
THE CORBIN CHRONICLES

ISSUE NO.2 | OCTOBER 2026

CELEBRATING CULTURE, COMMUNITY, AND BELONGING

DEAR GIANT FAMILIES,

OCTOBER IS AN EXCITING MONTH AT SEQUOIA MIDDLE SCHOOL! AS WE MOVE FURTHER INTO THE SCHOOL YEAR, I WANT TO THANK OUR STUDENTS, FAMILIES, AND STAFF FOR CONTINUING TO MAKE SEQUOIA A PLACE WHERE STUDENTS CAN **LEARN, GROW, BELONG, AND THRIVE.**

ONE OF THE GREATEST STRENGTHS OF OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY IS THE DIVERSITY OF CULTURES, IDENTITIES, TRADITIONS, AND EXPERIENCES REPRESENTED BY OUR GIANT FAMILIES. OCTOBER GIVES US SEVERAL OPPORTUNITIES TO RECOGNIZE AND LEARN FROM THAT DIVERSITY WHILE REINFORCING OUR COMMITMENT TO CREATING A SCHOOL WHERE EVERY STUDENT **FEELS SEEN, VALUED, RESPECTED, AND SAFE.**

THIS MONTH, WE RECOGNIZE **FILIPINO AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH, NATIONAL BULLYING PREVENTION MONTH, ISLAMIC HERITAGE MONTH, AND LGBTQ+ HISTORY/AWARENESS MONTH.**

FILIPINO AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

OCTOBER IS FILIPINO AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH, PROVIDING AN OPPORTUNITY TO RECOGNIZE THE SIGNIFICANT HISTORY, HERITAGE, ACHIEVEMENTS, AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF FILIPINO AMERICANS.

FILIPINO AMERICAN COMMUNITIES HAVE MADE MEANINGFUL CONTRIBUTIONS TO EDUCATION, PUBLIC SERVICE, SCIENCE, MEDICINE, THE ARTS, BUSINESS, THE MILITARY, AND COUNTLESS OTHER AREAS OF AMERICAN LIFE.

AT SEQUOIA, WE ARE PROUD TO RECOGNIZE AND CELEBRATE THE FILIPINO HERITAGE REPRESENTED WITHIN OUR GIANT COMMUNITY. LEARNING ABOUT THE HISTORIES, CULTURES, AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF DIFFERENT COMMUNITIES HELPS OUR STUDENTS UNDERSTAND THAT OUR DIFFERENCES ARE AN IMPORTANT PART OF WHAT MAKES OUR SCHOOL AND OUR COUNTRY STRONGER.

💙 NATIONAL BULLYING PREVENTION MONTH

OCTOBER IS ALSO **NATIONAL BULLYING PREVENTION MONTH**, A REMINDER THAT CREATING A SAFE, WELCOMING, AND INCLUSIVE SCHOOL REQUIRES ALL OF US TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY. PREVENTING BULLYING IS NOT SIMPLY THE RESPONSIBILITY OF ADMINISTRATORS, TEACHERS, OR COUNSELORS—IT IS A SCHOOL COMMUNITY RESPONSIBILITY. EVERY GIANT HAS A ROLE TO PLAY IN MAKING SEQUOIA A PLACE WHERE STUDENTS FEEL SAFE AND SUPPORTED.

WE ENCOURAGE OUR GIANTS TO:

- **SPEAK UP** WHEN THEY SEE SOMEONE BEING MISTREATED.
- **INCLUDE OTHERS** AND AVOID INTENTIONALLY LEAVING PEOPLE OUT.
- **TREAT OTHERS WITH RESPECT**, EVEN WHEN THEY ARE DIFFERENT FROM US.
- **TELL A TRUSTED ADULT** WHEN THEY ARE CONCERNED ABOUT SOMEONE'S SAFETY OR WELL-BEING.
- **THINK BEFORE THEY SPEAK OR POST**, ESPECIALLY WHEN USING SOCIAL MEDIA OR ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION.
- **BE AN UPSTANDER RATHER THAN A BYSTANDER.**

SOMETIMES A SMALL ACT OF KINDNESS—A SEAT AT THE LUNCH TABLE, AN ENCOURAGING WORD, OR SIMPLY SAYING HELLO—CAN MAKE A MUCH BIGGER DIFFERENCE THAN WE REALIZE.

