



Cambridge Crusaders

425 N. Cambridge Orange, California 92866

(714) 997-6103 FAX (714) 532-4754

Cambridge Elementary School
Orange Unified School District



September 4, 2015

Dear Families,

It has been a wonderful opening of school this year and our students and teachers are all settled in classes and learning lots! Our motto this year continues to be *It Takes Us All!* Our goal is to strive for staff, students, and community to come together to make a wonderful home-school connection. Working together we will make this year a very successful academic year for all of our students.

I am looking forward to seeing you all at our Back to School Night on Tuesday, September 15th and hope that you join us at our PTA meetings, as well as seeing even more parents at our School Site Council and ELAC meetings. I am excited to continue to meet more parents as we have another year of success! My door is always open!

Welcome New Teachers to Cambridge Elementary!

This year marks a very special one here at Cambridge Elementary. We are pleased to introduce not one, but two new teachers to our staff. Ms. Maughan is our new third grade teacher and Ms. Webber is our new sixth grade teacher. Both come highly recommended and are anxious to teach here at Cambridge Elementary!

SBAC This Year at Cambridge

This past spring, our third through sixth grade students took the official SBAC (Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium) for the very first time. Being that it was our first time, it is our base-line year. It will be our objective that once we receive our scores, we will analyze the data and improve wherever needed to support our students in their learning of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). The testing window this year runs from March 21st to the end of the school year. We look forward to once again, having the opportunity for our students to continue to improve as they take this test and demonstrate their 21st Century learning skills they have acquired here at Cambridge Elementary!

2015-2016 Elementary Monitoring

Student Fees, Donations, and Fundraising Guidelines Compliance

The Orange Unified School District and Cambridge Elementary would like to remind and inform our students, parents, and community that according to Section 5 of Article 6 of the State of California Constitution, all educational activities carried on by public school districts, extra-curricular as well as curricula, must be without cost to the students who participate in such activities and that all students have the right to a free and appropriate education. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the office for further information regarding a free and appropriate education.

Student Safety

Cambridge and Orange Unified have strong emergency plans in place, and we consistently practice and refine our protocols for events that we hope will never occur. We also have a supportive and respectful relationship with the Orange Police Department and other law enforcement agencies. Representatives from both police and fire departments regularly collaborate with us on emergency procedures and provide us with expert knowledge and tremendous resources in anticipating and preparing for a variety of emergency scenarios. We take safety and security seriously at Cambridge Elementary School. Our goal is to continuously improve our procedures from one emergency drill to the next to ensure that our students and staff are safe. To do your part, please assist us in the following ways:

- Please be aware that all gates will lock promptly at 7:55 in order for teachers to get to their classes, except the Cambridge Gate which will close at 8:00.
- Tardy slips are given out promptly at the 8:00 bell at the Cambridge Gate, in order to take attendance and know who is on campus at the start of the day.
- At that time, please leave campus and if you plan to volunteer, sign in at the front office when coming on campus, including your destination while here. Again, we need to know who is on campus and where they are at all times in case of an emergency.
- Also, if you are not on the campus, please do not watch students from over the fence, etc. as this can cause an alarm from our staff or community.
- Please inform the office of any irregular occurrences in or around our campus.

You've entrusted us with your children. Please know we will always do our very best with the resources we have to provide a safe and meaningful education for them. Thank you for your support and cooperation!

Attendance is Important!

Cambridge and OUSD are working together to ensure that students are at school, on time each and every day. Obviously, there are times when our children are sick and cannot come to school. However, if they are not running a fever and are able to make it, we encourage them to do so. Below are some reasons why attendance is important and why we are placing so much emphasis on it here at Cambridge (attendanceworks.org):

- *Absenteeism in the first month of school can predict poor attendance throughout the school year. Half the students who miss 2-4 days in September go on to miss nearly a month of school.*
- *Absenteeism and its ill effects start early. Poor attendance can influence whether children read proficiently by the end of third grade or be held back.*
- *By 6th grade, chronic absence becomes a leading indicator that a student will drop out of high school.*
- *Research shows that missing 10 percent of the school, or about 18 days in most school districts, negatively affects a student's academic performance. That's just two days a month and that's known as chronic absence.*
- *The academic impact of missing that much school is the same whether the absences are excused or unexcused. Suspensions also add to lost time in the classroom.*
- *When students improve their attendance rates, they improve their academic prospects and chances for graduating.*

Furthermore, due to the amount of excessive tardies at Cambridge last year, we are working hard to alleviate this as well. On top of giving awards for perfect attendance this year which includes no tardies or absences each month at Spirit Assemblies, we will also be partnering with OUSD to further enforce our attendance, as illustrated below:

