The Current
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Accessibility and The Current
Section 508 of Rehabilitation Act of 1973 requires all federal agencies to make their electronic communications and information technology accessible to people with disabilities. You may have noticed that the format of this month’s newsletter looks a lot different. The writer and editor of The Current is working to produce the newsletter as accessible as possible for all its readers. Thank you for your patience.
Around Campus

Inaugural Nature Bowl Season

It has been such an amazing first year for the CMP American River Nature Bowl Team. Coaches Beth Lawson and Marin Meza did a fantastic job with the team. Our teacher sponsors, Whitney Matthewson and Jen Barnes, also greatly added the team by helping our coaches organize and plan the season.

Instead of listening to me drone on about the season, this is what Coach Beth Lawson said about the season:

“Wow, the Nature Bowl competition this last week was so much fun! The kids were a joy to watch. It was a real treat to see them answering questions to display their knowledge as well as cheering for and supporting each other, cheering for other teams, and having a great time. Marin and I were both thrilled with the way the kids represented our school that day. And a big thanks to Ms. Jen who was there ALL day long, and the many parents that drove and/or took time to come cheer on our teams.”

“So, the confusing details: Nature Bowl IS a competition, and the third/fourth grade team placed 2nd in their division and the fifth/sixth grade team placed a close 3rd. Some of those top teams were AMAZINGLY prepared. Marin and I did not have any intention of making this a super competitive thing, we just wanted the kids to have fun and increase their understanding of the natural world around them. With that said, in second place, our third/fourth grade team could potentially get a "wild card" spot at finals. We will find out more details in the coming weeks. Finals are to be held on Saturday, May 12 from 9:00-4:30 at the Sac State Student Union.”

Let’s give the Nature Bowl Team a load rushing rapids roar! ROAR!

Blood Drive

Peter Sax

Greetings CMP families! My name is Peter Sax, and I am an 8th grade student here at CMP. Last year, I helped organize CMP’s first blood drive at our campus. We are excited that this coming May 4th (from 3:30-7), we will be hosting our second annual blood drive, to honor people with leukemia. In case you did not know, giving blood is very beneficial to people with blood-borne cancers, and who have been in a serious injury and are in need of blood.

This year, we are hoping to get even more donors than last year, so if you have blood, consider sparing a pint. It really does save lives. Flyers and posters are located around the campus, and there is an online link to sign up.

www.bloodsource.org/drives

Enter location code: d368

California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) Testing

Well, like Old Faithful in Yellowstone, the time of CAASP testing is upon us. The only difference is that the our Test Administrators and Teachers do not smell like sulfur.
Although testing has already begun, we will continue to test through the beginning of May. A brief update. Starting with the week of April 9th our 5th and 8th graders participated in the California Science Test (CAST) field test. Although the 5th and 8th graders took the test, they will not receive scores for their efforts.

Last week began our Upper Elementary CAASPP testing which will continue through this week. Our final week of testing will be the week of April 30. In the final week, our 3rd graders and Middle School students will wrap up the testing season with their summative assessments.

During our testing window, please make sure that your child comes to school well rested. As always, attendance is necessary. Thank you for all your help.

**CMP Staff in Focus – Dr. Anthony Palmer**

Madison Rittenhouse

As you’ve undoubtedly heard, CMP American River Middle School has a new teacher! With his creativity and passion for history, Dr. Anthony Palmer brings a new perspective to teaching. To help you get to know him better, we’ve conducted an interview. Here is what we learned:

Dr. Anthony has been teaching for four years in middle school, high school, and college. He taught all subjects. He likes helping students learn and develop their higher order thinking skills. He says he chose a Montessori school to work at because he likes the Montessori philosophy and the freedom that Montessori gives students to take charge of their own learning.

Dr. Anthony has an Ed.D. (Doctor of Education) in Educational Leadership with a concentration in teaching and learning. He wrote the book Higher-Order Thinking Skills in Digital Games for his doctoral dissertation (He can give digital copies, if anyone would like one). Dr. Anthony previously worked as a research assistant to a professor at Azusa Pacific University. He hoped to help close the achievement gap between genders in science classes. When he moved here from Palmdale, he left that job.

Dr. Anthony has a wife, Jeni, and a son, Caleb. He enjoys playing video games with his son, along with gardening and caring for his pet rabbits. According to Dr. Anthony, his greatest weakness is his humility, and his greatest strength is his patience. When asked about how people describe him, Dr. Anthony responded with, “I guess it depends on which people you ask. You never really know what people think of you, so it’s hard to answer that.”

