



Cottonwood School



"Excellence - Every Person - Every Day"

44260 Sage Road

Aguanga, CA 92536

Principal, Dave Farkas



February, 2012



Principal's Message

Cottonwood's recent school Spelling Bee competition was the best we have had in all of my years as principal. All contestants really took pride in doing their best while having fun. Mr. Avilez organized a well run competition. The final results had Michael Enlow and Karina Di Franco winning the Middle School Spelling Bee and Megan Necochea and Emily Planutis winning the Elementary Spelling Bee. These students will represent Cottonwood at the District level on Tuesday, January 31. Congratulations to all of our contestants. We are very proud of you.

Although it is quite an accomplishment to win a Spelling Bee at a California Distinguished School, I was

amazed with how many complicated words all of our participants were able to spell. We have spelling tests at school, but I know why all of these spellers are so strong at spelling. The secret is not that they practice spelling random words every night. It is in their reading habits. All of our Spelling Bee contestants are students who take pride in their reading habits and Accelerated Reader points. Our A.R. program has provided us with an opportunity to develop our reading skills and in turn, our ability to spell. The more a student reads, the better he or she becomes. It is that simple. Just like anything we do, the more we practice the better we get. In school and for our future, there is nothing

more important than reading. Practice with books you enjoy and it helps you in all classes and college.

Mr. Farkas



Coming soon, "Read Across America" - Week of February 28 - March 2. What will Mr. Farkas dress up as this year?

"Employees of the Year"

We would like to congratulate this year's "Cottonwood School's Employees of the Year". Bonnie Peters is the Classified Employee of the Year, and Kim Johnston, was voted Teacher of the Year.

Norma Lopez was selected as Employee of the Year for the Nutrition Services Department for the entire District. Last, but not least, our very own Principal, Dave Farkas was selected Principal of the Year for the District.

We are so very proud of all our colleagues! Because of your dedication to the students of Cottonwood, we proudly wear the honors of "Title I Academic Achievement School", "California Distinguished School", and the nomination to the "National Blue Ribbon Award"

Congratulations!



Avoid Classroom Interruption

Instructional time is very important at Cottonwood School. We believe that every minute of the day is a teachable moment, therefore, we want to do everything we can to limit disruptions to the classrooms. This is where you can help. We have instituted several policies to help keep children in the classroom free from distractions. Please be aware of the following. If your child forgets his or her lunch or lunch money, please bring the lunch (money) to the office with their name and teacher written on it. It will be given to the noon duty supervisors to take to the lunch area. Students are

instructed to check with the noon duty supervisors first before going to the office to call home. We will not call the classrooms.

~ If your child forgets homework, please take it to the office. The items will be placed in the teacher's mailbox to be given to the student. Again, we will not call the classroom.

~ Please make sure your child knows how he or she is getting home before they leave for school. We do not call the classrooms to give messages. If you need to get a message to your child, we will forward you to the teacher's voice mail. Again, this would interrupt learning.

~ If you need to get in touch with a teacher, call the office and our staff will put you through to their voicemail. The teacher will return your call at the earliest convenience.

Thank you for your help with this matter. Every minute counts so your cooperation is appreciated.

S.A.F.E.

SAFE will be promoting the green sneakers fundraiser again this year, beginning January 30 thru February 17. Save your old tennis shoes and turn them in to the after school program. Contact Laura Perluss or Viviana Garcia at the school for more information.



District Wellness Policy

The Hemet Unified School District has adopted a wellness policy per state and federal nutritional guidelines. Please check with the classroom teacher or the office before bringing in any food items.

Middle School Corner

2/3 Super Hero/Super Villain day!

2/10 Middle School Winter Formal. Cost: \$12.00 includes dinner!

2/17 Twin day!

