



Panda Press  
College Park School Newsletter  
2020-21 August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020



**First week:** The first week of distance learning went well. Students and families did a great job - arriving on time and ready to learn. We had our launch which went very well. We really appreciate parents coming with masks, signs in the window, etc.. and we love how efficient and enthusiastic the CP team was! We also had Back to School Nights. Thanks to the teachers for working together on those and to the parents for their participation and thoughtful questions. The BTS w/Principal Singh materials were also sent out (powerpoint, Q & A, handbooks) in both English and Spanish.

**Attendance and Participation:** If your child will not be participating in class for one or more days, please call the office just as you would with an absence during face to face days. Attendance is taken each morning and teachers are also keeping track of participation. Students should be present in both a.m. and p.m. sessions each day.

**Setting up for learning at home:** Please make sure that your child has a quiet, peaceful spot where he/she can work. Be careful of background noise and visuals as there are many families connected (and seeing and hearing) during class time - try to find a neutral background.

**Class schedules:** By now, you should have access to your children's class schedule. Teachers shared this information at Back to School Nights. In addition, Google Classroom (grades 1-5) or See Saw (Kinder) include all of the information needed for success. Mandarin aides are working with students in all Mandarin classes and, hopefully, soon, we will have English aides for K-2 and 3-5. Mandarin help will be available after school (online) from Mr. Chiang and Ms. Chang.

**Tech issues:** If you have tech issues, please let your teacher know so that he/she is aware. Your teacher will let the office know. We are working on site tech support to include both employees (for issues like passwords, etc.) and parents (for general questions). We are also compiling frequently asked questions/resources to share in a central spot. If you have interest in helping with parents' technology questions, please let Karice know.

**Google Hangouts:** We have learned that students can enter Google Hangouts and chat with their classmates. Although students are primarily using this tool to talk about class, it is important that parents are aware and monitoring (as always when children are online). We are looking for additional information on this access. Thanks for your collaboration. Don't hesitate to contact us if you learn of any technology use that is not focused on studies or that is being used inappropriately or causing distractions during classes.

**Chromes and Hotspots:** We will have a site based distribution day coming up soon. As a district, we are focusing on families with greatest need. If we have remaining chromes, we will work towards distributing them. Thanks for your patience!

**Class Visits:** Dr. Singh will be stopping in to visit classrooms. She already had the opportunity to read a story and chat with grade 2 as well as to interact with grade 3, sharing a bit about herself and answering questions. She is looking forward to getting to know students and seeing all the exciting things happening online!

**PTA General Assembly:** We will have a welcome chat for new families on Aug. 27 from 5:30-6:15 (link has been sent) and then the PTA General Assembly will start at 6:30. This month's PTA meeting is a great opportunity to get to know CP parent leadership, network with other families, and find out about plans and budget for 2020-21. Hope to see you there!

**Fundraising:** PTA, FMS and SMFCEF have started their important fundraising process. We appreciate everything that parents do to help College Park students and teachers each and every day!

**Meet our Counselor:** Mr. Kiro Calderon, our wonderful new counselor, created this great [video](#) so that students and families can meet him. You can reach out to Mr. Calderon with any questions you have or social-emotional support/resources. He will be visiting classes during morning meetings to share lessons and get to know students.

**Meet our School Psychologist:** Dr. Marie Le, our new school psychologist, has created this video to introduce herself. It is the first in a series of “[Thoughtful Thursday](#)” videos. Ms. Le will support our Special Education process, help to define services for students on 504 plans, and participate in our Student Study Team. She will be an excellent resource for our school.

**Parent conferences and report cards:** This year, we will be using the regular SMFCSD report cards. Conferences will take place on 11/13-20 and on 3/08-11. More info as we get closer to the dates. They will more than likely be virtual, through appointments with your children’s teachers. Stay tuned!

**PE:** We have started Grades K & 2-5 PE classes, which work through Google Classroom and meeting spaces set up by classroom teachers for each class. Grade 1 starts on 8/31. Today, we had a couple of technical glitches but the program will soon be running smoothly. Thanks, so much, for your patience.

**Science resource:** Check out [Science at College Park Website](#). It’s really fantastic! Thanks to Linda Sutanto for working on this! Ms. Sutanto will work very closely with the new Twig science program.

**Confucius Asia grant:** Did you know our Mandarin program received a grant? We are working closely, as a Mandarin teaching team, to look at how we can increase planning and design of curriculum, offer online or text based cultural experiences, and provide resources (like digital library or book creation software or library books). We will make sure that the grant benefits all of our children. This grant also connects us to a network of Mandarin schools. Exciting! More soon.