We look forward to learning more about Dr. Anthony here in our Middle School family! He is eager to learn more about us and is excited to be here! Stop by Room 17 to welcome Dr. Anthony to our community!

**Our Questions**

**Dylan Spangler asked**: Are you going to let us play educational games?

Mr. Anthony is, in fact, planning to let us play educational games. He’s still trying to find educational games that would work with the time constraints we have.

**Peter Sax asked**: Who is your favorite student?

We are all his favorite students.

**Andy Leverett asked**: Do you like Doctor Who?

Mr. Anthony responded with, “No, not really.”

**Ms. Tanya asked**: Are you into anime?

He is not really that into anime, even though he’s seen it.
**Spring Art Festival**
Mark your calendars for May 18, which is the date of our annual Spring Art Festival. It is an annual event where all the proceeds go to support the Visual and Performing Arts on our campus. If you are interested in helping out with this fantastic event, please see your classroom teacher.

This year will bring some minor changes to the event. First, in the past, pasta has been available to purchase for dinner but this year Cowabunga Barbeque will be catering the event. Secondly, classrooms will be assembling interactive class exhibits for you to experience. Of course, there will also be the annual art auction.

Join us for this fantastic evening to round out the end of the school year. You will not want to miss it!

**Early Release Day Antics – Network Collaboration Days**
April’s focus for the Early Release Day was reading instruction on our campus. Vertical teams of teachers worked together to identify teaching strategies and materials that could be utilized to address the six areas of reading. The six areas of reading instruction are phonics, phonemic awareness, vocabulary, listening/reading comprehension, fluency and grammar.

Additionally, the staff discussed upcoming plans for the planter box at the center of campus as well as plans for writing assessments.

It was a packed day but it was much appreciated all involved.

**English Language Proficiency Assessments for California**
From the California Department of Education website.

The ELPAC is the test that is used to measure how well students in kindergarten through twelfth grade understand English when it is not their primary language. The ELPAC is taking the place of the California English Language Development Test (CELDT). Information from the ELPAC helps your child’s teacher provide support in the right areas.

The ELPAC has two parts:

**Initial Assessment**

**Who:** Students will take the Initial Assessment if:

- The student has a primary language other than English
- The student has not taken the CELDT or ELPAC before, and
- The student has not been classified as an English learner

**What:** The Initial Assessment is used to identify students as either an English learner who needs to support to learn English, or as proficient in English.

**When:** Students are given the Initial Assessment within 30 days of when they enroll at the school.

**Why:** Identifying students who need help learning in English is important so these students can get the extra help they need to do well in school and access the full curriculum. Every year students who are English learners will take the ELPAC summative to measure their progress in learning English.

**Summative Assessment**

**Who:** The Summative Assessment is given to students who are identified as an English learner on the Initial Assessment.

**What:** The Summative Assessment is used to measure the skills of English learners. The results will help tell the school or district if the student is ready to be reclassified as proficient in English.
**When:** The Summative Assessment is used to measure the skills of English learners. The results will help tell the school or district if the student is ready to be reclassified as proficient in English.

**Why:** Identifying students who need help learning in English is important so these students can get the extra help they need to do well in school and access the full curriculum. Every year students who are English learners will take the ELPAC summative to measure their progress in learning English.

**The ELPAC tests for different areas:**

- Listening
- Speaking
- Reading
- Writing

**Academic Talent Search**

It’s coming! The application deadline for Academic Talent Search. The application deadline for priority admissions is May 3 by 4pm; as long as your child submits a completed application before the deadline, they will be in the first group for placement based on their ATS Qualifying Exam score (top score down). The catalogs for both programs are available at: [http://www.csus.edu/coe/ats/catalog-literature.html](http://www.csus.edu/coe/ats/catalog-literature.html)

**Attendance Updates**

**CMP American River Attendance Rate – April**

96.2%

Attendance is up. Yes! However, as we slip and slide into the home stretch it is important to remember that attendance is very important! Your child does not learn as much if they are in school. We know Spring Fever is in the air but please make certain to plan your vacations around the summer, winter and spring breaks. Every day counts.

