## Important Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>January</th>
<th>February (A peek ahead!)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thurs. 1/14 5th Grade Astro Camp Chaperone</td>
<td>Tues. 2/4 Common Core Parent Info. Night</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meeting @ 7pm in Room 15</td>
<td>Mon. 2/10 Lincoln’s BD No School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs. 1/16 4th Grade to Brea Tar Pits</td>
<td>Mon. 2/17 Presidents’ BD No School</td>
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<tr>
<td>3rd Grade trip to Rancho Santa Ana Botanical Gardens</td>
<td>Thurs. 2/20 Spring Photos 8:15 am</td>
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<td>Fri. 1/17 3rd Grade trip to Rancho Santa Ana Botanical Gardens</td>
<td>Thurs. 2/20 SSC Mtg. 3:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon. 1/20 MLK, Jr.’s BD No School</td>
<td>Tues. 2/25 PFA Mtg. 7:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues. 1/21 Art Assemblies</td>
<td>Thurs. 2/27 Science Fair @ 2:45 – 6:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues. 1/23 Kindergarten Open House 8:30 am</td>
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<td>(*14-'15 Incoming kinder parents only)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues. 1/28 PFA Mtg. 7:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs. 1/29 Magic Show Family Night 6:30 pm</td>
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**Our Spell-a-Thon is Underway!**

The students are working so hard in learning the one hundred grade level spelling words. This is no easy feat! All teachers have broken the words down into weekly manageable chunks for learning so the students don’t feel overwhelmed. We really applaud the PFA and parents for supporting our major fundraiser that directly ties into the academics and will benefit children’s learning. A special “thank you” to Mrs. Sotolongo for hosting the Chaparral Roadrunners Kick-off assembly!

**STELLAR STUDENTS!**

In December, we held our 2nd Scripps Spelling Bee at Chaparral! Congratulations to 5th grader Lily Miller who will represent Chaparral in the Inland Valley Regional Spelling Bee. Timothy Chang (6th) placed 2nd and Leeann Shu (4th) placed 3rd! Chaparral had 18 sixth graders and one 5th grader participate in the American Math Competition for grades 6-8. Congratulations to:

- **Nathanael Kim:** Chaparral’s 1st Place (Gold) and Achievement Roll
- **Liam Geary:** Chaparral’s 2nd Place (Silver)
- **John Campbell, Eden Yu, and Jannelle Liu:** Chaparral’s 3rd Place (Bronze)
Blocks of Success for January

Self-Control & Alertness

Thoughts for the week:

1/10 - Control yourself so others won’t have to
1/17 - Means having responsibility or being responsible for doing the right thing when nobody is looking
1/24 - SLANT (Sit up, Look and Listen, Ask “thoughtful” questions, Nod, Turn Towards)
1/31 - Pay attention to everything that goes on around you

For the month of December, students that were recognized for “Enthusiasm” were: Luca Garcia, Brooklyn Ibarra, Fiona Bulmer, Anthony Salazar (kindergarten); Abby Robbins, Jude Ready, Abigail Gastelum, Carlo Ruffo, Beckham Vo (1st grade); Marlie Munday, Issabella Veron, Jack Warren, Shane McDermott (2nd grade); Jonah Tharpe, Jacob Lee, John Lee, Katelyn Weisman, Charlotte Pruitt (3rd grade); Sidney Sparks, Jaylen Espalin, Jackson McConnell (4th grade); Alex Sotolongo, Natalie Cianchetti, Emmalie Greer, Marcel McCormack (5th grade); Martin Herrera, Wesley Chau, Maya Jaffe, and James Settles (6th grade).

Congratulations!

Thank you Claremont Chamber of Commerce

Eight Chaparral teachers were awarded a total of $2000 from the Best BET (Business and Education Together) Mini-Grants. Mrs. Upshaw, Mrs. Applebee, Mrs. Riggio, Mrs. Harrison, Mrs. Kilpatrick, and the entire fourth grade team, Mrs. Wollinbarger, Mrs. Thomas, and Mr. Olson, were all presented with their checks in December. All applications were judged by a committee composed of representatives from each of the local service clubs who contributed Mini-Grant funds: Claremont Sunrise Rotary, Claremont Rotary Club, Claremont Chamber of Commerce, The University Club of Claremont, Janet Johnson’s State Farm Insurance, and the Kiwanis Club of Claremont. The grants will go toward curriculum in the classroom. Various submissions included technology and literature related to Common Core State Standards. Thank you to our Claremont partners in education!

