

Ponderosa **D.I.R.E.C.T** from the principal

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CENTRAL VALLEY SEEKS PUBLIC INPUT ON CAPITAL FACILITIES

Central Valley School District parents, residents and community members are encouraged to be part of the conversation about school buildings and facilities by participating in the Capital Facilities Community Forum. The forum will be held on November 12 from 7 - 8 p.m. at North Pines Middle School, 701 N. Pines Road. The forum is the first in a series of three events planned this year to gather public feedback as the Central Valley School District works through the year-long process to develop a long range capital facilities plan. Members of the district's Capital Facilities Planning Committee will facilitate the forum. Forum participants will hear an update on the planning process and then be asked to share ideas, perceptions and priorities about current and future school buildings in the Central Valley School District. The input will be used by committee members as they develop a list of recommended capital projects and a proposed 25-year long-range construction bond plan for consideration by the School Board. For more information, visit www.cvsd.org.

HAVING SUCCESSFUL PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES – PART 1 OF 3 TIPS TO KEEP IN MIND BEFORE THE CONFERENCE

It doesn't matter if you're the student, the teacher, or the parent, parent-teacher conferences are bound to cause some anxiety. Yet those one-on-one meetings are priceless opportunities for families to get a better understanding of their children. By preparing well for your meetings with teachers at Ponderosa, and following up with both your children and teachers afterward, you can strengthen your children's school success. I have provided some tips that I hope will help make parent-teacher conferences the best they can be. This will be a three week series that will cover tips "Before the Conference," "During the Conference," and "After the Conference."

BEFORE THE CONFERENCE:

Listen. Any time you hear your child talking about something he or she is doing really well in or is having trouble with-either with school-work or with classmates- make a note of it. When it's time for the conference with the teacher, you'll have a ready-made list of things to discuss.

Ask. When it's time to schedule the conference with the teacher, sit down with your child and ask him or her what you should discuss with the teacher. Encourage your children to open up and tell you what it's like for them in the classroom. Do they feel like they're falling behind academically? Or are they bored because they understand the material that the rest of the class is struggling with? Are there any troubling issues with any of their classmates? One thing that's guaranteed to get your children to open up is asking them what they think their teacher is going to tell you about them.

Bring notes and papers. Write down questions you want to address with the teacher. Bring copies of any assignments you have questions about. Think ahead of time how to be tactful and kind in wording concerns you have about the teacher or the class.

Next week I will be sharing tips on what to do "During the Conference."

VETERANS' DAY ASSEMBLY

Ponderosa Elementary will be putting on a Veterans' Day Assembly on Tuesday, November 10, at 10:00 am. We would love to invite all of the veterans in our community. If you know any veterans who are neighbors, friends or relatives, please invite them! The assembly will be about honoring them for their service. The Ponderosa Pine Tones will be performing the Armed Forces Salute and other patriotic songs. Please come and be a part of this celebration of our veterans!