**CMP American River Attendance Rate – March**

94%

**CMP American River Attendance Goal**

98%

**Percentage of Total Absences which are Unexcused**

25%
Club M News

April Update

So far, April has flown, “in like a lion” but we here in the offices of Club M are hoping it quickly moves on quietly like a lamb. Yes, April has traditionally been a month of weather oddities and the same is true for this year; however, we cannot wait to get into a string of fantastic Spring/Summer weather. It feels a bit as if I am constantly either hot or cold and it is making me feel a bit crazed. If you are like me, then you need some help to maintain your sanity. At the offices of Club M, we empathize with you about the indecisiveness of the weather and are here to offer the next best option, afterschool childcare.

Although Summer Intersession does not begin until June, we want to assure you that we will keep things lively for your children in the care of Club M. As always, the Club M staff will focus on fitness with games and activities designed to get your child moving. B Street Theatre will stop by to perform their renditions of fractured fairy tales. Moreover, there will be arts and crafts galore. While the children enjoy some much deserved afterschool fun, you can try to decipher what the weather will be like tomorrow.

If you would like more information about our Club M program, please contact Natalie Hansen, in the front office in person or by phone. If you would like to contact her by email, her email is nhanson@cacmp.org. As always, your children are the reason we are here. Thank you for making Club M so successful.

The Fundraising Corner

2017-2018 Fundraising Efforts

Below you will find a brief list of the fundraising efforts happening this year:

· Art to Remember—Monies are set aside for school wide art supplies.
· Harvest Festival—Fundraising efforts go towards field trip support and classroom materials.
· Apex Fun Run—This fundraiser is used for a yearly campus goal: continue technology acquisition.
· See’s Candy—The monies raised from this fundraiser will go to staff development.
· Art Walk—These funds are used for event support and campus beatification.
· Scholastic Book Fair—Monies spent here support each classroom library.
· Box Tops/E-Script—The monies from these programs goes to staff appreciation.
· Various approved class fundraisers: Middle School Businesses, Hot Cocoa—Monies go directly to the sponsoring classrooms as discretionary funds.
· Cultural Fair - Philanthropic Fundraiser
· Read-a-thon—These funds go to individual classrooms.
· Science Night—These funds go to support the science curriculum.

Campus Advisory Council Update (CAC)

The CAC did not meet in April. We will meet again on Thursday, May 24 at 3:30.
**CMP AR - Allstate Helping Hands Grant Recipient**

Thank you to Allstate volunteer for being a positive force for change in our community. Denise Regnani gave her time and enabled us to receive an Allstate Foundation Helping Hands Grant. The Allstate Foundation supports the causes that Allstate agency owners, financial specialists and employees care about most by providing Helping Hands Grants to nonprofits where they volunteer their time to bring out the good in their communities.

**APEX Fun Run is Coming!**

We are so excited to announce that our school will be participating in the Apex Fun Run again for a third year in a row as part of our annual fundraising program. The Apex program will be with our students from April 30th — May 10th teaching leadership and fitness as we raise pledges to help our school.

This year, Apex Fun Run’s character and leadership program focuses on being UNITED as a group and valuing each others differences. The interactive lessons discuss the important role we each play in the world, but also promotes the idea that we’re always stronger together!

Please feel free to visit www.apexfunrun.com to learn about this interactive program that helps schools all over the country raise money, while promoting leadership and fitness.

**April/May Calendar**

4/23-4/27 – Spring Scholastic Book Fair
5/16 – Principal’s Café 8:30-10:30
4/30 – Apex Kick Off Pep Rally
4/30-5/4 - CAASPP Language Arts & Math Testing – 3rd, 7th & 8th graders
5/2 – ERD Day – noon dismissal
5/4 – Spirit Day – Star Wars Day
5/4 – Lunch Lady Appreciation Day
5/4 - Blood Drive 3:30-7
5/7-5/11 – Teacher Appreciation Week
5/9 – Apex Fun Run
5/16 – ERD Day – noon dismissal
5/17 – CAC 3:30
5/18 – Art Festival 5:00-7:30
5/21 – Parent Appreciation Celebration
5/28 – Memorial Day – NO SCHOOL/CLUB M

**June Calendar**

6/8 – Kindergarten Completion Ceremony 5:30
6/12 – Field Day

6/13 Middle School Graduation 10:00

6/13 Last Day of School – noon dismissal

Facial Hair Friday Spirit - *Who are all those mustached people?*