

November 29, 2011

Quarter 2, Week 7

CPSC Weekly Update

...words of wisdom from John and important dates to remember

From the Director...

We hope everyone enjoyed the Thanksgiving holiday and found some time to relax. As we head into the last three weeks of the second quarter, individual classes and the school as a whole are strengthening as a community. Your child's strengths and the influence of your child's teacher have helped shape each classroom's spirit. As a school, second quarter community events, such as the Literary Festival, the Friendship Feast, parent workshops and the Fall Social, invite our families to be more involved. A major component of our school's innovative charter is the role of the family in a child's education and its powerful impact on a child's success. One aspect of family responsibility that our charter, founders and teachers feel strongly about is our Homework Policy of **reading to your child for at least thirty minutes a day.**

Thomas Friedman, a social and political critic and author, recently wrote in his New York Times column (see link below), "Every three years, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, or O.E.C.D., conducts exams as part of the Program for International Student Assessment, or PISA, which tests 15-year-olds in the world's leading industrialized nations on their reading comprehension and ability to use what they've learned in math and science to solve real problems — the most important skills for succeeding in college and life." Friedman is not so fascinated with the fact that American students are outperformed by many other nations, but by the recent study of the PISA that identifies parents reading to their children as a major indicator for success for students worldwide. The study uncovered "that students whose parents reported that they had read a book with their child 'every day or almost every day' or 'once or twice a week' during the first year of primary school have markedly higher scores in PISA 2009 than students whose parents reported that they had read a book with their child 'never or almost never' or only 'once or twice a month.' On average, the score difference is 25 points, the equivalent of well over half a school year." If you would like to read more about the study in Friedman's article, please follow this link: http://www.nytimes.com/2011/11/20/opinion/sunday/friedman-how-about-better-parents.html?_r=2&src=me&ref=general

While we did not create our homework policy with the purpose of students receiving higher scores when they are teenagers, its effect is noteworthy. On the other hand, we did create our policy with both the spirit and research that believes students whose families are meaningfully involved with their education on a daily basis achieve greater success at school. . *John*

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

Friday, Dec. 9	School Picture Make-ups being taken (mornings)
Saturday, Dec. 10	All School Workday, 9:00AM – 12:00PM
Tuesday, Dec. 13	Teacher Appreciation Luncheon
Thursday, Dec. 15	School Council Meeting, 4pm in the Art Room
Friday, Dec. 16	Last day of Quarter 1

SATURDAY, JANURAY 28: SAVE OUR ARTS BENEFIT CONCERT AND AUCTION