

**Creekside
Intermediate**

News from Deaf Ed!

Volume 2, Issue 1

September

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GO COBRAS!

What's Happening at Creekside?

Welcome back to another year at Creekside Intermediate! We have several returning faces as well as some new ones.

We've made it through our first week. Hopefully, students have received all their textbooks and are well aware of each class's expectations.

To better help you know the things that are going on in your student's classes, plan to attend the Open House that is set for Tuesday, September 11th at 6:30pm. This will give you an

opportunity to meet all of your student's teachers and to hear first hand the requirements for each of your student's classes.

If you haven't heard already, Mrs. Myers is no longer with us. She has accepted a Special Ed. position here at Creekside so we will still get to see her everyday! Mrs. Marin has joined us as the new deaf ed. Science teacher and she will be helping out in our co-teach classes as well. Look to page three for her column.

We hope to

have a great school year! You can look forward to receiving a newsletter at the beginning of every month to stay abreast of what's happening at Creekside!



OPEN HOUSE
9/11 @ 6:30pm

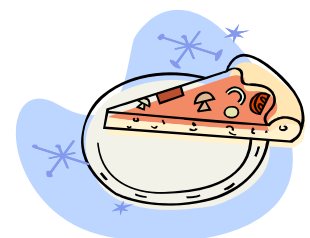
Ways to contact us:

- E-mail:
smtrayno@ccisd.net or
amarin@ccisd.net or
bporche@ccisd.net
- Phone: 281-284-3500

Pizza Party Projects

To encourage learning outside of the classroom, we are starting a new program called "Pizza Party Projects." For each deaf ed. class your student is in, they will be required to







complete one mini-project within one nine week period. Students who have completed all their projects will be rewarded with a pizza party at the end of each nine weeks.



Schedule of Events

- 3rd—Labor Day: No School
- 11th—OPEN HOUSE @ 6:30pm
- 13th—Football Game
- 16th—Dylan's Birthday
- 18th/19th—Football Game
- 25th/26th—Football Game

September 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2	3 	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11 	12	13 	14	15
16 	17	18 	19	20	21	22
23	24	25 	26	27	28	29
30						

From the Desk of Ms. Traynor

This year I have the privilege of teaching all the deaf ed. language classes.

Periods 3/4 and 6/7 will be picking up the Language! Program with Unit 10: "Time." In the beginning of this unit we will focus on vocabulary words with silent /e/, verb suffixes, homophones, different kinds of nouns, compound sentences, and using transition words to time sequence a paragraph.

Periods 2/5 will begin the new Read Well program. This program consists of phonics, reading comprehension, vocabulary and fluency.

My classes will work on either Language! Or Read Well for one period each day. The

other class period, we will be working on spelling, writing, Fairview and other mini-lessons incorporating IEP goals. Please read my syllabus that was sent home on the first day of school for more information.

My conference time this year is during first period, 9:00-9:50. If you need to contact me, please call the school at 281-284-3500 or e-mail me at smtrayno@ccisd.net.



We will be doing the Scholastic Book orders again this year. The order forms will be sent home at the beginning of each month along with the newsletters. Please do not feel obligated to purchase books. This is not a fundraiser; it is only an opportunity for the students to get some books and an effort for them to become excited about reading! :)

From the Desk of Mrs. Marin

Hello, my name is Denise Marin. This is my 6th year as a teacher for the GBCHI Coop and my 24th year as a teacher. I will now be teaching at Creekside Intermediate.

Most of my classes will be in the co-teach setting where I will accompany our students to their general education classes. I am looking forward to a wonderful year here at Creekside with this wonderful group of students and the supportive, friendly staff.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions or concerns. Since I travel to several classrooms, the easiest way to reach me is by email at amarin@ccisd.net. You can also call the school and leave a message for me. In either case, I will get back with you at the earliest opportunity.



