

HARBOUR ♥ herald

-A Ship is Safe in Harbour-

From Mr. Hyska and Ms. Denniston

September 9th, 2025



Highlights

It has been an incredible start to our school year! These students have come together and friendships are sparking! The energy is high and the excitement is real. It was a fun first week with our Harbournitos. Some highlights include...

- Learning the new morning routine like doing attendance, morning work centers, and cleaning up for morning meeting.
 - Having a bit of fun with games like Coconut, Statues in the Garden, and DANCE PARTIES!
 - Reflecting on ourselves and summer as we created self portraits, start our first writing samples, and doing some verbal shares!
 - Read The Princess and the Peanut Allergy and learned about taking care of each other, especially with allergies for peanuts and beyond.
 - Worked on our O-Fish-ally Friends friendship project where we learned more about each other!
- We look forward to an exciting start to the year!

PowerSchool (Open House) Forms

Please be sure that you've logged in to PowerSchool to complete all the Open House forms for this year and to make sure your contact information is correct and up-to-date. If you have issues logging in, you can contact Mrs. Dickerson at edickerson@csaschool.org directly :)

Contact us – Mr. Hyska: ghyska@csaschool.org and Ms. Denniston rdenniston@csaschool.org

Important Dates

- 9/8 - Parent Council Meeting at CSAMS at 6:00
- 9/11 – CSA and Charyl's birthday
- 9/12 - Spirit Wear Day - Beach Theme shirts or CSA shirts
- 9/17 – Picture Day
- 9/21- Picture Day Make-up (NOT for retakes. A separate retake day will be scheduled later in the fall)
- 9/21- Annual CSA Color Run at Settler's Park
- 9/26- Rollerama
- 10/27 - Field Trip to Indian Springs

Navigator News

Welcome to our first newsletter! We will post monthly newsletters via the Tuesday Times the first week of each month. Check back here each month for updates and a quick glance at our month ahead. We will email reminders and more classroom specific information to you as needed. Be sure that both teacher emails are saved to your contacts so that you are receiving classroom communications regularly. When contacting classroom teachers, please also be sure to include BOTH on all emails in order to help facilitate a smooth and more streamlined mode of communication.

Check Your Email!

We have sent a few classroom emails since just before school. Please check to make sure you received it. Typically it would have HARBOUR in the subject line. If you did not or would like to make changes to the email on file - please let us know as we use emails frequently.

Emailing Teachers

Please be sure to include **both** teachers on email contacts. This helps ensure messages are received and responded to in a timely manner. Our emails are always listed in the newsletter, in addition to our phone number and classroom ext.



Toys and Sharing

Reminder - students should NOT be bringing any personal items like toys or Pokemon cards to school (with some exceptions including SEP and pre-arranged plans). The only approved time is when they are selected as Star of the Week and can bring 1-2 items from home to share. All other daily shares are verbal only. Thank you for your support with this!

Library Volunteers

CSA is looking for volunteers to help run library check-out for classes. This would be a weekly commitment with a morning or afternoon shift. Please email Mrs. Erica Sikma at esikma@csaschool.org for more information!

Character Corner

In this section of our newsletter, we will share information regarding our character education program including character traits, social protocols, emotional language, and related concepts like manners and kind acts. Although we might highlight specific concepts here, we will continue to discuss and practice all components naturally throughout the year. We encourage you to use these ideas and language at home in order to help reinforce and connect it to the classroom!

This month, we'll introduce the six character traits—Respect, Kindness, Responsibility, Getting Along, Work Ethic, and Optimism—during activities like morning meetings and read-alouds. These traits are part of the CSA character program, which helps students focus on qualities that foster positive relationships and develop work skills. In addition, we're practicing social protocols such as introducing yourself, getting someone's attention, and following directions the first time they're given. For example, in the first few weeks, we will emphasize the importance of following directions, incorporating this into our daily routines, morning meetings, and family gatherings. Mastering this protocol is essential for building a strong foundation in work ethic, responsibility, and respect. Students will engage in role-playing to explore both examples and non-examples of following directions, and we'll find connections in our read-alouds. These protocols will guide students as they adapt to new classrooms, friendships, and routines.