ISLAMIC HERITAGE MONTH

OCTOBER IS ALSO A TIME TO RECOGNIZE **ISLAMIC HERITAGE MONTH** AND LEARN ABOUT THE RICH HISTORY, CULTURES, TRADITIONS, ACCOMPLISHMENTS, AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF MUSLIM COMMUNITIES AROUND THE WORLD.

OUR STUDENTS COME FROM MANY DIFFERENT CULTURAL AND FAMILY BACKGROUNDS. LEARNING ABOUT ONE ANOTHER HELPS US DEVELOP GREATER UNDERSTANDING AND APPRECIATION FOR THE EXPERIENCES THAT MAKE OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY UNIQUE. WE ENCOURAGE OUR STUDENTS TO APPROACH CULTURAL LEARNING WITH **CURIOSITY, RESPECT, AND AN OPEN MIND**. WHEN WE LEARN ABOUT ONE ANOTHER, WE STRENGTHEN OUR ABILITY TO APPRECIATE THE MANY PERSPECTIVES AND EXPERIENCES THAT MAKE UP OUR SEQUOIA COMMUNITY.

LGBTQ+ HISTORY & AWARENESS

OCTOBER ALSO PROVIDES AN OPPORTUNITY TO RECOGNIZE **LGBTQ+ HISTORY, EXPERIENCES, AND CONTRIBUTIONS**. AT SEQUOIA, WE ARE COMMITTED TO MAINTAINING A SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT WHERE EVERY STUDENT IS TREATED WITH DIGNITY AND RESPECT. WE WANT OUR GIANTS TO UNDERSTAND THAT PEOPLE MAY HAVE DIFFERENT IDENTITIES, BACKGROUNDS, AND EXPERIENCES—AND THAT LEARNING ABOUT THOSE DIFFERENCES CAN HELP US BUILD GREATER UNDERSTANDING AND EMPATHY.

OUR MESSAGE IS SIMPLE:

EVERY GIANT DESERVES TO FEEL THAT THEY BELONG.

OUR WORK AROUND RESPECT, INCLUSION, AND BELONGING DOES NOT BEGIN AND END WITH A PARTICULAR MONTH. IT IS PART OF THE CULTURE WE STRIVE TO BUILD EVERY DAY AT SEQUOIA MIDDLE SCHOOL. WE WANT OUR STUDENTS TO DEVELOP NOT ONLY ACADEMICALLY, BUT ALSO IN **CONFIDENCE, CHARACTER, EMPATHY, AND CURIOSITY**. WE WANT THEM TO UNDERSTAND THAT THEY CAN LEARN FROM PEOPLE WHOSE BACKGROUNDS AND EXPERIENCES MAY BE DIFFERENT FROM THEIR OWN. AS PARENTS AND EDUCATORS, WE HAVE AN IMPORTANT OPPORTUNITY TO MODEL THESE VALUES FOR OUR YOUNG PEOPLE. WHEN WE DEMONSTRATE RESPECT, LISTEN TO DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES, AND TREAT OTHERS WITH KINDNESS, WE HELP OUR STUDENTS DEVELOP THE SKILLS THEY NEED TO BECOME RESPONSIBLE AND COMPASSIONATE MEMBERS OF THEIR COMMUNITIES.

REPORT CARDS AND RENAISSANCE PROGRAM

AS WE WELCOME IN THE MONTH OF OCTOBER, WE ARE ALSO WRAPPING UP THE FIRST QUARTER OF THE 2026-2027 ACADEMIC YEAR! WE ARE EXCITED TO SHARE SEVERAL IMPORTANT DATES AND UPDATES AS WE CELEBRATE OUR STUDENTS' ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND RECOGNIZE THEIR HARD WORK THROUGHOUT THE FIRST QUARTER.

