



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Notes from Principal Sue

Transitions! Have you noticed that your child may be having trouble with transitioning from their previous year at school to this year? In schools, the typical hard transition years for students are moving from Kindergarten to First Grade, Second to Third grade, and 6th to 7th Grade. It depends on the individual child how differently these school transitions affect them and whether they will affect them at all.

The Kindergarten to First Grade transition is the hardest because the structure of a first grade classroom changes from an environment geared towards play and learning to one geared just towards learning. The other adjustment is going to school for a full day. At the beginning of the school year, we begin to see our first graders being very tired by the afternoon. They are often also in need of an afternoon snack that is not available to them until they return home after school. The wonderful world of a first grader is that they become open and very receptive of all learning

The transition from Second Grade to Third Grade is sometimes difficult because this is the year the content of the curriculum and the skills required begin to intensify. Students have in the previous years learned how to read, but now in third grade they have to start reading to learn and thus the material they read is beginning to become more complex. Third graders though, are full of energy. Because of this energy level, the job of the student's third grade teacher is to harness that eight-year-old energy and give it some direction and focus.

The Sixth Grade to Seventh Grade transition is not necessarily due to academics but to social adjustments. The social structure becomes their priority and occupies their attention. This takes attention away from academics and often grades in the first grading period fall. As well the typical twelve year old is in the throes of developmental chaos and large growth spurts that happen almost over night. This was the age my son stopped wearing long pants for six years because one day the long pants looked great, then the next day they were four inches too short. (My son is now 6'7"!)

Whatever age or grade your child is presently, teachers and parents work hard to be responsive to the needs, talents, and aspirations of the student within. If you would like to possess a must have book as a parent about each year in a child's life in the classroom, try the book by Chip Wood called Yardsticks: Children in the Classroom Ages 4-14. It will help you understand each year of your child's academic life.

THIS WEEK'S REMINDERS

We have many, many students being dropped off too early still. NO child should be on the campus before 8:00 unless they are in the MPR having breakfast. There is no supervision on campus at that time.

If last Thursday night you missed the Family Picnic sponsored by YOUR parent organization, you missed a

wonderful event, great food, and a unique time for families to get to know each other. It was fabulous and very well attended. I would like to send out a HUGE **THANK YOU** to the many people who helped to make this possible, and a special thanks to the parents who had stations and so beautifully repeated their information about Hooker Oak experiences and events over and over again.

I would also send a thank you to LifeTouch photography, who came out and took pictures and made 100's of Volunteer name tags. They graciously agreed to do this on their own free time. If you missed getting your volunteer name tag made, you can send a digital picture of yourself to kspaeth@lifetouch.com. Please label the picture with your first and last name. Be sure it is a JPG file, and they will make one for you and deliver it to the school. How easy is that?!

Remember if you had your name tag made and you have filled out your volunteer forms, all you have to do now is wear them proudly into the building and all the time you are on the grounds, then you no longer need to wear those funky label name tags!

Science Grant News: Hooker Oak School & Sierra View School applied for and received a sizable technology grant. This grant will provide all 4th & 5th grade students and teachers with an opportunity to experience "hands-on" science lab instruction at CSUC's Science laboratory. The grant will also allocate funding for each participating classroom/school to purchase tech equipment such as computers and printers. The students will participate in two, separate, three hour science lab experiences. Teachers will receive extensive training by Science experts who teach at the University. These trainings will be held in September & October, substitutes will be working with kids while teachers are training. We are proud and excited to be involved with this program!



Do you have used printer cartridges? Save those used printer cartridges and drop them off in the Cash4empties box in the hallway. Hooker Oak families can recycle their used cartridges and earn some extra money for our school!

Pastels in the Plaza is calling Hooker Oak OSC students to stop by the Chico City Plaza on Saturday, September 20th from 9 am to 2 pm to decorate a square representing our school! The square will be on display until Monday morning. We need parent's to help make this happen. Please call Jenny Kasza @ 680-3096, if you can help!

We are off to the races...Hooker Oak is building a horse for the Chico Palio Celebration on September 27th. If you are interesting in helping build and decorate the winning entry call Sarah @ 828-2379