

# Principal's Paige

## November 6, 2009



### Fall Exhibition

Thank you to all the families who attended Charter School's Fall Exhibition last night. The staff thanks you for spending time as a family exploring and discussing what you saw. Just a few examples of some of the great projects / things I learned were:

- The kinders are very proficient at measuring.
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> grade families are very good at scavenger hunts!
- Flat Stanley has seen more of the world than I have!!
- The 5<sup>th</sup> graders excitedly explained how they calculated the area of the various states.
- The 8<sup>th</sup> graders loved showing off the aqueducts they worked so hard on.
- The students love singing the songs Mr. Northcott has taught them.

The teachers truly appreciated all the thought provoking questions you asked the students. They really worked hard and a tremendous amount of learning connected to grade level standards was evident in the products they displayed. The Charter School's project based learning approach contributes to making this a special school where our students do an extraordinary amount of learning and discovering. We look forward to sharing our projects again at the Spring Exhibition in May.

### Volunteers Needed

Thank you to the two parents that stopped by to help fill some of the spots below. We are still hoping for a few more people!!

**\*A parent who is available one day a week (any day except Wednesday or Friday) between 11:00 and 12:00 to supervise the intramural sports program for grades 3-5.** This program promotes good sportsmanship, responsibility and physical fitness. Kids love it, and the time commitment is minimal. The program is coordinated by Charlotte Barnes, so all you'll need to do is show up on your day and actively supervise/referee the sport of the week!

**\*Several parents who are available to hang out in the garden area one day a week between 11:15 and 12:15 to allow students to visit their gardens and the chicken coop.** The students love the garden, the chickens, the pig and the goat but need to have adult supervision while enjoying them. Five parents who could each commit to one day a week would allow children to use this wonderful resource that we are so lucky to have right here on our campus!

**\*Several parents who are available to supervise a game room or quiet room one day a week between 11:15 and 12:15.** Many of our students love to run and play, but sometimes they like to draw, read, and play board games,

too! By providing lots of varied opportunities for children at recess, we are promoting a positive school culture and lessening the likelihood of bullying on campus.

### Charter School Updates

CSMH belongs to the California Charter School Association (CCSA), a professional organization serving charter schools. The mission of the CCSA is to lead the charter public school movement in California in order to increase the number of students attending high-quality charter schools. The CCSA president, Jed Wallace, recently released the following message about charter schools in our state.

*California charter schools are experiencing explosive growth, roughly 20 percent growth for two years in a row. This consistent growth is phenomenal given this tough economic climate and it speaks to the choices that both parents and teachers are making and their demand for high-quality educational options. The solid growth in charter school enrollment demonstrates that parents – and teachers – realize charters are mainstream options.”*

*CCSA has confirmed that 88 new public charter schools opened their doors for the first time this fall, bringing the total number of California charter schools in operation to 809 schools, serving approximately 341,000 public school students.*

*New and existing charter schools added an estimated 56,000 new students this year, the largest single-year enrollment increase in history and equivalent to adding the entire enrollment of the ninth largest school district in the state.*

*This year also marked the first year that more than half of all new charter schools that opened this fall (45 of 88 schools) are replications of existing, successful charter school models, an increase of 11 percent over the previous year.*

*As of this fall, approximately one in every six charter schools nationwide (16 percent) operates in California. According to the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools, based in Washington, D.C., there are now more than 4,900 charter schools currently educating over 1.5 million children.*

*Trends for the future indicate that similar levels of growth in charter school enrollment will continue if not accelerate. This signals that a fundamental shift in the way we operate public schools is underway within California. It is then incumbent upon the charter school community to redouble our efforts to make sure that proper accountability systems are in place which will ensure that charter schools generate significantly higher levels of student learning than has historically been available within the traditional public education system. CCSA will continue to do everything we can to help our members continue to lead our state and the nation to develop critically needed improvements to charter school accountability systems.*

## Upcoming Dates to Remember

November 9 <sup>th</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup> graders on field trip
November 11 <sup>th</sup>	No school - Veterans Day Order Hot Lunch by 5:00 pm
November 13 <sup>th</sup>	Student Council Spirit Day - Crazy Day End of 1 <sup>st</sup> trimester
November 16 <sup>th</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup> graders on field trip
November 18 <sup>th</sup>	Spirit Day - CSMH wear
November 18 <sup>th</sup> - 20 <sup>th</sup>	Minimum Days for Parent-Teacher Conferences Book Fair in multipurpose room
November 23 <sup>rd</sup> - 24 <sup>th</sup>	Minimum Days for Parent-Teacher Conferences Book Fair in multipurpose room
November 24 <sup>th</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup> and 5 <sup>th</sup> on field trip
November 25 <sup>th</sup>	Order Hot Lunch by 5:00 pm
November 25 <sup>th</sup> - 27 <sup>th</sup>	No School - Thanksgiving break
December 1 <sup>st</sup>	CSMH Board meeting - open session at 7:00 pm
December 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Order Hot Lunch by 5:00 pm
December 3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup> graders on field trip
December 4 <sup>th</sup>	Spirit Day - CSMH wear
December 9 <sup>th</sup>	Minimum Day - Staff Development Order Hot Lunch by 5:00 pm
December 11 <sup>th</sup>	Spirit Day - CSMH wear Middle School dance