

# COUGAR CONNECTION

## CLARA J. KING ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

August 2018

### Mark Your Calendar!

#### Talks with Teschke

Tuesday, August 21

8:15-9:15 a.m.

Library

#### Back-to-School Night

Thursday, August 23

6:00-7:15 p.m.

#### Flag Ceremony

Thursday, August 30

8:00 a.m.

Blacktop behind office

#### APEX Fun Run

Thursday, August 30

9:00-10:30 a.m.

School field

### Have Questions?

#### Principal

✉ [Jacki Teschke](mailto:Jacki.Teschke@clarkingschools.org)

(714) 220-6980 x2151

#### Administrative Assistant

✉ [Vickie Ohlman](mailto:Vickie.Ohlman@clarkingschools.org)

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#### Clara J. King Elementary School

8710 Moody Street

Cypress, CA 90630

[Website](http://www.clarkingschools.org)

#### Cypress School District

9470 Moody Street

Cypress CA 90630

(714) 220-6900

[Website](http://www.cypress.k12.ca.us)

### Principal's Message

Welcome to a new year at King School. The teachers, support staff, and I will all work diligently to make this the best year in school that your children have ever had, one in which they achieve to their maximum potential—academically, socially, and emotionally. We will do a number of things to ensure that this happens. We will teach our students how to think critically and solve problems while explaining their thinking, because verbalizing builds even higher thinking skills. This will equip them to be successful in the 21st century.

I am extremely pleased with the educational environment in which our students learn, and I am proud of the effort that our students exhibit each day. It is clear to anyone who is familiar with the King program that King is an outstanding school. This is evidenced by the professionalism, enthusiasm, positive attitude, and knowledge of effective instruction by the teaching and support staff as well as the conscious effort by all staff to ensure that King is a safe school for everyone.

Our goal at King is not only to continue to provide an outstanding program, but to continue to improve while remaining focused on meeting the needs of every student. We have a process in place at King School that enables us to do this. We are working continually to be a learning community, and we are working together as a school staff to help all our students learn through rigorous content and research-based instructional strategies. We are also going to help students learn to cooperate and collaborate with others and to be able to adapt to change and be comfortable with it. Additionally, through our curriculum we are going to help students learn to solve problems and develop critical thinking skills--all very important skills for the future.

Educating a child requires a partnership between school, home, and community. We will all work together and support each other to ensure that your child has the best possible educational experience. Begin by helping us teach your children to be respectful of others, of themselves, and of their school. Also, please help us create a community of learners at King School by supporting our school program and ensuring that your child comes to school every day. Any child who grows to adulthood and is able to think and learn and collaborate with others while retaining a basic set of values will succeed in the world of tomorrow. We wish your children a happy and successful school year and look forward to this collaborative effort we are making together.

As your principal, you can expect that I will be visible and accessible. I will reach out and ask for your support, ideas, suggestions, and involvement. I will encourage you to join our school family where preparing children for the 21st century is our number one priority. Through teamwork, open communication, and a dedication to continuous improvement, King School is a place where children love to learn and families love to visit.

Jacki Teschke  
Principal

## School Safety

The safety and well-being of our students and staff is a top priority in the Cypress School District. To ensure a safe and secure learning environment:

- Campus access is limited to one entry point during the school day.
- Video surveillance systems are installed at school sites to monitor campus activity. Cameras also serve as a deterrent for trespassing.
- A web-based visitor management system enables school office staff to perform instant sex offender registry checks on all campus visitors.
- Most importantly, we have strong working relationships with our local police departments, who conduct an annual assessment of our school emergency procedures.

We appreciate your support and partnership with us in keeping our schools safe. We ask for your assistance in the following ways:

- Please drive slowly in the parking lot and follow all directional signs.
- Don't block crosswalks.
- Yield to pedestrians in crosswalks, and take extra care when driving in school zones.
- If visiting or volunteering during school hours, check in at the main office and present a valid government-issued identification.
- When leaving campus, check out and exit through the front office, not through the gates. This enables us to account for everyone on campus in the case of an emergency.

By working together, we make our schools a safe place for everyone!

## Spotlight on Reading/Language Arts

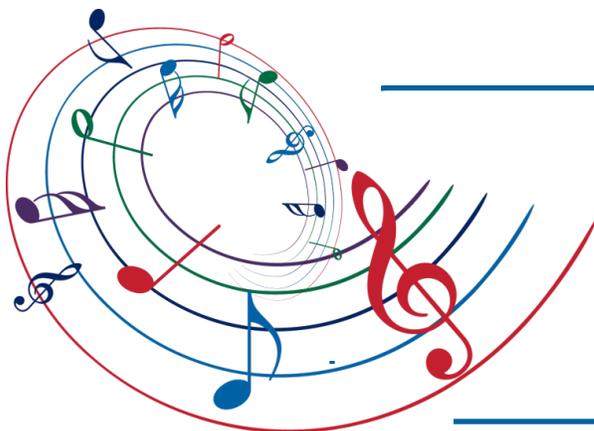
Teachers in the Cypress School District will be using a new reading/language arts program this year called Benchmark Advance. In the classroom, students will participate in daily whole-group and small-group instruction that helps them develop and apply their reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills. The program also helps students build critical thinking, problem-solving, and collaboration skills that are essential for success in college and careers.

As a parent, you will notice several differences between the old and new reading programs.

- First of all, your child may not bring home a lot of classwork in August because the program requires that teachers spend the first few weeks of school focusing on important instructional routines and procedures to help students be successful.
- Your child's new "textbook" will actually be a number of short, magazine-like texts.
- Writing in the book will be encouraged! Your child will learn how to annotate text, which means he/she will be able to write notes and highlight key words and details directly in the textbook.
- Your child will read about a wide variety of topics that will develop literacy as well as reinforce content knowledge in science, social studies, and the arts.

Students will continue to use *Thinking Maps* and *Write From the Beginning* to support their reading comprehension, organize their ideas, and help them to communicate effectively in writing.

Parents will have 24-hour access to assignments, e-books, and school-to-home resources to support their child's learning. More information about how parents can access these new digital resources will be sent home in the weeks to come.



## Coming Soon!

Watch for information regarding our after-school choir and drumming ensembles as well as our NEW band program.