



# Cumberland Connection

824 Cumberland Drive. Main Line: 408-522-8255

March 2025

## PRINCIPAL CORNER

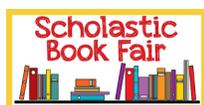
Dear Cumberland Families,

March is here, bringing with it exciting opportunities for learning, exploration, and community connection at Cumberland! This month, we are continuing to highlight different sections of our district's **Strategic Plan**, shifting from last month's focus on the **Portrait of a Learner** to a deeper look at our **Core Values**—the guiding principles that shape our commitment to fostering a just, inclusive, and engaging learning environment. These values—**Justice, Courage, Joy, Compassion, Excellence, and Equity**—are embedded in our daily work and reflected in the many experiences our students will engage in this month.



This morning, our **5th graders embarked on their weeklong Science Camp adventure at Walden West in Saratoga**, where they will engage in hands-on environmental learning, teamwork, and outdoor discovery. This experience embodies our district's **Core Value of Joy**—cultivating a love of learning and a sense of purpose while fostering curiosity about the natural world.

As we **wrap up the 2nd trimester this Friday, March 8**, our staff is reflecting on student progress and growth. **Report cards will be sent home next Friday, March 14**. This is an important opportunity to recognize each student's achievements and set new goals, reinforcing our shared commitment to **Excellence**—holding high expectations, striving for continuous improvement, and taking accountability for learning. Don't hesitate to reach out to your child's teacher with any questions or concerns after reviewing the report card.



We are also incredibly grateful for the unwavering support of our **Cumberland PTA**, a partnership which continues to ensure enriching opportunities for our students:



- The **Book Fair** returns the week of March 17, promoting literacy and the joy of reading, thanks to dedicated PTA volunteers. (**Reminder: Monday, March 17th, is a non-school day**)

- Our **STEAM Fair** will take place twice this year—on **March 19th and March 26th** - offering students the chance to showcase their creativity and problem-solving skills.

- Students are also preparing to shine in the **PTA Talent Show on April 2nd**, a wonderful celebration of our students' diverse gifts.

Beyond academics and extracurriculars, March is also a time to reflect on the **Core Values of Justice, Courage, and Compassion** as we honor the contributions of diverse leaders and communities:

- **Women's History Month** recognizes the leadership and impact of women throughout history.
- **César Chávez Day (March 31)** highlights the power of advocacy and the fight for justice.
- **Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month** promotes inclusion, equity, and belonging for all.
- Many in our community will observe **Ramadan**, a time of fasting, reflection, and

- spiritual growth.
- **Holi**, the Festival of Colors, welcomes spring with joy and renewal.

In education, we utilize the metaphor of "**windows and mirrors**" - a way of ensuring students see themselves reflected in what they learn (**mirrors**) while also gaining insight into experiences different from their own (**windows**). By incorporating diverse voices, histories, and perspectives into our classrooms, we foster **empathy, understanding, and a sense of belonging** in our school community. These moments of reflection and celebration remind us that by embracing **Compassion**, we strengthen our connections with one another. By practicing **Courage**, we encourage our students to stretch their abilities, take risks, and break down barriers. And by upholding **Justice**, we reinforce our commitment to equity, inclusion, and cultural responsiveness in all that we do.



Thank you for being our partners in fostering a school environment where **every student is known by name, strength and need, ready to excel in high school and beyond, and to lead a life of joy and purpose.**

Wishing you a wonderful March!

Warmly,  
Ms. Carlson & Dr. Mack

## OUR CORE VALUES



### Joy

We cultivate a love of learning, a sense of purpose, and joy and fulfillment in our experiences.

### Compassion

We care for one another and are considerate of each other's feelings, perspectives, and potential.

### Justice

We believe in creating a world that is just, anti-racist, culturally responsive and inclusive. We act with integrity to take actions aligned with our knowledge and understanding of right and wrong, and our impact on the world.

### Courage

We create opportunities for positive change by boldly facing challenges as individuals to break down barriers, stretching our abilities, taking chances, trusting one another, and imagining new possibilities.

### Excellence

We hold high expectations of ourselves and others, strive for continuous improvement, and accept accountability for the outcomes we produce, individually and collectively.

