Issue No.3 November Edition

The Corbin Chronicles:

Dear Giant Families and Community,

As we begin the month of November, I want to take a moment to acknowledge that Sequoia Middle School resides on the ancestral land of the Bay Miwok people. It is vitally important that we not only recognize the history of the land on which we live, work, and learn, but also acknowledge and honor the Indigenous people whose connection to this land continues today.

The Bay Miwok people are not simply part of our history; they are living, thriving members of the Mount Diablo Unified School District community and the broader Bay Area. Their traditions, culture, history, and contributions continue to shape the community we are fortunate to be a part of today.

During **Native American Heritage Month**, we encourage our Giant community to take time to learn about, recognize, and celebrate the rich histories, traditions, cultures, and contributions of Native American peoples. This is also an opportunity to deepen our understanding of the experiences of Indigenous communities, honor their resilience, and recognize the importance of preserving their cultural heritage for future generations.

As an educational community, we have a responsibility to ensure that our students understand and appreciate the diverse histories and perspectives that make up our community. By learning about the people who came before us and recognizing those who continue to carry these traditions forward, we help foster a greater sense of respect, understanding, and belonging.

Let us use this month as an opportunity to learn, reflect, celebrate, and honor the Native American communities whose history and continued presence are an important part of our shared story.

November is also recognized as **Youth Homelessness Awareness Month**, an opportunity to raise awareness about the challenges faced by children and youth experiencing housing instability and homelessness in our communities.

Homelessness does not always look the way we might imagine. Some of our students and families may be experiencing temporary living arrangements, staying with friends or relatives, living in motels, shelters, or other situations that make having a stable place to call home difficult. These circumstances can create significant challenges for students, impacting their academic progress, attendance, emotional well-being, and overall sense of belonging.

At Sequoia Middle School, we believe that every student deserves to feel safe, supported, valued, and connected. We recognize that circumstances beyond a student's control should never define their potential or limit their opportunities to learn, grow, belong, and thrive.

We want our Giant Families to know that **help is available, and no family should feel that they have to navigate these challenges alone**. Our school is committed to connecting students and families with resources and support whenever possible. If your family is experiencing housing instability or you know of a family who may need assistance, please reach out to our school office. All conversations will be handled with care, compassion, and respect for family privacy.

Together, we can ensure that every Giant feels seen, supported, and that they belong.



Congressman DeSaulnier meets Sequoia MS Ocean Ambassadors



Next, I would also like to take a moment to recognize and celebrate the hard work of our sixth-grade science teachers **Elisa Mendoza and Sophie State**, who worked collaboratively with the **Ocean Ambassadors Program and Congressman DeSaulnier's office** to host a special check presentation at Sequoia Middle School on October 28th. This event was a wonderful opportunity to recognize the important work of the Ocean Ambassadors and their commitment to ocean conservation and environmental stewardship. I want to thank our sixth-grade science teachers for helping make this event possible and for creating meaningful opportunities for our students to connect classroom learning with real-world issues. Experiences like these remind us of the importance of collaboration, community partnerships, and empowering our students to become informed, engaged, and responsible stewards of our environment.

Sequoia Middle School Recognized on the 2026 California Honor Roll!

Moreover, we are incredibly proud to share that Sequoia Middle School has been recognized as one of 46 schools in Contra Costa County named to the **2026 California Honor Roll**! This recognition, presented by the Educational Results Partnership (ERP) and the Campaign for Business and Education Excellence, highlights schools demonstrating a strong commitment to student achievement and continuous improvement. Sequoia is also one of just five schools in the Mount Diablo Unified School District to receive this distinction this year!

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This recognition reflects our school's demonstration of strong student achievement, measurable progress in closing achievement gaps among historically underserved student groups, and a commitment to improving outcomes for all students. This accomplishment is a testament to the intentional work, dedication, and collaboration of our teachers, staff, students, and families.

We know that meaningful academic improvement does not happen by accident. It takes a collective commitment to high-quality instruction, a belief in the potential of every student, and a willingness to continuously reflect, learn, and grow. I want to congratulate and thank our entire Sequoia team for the important work you do every day. We should all take tremendous pride in this accomplishment!



Sequoia 8th Graders Take on Washington, D.C.!

Fall break looked a little different for a group of Sequoia 8th graders. Instead of spending the week at home, students headed to Washington, D.C., for an unforgettable week of exploring, learning, and making memories.

The group had a busy week packed with incredible experiences! Students visited the U.S. Capitol, the White House, the Supreme Court, the National Archives, and several of the Smithsonian museums. They also explored Mount Vernon, Gettysburg Battlefield, Fort McHenry, and some of our nation's most famous memorials, including the Lincoln, Vietnam, and World War II Memorials.

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One of the most special moments of the trip was participating in a wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery. This is the same ceremonial tradition in which U.S. presidents and visiting foreign leaders participate when honoring America's fallen service members. Having our students take part in this meaningful ceremony was an incredible and unforgettable experience!



From seeing the Declaration of Independence up close to walking through historic battlefields and exploring museums, students got to experience so many of the things they've learned about in the classroom firsthand.



Of course, it wasn't all history! There were plenty of laughs, lots of walking, new experiences, and memories made along the way. It was a busy week, but one filled with opportunities to learn, explore, and spend time together.We are so proud of our Giants and hope they came home with not only some great memories, but a little more appreciation for our country's history, too!

Sequoia Middle School Champions!

Last but certainly not least, I want to recognize and celebrate the hard work, dedication, and sportsmanship of our Sequoia Middle School girls' flag football teams, who competed against one another in the Pleasant Hill Recreation Middle School Girls' Flag Football Championship on October 30th.

It is exciting to see girls' athletics continuing to grow, gaining popularity, and receiving the recognition and support they deserve. I am proud of our student-athletes for their commitment, teamwork, and enthusiasm for the game. Their participation reflects the growing opportunities for young women to compete, develop their skills, build confidence, and demonstrate their athletic talents.



Congratulations to all of our Sequoia Giants!





Upcoming Important Dates

- Coffee with Mr.Corbin: Nov 6th at 8:15am-9am
- No School: Veteran's Day-Nov 11th
- Early Release Day: Nov 20th
- No School: Thanksgiving Break Nov 23rd - Nov 27th
- Early Release Day: Dec 1st