

Educational Excellence:

- ✓ All day kindergarten
- ✓ Transitional Kindergarten (TK)
- ✓ Transitional Core Classes for 6th grade & iPads
- ✓ SLMS Elective Wheel
- ✓ iPods for 3rd grade
- ✓ No employee lay-offs
- ✓ Increased Library hours
- ✓ Gaming Lab
- ✓ Small Class Sizes
- ✓ New Technology Equipment for students
- ✓ Expanded programs for art, PE, foreign language and music
- ✓ Expanded afterschool programs
- ✓ Counseling services for students and families
- ✓ Intramural program
- ✓ Technology pathways program

We welcome your questions and suggestions as we partner to prepare our students for the 21st Century.

Reaching Out To Our Community

Coast Unified School District endeavors to be an innovative institution that meets the changing needs of the students and families it serves. As a result, we have implemented new programs and partnered with several community entities to provide more opportunities for all of our students and families, so our children receive the top-notch education they deserve.

This year marks the inaugural year for the **Transitional Kindergarten** program in CUSD, one of two programs designed to provide children with a jump-start to their educational experience. Transitional Kindergarten (TK) is a result of the Kindergarten Readiness Act, designed to be implemented in districts throughout California in the fall of 2012. However, based on teacher recommendations and parent requests, CUSD opted to initiate the program one year earlier.

TK provides unparalleled opportunity to ensure young learners are better prepared to succeed in the primary grades and beyond. The program is a two-year kindergarten experience for younger kindergarteners who could benefit from enriching structured engagement, socialization and academic literacy instruction. Taught by veteran teacher, Jan Boughter, 19 students are currently enrolled and reaping the benefits of this much needed program.

The **Head Start Pre-school Program** has a 40-year tradition of increasing the school readiness of young children in low-income families. The Community Action Partnership of SLO County partners with CUSD to operate Cambria's Head Start program. Children who attend the all-day preschool participate in a variety of educational activities designed

to engage, teach and encourage children of all ability levels. They also receive free medical and dental care, enjoy healthy meals and snacks, and play indoors and outdoors in a safe, supervised setting.

Cambria's Head Start preschool has the longest waiting list for enrollment in the area. Currently, 24 students participate in the program, though based on need, plans to increase enrollment to 42 are in the works for next year. Debbie Welch, Head Start Program

Director, works directly with the CUSD Board of Trustees and Superintendent Adams to provide this valuable program for our community. Both of these student readiness programs are housed at the District Office facility, allowing the Kindergarten classes at Cambria Grammar School to extend to full-day programs, thus accomplishing another goal

Coast is focused on providing many opportunities for families to learn more about the services available to them ...

2011 - 2012

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Tomorrow's Leaders - Today

of the district.

Parent involvement is one of the most powerful components to a child's successful educational experience. With this in mind, Coast is focused on providing many opportunities for families to learn more about the services available to them and offer courses for parents to hone their skills.

In October, Coast Unified's family advocate, Maria Mendoza, partnered with The Link, a non-profit organization that links community members with available services and support, to sponsor a **Resource Fair** for local families. Over 75 people attended to learn about the variety of county services available to families in the areas of health, counseling, parenting, and food distribution.

"...we are committed to providing as many services and opportunities as possible to most effectively meet the changing needs of our students and families."

CUSD continues to offer free parenting classes based on the popular national programs, **Active Parenting** and **Positive Discipline**, which emphasize creating respectful, positive relationships in homes and schools. Maria Mendoza and Shelley Triggs skillfully guide parents in becoming both firm and kind, so that any child, whether a toddler or teen, can learn creative communication and cooperation skills and practice self-discipline with no loss of dignity. These bilingual parenting classes are available for parents and caregivers of children ages 5 and up and are offered several times throughout the school year. Please call 927.7148 for more information.

CUSD will soon sponsor a 10-week parent leadership class titled **Together We Will: A Parent-Shared Leadership Training Academy**. These sessions will

empower parents to advocate on behalf of their families and become change agents for their children. Currently, there is no organized mechanism in the county to assure that parents have the tools and knowledge they need to be informed advocates for their children or that various agencies even understand the importance of parental involvement. Graduates of **Together We Will** will be equipped to be effective members on

planning teams for family support services and county-wide policy-setting forums. "Cambria is attracting more Spanish-speaking families that need representation. Our aim is to educate both our English and Spanish-speaking parents at the local level so they can be knowledgeable participants and active decision-makers within local agencies such as PTAs and booster clubs as well as in county and state-wide agencies," said Cambria Grammar School Principal, Bob Watt, who is spearheading the project. More information on this program will be available in early 2012.

When Superintendent Adams was asked about Coast's focus on expanding programs and opportunities for students and families, he replied, "A strong school district is sensitive and responsive to its clientele's needs; we are committed to providing as many services and opportunities as possible to most effectively meet the changing needs of our students and families."