From the Desk of Mr. Porche

Welcome to the new school year, it is great seeing the new faces and same old faces. I can tell a lot has changed over the summer. For this year, I will continue teaching Math and Social Studies. The first week of school I will explain the rules of the classroom, supplies the student needs, and what the goals are for this year.

Math – the students will review several materials to refresh their knowledge and will start learning new mathematical concepts while applying what they have previously learned. It will be a scaffolding process like building blocks; one block is a foundation

for more complex math. The project that will be included in math will be a fun opportunity to apply their mathematical skills with hands on work. Math homework will be given every Tuesday and Wednesday and tests will be given every other week.

Social Studies – the students will start learning about Texas History and the timelines leading from the pre-statehood to today. The students will learn several famous people that have contributed to the success of Texas and will be doing several projects, which will consist of bibliographies or investigative jour-

nalism. With the end result of the project, the students will learn how to use power-point presentations and present their material to the class. Social Studies homework will be given every Thursday and tests will be given every other week.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to email me at bporche@ccisd.net.

Hope you have a great year!



Moving Up to Middle School

Brought to you by National PTA

Are They Kids or Teens?

Do you remember what it was like to leave your elementary school behind? Some kids are psyched; some are scared. By being aware of the changes at school and the changes within your child, you can help make this transition to his new school go smoothly.

You may have noticed that as your kids reach adolescence, they seem more like adults every day. Don't be fooled! "Your child probably needs you more now than at any other time," says Jan Stocklinski of the Yale Child Study Center. "Many parents see their child's thrust for independence and back away," Stocklinski says. This decrease in parent involvement is a mistake. The move to middle school is an opportunity for your child to grow. While you want to help your child prepare for this challenge, you also want to push him to be able to negotiate things for themselves. The involvement needed from middle-school parents is different than before. It involves supporting your child's sense of independence.

Changes at School

The structure and environment of a middle school demands a higher level of independence than elementary school. Your child is going from a protected environment to one where he must be more self-reliant. This change can be scary for you both.

Middle-school students stay together for most of the day and move from class to class for different subjects with different teachers. If your child is attending junior high, he'll move from class to class by himself rather than in a group. In both cases, students must remember their schedules and organize their belongings with minimal help from others.

"The expectations increase in middle school," says Sheila Jackson, director of the Comer School Development Program and Special Programs for the Prince Georges County, Maryland, School District. "Kids are expected to manage six or seven classes; they're expected to manage the homework load." Often, they must deal with a significant change in the size of the school, too.

Your child may worry about being able to open his combination lock, grab his books, and still make it to class on time. Judy Bippert, a professor of education at San Diego State University says this is a typical concern. Kids worry that they're not ready for the added responsibilities that this year brings.

Get to Know the Teachers

Your child is going through changes, and so will you. Your relationship with your child's school also changes at this time. In elementary school, your child probably spent most of the day in one classroom with one teacher. The teachers have 20-30 students on average who they get to know fairly well. In middle school, while there may be a "homeroom teacher," students see 4 or 5 teachers a day -- and each teacher may see more than 100 students each day.

To keep track of what's going on at school, get to know the administration and teachers. Take an active part in getting to know the teachers who are in daily contact with your child, and stay in touch. Get a copy of the school calendar, class outlines, and advance homework schedules, if possible, and make certain you're getting your child's report cards.

Pester Her!

What's the best way to stay in touch with your kids during this time? Communication is the key to a great transition. "Keep the communication flow open," Sheila Jackson says. "Over dinner or breakfast, ask questions like 'What did you do that was interesting today?'" Encourage your child to describe what she did at school and with her friends. A good technique is to ask open-ended questions, which require more in-depth answers than "yes," "no," or the ever-popular "nothing."

Remember that as grown up as your child may seem, she still needs your support. Take your cue from her, but keep in mind that her pushing you away is a normal part of adolescence. What she really wants -- and needs -- is for you to stay involved.

Excerpted from "Moving to the Middle," published in National PTA's *Our Children* magazine.