

Home Connection  
Friday, August 11, 2017  
Cortes y Trail



Dear Families,

**Welcome back!** We're so excited to begin a new school year! We are not only welcoming new second graders, and few new third graders, but also a new Spanish language teacher - Maestra Marina! Maestra Marina is an experienced and energetic educator, and will be providing terrific learning opportunities to our students this year.

In addition to a new teacher, we will be joined by Mrs. Rivenbark, who will be subbing for me (Mrs. Trail) during my maternity leave (baby Simon was born in June and is doing very well). I'll return at the end of September/beginning of October. Mrs. R is well-known to CIS kids, and subbed for both Ms. Nicole and I last year. I have no doubt she'll do an excellent job teaching our first unit. Please keep in mind that while I will be in frequent communication with Mrs. R during my leave, it may take me a couple of days to answer your emails if you have specific concerns about something occurring in class. You are *always* welcome to email, however, or contact the front desk.

**Start and End-of-day:** Our pick up and drop off routines will remain the same this year - with parents driving through parking lot to the west side of the MPR to drop off or pick up students. Please do not park your cars in this area - we will do our best to get your kiddoes out to you promptly so you never need to leave your vehicle unattended. Drop off times are between 7:30 and 8:00am. ***Pick up times have changed: 2nd and 3rd will be picked up between 3:15 and 3:30.***

**Uniform Policy:** The newly updated Family Handbook is available this year! Regarding our school uniform policy, we had one clarifying statement (for PYP students ONLY) - Leggings ARE permitted, but only if worn under a skirt (in lieu of tights). They must be in school colors (blue, forest green, or white), no prints. If you have any questions about this, or about any other school policy outlined in the handbook, please contact Mr. Tolley at [tolleym@corralesis.org](mailto:tolleym@corralesis.org).

**Our first unit:** Our first unit this year is Who We Are: Healthy Me! We will be exploring how our choices contribute to a healthy body, and how the systems in our body work together to keep us alive. We'd love to have guest speakers for this unit - if you're a doctor, nurse, dentist, dietician, fitness instructor, etc., our kids could learn a lot from you. Please email me if you'd be willing to talk to our 2nd and 3rd graders about your area of expertise.

A "fridge poster" will be going home at the end of next week. This poster is a summary of our six-week unit, and outlines our inquiry and what elements of the IB program will be integrated into our learning. We encourage families to keep this posted at home throughout the unit as a conversation starter, or as a place to record how your child is connecting to our unit at home.

**Lunches:** Hot lunches will be supplied this year by APS catering. You can pay for your child's lunches, apply for free/reduced lunches, and look at the month's menu at the [corralesis.org](http://corralesis.org) website: <http://corralesis.org/for-parents/order-hot-lunch/> Please remember if you qualify for free/reduced price lunches, you do still need to put in the order each month to ensure enough meals are delivered to the school.

**Supplies:** Students can bring their supplies in on the first day of school. Second graders should bring them to Maestra Marina's classroom, and third graders should bring them to Mrs. Trail's classroom. To help save time, we'd appreciate it if you could have your child's name on their notebooks and folders (bonus points if you can sharpen the pencils before they come to school!). Everything else will be for community use.

"Bulky supplies" - e.g., the items that are too large to easily store in our classrooms (tissue boxes, paper towels, reams of paper, etc.) - are still needed this year. We have an online sign-up here: <https://sites.google.com/a/corralesis.org/cis2-3/bulky-supply-list> This allows parents to volunteer to donate a couple of vital items each month, and lets us safely store them!

**Communications:** Maestra Marina and I both believe clear and consistent communication with families is vital to a healthy classroom environment. In addition to the fridge poster summary of our unit, you can also check out our year-long planner in the hallway, if you're curious about what standards and IB traits are being explored, or how students learning will be assessed.

We will continue to use our classroom google site to post weekly newsletters, important project information (when applicable), supply lists, educational websites, or whatever else needs to be accessible to everyone. <https://sites.google.com/a/corralesis.org/cis2-3/> Newsletters will also be emailed to parents each week (so please make sure to notify us of any email changes). For school-wide news, please make sure to check [www.corralesis.org](http://www.corralesis.org) for updates (the calendar is particularly helpful).

We will make every effort to respond to emails in a timely manner. However, please be aware that emails sent after 3:30pm may not be answered until the next day. If there is an urgent matter, please call the front desk.

As always, thank you for your support and for entrusting your students to us. It's going to be a fabulous year!

Sincerely,

Christi Trail  
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