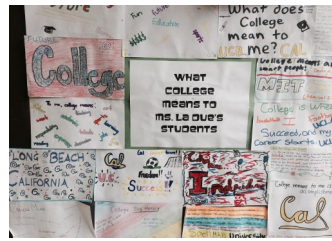


# Korematsu Middle School "Believe it, Achieve it!"

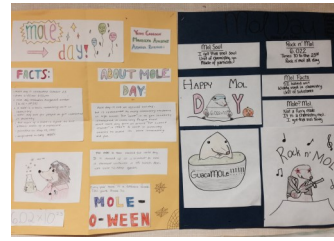
1021 Navellier St.  
El Cerrito, CA 94530  
(510) 524-0405



Spanish vocabulary



College Going Culture!



Mole Day Project

## Korematsu MS Focus

### Academic Discourse

Building a collaborative faculty culture to improve student learning.

Quarter 1

11/3/2014

## Burnham's Bits and Bytes

With a quarter behind us here at Korematsu there is much to highlight and even more to celebrate. Our enrollment is up and as many of you well know, we are at capacity in classrooms. As of right now there is a waiting list to attend Korematsu.

Last year our students participated in the California Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBAC). The first year implementation was a trial run in order to make sure our technology can support all students taking exams with computers. Even with the tech-



nological challenges, our students worked hard and continue to show they are focused on college and career readiness.

Speaking of college and career readiness, our 8th graders recently took the ReadStep assessment a precursor to the PSAT and SAT. We will get the results in Dec. The test assesses the skills students need to succeed in high school and college.

As we move into the holiday season we want to encourage our students to stay focused on schoolwork even with all the outside distractions.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support of Korematsu. Please encourage your child to do their best on a daily basis.

Mr. Burnham

## Counselors' Corner

**NEW!** Once a month the counseling department will be hosting an hour long conference for parent/guardians on "HOW TO HELP YOUR CHILD SUCCEED IN MIDDLE SCHOOL."

We will cover such topics as organizing, time management, talking to school staff, developing good study skills, getting the most out of PowerSchool, parent-teacher conferences, and creating a pro-education home environment. More topics will be added as needed. The first meeting will be on Monday, Nov. 17 at 8:15 AM in Room 8. Pen and paper recommended.

If you have specific needs please contact your child's counselor.  
(7th—Simpson, 8th—Jones)

## Tutoring and Academic Support at Portola

The **afterschool program** continues to provide students with homework time and assistance.

**Ms. Soto** tutors our English learner students. If your child is an English Learner please encourage him/her to seek support.

We will offer more tutor-

ing as funding becomes available throughout the school year.

### Math Support:

The Korematsu Math Club will start on Wednesday, November 5th. At this popular lunchtime club, students can expect to have fun with mathematical puzzles and prob-

lems; receive help with math homework; and get guidance and resources in preparing for local math competitions. Students are led by math expert Bradford Armstrong. Interested? Just turn up during fourth or fifth periods Wednesdays in Room 7. There will be treats!

## Important Dates

- 11/4—PTSA MEETING
- 11/4—ELECTION DAY, VOTE!
- 11/6—GEMDAS MATH COMPETITION
- 11/3, 8—CROSS COUNTRY FINALS
- 11/13—KOREMATSU INFO NIGHT
- 11/10—NO SCHOOL (CERTIFICATED NON WORK-DAY)
- 11/11—NO SCHOOL (VETERANS DAY)
- 11/19—ANTI BULLYING ASSEMBLY (8TH GRADE)
- 11/25—MINIMUM DAY
- 11/26—11/28 THANKSGIVING BREAK
- 12/16—BAND CONCERT
- 12/20—1/2 WINTER RECESS
- 1/5—CLASSES RECONVENE
- 1/16—END OF SEMESTER 1
- 1/19—NO SCHOOL (MLK, JR. DAY)
- 1/20—NO SCHOOL (TEACHER WORKDAY)

## What's happening in the library?

The library is open throughout the school day, at lunch, and on Thursdays after school from 2:30-3:30. Students come in individually or in small groups, or with their whole class when teachers schedule visits. They are welcome to come anytime the library is open. Students need their IDs to check out books and may have up to four books checked out at a time. Current library projects are the Library Reading and Tech Stars (RATS), the Battle of the Books, and the National Junior Honor Society. For more information about the library and to access the online catalog visit [KorematsuMiddleLibrary.weebly.com](http://KorematsuMiddleLibrary.weebly.com)

## Korematsu Middle School Vision

Korematsu Middle School models a safe, inclusive, student-centered community that actively supports high levels of academic and social success. All members of our community build respectful relationships to collaborate and ensure that all students become responsible, confident and enthusiastic learners who fulfill their individual potential.

# Korematsu Middle School — “Believe it, Achieve it!”

**Attendance is Crucial:** If your child is absent for any reason please make sure the school is notified. Call (510) 524-0405 to speak with our attendance clerk Ms. Christie.



