



Panda Press
College Park School Newsletter
2020-21 August 31st, 2020

Professional Development Days: One Wednesday each month, our staff will be engaged in professional development to ensure we are supporting our students the best we can. Throughout the year, we will be studying the Distance Learning curriculum, learning new ways to engage students, and discussing student progress. On these days, classes will start with their regular Morning Meeting, which will finish by 9:00. Teachers will not be available after 9:00 a.m. on these Wednesdays as they will be working and learning together. Your child should be engaged in independent work until lunch - just like every other Wednesday. Please mark these professional development dates on your family calendar: 9/2, 10/28, 12/9, 2/3, 3/3, 4/28. Thanks for your understanding and support.

Welcome to our new first grade teacher: Anel Ayala has joined us as the .5 English teacher for grade 1. We thank the first grade team; Deanna Gondai, our Literacy Teacher; and students/parents for working together as we were working to bring on a new team member. Anel is great!

Materials Distribution: Our next distribution date will be Thursday, Sept. 10, from 12:30-3:30 in front of the school. It will operate like 8/17 - driving up by alpha order time slots (as much as possible) with masks, staying in the vehicle and with a sign in windshield with students' names and grade level/room. Please stay tuned as we may have other materials being distributed in different entrances to campus :(ex: instruments, library book packs). More soon!

Supporting your child in distance learning: We truly appreciate the support that parents are providing their children during these "doing school at home" days. A goal expressed by parents in Back to School Night Sessions and shared by teachers, is the fostering of independent learning. Please let your child work alone, as much as possible, online. We ask that only students be on camera and talking as it complicates the classroom dynamic online when adults are also participating. We also need to ensure that all students are safe online and it's difficult to control if someone adds unexpected image/audio. When students begin assessments or even when they're responding to questions/tasks online, please let them answer - we want to find out what they know and are able to do and guide our instruction accordingly. We value your commitment but want to make sure that classes feel like face to face classes as much as possible and that students are front and center. Thanks, so much, for your help with this.

SSC and ELAC: SSC, or School Site Council is a group of parents and staff members who talk about how things are going at CP and in the district, work on our school plan and budget, and review our progress during the year. SSC meets 4 times a year. ELAC, or English Learner Advisory Council, is a group of parents and admin who look at how things are going as they relate English learners and their families. This group will also meet 4 times a year. If you are interested in serving on SSC or ELAC, please contact Principal Singh at ksingh@smfc.k12.ca.us as soon as possible. Meetings will start in mid to late September.

ELAC/DAC: There is a meeting online on 9/01, from 5-6:30 p.m., for parent input. Parents of English learners will be invited. Please try to attend as this gives you an opportunity to learn about what's happening in the district and to offer input.

Tech support and chromebooks: We have distributed a few chromebooks, according to need. If your family still needs a chromebook, please contact Karice and we will look at all requests and then distribute what's remaining of our chromebook inventory (less than 25, I believe). Sending along some technology resources: Please use these forms to request support. [Tech Support - English](#), [Tech Support - Spanish](#). Additional: [Chromebook/Network 101 - English/Span](#), [Student/Family Tutorials - English](#), [Google Suite Resources - English](#), [Google Suite Resources - Spanish](#)

Thoughtful Thursday: Sharing this [video](#) on feelings from Dr. Marie, our School Psychologist. Teachers use these in class and they are also a useful tool for parents.

Distance Learning Website for Families: Please take a moment to take a look at the [resources](#) offered to families on what to expect of distance learning and how to support at home.

CARE/SST/504/IEP: Do you know the difference between them? This week, Dr. Marie will lead a short workshop with teachers on these tools. A CARE team is a pre-Student Study Team (SST) tool that allows staff to come together to share concerns and to generate strategies to support students. We will meet every week. SST, or Student Study Team, is a team that includes staff and parents. We use this meeting to talk, in greater depth, about students' strengths and needs and to define next steps. An SST meeting does not mean that a student is headed towards a special education assessment. It is part of the general education program. A 504 plan is provided when a student cannot access his/her education fully due to something that causes challenges. It could be physical, behavioral, social-emotional or academic. A 504 is not part of Special Education. An IEP, or individualized education program, is developed, by a team, to provide special education services. This plan is based on assessments done and on what the student needs in order to be successful. A case manager is assigned (ex: RSP teacher, Speech and Language Teacher) and this person provides services, coordinates with others who work with the child, and makes sure that assessments/IEPs are done in a timely manner.