



C.L. Smith Elementary School

Parent Newsletter

November 2, 2009

UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

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| November 2 | PTA Meeting (6 p.m.) |
| November 2-6 | Minimum Days for Parent-Teacher Conferences (1 p.m. Dismissal) |
| November 5 | Picture Retake Day |
| November 11 | Veterans' Day (School Holiday) |
| November 17 | Breakfast with the Principal (8:30-9:15 a.m.) |
| November 18 | English Learner Advisory Committee |
| November 20 | Honor Society (6:30 p.m.) |
| November 23 | School Site Council (3-4:30 p.m.) |
| November 24 | Superstar Assembly (1:30 p.m.) |
| November 25-27 | Thanksgiving Holidays |
| December 2 | 6 th Grade Camp Meeting for Parents (6:00 p.m.) |
| December 21-Jan. 1 | Winter Holiday (no school) |

From the Principal It's Parent-Teacher Conference Week! What a great opportunity for all our parents to sit down with your child's teacher and spend some time discussing his/her progress so far this school year. My advice to parents is first of all, relax. Teachers don't want to put parents on the spot. They just want to meet and discuss how to help students do their best in school. All children learn in different ways. They have their own individual personalities and their own listening and work habits. Teachers need to know as much as they can about each child's likes and dislikes. No one knows more about these things than you, the parents. And no one has more influence over your child than you.

Here Are Some Things To Keep In Mind

- Start the conference right: Be there on time, and plan not to run over the amount of time that has been set aside for your conference.
- The best conferences are the ones where teachers and parents stay calm and try hard to work together for the purpose of helping your child do well.

Getting Ready

Each teacher will come prepared with samples of your child's work and ideas to help him/her do even better in school. You should get ready for the conference as well. Talk to your child before the conference. Find out what he/she thinks are his/her best subjects and what subjects he/she likes the least. Find out why. Also, ask your child if there are things they would like you to talk about with the teacher. Make sure your child doesn't worry about the meeting. Help him/her understand that you and the teacher are meeting in order to help him/her succeed.

Before You Go to the School, Write Notes to Yourself About:

- Things about your child's life at home, personality, problems, habits, and hobbies you feel are important for the teacher to know.
- Your concerns about the school's program or policies
- Questions about your child's progress
- How you and the school can work together to help your child

The Conference

Some good questions to ask are:

- Is my child in different groups for different subjects? Why?
- How well does my child get along with others?
- What are my child's best and worst subjects?
- Is my child working up to his or her ability?
- Does my child participate in class discussions and activities?
- Is my child keeping up on his/her homework?

It's a good idea to ask your most important questions first, just in case time runs out. Be sure to ask the teacher for suggestions on ways to help your child do better. This is the most important part of the meeting. It will be your action plan. If the teacher says something you don't quite understand, don't be shy about asking for an explanation. It's a good idea to end the conference by summing up decisions you've made together. If needed, ask to meet again.

Start immediately on the action plan you and the teacher worked out together. Discuss the plan with your child. Make sure he/she knows that you and the teacher care. To make sure the action plan is working, watch your child's behavior and check your child's class work and homework.

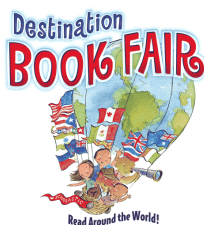
There will be a special sign-up sheet at the Parent-Teacher Conference asking for volunteers from each classroom to head-up your child's booth or theme basket for this year's carnival or bring a pot of homemade chili for the Chili Contest at the carnival. The theme basket is for the silent auction. Our carnival is scheduled for May 7th. Please consider signing up for one of these for your child's class.

Parents are always encouraged to call or e-mail me with concerns, complaints and even compliments about our service to you and your children. My e-mail address is: ashields@slcsud.org.

PTA News

CL SMITH PTA MEETING TONIGHT! Join us at **6:00 pm** in the Staff Lounge. Hope to see you there!

The Masterpiece cookie dough, pizza, pretzels, and desserts are now on sale! All sales are due back to your child's teacher on Tuesday, November 3rd. What a wonderful way to warm your kitchen on a chilly day! Top sellers will receive Scholastic Book Fair credit. Good luck!



SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR
NOVEMBER 2nd to NOVEMBER 6th
1:00 to 3:00 pm
in the SCIENCE LAB

Have a Grand time at our Book Fair
Read-a-Loud!

Join us on Wednesday, Nov. 4th from
6:30 to 8:00 pm
to listen to your favorite books
~Special evening hours~

Donate \$1 or more to bring more books
into your children's classrooms
A Book Slip will be displayed with your name on it at the Book Fair.

What would you do for Reading?
Watch Mrs. Shields do a wacky stunt
if we reach our goal of 300 books read by the students of C. L. Smith!

Visit our website: <http://bookfairs.scholastic.com/homepage/clsmith>

Julie Marks, PTA President