



# Cougar Cubs Newsletter

Focus on K-5th Grade Education

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## Announcing Our New First Grader Teacher for 2009-10

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Our school year is rapidly coming to a close and already we are making plans for the upcoming school year. At the elementary level, we are fortunate to only have one teacher to replace but that teacher is our beloved first grade teacher Mrs. Gail Hatch. Mrs. Hatch will be retiring just in time to become a grandmother for the first time which is very exciting! While we will miss her tremendously, we know that God has great things in store for her as she begins a new chapter in her life. In some of her spare time next year, she would like to be a substitute teacher here at CCCS as well as lead some parenting seminars on campus.

Taking her place as the first grade teacher is Mrs. Michelle Turner. Mrs. Turner has been teaching kindergarten at Los Medanos Elementary School for the last twelve years. She is leaving that position because of her desire to teach in a Christian school setting. She has a step daughter who will be attending here at the 6<sup>th</sup> grade level as well as a younger daughter enrolled in our pre-school program. She and her family attend Faith Lutheran Church. We are very excited to have her join our staff and plan to introduce her to the current kindergarten class (the upcoming first graders) on June 1. She will be on campus that day and we plan to invite parents to come meet her at the end of the day in the kindergarten room.

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## Here is the Scoop on Uniforms

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As Elementary Principal, it is important to constantly evaluate the program that we offer here on campus. One of the areas that I considered for possible change next year was the area of school uniforms. During this school year, we conducted two informal surveys – one at our August Kickoff Day where we had a special table set up in the MPR and the other was a survey that was attached to the teacher survey (for each of the elementary classrooms) and as an email attachment for the middle school. Our Kickoff Day survey showed clear interest in uniforms but we felt that many parents had not taken the opportunity to fill it out. When we attached the survey to the teacher survey to insure that every family had the opportunity to respond, the vote was split 50 -50.

Because there is no clear mandate to change our policy regarding student dress, we are not moving ahead with uniforms at this time. As with any policy or procedure, we will monitor the uniform decision in future years to insure that it is indeed the policy that should be in place. As a reminder, it is always good to re-read the school handbook to insure that your child is adhering to the dress code that we do have.

If you are looking for opportunities to reinforce your child's skills this summer, pick up a brochure in the office from Tri-C Publications. They offer skill booklets in all of the academic areas.

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## How Your Favorite Teachers Will Be Spending Their Summer

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**Mrs. Veltkamp** Not being one to enjoy boredom, Mrs. Veltkamp plans to devote a large part of the summer taking care of her daughter Jackie's new baby. Other than that, painting a room at her house sounds good and so does helping her other children with home projects. If she needs more to do, sewing is always an option and camping in their tent trailer with the family. Oh, and getting ready for the new school year. :-)

**Mrs. Hatch** Mrs. Hatch is leaving with her husband two days after school is out for Paris to meet their soon to be new grandchild! They will stay for a month in Paris to enjoy being new grandparents and see the sights of Paris. Katie Hatch is getting married this year, so the rest of the summer will be filled with wedding plans and bidding her and her new husband farewell as they head off to Amman, Jordan to study Arabic for a year.

**Miss Hoogwerf** Miss Hoogwerf plans to go to South Dakota and spend some quality time with family and friends, especially her little niece and two little nephews. She is also looking forward to having a lot of time to read!

**Mrs. Santoro** The Santoro family has two weddings to attend this summer, one nearby and one in North Carolina. They are also planning to visit their oldest son where he works in Utah. Summer projects include painting her daughter's bedroom and the living room. Mrs. Santoro also plans to do some summer reading.

**Mrs. Bellusa** Mrs. Bellusa's plans include: Help my parents find a house and move. (can't wait to have them closer); Take Mark (my son) swimming for the first time; go to Disney Land; spend more time with my friends and our dogs.

**Mrs. Heinz** Summer 2009! Woo Hoo! This summer the Heinz family will be enjoying their new house in San Ramon and hope to complete some painting projects. In July, they will be going to Lompoc, California for a reunion. Mrs. Heinz hopes to go hiking and explore this beautiful state and might even visit a mission or two.

**Mrs. Arbogast** The Arbogast Family is planning our second annual road trip. We are trying to visit at least 7 states each summer. This year we are planning to visit 8. These include: Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Wyoming, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Nebraska.

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### A Note of Gratitude from Mrs. Hatch

Retiring from the classroom is difficult when you love teaching children! I feel nothing but gratitude for the privilege of serving as First Grade teacher for the past three years here at Contra Costa Christian School. Teaching and loving 52 unique and gifted children over these years, as well as sharing the joy of education with parents, faculty and staff has enriched my life immensely. A heart felt thank you to all of you who have made my time here so meaningful!

Gail Hatch

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## Calling All of our Wonderful CCCS Parent Volunteers

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On Tuesday, June 9 the teachers and staff of CCCS extend an invitation to parents who have volunteered of their time to help make this school year run smoothly—we couldn't have done it without you! We'd like to honor you with a special "Parent Appreciation Tea" in the MPR from 3:10 to 4 p.m. on that day. We look forward to seeing you there!

### Cougar Cubs Summer Reading Program!

Don't lose the fun of summer by sitting alone in front of the T.V.! Travel to exotic places with all kinds of fellow travelers with a book!

Once again, the CCCS Library will host a summer reading program for students in grades first through seventh. Reading logs, as well as suggested reading lists, will be distributed in the library during the first week of June. Each log will have a goal set by grade level. If the goal is achieved, the student will qualify for the **Cougar Cubs Summer Reading Party Event** at the beginning of next school year. Don't miss out! Sign up on the library door with your intent to read this summer!

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## YEAR-END CALENDAR

### May

25 Memorial Day—no school

### June

- 1 Meet the new 1st grade teacher (for upcoming 1st grade families)
- 4 Traffic Patrol pizza party with Mrs. Greenland at noon
- 5 Oregon Trail Day—3rd grade
- 8 Elementary Field Day (morning only)
- 9 Parent Appreciation Tea at 3 p.m.
- 10 Mc Covey's Restaurant—5th grade
- 11 AT&T Park—5th grade
- 12 Last day of school - school ends at 11:45 a.m.

## Have Lunch With Your Parent Day" Enjoyed By All

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On Tuesday, May 19, elementary students were thrilled to have their parents come eat lunch with them during their normal lunch time. The day was sunny and beautiful – the perfect setting for parents to share lunch with their child and interact with other parents.





