

Home Connection  
Friday, September 16, 2016  
Brewer y Trail

Dear Families,

It's starting to cool off! While any jacket can be worn outside, our uniform policy means that only CIS uniform sweatshirts can be worn inside. We try to keep the temperature pleasant, but your student may still want to consider bringing a CIS sweatshirt or wearing a long sleeved shirt under their uniform. For information about ordering uniform sweatshirts, please see [corralesis.org](http://corralesis.org).

We would like to thank MYP Student Isabel Bulgrin and her service dog, Chloe, for coming to talk to 2<sup>nd</sup> grade today. Students learned a lot about how service animals help individuals in our communities, as well as how she trains her own service dog. Thanks!

Thanks also to JJ Arnold for visiting our class to talk about his work as a firefighter, and how firefighters work to improve the lives of community members. We enjoyed learning about your job, and learning what to do if there is a fire in our homes.

**CD players or headphones wanted!** Mrs. Trail's class has been lucky enough to acquire some books on CD, and we'd love to create a listening center! If you have a CD player or basic headphones that aren't being used at home, we'd be grateful of a loan or donation. Please email Mrs. Trail at [trailc@corralesis.org](mailto:trailc@corralesis.org) Thanks!

**2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Show and Tell:** Sharleene, LaShawntie, and Ayoka will be sharing (and teaching) us about something next Friday, September 23. This week, we got to learn about some of the things a surgeon does (Cyrus), the parts of a violin and a demonstration (Fenn), and about firefighters (Ella). Great job, kids!

**Balloon Fiesta and CIS Balloon Day:** The cooler temperatures mean Balloon Fiesta is right around the corner! Due to our proximity to Balloon Fiesta Park, traffic may affect your driving time/route. CIS sent home special passes to each family this week (a neon green paper) to be displayed on your dash during the Balloon Fiesta, which will permit you to access the roads around the school should they be temporary closed to through-traffic. If your family has not received one, please inquire at the front desk.

CIS Balloon Day will be on October 4<sup>th</sup> from 6:45am to 9:00am. Join us in watching the morning ascension from the school grounds, and enjoy a burrito and cocoa! At 7:50, students will head inside with their teachers. From 8:00 – 9:00am we invite families to join us in balloon related activities in the classroom. Parents are welcome to circulate between their children's classroom, but we ask that students remain with their own teachers. After 9:00am, each classroom will resume their normal Wednesday schedule.

**I.B. Curriculum Family Night:** Please join us on Thursday, October 5<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 to 6:30 to learn all about what the I.B. program will look like in your child's classroom this year! Maestras Brewer and Trail will present together (room 115 – Trail), and will hold 2 sessions – one from 5:30 to 5:55, and one from 6:00 to 6:25.

**Spelling and Vocabulary:** We understand there is some confusion about quiz dates for Spanish and English words. However, because spelling and vocabulary are integrated into our reading, writing, and IB, the quiz dates can vary. Research suggests that teaching spelling in isolation is not an effective way of promoting vocabulary growth or even ensuring correct spelling will occur outside of the quiz. In Spanish and English, vocabulary and spelling patterns will be practiced in class (during word study and reading), will be assessed via a traditional quiz, but will also be applied and assessed during the writing occurring throughout the week. Only through application can we be sure that students understand (or don't) a particular term or spelling pattern.

Although this is a lot more for parents and teachers to keep track of, this is a more effective way of providing spelling and vocabulary instruction. It also supports reading comprehension and fluency in both languages. We estimate children will take about 2 weeks to practice and demonstrate a grasp on those patterns. Any Spanish words posted on the class site are still "active" - need to be studied. They will be removed from the website and replaced when students demonstrate satisfactory skill. Both grades will be studying the same pattern - /k/ - at different levels of complexity. **3rd grade has new words posted today.**

English words will continue to be delivered via hardcopy in their backpacks. Students have individualized word lists, and are required to write the date of their quiz at the top of the page before they take them home for study.

**Celebrate Mexican Independence:** In keeping with our central idea (The actions of individual citizens can improve our communities and promote rights around the world), students in Maestra Brewer's class have been learning about Mexican Independence. Students in 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> will be taking home a comprehension passage about Mexican Independence. 2<sup>nd</sup> should complete this activity with a parent. We have also posted two videos about this holiday on our class google site, [here!](#)

**6 Week Progress Reports:** Progress Reports for PYP will be going home on Monday, September 19<sup>th</sup>. We are including your child's Lexile level, as assessed by iStation (our short-cycle reading assessment). We hope this information will help you and your child chose a book at their own independent reading level. Scholastic has a helpful search function for looking for books by Lexile and genre. [Here.](#)

Have a great weekend!

Maestras Brewer y Trail

[sites.google.com/a/corralesis.org/cis2-3/](https://sites.google.com/a/corralesis.org/cis2-3/)