Middle School Dance:

February 10th in the multi purpose room, 5:00 to 8:30. Permission slips and money are due to Mrs. Packard Friday Feb 3rd (\$12.00). This includes dinner, snacks, and beverages. Photos will be taken, do not bring money for the photos. Students will be able to order pictures they want in the weeks following the dance. Pictures will be posted in the multi-purpose room. Parents may also view the photos to purchase.

Further information about photos will be coming.

Parents will not be allowed to 'hang out' in the multi-purpose room. Middle School staff will be supervising this event. This is a middle school dance for students. Parents will be asked to wait outside the multi-purpose room doors in the front of the school building. Students will be dismissed at 8:30.

Valentine grams-

Leadership will be selling Valentine grams the week of 2/6-2/10 for .25 each. Students will receive a heart-shaped note in which

to write a message, and a sweet tart lollipop will be attached. Students can purchase grams during their lunch. All Valentine grams will be delivered at the end of the day on Valentines day.

Read Across America Book in a Box contest:

This year's Read Across America contest will be a Book in a Box. Students can depict a 3 dimensional scene or story from a favorite book, in a shoe box. We ask that these boxes be the size of a shoe box, so they can be hung on the multipurpose room walls. Mrs. Packard will be sharing details and samples of a Book in a Box before the President's Day winter recess. Guidelines and instructions will be sent home with each student. Boxes must be turned in no later than Thursday, March 1st. Prizes will be awarded at the Read Across America Assembly Friday March 2nd, and parents will be able to view all of the entries at our Family Reading Night, March 1st. On Friday, March 2 will be National read the most from coast to coast A.R. quiz taking challenge day.



Just One More Hill ...

So what were you doing on Jan. 21, a drizzly, cold Saturday morning at 5 A.M.? Probably not stretching and donning your running gear for a 13.1 or 3.1 mile race through the very challenging, hilly wine fields of Temecula. But that's exactly what 1500 runners were doing; each one synergistically in tune with one another drawing energy to compete and complete a scamper through Temecula's beautiful vineyards. For you couch potatoes, this was the first annual **Temecula Valley Half Marathon & 5K**. And of course, Cottonwood was well represented: Yolanda Carrillo, a veteran of several 5K's, CW's newest staff member making her racing debut, Ms. Jessica Adams, and Alex Avilez, also a veteran of several races,

Yolanda and Jessica left the starting gate at 8:00 A.M. with Janice and the Sickles' family root-toot-tooting them on. Jessica, styling in a neon-orange long sleeve mesh NIKE running shirt, was expecting a 32 minute 5K

time; but demolished her goal-time in 29:57, placing 4th in her age group and 84th out of almost 400 runners. Mrs. Carrillo, modeling that same neon-orange pullover, ran a 32:40, 2 minutes faster than her expected time of 34 minutes, placing in the top 30% of the field of runners, out-gunning 70% of the field!

Alex, that's me, took off at 7:45 A.M. to begin my 13.1 mile trek. My wife, Janice, Jessica, Yolanda, and the Sickles' family (you might remember Natalie who now runs for West Valley) all cheering me on. Two hours later, I came bounding home-ok, maybe more like a shuffle-but with a smile on my face. When I asked myself how I felt, all I could think of was, "Wow, I'm finished. Awesome."

This was an outstanding race for all of us. Each of us earned a medal, a shirt, and a feeling of accentuated camaraderie. After snacking on the post-race goodies of bananas, beagles, oranges, apples, etc., our family and friends gathered at Baja Cactus for an outstanding late

morning breakfast recounting the race and sharing in one another's excitement. I'm really proud of the effort my teammates put in. I can honestly say that I've never had more fun participating in a race.

Our next goal, Carlsbad 5000 on April 1. We train together on Mondays and Wednesdays at the school track. So if anyone out there wants to join us for our April run, just show up or talk to any one of us, we'd love to have more running/walking by our sides.



PTO CORNER

Happy New Year Cottonwood! After a much deserved break for the PTO Board and the many volunteers, it is time to get busy again; the past few months have been more than very busy for the PTO.

