



February 6, 2015

Calendar of Events:		
February 9		Cornell's Got Talent-Audition #2-Lunch Recess
February 9		Site Council Meeting-5:30pm Cornell Library
February 10		AUSD Board Meeting -7:00pm Albany City Hall
February 12		PTA Meeting 6:00pm- MPR
February 14		AEF & ACF Chocolate & Champagne Gala
February 15		Cornell Bowling Party 10:00am-12:00pm
February 16-20		Mid-Winter Break
February 24		AUSD Board Meeting-7:00pm Albany City Hall
February 25		Donuts with Duncan 8:45am-9:30am-MPR
March 7		Cornell's Got Talent
April 13-17		Spring Break!



CORNELL PTA HUNDRATHON DON'T FORGET! Thank you for your donations and support! We are halfway there! Get your donations in by Valentine's Day, February 14th. Show Cornell your love. So many of our programs depend on us meeting our goal and we cannot do it without

you! Your support means we can help fund expenses for:

- Schoolyard (Picnic Area is next!)
- Teacher Grants (for each classroom)
- Teacher Professional Development
- PE & Library Support, other key programs and much, much, more!

We are 2/3 of the way towards our goal of \$30,000; we only need 100 more families to donate.

But we can do it!!! Don't forget how easy it is to donate:

- Donate online at www.cornellpta.org/hundrathon
- Write a check. It's tax deductible. (Don't forget employer matching.)
- Drop your donation in the office in the PTA Safe.
- Return your envelope to your child's teacher.

NOTE: We fully understand that not every family is in a position to contribute. All we ask is that you give what you can - any amount is gladly welcome. If you have any questions contact Danielle Eichner danielleeichner@hotmail.com or Petra Martin petrasarahmartin@gmail.com

VACCINES AND MEASLES UPDATE We want to keep you informed on an important issue that you've likely been hearing news about recently. In our school office, we've been especially diligent in reviewing each child's vaccination records to ensure that you've all been thorough in keeping your records up-to-date in our office. Next Friday, February 13th, we will be sending home individual letters to each child's family that has any outstanding vaccinations, or exams, as required by law. If you receive a letter, please be diligent in

following up as the letter indicates. If, for any reason, you receive a letter indicating a missing vaccination, or exam, and you have a record showing it complete, please just bring the record in right away and we will update your file to remedy the record. Thank you for partnering with us. We always look forward to working with you.

AS OF JANUARY 27, 2015 THE ALAMEDA COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT (ACPHD) has confirmed 6 cases of measles. **We can confirm that there are NO reported cases within Albany Unified School District.** Below is a message from the Alameda County Public Health Department that is also on the AUSD website and Facebook page.

Below is a message from the Alameda County Public Health Department regarding vaccination against measles.

The Alameda County Public Health Department urges vaccination against measles due to a statewide outbreak that has reached Alameda County. If there is a measles outbreak in your school, Public Health will direct all unvaccinated children to stay home from school for at least 21 days, the length of the incubation period. **For more information please the visit Alameda County Public Health Department** at: <http://www.acphd.org/measles.aspx>.

As of January 27, 2015 Alameda County Public Health Department (ACPHD) has confirmed 6 cases of measles and is investigating many other suspect cases. Four of these cases are associated with Disneyland exposure. Hundreds of contacts have been identified. In all of 2014, 4 measles cases were confirmed.

As of 1/26/15, 73 cases of measles have been confirmed in California, 50 with epidemiologic link to Disneyland parks. 13 additional cases have been confirmed in 6 other states and 1 in Mexico. For the most up to date California measles case counts, see [CA DPH Measles Website](#).

Others in the San Francisco Bay Area now have confirmed cases, and secondary measles exposures have likely occurred in the Bay Area.

Patients include children and adults, and the majority of cases statewide with known vaccination status are unimmunized individuals. Measles is very infectious, and airborne transmission can occur in crowded settings. Transmission during previous outbreaks has occurred in the following settings: household, health care setting, hospital, church, airplane, and school.

Think of measles in patients with a fever and rash, especially with a history of travel or exposure to venues with international travelers, or measles patients. **It is important for health care providers and the public to be aware that there is currently a risk for acquiring measles in California.**

What is measles?

