

Irrawaddy Inquirer

"ONCE A WADDLE, ALWAYS A WADDLE"

From Mrs. Ritter and Ms. Vallecorse

September 2015

Contact Us - Mrs. Ritter: lrutter@csaschool.org AND Ms. Vallecorse svallecorse@csaschool.org

REMINDER: When emailing with the teachers, please make sure to add both of them into the email.

Important Dates

September 11th - CSA & Charyl's Birthdays!
September 12th - Dive into a Good Book Spiritwear
September 17th - Picture Day
September 19th - Scholastic Book Orders Due
September 21st - Color Run at Settler's Park-12:30
September 26th - CSA Spiritwear Day
September 26th - Rollerama - 1:00 to 4:00



Welcome Back!

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 on the front page of this newsletter, in addition to our school phone number and classroom extension.

Contact Information:

lrutter@csaschool.org

svallecorse@csaschool.org

(810)632-2200 x 108

Amazon Wish List

Looking to donate to our classroom?

Follow the QR code to view items to donate to the Irrawaddy learning family. Any donation large or small is very much appreciated! All orders

will ship directly to the school. The wish list will be updated throughout the school year. Thanks for all of your support!



Upcoming Learning Targets

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 experiences

Classroom Volunteers

It's that time of year again! The Irrawaddy classroom is looking for classroom volunteers! If you are interested in volunteering, please fill out the Parent Volunteer form that was out at Open House (this was also sent home in this weeks Tuesday Folder.) You must also submit a volunteer form to the office with a copy of your id.

Toys

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 items from home to share. All other daily shares are verbal only. Thank you for your support with this!

Navigator News

PowerSchool 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 Ms. Dickerson @ edickerson@csaschool.org directly. Students must have their library form turned in before they are able to check out a book during their library enhancement. Please make sure to fill this out as you are completing your forms.

Library Volunteers

We are 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!

Scholastic Book Order

Our very first Scholastic book order is due on Friday, September 19th! Last year during this time, we raised over 10,000 bonus points to help get the classroom new books and supplies. If you plan on only ordering once this year - do it for this month because this is when the rewards are maximized for the classroom! If each family ordered \$5 worth of books, we would reach the highest reward tier and earn 10,000 bonus points which is equal to almost 100 free books for our classroom! Thank you for helping our class and also encouraging your child to read at home!

[Scholastic Book Club](#)

Uniform Policy

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.

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.

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.





Field Trip

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. 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.

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 spark some insightful and impactful conversations!

"Even if it makes others uncomfortable, I will love who I am" – Janelle Monae