



## Principal's Message

There are many exciting child-centered activities going on in the classrooms as I visit them. The ongoing partnership between staff, students and parents is, I believe, a model.

As listed in the calendar, we will begin Star Testing in May – which is next week! Please make sure students get the proper amount of rest and nutrition during this time, as always. As a staff, we want to keep this a non-pressured environment where every student does his or her very best.

We have also initiated an announcement time in the morning. Two students, one upper grade and one primary, start our day with the Pledge of Allegiance and then follow with school announcements. The students presenting will change weekly. This is one example of empowering our excellent students and giving them an opportunity for growth. We have formed a staff committee that will receive input from parents as we monitor and evaluate the success of this new morning addition. More to follow in future weeks....

I will be out of the office Thursday, May 7<sup>th</sup> – Friday, May 15<sup>th</sup>. I have arranged for former Sycamore teachers (now Principals) Kevin Ward and Frank D'Emilio to be on call during this time. In addition, they will be stopping by Sycamore periodically to walk through the classrooms and campus. I will return on Monday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, and I look forward to the rest of the school year.

## STAR Testing Schedule

Our STAR Testing schedule has changed slightly for next week. We will have regular instruction on both Monday and Tuesday (including P.E.), with the 1<sup>st</sup> day of testing taking place on Wednesday, May 6<sup>th</sup>.

The testing schedule is as follows:

<b>Grades 2-3</b>	8:30am-11:50am	Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, May 6 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup>
	8:30am-11:50am	Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, May 12 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Grades 4-5-6</b>	8:30am-11:50am	Wednesday, Thursday, May 6 <sup>th</sup> -7 <sup>th</sup>
	8:30am-11:50am	Tuesday, May 12 <sup>th</sup> <b>5<sup>th</sup> grade only -- SCIENCE</b>

Make-up Testing will also take place as needed during the week of May 11<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>. We anticipate all testing should be completed by Friday, May 15<sup>th</sup>.

## STAR Testing Workshop

Each year, a testing workshop is held for students in Grade 1 and primary students when not testing. The workshop provides group instruction so that primary teachers can administer tests to individual grade levels. This year's theme is "Picturing America in Art, Music, Dance, Literature and Theater". Special thanks to all our workshop coordinators and presenters: Mary Town, Lis Descombes, Jodi Erlinger-Irwin, Bonnie Bone, Misty Tabon, Melanie White, Maia Bojalad-Dean, Sacha Lord, and "Grandma Judy" Woodruff.

In order to accommodate the number of students who will be attending this workshop, we need **PARENT VOLUNTEERS!** Please consider coming to the Multi-Purpose Room at any of the times listed below to lend a hand.

### **Testing Days:**

**5/6, 5/7 & 5/8 and 5/12, 5/13 & 5/14**

(workshop held daily)

<b>Session I</b>	<b>Session II</b>
<b>8:30 to 10:10</b>	<b>10:30 to 11:50</b>

If you know in advance that you are available, please contact the office ([dhankins@cusd.claremont.edu](mailto:dhankins@cusd.claremont.edu)) so that we can put you on our schedule. Likewise, if the time you regularly volunteer in a classroom coincides with the workshop schedule, please come to the Multi-purpose Room instead of the classroom. Thanks for your help!

## Principal Search Update

On Wednesday, April 22nd, Superintendent Dr. David Cash and Ass't. Superintendent, Human Resources, Devon Freitas met with Sycamore parents to discuss the hiring process for the new principal. This meeting gave parents an opportunity to highlight both general and specific characteristics important in a new principal, which were divided into four categories.



### “Principal Search” Con’t...

The timeline for hiring was also discussed. The first round of interviews will involve 2 panels, each comprised of staff, parents and a current CUSD Administrator, and will be held Tuesday, May 5th. At the close of this day, the two panels will recommend 2-3 candidates to move forward. These candidates will then be interviewed further by CUSD Cabinet Staff, who will also make a recommendation. Final interviews will be conducted by Dr. Cash, who will make a recommendation to the Board of Education. Target date for a new principal to begin is July 1st.

The lists of desired characteristics are currently posted in two places: on the Sycamore website (<http://www.cusd.claremont.edu/~sycamore/pages/newPrincipal.html>) and in the large display case in the office foyer. Please read through them and share comments/concerns/additional thoughts with your child’s teacher or the office, who can in turn share them with those staff serving on the interview panels. We will continue to keep you updated as this process continues. Thanks to all who came to show their support and lend their voice to Sycamore’s future.

### Governance Council Updates

The Annual Fund Drive is moving forward with much gusto. Many thanks to all of the families who have already contributed. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. It is not too late to make a donation. Checks should be made payable to Sycamore PFA and submitted to the office.

Join us at Pizza ‘n’ Such in the Village for Pizza Nights, next Tuesday, May 5<sup>th</sup> and Monday, May 18<sup>th</sup> from 6-8pm. A portion of the night’s proceeds go to Sycamore. This month and next, Sycamore 6<sup>th</sup> graders will be lending a hand in bussing tables. Don’t miss it!

The next Governance Council meeting has been **RESCHEDULED to Tuesday, May 19<sup>th</sup> at 7pm**. Please join us for our last formal meeting of the school year!

### Superintendent Search

The Board of Education of the Claremont Unified School District invites you to a public forum to assist in our search for a new superintendent. The forum will provide an opportunity for District staff members, members of the community, and representatives from local agencies to meet with Mike Caston and Rene Townsend of Leadership Associates. The forum is scheduled as follows:

Monday, May 4, 2009  
 5:00 to 6:30 p.m.  
 Richard S. Kirkendall Education Center  
 Board Room  
 170 W. San Jose Avenue  
 Claremont, CA

Please take this opportunity to meet with the consultants who are conducting the search for a new educational leader for our children. The purpose of the meeting is to: 1) inform and update, and 2) receive input on the desired characteristics of a new superintendent.

If you are unable to attend the above meeting, you are welcome to provide your written or faxed comments to: Leadership Associates, PMB 445, 23052-H Alicia Parkway, Mission Viejo, CA 92692. Phone/fax number (949) 461-9119, or email [mwcaston@cox.net](mailto:mwcaston@cox.net).

### CALENDAR

<b>Monday, 5/4</b>	<b>5-6:30pm</b>	<b>Supt. Public Forum</b>	<b>District Office</b>
<b>Tuesday, 5/5</b>	<b>6-8pm</b>	<b>Pizza Night</b>	<b>Pizza ‘n’ Such</b>
<b>May 6-8 May 12-14</b>	<b>Mornings</b>	<b>STAR Testing</b>	<b>Grades 2-6</b>
<b>Thursday, 5/7</b>	<b>7pm</b>	<b>CUSD Board Meeting</b>	<b>District Office</b>