In addition, a big congratulations to Mrs. Applebee for receiving a Beverly Brennan New Teacher Grant from Baldy View Division 61 of the California Retired Teachers Association.

Positive Parenting Seminar Being Offered

The Triple P – Positive Parenting Program is one of the most effective evidence-based parenting programs in the world, backed up by more than 30 years of on-going research. Triple P gives parents simple and practical strategies to help them confidently manage their children’s behavior, prevent problems developing and build strong, healthy relationships. This program is designed for parents of pre-adolescent children, but all caregivers interested in positive parenting are welcome.

When: The seminar consists of three classes, Jan. 21, 28 and February 4
Where: El Roble
Time: 6:30 – 8:30pm

Light refreshments and childcare will be provided. These presentations will be on a first come, first serve basis and space is limited.

CHAPARRAL KINDER ORIENTATION & REGISTRATION

Incoming 2014-2015 Kindergarten parents are invited to attend Chaparral’s Orientation on Thursday, January 23rd, promptly at 8:30 am in our multi-purpose room. We have lots of information to share with you. Then you will take a tour of the Kindergarten area and the campus. The Orientation takes approximately 1 hour.

Registration for Chaparral’s Kindergarten will be held March 10-12, between 8:00 am and 4:00 pm, at the Claremont USD Office, 170 West San Jose Avenue, 2nd floor.
Supporting very young writers

Preschool aged children love to write. Always in search of a marker or crayon, those early scribbles are an important step on the path to literacy. Parents and preschool teachers can support a writer’s efforts in some very simple ways. And it’s never too early to start!

A child’s writing typically goes through several stages, beginning with scribbling that probably won’t include recognizable shapes or letters. From there, children tend to write using more letter-like shapes and later, your child may create a piece of writing that includes random strings of letters. Regardless of the stage, recognize that each effort of crayon to paper has value. Two ways to support your child’s effort are through writing time and dictation.

Writing time

In school, writing time may be called Writer’s Workshop. During this special time at home, provide time and fun materials for writing. This may include smelly markers, fat pencils and paper of all shapes and sizes. Encourage your child to draw and/or write, and then use this time to talk about what’s been created. Early efforts will probably be readable only by your child, but let your child feel like the expert with that piece of writing. As your child gets older, you may find that the writing time starts to include more emphasis on letters and sounds. A child’s name and simple words like Mom, Dad and love are often penned early. Regardless of what’s been written, be proud of the work and display it for all to see.

Dictation

Writing down what your child says is a simple but effective way to model many important aspects of written language. These dictation activities can take place after a family adventure, an exciting event, or a shared book experience. It can be as simple as writing down a favorite part of a movie or book or recording what was for dessert that night. Have your child sit next to you or watch you write. Your child’s watching will help her become aware of many conventions of written language, including capitalization, spacing between words, and punctuation. Keep the dictated sentences short, and use your best handwriting! These dictated sentences may be among the very first things your young writer reads all by herself. When you’re done writing, encourage your child to re-read the sentences along with you. Regardless of topic, it’s always fun to hear what your child thinks was the most interesting part of a book or the most exciting part of their day. Capturing it in writing will create a memory, and it will also help your child further down the path of literacy.

Research to Practice: This Growing Reader is based in part from research from Early Childhood Education Journal (2012).
CCSS
Resources for Parents and Guardians

The following Web resources provide the most current information from the California Department of Education (CDE) Web Site and are continuously updated. The first reference is the main CDE CCSS Web Page which includes the Common Core State Standards Systems Implementation Plan for California, the Significant Milestones Timeline, and a “Learn More” section that provides additional links to audience specific information. California Department of Education CCSS Web Page: http://www.cde.ca.gov/re/cc/ (select “Students/Parents” tab)

SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium Information:
http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sa/smarterbalanced.asp

K-8 California's Common Core Standards Parent Handbook:

This handbook, created by the California County Superintendents Educational Services Association (CCSESA) in consultation with the California State PTA, gives parents an introduction to California's CCSS and a summary of what students are expected to learn as they advance from kindergarten through grade eight.

Common Core State Standards (CCSS)

Have you wondered about the Who, What, Why, When and How regarding CCSS? If so, please join us at Chaparral’s Parent Information Meeting on Common Core State Standards.

Information will cover:
- What are the Common Core Standards?
- How will the new online assessments look?
- What will students learn?
- What will be different for parents?
- How will students use technology to help them learn?
- Where can people go for more information?

When: Tuesday, February 4  
@ 6:30 pm
Where: Chaparral's MPR

If you cannot make this meeting, the same information will be given at other CUSD sites throughout January and February. Look for a flyer coming home soon!