Measles, also called rubeola, is a highly contagious illness caused by a virus. It starts with fever that gets worse over several days, cough, runny nose, and watery eyes. After a few days a rash develops and lasts about a week. Then it gets better by itself. Some people get a more serious case of measles, which can cause diarrhea, middle ear infection, pneumonia (lung infection) or encephalitis (brain infection). Measles illness during pregnancy can cause early labor, miscarriage, and low birth weight infants. Measles in people with AIDS or weak immune systems can be very severe. In the United States, 2 out of 1000 people who get measles will die from it, usually from the complications of the pneumonia or encephalitis caused by the infection.

How is measles spread?

Measles is spread person-to-person when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or shares food or drinks. The virus travels easily through the air. It can live in the air and on surfaces for up to two hours. An infected person can pass the virus during the four days before the rash appears and for four days after the rash begins. A person who is exposed to measles and is not protected by immunization will probably become sick 7 to 21 days after exposure.

What can I do to protect myself?

[Immunization](#) is the best protection. Two vaccines against measles are used in the U.S.: MMR (measles, mumps, rubella) or MMRV (measles, mumps, rubella, and varicella [chicken pox]). Each vaccine protects against the diseases listed.

If two doses are given, the vaccine is more than 99% effective in preventing measles. The first dose is at 12-15 months; the second may be given as soon as 28 days later. In California, many children get their second dose when they are getting ready for kindergarten. Adults born before 1957 are assumed immune and therefore do not need to be vaccinated.

Additional Information

- [California Department of Public Health - Measles](#)
- [San Francisco Department of Public Health- Measles Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [City of Berkeley Health Department- Measles Fact Sheet](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) - Measles Frequently Asked Questions](#)

FROM OUR COMMON CORE COACH, MIESJE CHILD It is always nice to reflect on past accomplishments and focus on future goals. AUSD has accomplished much in our shift to the Common Core so far. At our elementary sites we have reviewed, adopted and are now implementing our new TERC and Houghton Mifflin math curricula. Teachers have revised the math section of our report cards to reflect the California Common Core State Standards and updated our trimester assessments to align with both the standards and the new curricula. For the past several years, AUSD has partnered with Silicon Valley Mathematics Initiative bringing Math Problems of the Month and problem solving assessments to augment our curricula. For English Language Arts, we are all busy aligning our current reading curriculum to the Common Core and have selected two writing programs for piloting. Teacher leaders are in the midst of revising the ELA section of our report cards to be ready for next fall. It has been a great pleasure to be involved in this work so far as a Teacher on Special Assignment for Cornell, and I am excited to continue through the rest of this year. A belated Happy New Year to all of you wonderful Cornell Families, Miesje Child.

WHAT IS COMMON CORE? A universal set of learning goals, adopted by 43 states, with consistent expectations for what every student should know and be able to do in math and English language arts (reading, writing, speaking, listening) at each grade in order to be prepared for college and career.

Why the change?

To better prepare students for success after high school with the skills and knowledge necessary to qualify for and succeed in college and/or job training.

How is teaching/learning different from before?

The more rigorous standards emphasize critical thinking and problem solving, relying less on memorization of facts. Students will gain a deeper understanding of a subject matter and be able to apply what they

learn to real-life situations.

When did the new standards go into effect?

Schools districts in California fully implemented Common Core in the 2013-14 school year. In California, spring 2015 is the first time students will be tested on their knowledge of the state standards.

How will students be tested on Common Core?

School districts statewide will use the Smarter Balanced Assessment to measure students' mastery of the state standards. Students in grades 3-8 and 11 will take computer-based tests in math and English language arts within the last 12 weeks of school.

This spring, Albany Schools, and all districts statewide, will give the first official test that measures how well students in grades 3 through 8 and 11 are mastering the more rigorous Common Core State Standards, which the state began implementing last school year. Within the last 12 weeks of school, students will take the new state-mandated test, called Smarter Balanced, which will measure real-world skills, such as analytical reading, persuasive writing and problem solving, in English language arts and math. As teachers teach students to meet and exceed the state’s shared learning goals, the district is training school staffs and students for the new computer-based test. The district also will provide students with access to practice tests.

Following is a comparison of the old Measurement of Student Progress (MSP) test versus the new Smarter Balanced assessment in how it’s administered and what it measures.