FIRST-QUARTER REPORT CARDS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO STUDENTS DURING THEIR 7TH-PERIOD CLASS ON **MONDAY, OCTOBER 16**, FOLLOWING OUR RETURN FROM FALL BREAK. STUDENTS WHO HAVE QUALIFIED FOR AN HONOR PASS WILL ALSO RECEIVE THEIR PASSES DURING THEIR SCIENCE CLASSES ON **MONDAY, OCTOBER 16**.

RENAISSANCE PROGRAM APPLICATIONS

STUDENTS INTERESTED IN APPLYING FOR OUR RENAISSANCE PROGRAM WILL BE ABLE TO ACCESS THE APPLICATION ONLINE THROUGH PARENTSQUARE AFTER SCHOOL ON **MONDAY, OCTOBER 16**. IF YOU ARE UNSURE WHETHER YOUR STUDENT QUALIFIES, PLEASE VISIT OUR SCHOOL WEBSITE AND REFER TO THE "RENAISSANCE" SECTION FOR DETAILED ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.

RENAISSANCE APPLICATIONS ARE DUE BY **WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, AT 3:00 P.M. NO EXCEPTIONS**

ONCE APPLICATIONS HAVE BEEN REVIEWED, QUALIFYING STUDENTS WILL RECEIVE THEIR GOLD, SILVER, OR BLUE RENAISSANCE CARD DURING THEIR **7TH-PERIOD CLASS ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 26**. STUDENTS WHO HAVE QUALIFIED FOR HONOR ROLL WILL ALSO BE RECOGNIZED ON **MONDAY, OCTOBER 26**, AND WILL RECEIVE A CERTIFICATE AND STICKER CELEBRATING THEIR ACHIEVEMENT.

GOLD CARD EVENT

TO WRAP UP THE QUARTER AND CELEBRATE OUR STUDENTS' ACCOMPLISHMENTS, WE WILL BE HOSTING OUR GOLD CARD EVENT ON **THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29**, FOR STUDENTS WHO HAVE RECEIVED A GOLD CARD CERTIFICATE. MORE INFORMATION REGARDING THE GOLDEN CARD EVENT WILL BE SHARED AS WE GET CLOSER TO THE DATE.

ROTATION SCHEDULES

ON ANOTHER NOTE, OUR 6TH GRADE STUDENTS WILL BE TRANSITIONING OVER TO THEIR NEXT CLASS IN THEIR ROTATION SCHEDULE FOR 2ND QUARTER. THEY WILL RECEIVE THEIR UPDATED SCHEDULES DURING **2ND PERIOD ON OCT 13TH**, ONCE WE RETURN FROM FALL BREAK. THEIR SCHEDULES WILL ALSO UPDATE OVER IN AERIES AS WELL.



TEACHER OFFICE HOURS - MORE TIME FOR SUPPORT

WE'RE EXCITED TO SHARE THAT **BEGINNING WITH OUR NEXT OFFICE HOURS ON OCTOBER 27, TEACHERS WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM 1:15–2:35 P.M.**

WHEN WE MOVED OFFICE HOURS TO TUESDAYS THIS YEAR, WE WANTED TO CREATE A BETTER OPPORTUNITY FOR STUDENTS TO GET THE ACADEMIC SUPPORT THEY NEED **WITHOUT REQUIRING FAMILIES TO MAKE A SPECIAL CHANGE TO THEIR NORMAL TUESDAY PICK-UP SCHEDULE.** SINCE STUDENTS WOULD TYPICALLY STILL BE IN SCHOOL DURING THIS TIME, FAMILIES CAN SIMPLY PLAN FOR THEIR STUDENT TO STAY AFTER THE 1:00 P.M. DISMISSAL WHEN THEY WOULD LIKE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OFFICE HOURS.

