

Monthly Matador - MARCH 2018



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March 2018 Events

MAR 1: M.A.C. Celebration
MAR 5 - 9: Read Across America Week
MAR 8: Matador March Assembly
MAR 9: Student of the Month Assembly
MAR 11: Daylight Savings Time Begins! - Spring Forward 1 Hour
MAR 14: 5th Gr Riley's Farm Field Trip
MAR 16: Matador March
MAR 19: CJMCC Meeting 9:30am
MAR 20: SPRING PORTRAITS
MAR 22: School Site Council Meeting 3pm
MAR 23: 2nd Trimester Awards
MAR 27: OPEN HOUSE
MAR 29: Minimum Day: Dismissal Times:
TK/Kinder: 11:35 am / 1st - 5th: 12 NOON
MAR 30: NO SCHOOL - HOLIDAY

Social Tip / Attitude for March

Mrs. Oshiro / Speech

Happy March to all of our C. J. Morris Matadors! I've been listening each morning to those who have been rewarded for acts of kindness and showing "Respect" to others, and I've been watching for acts of honesty and "Integrity". All of this is giving me good thoughts and helping me feel very proud of our students.

Now it's time to focus on the IB attitude of Confidence or "feeling like you can do or try most things." When we are confident, we are willing to try harder which increases our ability to learn. We participate more actively in classroom learning groups, and there is a good chance that our homework will get completed more quickly. With added confidence is also the increased desire to participate in extra-curricular sports, games and activities. This gives us the opportunity to meet more people and make more new friends. And, all of that makes me smile and gives me good thoughts.

Have a good time out there Matadors—while learning of course!

Principals Message

Dear parents,

I cannot believe that we are already in March. The year is going by so fast. On February 24th, the CJM Science Olympiad Team competed in the LA County Science Olympiad. I was so proud of our team, as they competed in all the events, and learned so much through the process about the scientific method and design principles. They also received silver medals! Our visiting students from China concluded their visit on Feb. 22nd. We learned just as much from our visiting students as they did from us.

We are celebrating Literacy Week from March 5 - Mar. 9. We have an array of activities planned for the week to inspire the love of reading and being literate. Matador March is scheduled for Friday, March 16th. Please help your child pledge and contribute to the community club. Also, we are looking for volunteers for the Matador March. Please contact the office if you might be able to help. Our Open House will take place on Tuesday, March 27. We will be sending a schedule home soon. The CJM Choir and Drama Club will be presenting at Open House, and we will have the In-N-Out truck. It should be a fun evening. I hope you can all make it.

Best,
Mr. Bhojani

Looking for Volunteers for the Matador March on Friday, 3/16. Contact the Office if you can help.

Transitional Kindergarten

We are growing so much in TK! We have already surpassed 100 days of schools, and are more than half way through the school year! This month we will continue to focus on the initial letter sounds in words, and begin to identify the *final* sound (word endings) in words. We will also continue to practice matching rhyming pairs in songs and nursery rhymes. In math, we will continue to solve for "how many," as well as sequence and identify numbers when they are *out* of order. To better prepare our young ones for kindergarten, we are also breaking down the steps to formulate numbers correctly. For the next month and a half, we will be working on our final IB unit about extinct and endangered animals. We spring boarded into this unit with our field trip to the Kidspace Museum where we had an amazing time digging for dinosaur bones. Everyone had such a great time. For the remaining month, we will continue to explore and discuss why certain creatures have gone extinct, and how present day animals become endangered. For the month of March, we look forward to celebrating Dr. Seuss Read Across America week, St. Patrick's Day and Spring Break. We are so proud of how our TK kids are becoming so much more independent! Let's continue to encourage them ☺

Kindergarten

This month, we will be starting our next IB unit: How we Organize Ourselves. In this planner, we will inquire about communities and the community helpers that help it run smoothly. The students will learn about different jobs and the tools they need to be successful. In language arts, we will read nonfiction texts about community helpers. In writing, we will continue building simple paragraphs with a focus on informational texts. In math, we will look closer at solid shapes and writing equations to solve addition and subtraction problems. It will be a fun month.

First Grade

Our fabulous first grades are learning about Sharing the Planet and how the world changes over time through science and technology. We will discuss changes in communication, transportation, housing, clothing and school. We are also enjoying our Meet the Masters lessons and art projects that go along with our unit on How We Express Ourselves. We are looking forward to Open House and sharing all the wonderful things we are learning. Don't forget to visit the computer lab to see what our students are learning in Coding and using Virtual Reality Goggles.