We would like to thank everyone who has supported us with their volunteering efforts. Thanks to you, events like the Scholastic Book Fair, the Holiday Shoppe, Spelling Bee and the 8th grade dinner/bake sale continue to be a success. From the volunteers who staffed the Book Fair, and Holiday Shop, to the people who came and judged the Spelling Bee. Raquel Pulido, you are the best, for taking on the 8th grade dinner. Yummy! And of course, all of our bakers who give us what we really want cupcakes! We would also like to thank our homeroom parents who donated their time and effort to plan classroom events, helping with the Holiday Show, and the parents who donated the holiday treats. Great job! Mrs. Willhite and all the teachers who gave us our Holiday Show. We offer everyone our sincere gratitude. We realize that the holiday season is such a busy time...and your efforts are very much appreciated!

December ended with our PTO hard at work in the

Holiday Shop. The Holiday Shop is all about the children. It provides a chance for students to buy gifts for others in a warm holiday atmosphere. Students come with handwritten notes, and lists. They learn how to shop while they budget limited amounts of money. We see children come to the Holiday Shop with the money they have earned in things ranging from bags, jars to loosely carried cash. One student was so proud of the pennies she brought in a sandwich bag to purchase gifts for her family. This event is my personal favorite it really helps students to be able to purchase items for their loved ones that they might not normally be able to do. None of this could happen without all the volunteers who came and ran the shop or the families who donated items for us to re-sell. A special 'Thanks' goes out to the 8th graders who came in everyday and gave up their lunch hour to wrap the gifts to earn a little money for Catalina. Thanks to Nicole Littell, Anthony Fisher, Keaton & Nolan Grant, Brian Skeen and the boys from the After School Program for helping get the store organized and up and running, then packing it all up again.

**Mark Your Calendar:
February 28- March 2**

**Read Across America with the Family Reading Night
March 1**

The PTO will be hosting Literally Read Across America Map. Students call and read to any person, family or friend who lives in the United States for 10 minutes then turn the minutes into rewards. We map out all the cities and states that Cottonwood kids reach. Make sure you check out the map during the **Parent Conference Week March 19-23 & K-5 Awards Assembly on 23rd.**

March 3rd

Annual Pancake Breakfast, 8th grade Car Wash and Rummage Sale.




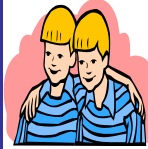

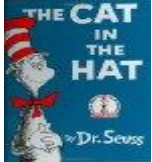
Watch for Flyers Coming home soon! This is a great Family Event! Where else can you get great breakfast, cheap deals and your car washed all in a couple hours? Only at Cottonwood School ☺. Start your spring cleaning and bring your donations to the PTO Student Store, Room 13, for the Rummage Sale. We can give you a donation receipt for your tax filing.

March 26th -30th West Coast Spring Fundraiser

Chucky Cheese Night in Hemet, date to be announced. Watch for flyers!

**Charlotte Grant
PTO President
Cottonwood School**

~Cottonwood School February 2012 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 2:30 PTO MTG	2 Scoliosis 7 th girls/8 th boys	3 9:00 K-5 Awards Assembly. 10:00 6-8 Awards Assembly. Super Hero/Super Villain Day!	4
5	6	7	8 6:00 DELAC MTG	9	10  5:00 Winter Formal	11
12 	13	14 Valentine's Day! 	15	16	17  Twin day!	18
19	20 Presidents' Day Recess	21 Presidents' Day Recess	22  Presidents' Days Recess	23 Presidents' Day Recess	24 Presidents' Day Recess	25
26	27	28 Read Across America week.. Wear red, white & black to honor the cat. 	29 How many stripes can you wear?	Notes: 3/1 Polka dots/Family Reading Night 3/2 Dress up as your favorite character/Read Across America Day.... A.R. quiz taking challenge day on this day. 3/3 Pancake Breakfast/Rummage Sale/Car Wash		