OFFICE HOURS ARE A VALUABLE OPPORTUNITY FOR STUDENTS TO GET EXTRA SUPPORT FROM THEIR TEACHERS. STUDENTS CAN USE THIS TIME TO COMPLETE MISSING ASSIGNMENTS, PREPARE FOR OR RETAKE ASSESSMENTS, ASK QUESTIONS, GET CLARIFICATION ON CHALLENGING CONCEPTS, OR SIMPLY SPEND SOME ADDITIONAL TIME WORKING WITH THEIR TEACHER. **WE STRONGLY ENCOURAGE STUDENTS WHO COULD BENEFIT FROM EXTRA SUPPORT TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS TIME.**

TEACHERS MAY ALSO PERSONALLY INVITE STUDENTS TO ATTEND WHEN THEY FEEL ADDITIONAL SUPPORT WOULD BE ESPECIALLY BENEFICIAL. **IF YOUR STUDENT RECEIVES AN INVITATION FROM A TEACHER, WE STRONGLY ENCOURAGE THEM TO ATTEND AND TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE SUPPORT BEING OFFERED.**

OFFICE HOURS ARE **NOT MANDATORY**, AND STUDENTS WHO DO NOT NEED ADDITIONAL SUPPORT MAY LEAVE AT THE 1:00 P.M. DISMISSAL. STUDENTS WHO DO ATTEND ARE ALSO **NOT REQUIRED TO STAY UNTIL 2:35.** FAMILIES CAN CHOOSE HOW LONG THEIR STUDENT STAYS WITHIN THE OFFICE HOURS WINDOW BASED ON WHAT WORKS BEST FOR THEM.

OUR HOPE IS THAT AS MANY STUDENTS AS POSSIBLE WILL TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS OPPORTUNITY TO RECEIVE ADDITIONAL HELP **WITHIN THE TIMEFRAME OF A NORMAL SCHOOL DAY,** MAKING IT EASIER FOR STUDENTS TO GET THE SUPPORT THEY NEED WITHOUT CREATING AN ADDITIONAL AFTER-SCHOOL COMMITMENT FOR FAMILIES.

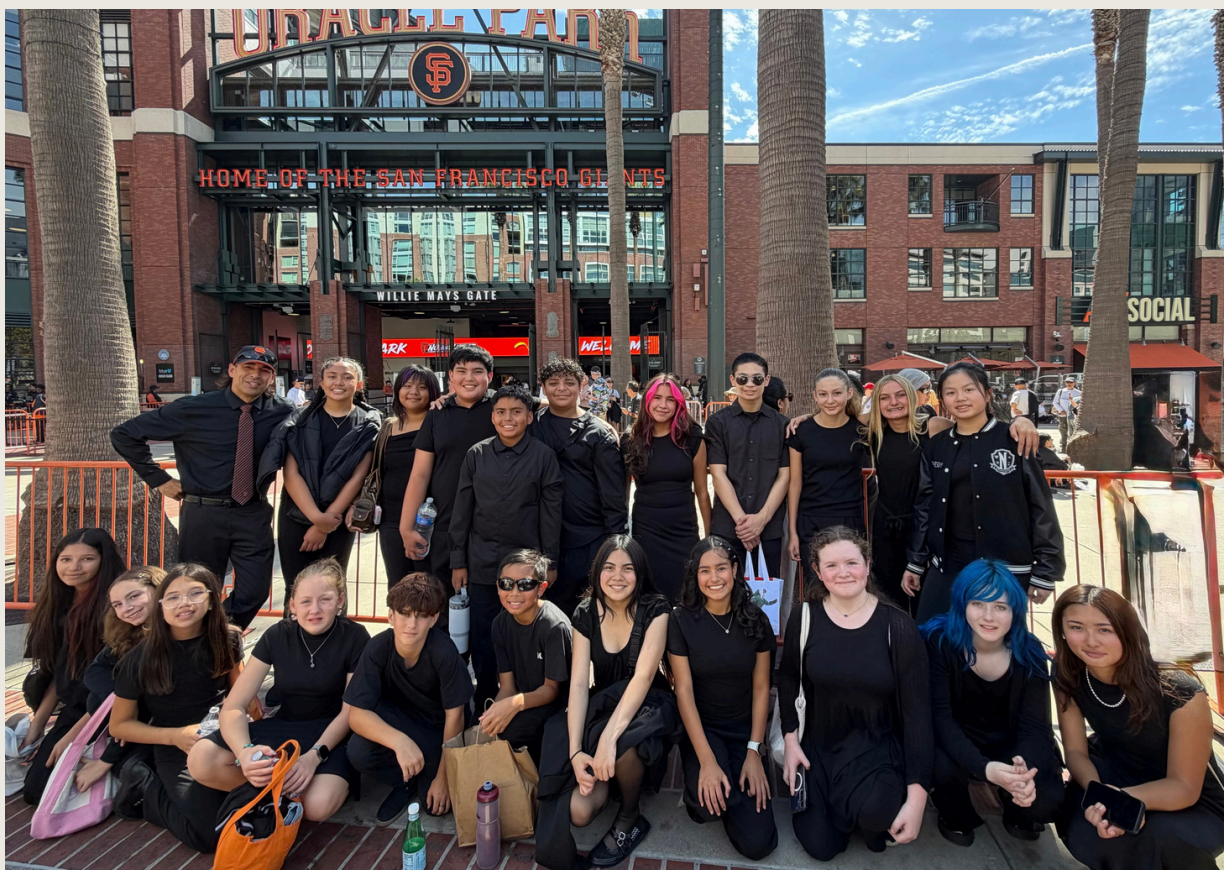
WE'RE EXCITED TO BE ABLE TO PROVIDE OUR STUDENTS WITH THIS ADDITIONAL TIME AND SUPPORT!



