

From the Principal

October 22, 2007

Fall Costume Parade

The Springer Fall Costume Parade has become a tradition at Springer Elementary School. This event offers our students a chance to take on the role of unique and dynamic characters. I still highly recommend that our students consider looking to the many, many wonderful literary characters available from quality children's literature.

Rather than rummaging through a costume shoppe, consider visiting our library or the Mountain View / Los Altos Public Library to locate that certain character that makes sense for your child to portray on this special day.

As usual, our school will discourage character costumes that portray any form of violence. Weapon exposition of any type are not acceptable.

Take a chance and "try on" a character that brings a story to life. Who knows - maybe someone will even ask our literary characters to share the story of this character!

The California Business for Education Excellence Foundation

For the third consecutive year, the students, staff, and community of Springer Elementary School have been recognized as a California Honor Roll School.

The mission of the CBEE Foundation is to drive the debate beyond the usual questions of "if" we should have standards or accountability or "where" those standards should be set to instead demonstrate that standards can and are being met. The foundation focuses attention on improving student achievement and giving a voice to those that are raising academic achievement and closing achievement gaps.

High academic achievement is happening across all ethnic and socioeconomic lines in every corner of the state. By connecting low - performing schools with high performing schools with similar student populations in an organized way, the foundation dispels the myths often used for lack of performance.

CBEE Foundation works with the media and public opinion leaders to bring this strategy to scale and helps low performing schools replicate the practices found in high performing schools. When this is done in an organized campaign, the foundation has concluded that all schools in California can get 100% of their students to grade level and beyond.

This is truly an honor to be recognized. In addition, sharing best practices with others creates a dialog for excellence and reflection. I believe great organizations need to constantly look and review their practices. What better way to accomplish self review than to open discussion with other schools who are striving for excellence throughout California !

Interest Based Reading

The School Site Council has completed a brainstorm of topics that it plans to review for the 2007 - 2008 school year. One of the topics the council plans to address is to develop a survey of the community. While planning for this survey development, I uncovered a few topics that would serve as interesting community discussions.

After sharing this idea with our PTA President, Kathleen S., we have agreed to set aside a part of each

PTA meeting to reflect upon educational topics that may be of interest to many parents, students, and community members. The topics “on the table” for discussion so far include *Interest Based Reading, Bullying/Teasing, The Einstein Project, Science Adoptions, Middle School Transitions, and Community Survey*.

The next PTA Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 13th. On this evening the PTA plans to sponsor a panel discussion on Interest Based Reading. Look for more information about each topic in the Springer STAR that precedes the actual PTA Meeting date.

Lost and Found

The lost and found articles have been on display all week. Those items not claimed by Monday, October 29th will be donated to a worthy cause.