Second Grade

Second grade celebrated literacy week by learning more about the renown children's author, Dr. Seuss. We continue our science planner on our ever changing Earth. Students are exploring the causes and effects of natural phenomena such as weathering, tornadoes, and earthquakes. In math, we are finishing our unit on time and graphs.

Third Grade

Wow, that second trimester sure flew by quickly. We are now fully into the third trimester with many fun and interesting activities ahead. We are finishing off our unit in math on shapes, area, and perimeter. Fractions is right around the corner! Our social studies planner involving governments, including a visit from our superintendent of schools, Dr. Taylor. We had a chance to have a "Town Hall Meeting" and ask him questions about his life, his job, and also what is like to be responsible for an entire school district. In our language unit on communities, we will follow up on the idea of government and people working together for the better of all. Our focus continues to help us read for information by finding main ideas and context clues. Open House and Spring Break are coming soon. We look forward to that!

Fourth Grade

That's gold in them there hills!! In fourth grade we are beginning our study of the California gold rush. This is an exciting time of California history to study and the students enjoy learning about the riches in the hills of California. Students will also look at the various people that lived in the mining camps and how their lives were affected by the gold rush. We will be looking at how miners did not just come from America, but from countries far away seeking riches. We are beginning our reading of By The Great Hornspoon, which helps students understand how the miners reached the gold fields and the many hardships they faced. We also explore through the book and in our study that panning for gold was not the only way to get rich! We are also continuing to work on opinion writing and learning how to make a bold claim on your opinion and then back it up with solid reasons and details.

Fifth Grade

It is a bittersweet time for the 5th grade, as we begin our last trimester here at CJ Morris. We are extremely busy as we finish our "How the World Works" planner, where we learned how people use science to interact and learn about the natural world. We conducted experiments learning about physical and chemical changes, using the Scientific Method. The students are preparing for Open House, completing projects to share with their families. We also are beginning to practice for the CAASP test coming in April. Spring Break is right around the corner!

Mrs. Howard: IB/PYP

Creativity, curiosity and risk-taking go hand and hand with spring. At this time of year students are displaying the confidence they need to be risk-takers. Having the freedom to be risk-takers, our students naturally become creative and curious. Albert Einstein describes creativity as, "intelligence having fun." Inquiry and curiosity is at the heart of our IB programme here at C.J. Morris. We encourage our students to ask good questions, research to find answers to their questions and to think outside the box when looking for solutions to their problems. Take time to let your children explore and ask questions!

Mrs. Veneracion: TITLE 1

We had a fun and successful Family Science Night. Students had a great time making slime, looking at light, sticking a barbeque stick through a balloon (without popping it!), and much more! We are so thankful to have partnered up with the Dr. Newman and the Mt. Sac Science program so they can bring science to life for our Matadors. In the Learning Lab, we are concentrating on reading in math by taking grade level appropriate word problems, analyze and understand them, solve them, and then explain our thinking. We are super proud of our kiddos and can't wait to see their progress!

Why Consequences? By Rochelle Mortensen

Rules keep us safe. Rules make things predictable which reduces anxiety. Rules provide boundaries and teach us what is expected. All communities big and small need rules in order to provide safety for their citizens. Our children need rules and boundaries in order to feel safe and to learn to respect the rights and needs of others. Therefore, our homes and schools need rules. A "rule" without a consequence is not a rule. It is important that when a rule is made, a consequence is attached. When we reactively give consequences, we are usually coming from a place of frustration and sometimes anger. As we establish rules and boundaries for our children at home, it helps to get their buy-in. Ask them what rules they think your family would benefit from. Then ask them what the consequence for breaking the rules should be (it helps to write them out and post them where everyone can see them). Consequences should be something that can be immediately implemented and should relate to the infraction. If your child breaks a rule, all you have to do is remind him/her, "What is the consequence for _____?" Let your child respond. Now all you have to do is follow through with the consequence. There is no need to get angry, no need to fight, no need to negotiate. Finally, meet monthly as a family to go over the family rules to see if anything needs to be added, deleted or tweaked. Happy parenting!

Thanks for your help with our Recycling Drive & the supplies for the RAISE Foundation!