CELEBRATING OUR GIANTS!

OCTOBER IS ALSO A GREAT TIME TO CELEBRATE SOME OF THE WONDERFUL THINGS HAPPENING AT SEQUOIA!

I WANT TO GIVE A **HUGE SHOUT-OUT TO OUR SMS CHOIR STUDENTS** FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE OF THE **STAR-SPANGLED BANNER AT THE SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS GAME ON SEPTEMBER 9TH,** ALONGSIDE CHOIR STUDENTS FROM OTHER MDUSD SCHOOLS. OUR STUDENTS REPRESENTED SEQUOIA WITH PRIDE AND GAVE OUR COMMUNITY ANOTHER REASON TO CHEER FOR OUR GIANTS!



WE HAVE ALSO SEEN **INCREDIBLE STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN OUR AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS AND CLUBS** THIS YEAR. IT HAS BEEN EXCITING TO SEE MORE STUDENTS GETTING INVOLVED, DISCOVERING NEW INTERESTS, BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS, AND FINDING ADDITIONAL WAYS TO CONNECT WITH OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY.

A SPECIAL THANK-YOU GOES TO ALL OF OUR TEACHERS WHO HAVE STEPPED UP TO SERVE AS **NEW CLUB ADVISORS THIS YEAR**. YOUR WILLINGNESS TO PROVIDE THESE OPPORTUNITIES BEYOND THE CLASSROOM MAKES A TREMENDOUS DIFFERENCE IN THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE AT SEQUOIA.

WHETHER IT IS THROUGH ACADEMICS, ATHLETICS, PERFORMING ARTS, CLUBS, OR OTHER ACTIVITIES, WE WANT EVERY GIANT TO FIND A PLACE WHERE THEY CAN CONNECT, CONTRIBUTE, AND SHINE.

THANK YOU, GIANT FAMILIES!

THANK YOU TO OUR TEACHERS AND STAFF FOR THE TREMENDOUS WORK THEY DO EACH DAY TO SUPPORT OUR GIANTS. AND THANK YOU TO OUR FAMILIES FOR YOUR CONTINUED PARTNERSHIP AND SUPPORT.

TOGETHER, WE CAN CONTINUE BUILDING A SCHOOL COMMUNITY WHERE STUDENTS FEEL **SAFE, SUPPORTED, RESPECTED, CONNECTED, AND INSPIRED TO REACH THEIR FULL POTENTIAL**.

LET'S MAKE OCTOBER ANOTHER GREAT MONTH AT SEQUOIA!
GO GIANTS! 🌲

WITH GIANT PRIDE,

DOUGLAS CORBIN, M.A., ED.
PRINCIPAL
SEQUOIA MIDDLE SCHOOL