**Cross-Country** boys and girls

## Academics

### English Update:

**Ms. La Due** is loving her first year here at Korematsu! Her advanced 7th grade English classes are halfway through reading *The Golden Compass*, a fantasy novel by Philip Pullman. At the conclusion of this unit, students will engage in a Socratic seminar. The topic of the seminar will be: "What matters more when making a decision: the intent behind the decision, or the eventual outcome?" Students will use what they've read to help support their opinions. Meanwhile, Ms. La Due's 8th graders are halfway through a unit in which they are learning to use their voices to make change. They've looked at op-eds, spoken word poetry, talked about what's happening in Ferguson, MO,

and are currently reading *The Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*. At the end of the unit, students will choose an issue that they care deeply about and write their own letter or op-ed in order to create change on that issue.

**Ms. Renee** is embarking on a new literacy program called **UDIO**. It was developed at Harvard and Korematsu is the west coast pilot school. We are excited to bring this opportunity to our students.

### ELD:

All ELD classes had a goal of 15 Accelerated reader points for the quarter. **Ms. Soto** is happy to say that 26 students reached this goal. we will con-

tinues this goal for quarter 2 but focus on a balance of fiction and nonfiction books as suggested by the reading program.

### SPED

**Ms. Lichtenwalner** is working with students on a **Succulent Project** based on the Common Core State Standards for Science for 7th and 8th grade. All around the KMS campus are empty boxes outside the portables waiting for healthy succulents to be planted. Our first hands-on research will be documenting what is currently present on campus: how many planter boxes, what shapes, what materials, where and how many cubic inches of dirt are needed to create a healthy environment for non-

team will participate in the East Bay Cross-country league championship meet on November 8, at Kennedy Grove. The boys team has two consistent top ten finishers with Karl Collins and Aiden Ferguson. Thanks to **Mr. Sanchez** and our ultra-supportive parents for making this possible!

water-needy succulents. Step two will be on-line research about the current drought, climate change and what we can do at the local level to make this a more beautiful campus that is also respectful of our limited water resources. The third step will be gathering of the materials and the fourth will be the fun of planting the succulents, with video and photo documentation. All students in the science classes will be invited to join in this Room 4A sponsored project, and it will be posted on a Weebly website.

## Academics Cont.

### Science Update:

Students should have started their science fair project at this time. The projects are due in December, and students should have received final due dates from their science teacher.

### History Update:

World History classes are preparing for a trivia game between **Mr. Fulumirani** and **Mr. Sanchez's** classes. The questions for the trivia game will come from Unit 1 of the World History book. It will cover

the decline of the Roman Empire, Rise and fall of Feudalism and the Byzantine Empire. They will use a live document on Google Drive to project and record the questions in real time as student answer them.

### ELECTIVES

#### Band:

The Halloween concert was on October 29th at the ECHS Theater. The concert was AWESOME!!! The beginning band performed for the first time. The other groups contin-

ued their success as always. The next band concert will be December 16th at the ECHS theater.

**Spanish:** ¡Hola! With good study skills and respect for the language, students have begun to read, write, and speak Spanish in Ms. Alcocer's class! Gradually, students will continue to be exposed to the lifestyles, history, politics, and culture of Spanish-speaking populations. Through exposure to children's Spanish literature, hands-on art activities, research projects, and the text-

book curriculum, students will gain knowledge and access to a new cultural awareness as well as the ability to one day communicate internationally.

**Student Body Council** has taken on the lead in the process of naming a new school mascot. The new mascot is expected to be revealed during the school day November 4th. It's an important and historic moment for the school and its 64 years of tradition. Faculty co-sponsors are **Ms. Renee** and **Mr. McCormick**.

**The Korematsu Ukulele Club** is now forming. The club is tentatively meeting every Wednesday, during 5th period lunch. The new club's goal is to learn how to play the uke, or improve uke skills, and have some fun. Faculty strummers, and total beginners, are **Ms. Carrico** and **Mr. McCormick**.

## National Junior Honor Society:

Congratulations to the 45 new members of the Korematsu National Junior Honor Society! The National Junior Honor Society emphasizes scholarship, character, service, citizenship, and leadership. In order to receive an application, seventh graders must earn at least a B average (3.0 GPA or higher) in seventh grade. Students who meet this academic requirement will be invited to apply in the fall of their eighth grade year. Students who are accepted into the NJHS then complete individual and group community services projects throughout the school year. Seventh graders who are interested in ap-

plying next year should be sure to keep up their grades and look for opportunities to volunteer at school and in the community. **Ms. Bogie** and **Ms. Booker** are the advisors.



### Supporting our Community!

Students and faculty participated in the GRIP Harmony Walk to end hunger.

### PTSA Corner:

By now, all email addresses gathered at registration have been entered into the email list. If you are not getting email from us, email us at portolapta@gmail.com and we will add you to our list.

Donations! Every penny counts! And helps us to bring you programs, buy supplies and provide teacher grants. Checks can be written to KMS and dropped in the office or donate online at portolanews.com!

### Links and Resources:

<https://wccusd.powerschool.com/>  
<http://portolanews.com/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/PortolaMiddleSchool>  
<http://goportola.org/>

### Teacher Sites:

[thefulumiranihistoryzone.weebly.com/](http://thefulumiranihistoryzone.weebly.com/)  
[mccormick2014.weebly.com/](http://mccormick2014.weebly.com/)  
[mrklifescience.weebly.com/](http://mrklifescience.weebly.com/)  
[msreeneesclassroom.weebly.com/](http://msreeneesclassroom.weebly.com/)