Old test (CST/SAT)	New test (Smarter Balanced)
Paper and pencil	Computer-based and adapted to individual student response (accommodates special education students, English Language Learners, Braille readers and others with special needs)
Bubble sheet	Technology-enhanced, interactive (i.e. drag-and-drop, listening tasks with headphones)
Multiple choice questions	Performance tasks (i.e. writing and analytics)
Broad knowledge of topics	Deeper knowledge/understanding of fewer topics
Year-end only assessment	Optional shorter assessments several times a year
Reviewed/scored by people; results within about 2 months	Computer-generate results with secure online reporting system; only small portion scored by people, resulting in faster turn-around (less than 1 month)

SMARTER BALANCED ASSESSMENT CONSORTIUM (SBAC), PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

3rd Grade

Week of March 30th through April 3rd = MATH

Week of April 6th through April 10th = ENGLISH

4th Grade

Week of April 20th through April 24th = MATH

Week of April 27th through May 1st = ENGLISH

5th Grade

Week of May 4th through May 8th = MATH

Week of May 11th through May 15th = ENGLISH

For the day-to-day routines, a few tip for parents. Students should...

- Be at school every day. Please. Make up tests are difficult for everyone.
- Be on time. Testing sessions are usually in the morning and often shortly after school gets underway. Time to get settled into the classroom before testing begins each day will help students relax.
- Be rested and fed. Make sure that students have a good night's sleep and enough of a breakfast to sustain them. This is always important. Do not, however, think that your child should load up on a big breakfast for testing when a lighter meal is their usual routine.
- Be encouraged to do their best and relax. The best state of mind for learning and for testing is what researchers refer to as "relaxed alertness" - not stressed, not too casual – awake, but not alarmed or anxious.

Each spring, schools participate in standardized achievement testing with students. You'll remember that in 2013-14 California schools, along with many other states, began participating in SBAC testing as a replacement assessment to the California Standardized Testing (CST) assessment that we had used previously in schools. Last year, 2013-2014, was a year of field-testing. This year, in elementary, our 3rd-5th grade students will participate in SBAC testing. These assessments are designed to evaluate student progress towards mastery of the California Common Core Standards.

Additionally, as more information becomes available, there will be more information on the other assessments that are still being given. Don't hesitate to contact your child's teacher or myself if you have any questions. Thank you.

GOOD TIMES WITH THE CORNELL CREW LAST SATURDAY, JANUARY 31st The weather was warm and the work was challenging, but the volunteers of the Cornell Crew rose to the occasion to help make Cornell the best elementary school ever! By the time we were done we had accomplished the following:

1) weeded, clean up, and replenished the soil in all of the classroom's edible garden beds; 2) added/filled in wood chips throughout campus; 3) weeded all garden beds throughout campus, including the very visible areas on Solano and Cornell Avenues; 4) prepared, primed and painted an office inside; 5) spread mulch around our large shade tree in the front school yard; 6) installed trellises in several potted planters; and 7) Planted several wooden stumps near the portable classrooms for jumping and stump-sitting.

Many thanks to all the awesome CREW members and their kids who helped out including Kako Gagnon & Monet, Steve Devine, Kirsten Negus & Niko, Mike Montag, Britt Tanner, Amy Yamashiro & Revin, Yanping Li & Winston, Alexis & Sui Ling Angelidis & Luca, Suzy Wolff & Adlai, Lou Marchetti & Calla & Lena, Lisa Wymore & Will & Santi, Paul Worhach & Naia, Beth Zotter & Remi, Ben Wallace & Zachary & Adeline, Tom Mazotta & Matthew, Robb Cook, and Lisa Bernard-Pearl & Rachel.

Thanks to the PTA for funds to purchase the bagels, donuts, coffee, and site project supplies. Special thanks to American Soil for the generous donations and discounts on the gorilla mulch, wood chips and crushed granite! Thank you all for making this Cornell CREW project so successful.

ALBANY MUSIC FUND: The Albany Music Fund makes sure all our kids can participate in music in our schools. Our meetings are open to all and are usually on the 1st or 2nd Saturday of the month at 9:30am in the high school choir room, Room 22 in the Art Building. This month we are meeting this

SATURDAY morning, February 7th at 9:30am..After that, our next meeting will be Saturday, March 7th. Come be involved! (We might be in the band room, next door, due to lack of heat. Look around for us).

HELLO ALL FOURTH GRADE PARENTS! STAFF SALAD CELEBRATION This coming Wednesday, February 11th, will be our staff salad celebration! All year long we look for different ways to celebrate our teachers and say "thank you". One way we will do it this year is staff salad celebration. What we need from you is a dish or topping you love to put on your salad. Bring your favorite dressing, topping, cut up veggie, nuts, dip, cheese, or any other thing you like to add to a salad. Bring a side salad. Bring something that goes with a salad (bread). Bring your best potluck salad. Bring something to eat after a salad. Whatever you bring please drop off to the office by 10:30am Wednesday, February 11th. If you leave a dish that you need back, please label with your child's name, teacher, and room number. **THE PTA WILL PROVIDE A VARIETY OF LETTUCE.** Thank you! Cristi Solomon, Teacher Appreciation Coordinator.