Link to the Sunnyvale School District Website: [About Us / Strategic Plan](#)

## CALENDAR

**March 11** - TLD Day  
**March 14** - Report Cards sent home  
**March 17** - No School  
**March 18-21** - Book Fair  
**March 19** - K-3 STEAM Fair 6-7:30pm  
**March 26** - 4-5 STEAM Fair 6-7:30pm

## HEALTH HIGHLIGHTS



The season for colds and flu is here. Sometimes, it is difficult to know whether to send your child to school or keep them home when they are ill.

Keep these guidelines in mind:

- if your child has a fever (over 100.4 F) or
- if their illness includes vomiting or diarrhea,

...they must stay home until these have cleared up without medication. Other reasons to keep a child home include very low energy levels, lack of appetite or lack of interest in usual activities.

However, if your child has a mild cold or is still coughing from a recent cold or flu but feels otherwise well, they may come to school! Some children have a residual cough or nasal congestion for a week or two after they have been sick--they should not be missing school if this is their only symptom.

If you have questions on any given day as to whether to send your child to school, please call the office for guidance.

Also, as a reminder, it is not too late to get a flu shot for the whole family!

## HELP THE FLOW OF TRAFFIC AT DROP OFF AND PICK UP



As always, we want to mitigate traffic congestion and parking challenges while also following safe driving practices. **Please consider walking or riding to school.** This is not only good for our environment and health, but also generates increased benefits for optimal learning (see the Safe Routes to School section below!)

If you must drive, please adhere to our traffic flow guidelines. Please be extra attentive when driving near campus and follow the crossing guards' directions.

**Dropping off or picking up by car?**

**THERE ARE 2 DROP OFF/PICK UP ZONES:**

Quetta Avenue & Cumberland Drive

- **PLEASE DO NOT USE THE CATALYST/STAFF PARKING LOT FOR DROP OFF/PICK UP.**

If Quetta Avenue is congested, continue left around the block to Cumberland Drive and drop off at the front of the school.

Follow the map below. No left turns onto Cumberland Drive and no left turns into the Drop off zone in front of school



**SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL (SRTS)**



Sunnyvale School District is fortunate to have strong partnerships with several community organizations who support our students' learning and wellbeing. We continue to work alongside these partners to promote wellness, healthy habits, and social-emotional support.

Safe Routes to School (SRTS) programs provide the opportunity to make walking and biking to school fun, healthy, safer, and accessible to all who choose to walk and bike to school.

SRTS is a nationwide program and can benefit communities by enhancing children's health and wellbeing, easing traffic congestion, improving air quality near schools, and increasing the overall health of the community.

Check out this video: [Safe Routes for All - Santa Clara County](#)

For more information about Safe Routes to School and volunteering opportunities, contact the Santa Clara County Public Health Department website at [www.sccphd.org/traffic](http://www.sccphd.org/traffic) or click these links: SSD Website <https://www.sesd.org/Page/4026>; [Safe Routes to School - Public Health - County of Santa Clara](#)



