Education Contest. They brought in 872 box tops for the quarter! Their prize for the quarter is a sweet treat at the next class party!

This class also won the Pump It Up Pizza Party for collecting the most box tops throughout the school year. It should also be noted that Ms. Kringen has won a year's membership at the Ahwatukee YMCA for her fabulous efforts!

Our School brought in the third largest amount of box tops in the Pump It Up Contest. We more than *doubled* the amount that we collected last year- thanks to all the wonderful kids and families we have supporting Cerritos.

Start saving those box tops for the 2008-2009 school year. Don't forget to sign up <http://www.boxtops4education.com/> to help Cerritos receive more box tops points and shop the box tops marketplace for extra school earnings. Signing up is free and you can print free coupons to use at grocery stores.

Congratulations and thanks again for your support.

Yearbook Thank You

Special thanks to the following ladies who dedicated their time to produce the 2007-2008 Cerritos Yearbook:

Amy Alme	Sara Kosobud
Lori Chubliski	Linda McCurley
Sally Cummings	Kristin McNeil
Deb Falco	Janet Mooneyham
Janine Ganser	Barb Philippe
Yumi Goswick	LeeAnn Schnieder
Sue Frost	Jenny Wilkins
Helen Hale	Lori Stipp
Libby Hunt	Rhonda Smith
Charlotte Kaiden	

After 7 years of serving as the Yearbook Committee Chair, I am "retiring" from this position. It has been a special pleasure to serve the Cerritos families in this capacity and to work with some of the volunteer ladies listed above for the entire 7 years.... thanks for sticking with me! We hope everyone will be as pleased with the final published book as we are.

Yearbooks will be delivered during the last week of school in May! If you have not yet reserved your pre-copy, please do so with the attached form. We order a limited quantity of books and any extra will be distributed on a first-come, first serve basis.

All the best,
Frances Brakebill (formerly Lynch)
Yearbook Committee Chair

Summer is Just Around the Corner!

Do you need a fun program for your children? How about sending them to Summer Kids Club! Children participating in the Kyrene Kids Club Summer program will enjoy fun, enriching activities as well as field trips and special events such as swimming, museums, arts and sciences just to name a few.

Kids Club has 7 sites to choose from: Esperanza, Estrella, Lomas, Niños, Manitas, Mirada, and Paloma. Most camps run from May 27th through July 25th, 6:30am - 6:30pm and have programs for infants through 8th graders. Registration information is available online at www.kyrene.org/childcare. Walk-in registration is also available at the Kyrene School District Office From 7:30 – 4:30. Space is limited, register today!

Three Kyrene Board Positions Open for November Election

Kyrene hosts preview for prospective board candidates on what it takes to be a School Board member

The President of the United States won't be the only office on the ballot this coming November. This fall three positions on the Kyrene Elementary School District Governing Board will become available. The district would like to encourage parents and community members to consider running for these important volunteer jobs.

On Wednesday, April 23, Kyrene School District Superintendent Dr. David Schauer and Kyrene School District Governing Board President Sue Knudson plan to hold a "Board Candidate Preview". The meeting, scheduled from 1:30 – 3:30 p.m., is for those interested in becoming school board candidates so they can familiarize themselves with district operations and the critical role the Governing Board members play.

Topics to be covered include:

- District organizational structure and departmental responsibilities
- Board policy, powers, duties, authority, ethics & open meeting laws
- Board member perspective: roles & common mistakes
- Tools, training and professional resources.

Community members interested in attending, please call (480) 783-4161.

Board Preview Session

Wednesday, April 23, 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

Ben Furlong Center at the Kyrene School District Offices
(NW corner of Kyrene and Warner Roads)

8700 S. Kyrene Road
Tempe, AZ 85284



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)

2007-2008 YEARBOOK PRE-ORDER

THE YEARBOOK HAS GONE TO PRINT. DON'T MISS YOUR LAST CHANCE TO PRE-ORDERS. Orders the 2007-2008 Cerritos Yearbook are now being taken at a price of **\$27.00**. We order a fixed amount of books for sale on a first-come, first-serve basis. If available, any remaining copies will be sold the last few days of school. The books will have a soft-back cover.

Please complete this form below in its entirety and return it to school in an envelope marked "Yearbook Order" to your child's teacher along with a check (payable to **CERRITOS PTO, w/yearbook & your child's name/teacher in the memo line**) or enter the credit card information below.

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, please feel free to contact Frances Lynch, Yearbook Committee Chair, at cerritosyearbook@msn.com or at 480-460-4220.

Please reserve _____ yearbooks @ \$27 each

Student _____ Teacher _____ Grade _____

Student _____ Teacher _____ Grade _____

Parent(s) Name: _____

Email address: _____

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

VISA/MASTERCARD ONLY (please note that the PTO will incur a processing charge for this option)

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

Name as it appears on card: _____ Signature: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

TOTAL AMOUNT OF CHECK OR CHARGE: _____