

Principal's Paige

December 12, 2008



Family Involvement Team

I have heard that there are some questions about the new family involvement structure and the forms that parents were given at conference and asked to complete. I am hoping to be able to answer and clarify some of your questions.

What is the background? We completed the school's 5 year strategic plan at the end of last year. One area of the strategic plan focuses on family participation as is consistent with the mission and vision of our school. The strategic plan goal is "Every family realizes the personal satisfaction and gratification of playing an active role in their child's education and the success of CSMH."

Why is this structure being put in place? To make this strategic goal a reality, a structure needed to be put in place. The amount of time and energy it takes to manage 328 families cannot be done by the CSMH staff alone. We need to have volunteers to help manage the volunteers. When the school first opened we had volunteer coordinators that helped oversee family participation.

What is the Family Involvement Team? We have created a more defined structure with a coordinator and VPs that oversee different areas. It is somewhat similar to the traditional PTA or Home and School Club. However, where it is very different is that the expectation is every family will participate at a minimum level. Our school's mission and vision focuses on parent participation and is a commitment that families made when they filled out the school's application and chose to send their children to our school.

What is the purpose of the forms? Ideally, the family participation forms will be distributed at the end of each school year so that families can make commitments for the following year. However, we are just getting started and are sending these forms out now. These forms will also be great for families new to our school. They will be able to see what opportunities are available at CSMH and how they can get involved in their children's school.

What if I am already volunteering? That is wonderful and we are extremely grateful!! There are so many parents that do so much for CSMH. Please put down what you are currently doing and/or have done. Also, feel free to read the forms over – there may be an opportunity that interests you that you did not know was available.

Do I have to turn a form in? We want 100% of the family participation forms returned. We have a great group of volunteers helping to get this new structure in place and they need your support by returning the forms. After the holiday break, families that have not returned a form will be personally contacted.

What if I don't know what I did with my form? We have them available on-line and in the office.

What if I have a great idea for a volunteer opportunity that is not on the form? Please add your idea to the form and return it. There are lots of jobs at CSMH and lots of great ideas that we missed. Many minds working together create great schools!

What if I have further questions? Please contact our VPs of volunteer coordination Gary Luke at gluke@garlic.com or Lora Knol at loraknol@gmail.com or contact the F.I.T. coordination Stephanie Affourtit at stephaffourtit@gmail.com.

CSMH Wear

Our new line CSMH of Spirit-wear fleece vests, fleece jackets, zip front sweatshirts, t-shirts and other items have arrived!! We have some fun new designs. We also have a 2009 calendar that was created by our 7th and 8th grade elective art class. The drawings they did for the calendar are absolutely stunning. Mrs. Mosher will be selling all these items after school on Wednesday, December 17th. They would make great holiday gifts. Be sure to come and check them out!!

Congratulations to CSMH

Once again, the Charter School of Morgan Hill participated in the Hometown Holidays tree decorating contest sponsored by the Rotary Club of Morgan Hill. The trees are located in the courtyard at the Community Center. Be sure to take a stroll through the area and enjoy the beautifully decorated trees. The theme this year was "World Peace." Our tree was decorated with ornaments on which the children drew small pictures of what peace means to them or what the world needs in order to have peace. The trees were judged according to the theme and we are proud to announce that CSMH's tree won third place. Many thanks go to Ms. Lashbrook and Mrs. Mosher for coordinating the making of the ornaments and the decorating details. Thank you to all the families who helped get our tree ready last Saturday!!



Morgan Hill Christmas Parade

The annual Morgan Hill Christmas Parade was a huge success. We had many students representing CSMH. They really enjoyed riding in the Gagnon's decorated pinzgauers, singing holiday songs and hearing so much support along the way. Many thanks to the Gagnon's and Mr. Northcott for making the parade so fun!!

Upcoming Dates to Remember

December 15 th	Academic Chess
December 16 th	Golf Club after school from 3:00-3:45 Middle school boy's soccer game at Complex at 4:00 Middle school girl's basketball at Crossroads at 6:00
December 17 th	Order lunches for the week after the break by 5:00 pm 1 st and 5 th graders on field trip 3 rd graders on field trip
December 19 th	2 nd graders on field trip 4 th graders on field trip
December 22 nd	Start of Holiday Break
January 5 th	School resumes 5 th graders on field trip
January 6 th	Golf Club after school from 3:00-3:45
January 7 th	Order hot lunches for the following week by 5:00 pm 2 nd grade (Price) on field trip