<p><b>COOL COUGARS</b></p>	<p><b>WHAT IS A COOL COUGAR:</b> A Cool Cougar is a student who has been chosen either by their teacher or by their peers. They exemplify the Cougar Code by being respectful, being responsible, and making good choices. Their positive behavior sets a great example for our school community!</p> <p><b>THIS MONTH'S COOL COUGARS:</b> At the end of the month, Cumberland recognized the following students at our Cool Cougar Assembly.</p> <p><b>COOL COUGAR NAMES:</b>  <b>TK:</b> Amelia R, Yarden Y, Yotam M, Sayuri T  <b>Kinder:</b> Linzie C, Dan S, Zoey T, Eloisa D, Ella V, Arthur D, Eric S, Jeevika N, Leo A, Lexie C, Minh N, Vedika S  <b>1st:</b> Dan Z, Zackary H.S, David D, Avika S, Lianna R, Archer A, Mahati H, Andrew F, Tevita P, Iselin R  <b>2nd:</b> Gia M, Maddie G, Samson V, Gali B, Harshil D, Luka R, Surya V, Duncan L, Rosie G, Scarlett F, Alon M  <b>3rd:</b> Everett C, Felix X, Melissa V, Rino F, Roni F-M, Caleb S, Bedran K, Megan O, Scott A, Garrett C  <b>4th:</b> June V, Ellie H, Justin W, Daphne M, Harold W, Isabelle J, Jayden C, Claire R, Samir A, Alon H, Amritha A, Grace M, Aarohi B  <b>5th:</b> Mina T, Roni C, Theo H, Ray F, Bryan T, Elisa X, Alon P, Ruhaan D, Ryker D, Luis R.G, Cianna T, Reya T, Aidan H, Brandley K</p>
<p><b>RECESS ROCKSTARS</b></p>	<p><b>Recess Rock Stars</b> are students who show respect, responsibility and a positive attitude at recess-time. They are team players who work well with others, follow the rules, and put their best foot forward no matter the game. Recess Rock Stars are given a certificate at our Cool Cougar assemblies. They are selected by Coach Hootie and the Junior Coaches.</p> <p><b>For the month of February we are happy to announce our Recess Rockstars:</b></p> <p><b>Kinder/1</b>  Anais RT - Lee  Arshan G - Hugo  Mateo M - Berry  Lianna R - Gorham</p> <p><b>2/3</b>  Omer H - L Rodriguez  Iniyan D - Rietdorf/Smith  Pranjali O - Soriano  Caroline C - Bauer-Biggs</p> <p><b>4/5</b>  Alejandra Q - S Rodriguez  Daphne V - Ruan  Vlad S - Kerr  Sou T - Reyes  Grace P - Conklin</p> 
<p><b>JUNIOR COACHES</b></p>	<p><b>Junior Coaches</b> are students who applied for the position and were selected for their enthusiasm, strong work ethic, and for demonstrating responsibility in their academics.</p> <p>They serve by leading games at recess, acting as conflict mediators, and being all-around good role models. In order to grow the necessary leadership, oratorical, and conflict management skills, the Jr. Coaches participate in monthly one-hour trainings with a site coordinator from Playworks. Throughout the rest of the month, Jr. Coaches report on their</p>



workdays to Coach Hootie, our Cumberland Recess Coach, who helps to ensure they are comfortable with their duties, on task, working hard and having fun!

Click here to see a Playworks video on the program:

[▶ How Playworks Junior Coaches Impact School Climate](#)

**Junior Coaches of the Month:**

Each month, we honor Junior coaches of the month! In the month of February the following students are being recognized for their enthusiasm for recess games and commitment to making Cumberland a great place to play!

**CONGRATULATIONS!!**

Luka U  
Maelyn B  
Uval G

**LEAVING CUMBERLAND?**



**ARE YOU LEAVING CUMBERLAND BEFORE OR AFTER THE END OF THE SCHOOL YEAR?**

- We need to know if you have...
  - moved
  - are moving
  - not in the Cumberland boundaries or
  - are attending private school next year
- Please send an email to [cumberlandfrontoffice@sesd.org](mailto:cumberlandfrontoffice@sesd.org).
- This helps us with your forwarding addresses and your student's school files for the new school.

**LIBRARY NEWS**

**Annual Book Fair Coming in March!**

We are excited we have a new book fair vendor this year, Literati. Please support our library and classroom book collections by shopping at the book fair. All the money raised will be used to purchase new books, library supplies like barcodes, and fun activities like games and puzzles. So please stop by and browse our new book selection during the following times:

**Friday, March 14 12:30-3:30 pm & 6:00-8:00 pm**

**Monday, March 17 NO SCHOOL**

**Tuesday, March 18 2:30-3:30 pm**

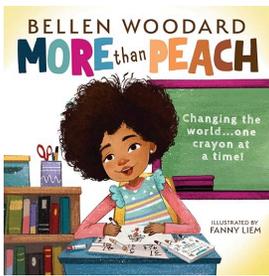
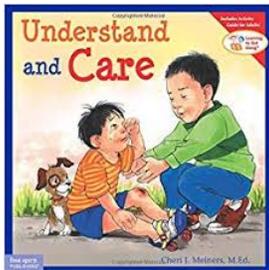
**Wednesday, March 19 2:30-3:30 pm & 6:00-8:00 pm (Open during K-3 STEAM Fair)**

**Thursday, March 20 2:30-3:30 pm**

**Friday, March 21 2:30-3:30 pm**



**PROJECT CORNERSTONE**



This month, TK and Kinder classes will be reading *Understand and Care* by Cheri Meiners, focusing on **EMPATHY** while Grades 1-5 will read *More Than Peach* by Bellen Woodard, which demonstrates **LEADERSHIP** while also celebrating diversity!