GUNG HAY FAT CHOY! (YEAR OF THE GOAT) LUNAR NEW YEAR CELEBRATION on Solano Avenue, Sunday, February 8th Look for details at: <http://www.solanoavenueassn.org/events/lunar-new-year/>

BOSS BURGER AEF FUNDRAISER MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9TH! Do you like burgers/veggie burgers, French fries and Albany Schools? Every 2nd Monday, of each month, Boss Burger at 1187 Solano Ave. donates 10% of all its sales to the Albany Education Foundation. It is a great way to support Albany schools! So come this Monday and every 2nd Monday!!!!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR CORNELL'S GOT TALENT-SATURDAY MARCH 7TH! This will be our 5th annual student talent show. With over 70 Cornell kids performing and Coach Joel as emcee, it will be a great show! Even if your child isn't in the show, come out to support our kids who are working so hard on their acts.

Early Show-1:00pm (K-2nd grade performers)

Late Show-5:00pm (3rd-5th grade performers)

Tickets are \$5 per person-performers and kids under grade school age are free!

We are looking for volunteers to make the show a success. Please consider helping out: Here's how it works in 3 easy steps:

1. Click this link to go to our invitation page on VolunteerSpot: <http://vols.pt/Rr885q>
2. Enter your email address. (You will NOT need to register for an account on VolunteerSpot).
3. Sign up! Choose your spots - VolunteerSpot will send you an automated confirmation and reminders.

Easy! Contact Dorothe Piluso with questions at Dorothe@gmail.com

THE CITY OF ALBANY RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT FRIENDSHIP CLUB

currently has space in their after-school recreation program: for school age children ages 6 thru 12, grades 1 thru 5, Monday through Friday Late Bird and Early Bird dismissals at both of our Memorial and Ocean View Park sites. Interested families may **contact: Brad Griffith at 510-559-7220**

THE ALBANY EDUCATION FOUNDATION (AEF) AND THE ALBANY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION (ACF) are once again joining forces to host **THE CHOCOLATE AND CHAMPAGNE GALA ON SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2015** from 7:30pm to10:30pm. at Northbrae Community Church, 941 the Alameda in Berkeley. This special evening will include champagne, wine and beer, chocolate and non-chocolate desserts and savory treats. The Early Bird Quartet will once again perform. A list of our silent auction donations is listed on both of our web sites. Tickets are \$30, which includes a complimentary glass of champagne and desserts. Beer and wine will be available for purchase. Tickets, which make delightful gifts, are now available and. I

am happy to deliver them to you. Serving champagne and delectable chocolates, cheese, and fruit, this event is the perfect ending to a Valentine's Day evening out.

SAVE THE DATE! CORNELL BOWLING PARTY SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15TH (PLEASE NOTE NEW DATE!)

10AM TO NOON at Albany Bowl, 524 San Pablo Avenue. Take the kids bowling and support Cornell PTA! Grab your 'pin pals' and head on over to Albany Bowl for a fun morning of strikes & spares! \$10 gets you shoe rental & 2 games of bowling! Half of all proceeds go back to Cornell PTA to support our many programs & activities. RSVP to Beth Ellis-Dickson beth.ellisdickson@gmail.com.

AQUA CAMP 2015 AT THE ALBANY AQUATIC CENTER Spring Break (February 16th thru-19th) and Winter Break (April 13th thru-16th) Join the Albany Aqua Camp for the ultimate day camp and swimming experience. Each day participants will rotate through a variety of swimming and dry land activities. Swimmers will receive at least 45 minutes of swim lessons each day. Other camp activities will include arts & crafts, dry land workouts, games, free swim, and water safety instruction. Participants must bring a sack lunch, swim suit, towel, and a pair of sneakers to class daily) **Pre-care: 8am to 10am (\$40 resident and non-resident); Camp: 10am to 4pm (\$280 resident/ \$320 non-resident); After-care: 4pm to 6pm (\$40 resident and non-resident).** Register at www.ausdk12.org

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SUBMIT AN ARTICLE TO OUR E-PINKIE? You can find an easy link on our web page. Look down on the left under LINKS and you'll see it there. Go the [LINK](#) and enter your article by Wednesday at noon. Directions are on the website.