



CALISTOGA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Newsletter



December 1, 2016

MUSIC CONCERTS

On December 6th & 8th, there will be music concerts. The first music concert is for grades TK-3 students and the second concert is for 4-6 students. The theme is Australian music.

PICK UP AND DROP OFF

We have been advised by the Calistoga Police Department that drivers may not make a U-turn in front of the school. There have been citations issued for that moving violation. Please keep this in mind when dropping off your child.

SCHOOL SITE COUNCIL

We need one more parent for this committee. If interested, please contact the main office.

HOW TO CHOOSE EDUCATIONAL APPS, GAMES, AND WEBSITES

Despite the claims of certain products that they teach your baby to read or do math, media that's really good for learning may not produce immediate, observable results. Instead, websites and apps with the most learning potential help your child learn *how* to learn -- and makes her want to come back for more. It's a bit tough to find the good stuff, but it's worth it. Many of the apps, games, and websites that Common Sense Media reviews also are rated for learning potential, so check our lists and reviews for hand-curated good stuff.

Products that lay the foundation for lifelong learning encourage questions, foster curiosity, and support critical thinking. They teach by engaging kids, building concepts and deep understanding, providing feedback about performance (and adjusting difficulty accordingly), and providing opportunities to strengthen learning beyond the play session. A few that incorporate these qualities include open-ended sandbox games such as *Minecraft* and *Algodoo*, creative games such as *Faces iMake* and *Curious World*, and math apps such as *DragonBox* and *Get the Math*.

Use these pointers for finding apps and websites that are really good for learning:

Choose age- and developmentally appropriate products. Visit commonsensemedia.org.

Consider what you'd like your kid to learn. Are you interested in boosting certain academic subjects such as math and reading, or are you looking for skill builders for creativity, logical thinking, or social-emotional learning? Or a combination of these? Common Sense's learning ratings evaluate each product's potential for facilitating your child's learning in these broad areas.

Let your kid's interests be your guide. No sense insisting your kid play a dinosaur game such as *Ansel and Clair: Triassic Dinosaurs* when she really prefers the cute pups in *Pet Bingo*.

Investigate independently. Dig deeper than the developer's description in the app store. Read unbiased reviews (such as ours), and download a demo if possible or play on the site.

Technology integration is a 21st Century Learning Skill. For more information, visit commonsensemedia.com.

INDEPENDENT STUDY

Parents taking their children out of CES for an extended period of time during the school year (due to family business and/or vacation) may request Independent Study for their child. Parents may request up to 2 weeks of Independent Study for their child, with permission from the Principal. A signed written agreement between the Principal, Parent and Teacher would have to be put in place **before** independent study is granted. Please make your request for Independent Study at least two weeks prior to the absence. Additionally, a student must be in good academic standing and have satisfactory attendance to participate in this program. Once the student returns to school, s/he must submit the assignments that were pre-approved by the teacher without delay.

UPCOMING DATES

December 2: Coffee and Conversation @ 8:40
 December 6: Winter Concert K-3 @ 6:30
 December 8: Winter Concert 4-6 @ 6:30
 December 19-January 6: Winter Break