The reading, discussion and activities for TK-Kinder aims to help students identify and label basic emotions with an understanding that others can have different emotions and perspectives. This understanding leads to empathy and compassion for others.

The goal for reading, discussions and activities related to *More Than Peach* is that students will develop a growth mindset, empathize with others, celebrate their diversity and advocate for themselves and others.

**At Home Connections: TK & Kinder** Help your child identify and label their and other family member’s emotions while at home and while doing various activities.  
**Grades 1-5** “Instead of asking kids what they want to be when they grow up, ask them what they want to change.” -Bellen Woodard

**SPRING PICTURES**

**School Name:** Cumberland Elementary School

**Picture Day Date:** March 26, 2025

**Picture Day ID:** EVT7RZ3NH

All students will have their Spring Pictures taken on Wednesday, March 26th. A couple of weeks after photos are taken, Lifetouch will provide us with an envelope for each student with a proof of the photo. These will be sent home along with instructions on how to purchase the photos.

**STUDENT COUNCIL**

February was a busy and eventful month for Cumberland and the student council. We had a fun filled spirit week and our new fundraiser is soon to begin. Spirit week was all so thrilling. Monday was blackout day, it was simple yet fun. A lot of people enjoyed dressing in all black. Tuesday was career day, there were many different occupations walking around campus, I met doctors, engineers, construction workers,

everything you can ever think of. Seeing everyone's different passions and dream careers was very surprising and unexpected. Wednesday was crazy hair and hat day, everyone went all out with the most unique and distinctive hair and hats. Everyone was thrilled to see what other ideas their classmates had. Thursday was PJ day, it was by far the most comfy day, with people bringing stuffies and looking like they just rolled out of bed. Friday was Valentine's day and everyone was fully decked out in all pink, white, and red.

The Student Council's next fundraiser is to gather snacks to supply the JW House. The JW House provides a quiet place for families to gather while their family members are receiving services at Kaiser Hospital. More information about how you can help forthcoming. Be on the lookout!

Written by Ellie Lee - student council treasurer and 5th grader.

**NOON AIDES**



**Noon Aides are an integral part of the Cumberland community.** Noon Aides supervise students during lunch time, ensuring the safety of our students. This paid position is Monday-Friday for 2 hours between the hours of 10:45am – 12:45pm. It's a great way to work with students and join the Cumberland staff.

If you are interested in becoming a noon aide, please email [kelly.mack@sesd.org](mailto:kelly.mack@sesd.org) or stop by the Cumberland office to pick up an application.

**CUMBERLAND'S INCLUSIVITY STATEMENT**



Our school's inclusivity statement exists to remind everyone that all are welcome and appreciated on our campus and in the Cumberland community:

**At Cumberland, Cougar Pride means being respectful, responsible and making good choices.**

**Being respectful means:**

**we value diversity** in our school and community. This is a welcoming, safe and inclusive place for everyone to have a voice, be heard, participate and learn.

**Being responsible means:**

**standing up and speaking out** if you see someone being bullied or not being treated respectfully. If you see something, say something.

**Making good choices means:**

**treating everyone fairly** and how you would like to be treated, regardless of race, gender or religion.

**COMMUNICATION**

**WAYS TO RECEIVE SCHOOL AND PTA COMMUNICATION**

- SCHOOL DISTRICT SITE: [www.sesd.org](http://www.sesd.org)
- SCHOOL WEBSITE: [www.sesd.org/cumberland](http://www.sesd.org/cumberland)
- PTA WEBSITE: [www.cumberlandpta.org](http://www.cumberlandpta.org)
- PTA E-FLYER: Join Konstella now: <https://www.konstella.com/cd/0LKLZQ>
- KINDER GOOGLE GROUP: to join the Kinder Google Group, please send an email to [newfamily@cumberlandpta.org](mailto:newfamily@cumberlandpta.org)