Through these program elements, we aim to support CSA's mission of creating a learning environment that allows students to safely grow and learn. To promote this, each classroom includes multiple "safe zones"—designated areas where students can go during moments of big emotions, challenging situations, or reflection. The purpose of these zones is to give students space to process their feelings while staying connected to the classroom community. It's important to note that these are not punishment areas or "time outs." Instead, they empower students to pause, reflect on what may have caused their feelings, and consider ways to move forward. This space is designed to foster self-regulation and a place where students can have the time and space they need to regroup and be ready to learn. While we encourage students to use these areas independently, we might also guide them to spend time there as they learn when and why it could be helpful, and there may be more initial adult guidance with these spaces as students learn how to navigate changes, feelings, and transitions. Eventually, students will learn how to use these spaces independently and Safe Zone visits become quick and lead students back to learning tasks all on their own. We always check in and support each student according to their individual needs to help them return to the group successfully.

Feel free to ask your child about their understanding of the safe zone and whether they've used it recently—it might

Contact us via phone at 810-632-2200 and ask for the Harbour classroom (ext. 147)

Field Trip Information

Our first field trip is coming up in October! We are traveling to Indian Springs Metropark. Permission slips with specific details and cost will be coming home soon in Tuesday folders. The date will be October 27th for Harbour. Chaperone spaces may be limited. We will utilize a sign up interest form for chaperones and if interest exceeds capacity, we will do a lottery to select chaperones and then confirm via email. Please be on the lookout for more information coming home soon in Tuesday folders.



Uniform Policy Reminder

As an integral piece of our school's philosophy, CSA has crafted a uniform policy that aims to promote a safe learning environment. As a school-wide initiative, we are sending out some uniform reminders. Please take some time to review the reminders below and make any adjustments needed. Please see the CSA Family Handbook for the full description of the uniform policy. If you have questions, we are happy to provide guidance, or you can always follow up with Leadership directly. Thank you for helping to maintain a core piece of CSA's mission. :-)

- Shirts: Solid colors in white, light blue, or red. Undershirts must be solid white. Polo shirts do need to bear the CSA elementary logo.
- Socks/Tights: Must be solid white or solid navy blue.
- Shoes: Dress shoes are allowed in the following solid colors: brown, navy, or black. Tennis shoes are allowed in the following solid colors: black, white, navy, and grey. Laces must match listed colors as well.
- Sweaters/Cardigans/Vests: Must be solid navy blue.
- Hair accessories: Must be red, light blue, navy blue, white, brown, or black.
- Leggings are not permitted except as extra layers for recess or carpool time. Pants must be navy blue.
- ***NEW* CSA Crew Neck Sweatshirts: **Red crewneck sweatshirts with a CSA logo are available for purchase at the Admissions Office. This is the only uniform sweatshirt option. Other CSA themed sweatshirts are allowed only for designated spirit wear days.**

About Academics

Here are some highlights in the skills our learners are working on this month in our academic workshops:

Reading: Establishing Reading Workshop, working on 3 ways to read a book (pictures, pictures and words, words only), connecting with familiar books, building reading stamina

Math: Establishing Math Workshop and working on math workstations and rotating through activities, reviewing and then growing number sense, addition and subtraction strategies, and for some learners, we may work through beginning repeated addition through arrays.

Writing: Establishing Writing Workshop, planning stories, using authors as mentors to help get ideas for what to write, and building phonetic spelling skills relative to writing experience

Contact us – Mr. Hyska: ghyska@csaschool.org AND Ms. Denniston: rdenniston@csaschool.org



Make sure to check out the Google Photos link for even more pictures now and throughout the year!