9W EST CONTRA COSTA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

**Collins Elementary School**

1224 Pinole Valley Road

Pinole, CA 94564

Telephone: (510)231-1446

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Denise Steen, Principal

November 20, 2019

Dear Collins’ Families,

I’m writing my December letter to you early as next week is Thanksgiving Break. By the time we return on December 2nd, we will have only three weeks before we break again for the holidays and it will be a new year!

Before I go over the calendar for the next month and a half, there are a couple of pieces of business that must be taken care of first. First, I’m still looking for volunteers to support our arrival and dismissal times. There are so many cars coming in at the same time and of course, you are all anxious to drop off and pick up your kiddos. Tempers can flare and frustrations can grow when there is a back up. I hope you have noticed that there are now two new DO NOT PARK signs that are in the front of the turn around. I ask you, please, do not leave your vehicle and do not sit and wait for upper grade students to come out. This is for the most part, the problem. Cars idling in this area keeps others from being about to swing through and pick up their little ones. We have supervision in the front of the school so that your little ones can wait for their older brothers and sisters and you can pick up all your children at once. Secondly, PLEASE be patient. There is no where for cars to go if the light is red. Honking your horn, losing your temper and getting frustrated do not solve the problem. Waiting your turn and taking your time to allow the buses and others to go will ease the process. I’m also asking that you not drive to the back of the school to drop off and pick up your child. There is little room or visual access to the students around the cars and business. This area is for staff and special education parents and volunteer parents only. And lastly, please do not wave your child to your car in the middle of the stopped cars. Please wait until you can pull up to the front and allow the student to get in safely. We are in this together and your cooperation is most important to keep all the students safe.

Last month, I asked for volunteers to be a part of the School Site Council (SSC). Thank you to the parents who have volunteered. Attached to this letter is a ballot so that we can have a vote on the seats that are empty and make sure your voice is heard. If you can get them back to me by Friday, we can call a meeting of the members and get our progress monitoring and budgets completed for this school year. Thank you for your volunteerism!

Report cards will be going home on Friday, November 22. That day is a minimum day. We will also have our Awards Assembly on that Friday at 9 and 10:30. There is NO SCHOOL Monday, November 25 - the 29th for Thanksgiving break. When we return to school it will be December and our Winter Performance has been pushed back to Thursday, December 19th. We were unable to secure a larger venue, both Pinole Middle and Pinole Valley have concerts, plays and their own performances that are taking all the available evenings. Therefore we will be holding the event here at Collins. It will be jam-packed, but wonderful. There will be a performance on Wednesday during the day and again on that next Thursday evening. There is a save the date flyer in the blue folder that will let you know which times and what grades will be performing. Please pay close attention and another flyer will go out after our return from Thanksgiving break. We are excited to showcase our talented students. We are also already looking forward to Santa’s Visit on Friday, December 20, the last day of the 2019 school year. Santa will be here at 10 AM to visit all the classes and take some pictures. That Friday is also a minimum day. There is NO SCHOOL December 23 - January 3 for our holiday break. We are back to school on Monday, January 6th.

As always, my door is open. I am a phone call or an email away if you have any questions, concerns or comments. Please let me know how we can best support the students of Collins, Pinole and the district.

Kindness Matters!

Denise L. Steen

Principal, Collins Elementary School

West Contra Costa Unified School District

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 COLLINS ELEMENTARY

SCHOOL SITE COUNCIL

BALLOT

PLEASE VOTE FOR FIRST (1) CHOICE AND (2) SECOND CHOICE. Winners will be notified.

KIMBERLY PALMER Parent of a Third Grader \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

BERNADETTE BUTLER Parent of a First and Third Graders \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

EDLIN CARMONA Parent of a Fourth Grader \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Current members with time remaining on their terms:

Sumi Wong, Parent of a Kinder and Fourth grader

Dave Olsen, Parent of two Fourth Graders

Madeline Richardson, Parent of a Sixth Grader

Elections for those positions will be held in May of 2020 for the 2020-2021 school year.

Thank you for your support.