

GGUSD

Allen Elementary Mountaineer



November 2009

Volume 5
Issue 2

Principal Message

Greetings Mountaineers! It was wonderful to have so many parents visiting Allen School during the Halloween Parade. We appreciate all your support.

November is a wonderful month to reflect on our good fortune and give thanks for all that we have. We at Allen are all thankful to work with a professional and caring staff. We are thankful to work with a bright and hard working student body. We are also thankful to have the support of an interested and caring community.



We would also like to take the time to thank all the parents who joined the PTA this year. The money we earn through your generous donations will directly support technology, field trips, assemblies, and the Art Masters program that the PTA funds for our students.

We appreciate the special gift of time, love and energy that you give so joyously to our school. Have a wonderful Thanksgiving!

Technology

<http://www.byrdseed.com/>

What is Byrdseed?

Our own Mr. Ian Byrd (sixth grade GATE teacher) has created a site dedicated to gifted education. Parents can review a wealth of information on this site, sorted by standards or by topics.



Who is Mr. Byrd?

Mr. Ian Byrd has taught in a gifted classroom since 2007 and was a GATE student himself from first through sixth grade. Before becoming a teacher, he worked with high school students at a church, children in special education classes, and students at the Boys and Girls' Club. His original education is in Computer Science.

Special points of interest:

- Allen **Website**
www.ggusd.k12.ca.us/allen
- Student T-shirt order forms will be coming out soon!
- 6th grade students can still sign up for Outdoor Education.
- Make-up Picture Day is Tuesday, November 24
- Special Persons' Day is Wednesday, November 25
- No school on November 26 and 27 for Thanksgiving holiday
- Non-Student Day is Friday, December 4

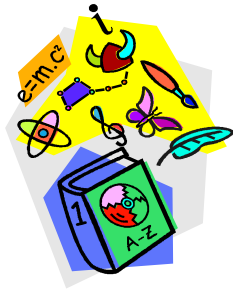
Tips for Parents

Actions for All Students to Succeed!

1. Attendance at school is mandatory
2. Tell you child "Do your best today!"
3. Parents can help at home by expecting their children to listen, ask questions and follow the rules.

Joan Spiker, Ed.D

Fun with Words! Dictionary Games



You can help your child practice dictionary skills and build vocabulary with these activities. **Word Race.** Write down several words, and time your scholar to see how fast he or she can find each one in the dictionary. **Word of the week.** Ask your child to find one word each week that is new to her or him. Post the word on the refrigerator and challenge her or him to use it as often as possible during the week.

Mixed-up definitions. Write down a new word. Then, write out two phony definitions for it, along with the true definition. Read them to your youngster and see if she can guess which definition is real.

November 2009

11—*School Holiday*

24—*Picture Day Make-Up*

25—*Special Person Day*

26-27—*Thanksgiving Holiday*

December 2009

4—*Non-Student Day*

Special Persons' Day

Recognizing that many of our Allen Families will have out of town guests visiting near Thanksgiving, we will be hosting our annual Special Persons' Day during lunch, Wednesday, November 25. Lunch times begin at 12:00 and conclude at 1:20. Be sure to check with your student as to when their specific lunch time begins. We will not be able to sell lunches to families, only students. However, please feel free to bring your favorite lunch and join your student.



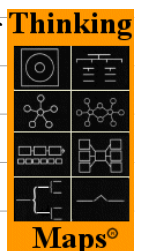
Birthday Treats



Many parents bring birthday treats for their child at school. This is a wonderful way to make your child feel special; however, it is important to check with your child's teacher ahead of time before bringing in the treats. Your child's teacher will be able to discuss with you what would be an appropriate treat to celebrate this special day and the best time to share a treat. In addition, this year, we are acknowledging our scholars' birthdays by giving them a multi-cultural card signed by office staff to help make their special day more special!

Thinking Maps Training for Parents

Please join us on Thursday, December 3, at 6 p.m., as our dedicated staff reveals the secrets of Thinking Maps to our Parents. Allen scholars have been using Thinking Maps to organize their thinking for five years now and they have learned the reasons for using Thinking Maps, how to draw each of the maps, and they can recognize them when applied in content areas.



What is Thinking Maps?

Thinking Maps is a language of eight visual patterns each based on a fundamental thinking process. Visualizing our thinking allows us to have a concrete image of our abstract thoughts. These patterns are used individually and in combination across every grade level and curriculum area as an integrated set of tools for life-long learning.

Please R.S.V.P. for this program by turning in the green tear-off form to your students teacher or the office. We hope to see you there!