OUSD Absence Reporting Guidelines—Elementary:

1. Five to ten non-consecutive days absence codes, School sends excessive absence letter.
2. 10th day of absence and/or tardy, set up Student Attendance Review Team (SART) meeting with parent at school site.
3. 15th day of absence and/or tardy, request Student Attendance Review Board (SARB) meeting through the OUSD Student Services Division (SCS).
4. First full day or any pattern of period truancy school site intervention.
5. Second full day or any pattern of period truancy, inform SCS for an intervention.
6. Third full day, or nine days of one or more periods of truancy refer to SARB. SCS follow up.

Reduced Interruptions

In an effort to reduce the interruptions during the day, we ask that all parents have students come prepared for school with their lunch (if they bring one). We have been receiving an influx of lunches to the office before lunchtime and have had to interrupt many classrooms to ensure the kids pick them up in the office. This causes a disruption to instruction and makes it difficult for our students and teachers to stay focused before lunch. I thank you in advance for your support and cooperation!

International Walk to School Day – Wednesday, October 7th

Join in with the fun on October 7th by having your child walk to school! Join your children for a healthy walk in the morning and afternoon. Our children will benefit from the exercise and it's a healthy and active time to be together and have a family conversation!

Cambridge Website

Check out our school website! We now have lots of information you may need, including our student handbook, teacher photos and email addresses and their email link. We hope you will take a moment to see the exciting information at www.orangeusd.org/cambridge

Tweet Tweet!

Cambridge Elementary is truly entering the 21st Century! We are now on Twitter. Follow us at @Cambridge_Elem. We have new posts all the time regarding what is going on at Cambridge. Join us in this fun and interactive 21st Century tool! All posts are in English and Spanish. See you in cyberspace!

Sincerely, Jeremy Mortensen, Principal

School News

PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION

Have you joined our PTA? This is a great organization to support. We have doubled our membership this year thanks to the membership drive, but we are still accepting volunteers! The PTA provides many opportunities at Cambridge such as Field Trips, assemblies and technology. With your donation to the PTA, we can provide many more opportunities for our students and families. Our membership drive ends soon. Join now for only \$10!

Volunteer to Help!

Your child loves to see you at school. Parents are encouraged to help the staff and students of Cambridge by coming to school to cut, paste, dye cut, copy, etc. that may need to be done. We welcome parents to get together in an extra room to help our teachers. Please talk to your child's teacher to see how you can help. We have a sign-in sheet in the office so if you have the time to give we'd enjoy your help! No experience necessary, we will train you!

Cambridge Needs SSC and ELAC Members!

We currently have openings in our School Site Council (SSC) and English Learner Advisory Committee (ELAC). If you are interested in helping make decisions on how the school policies, procedures, and monies are spent, this is the job for you! Please inquire at the office if you are interested. Our first Meetings will be on October 5th at 8:30 for ELAC and October 8th at 2:30 for SSC.

You are always welcome to joining these meetings at any time, but if you would like to be a member, we could use your help today!

Reminders

As a reminder, students are considered tardy if not in their lines when the 8:00 bell rings. Please make sure you get your children to school prior to 8:00 so that they are not considered late when they reach their lines.

Due to liability concerns, unenrolled students, toddlers and small children are not permitted in classrooms during instructional time. That also includes during class parties or celebrations. However, unenrolled students, toddlers and small children are welcome to other events, including family nights, awards assemblies, etc. that do not take place in classrooms specifically. If you have any further questions, please talk to your teacher or come into the office for further clarification.

Modified Day Schedule

Please make sure to pick up your child on Wednesdays at 12:10 (Kinder) 12:10 (Primary) and 12:15 (Upper). Lunch is served until 12:30!



Students eating lunch at school must exit at the Walnut gate.

"Too Good for Drugs"



The Orange Unified School District each year receives a grant from the United States Title IV-Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Program. The purpose this program is to: Support programs that prevent violence in and around schools;

- Prevent the illegal use of alcohol, tobacco and drugs;
- Involve parents; and
- Coordinate with related federal, state and community efforts and resources to promote safe and drug-free schools and communities.
- Education programs in violence and drug prevention.

Cambridge is a Bully Free Zone!



We continue to promote being a good citizen and assist one another to prevent bullying.

Cambridge will also be holding an assembly in conjunction with Red Ribbon Week to prevent bullying on campus. Please talk to your children on how to stop bullying before it begins!

Cambridge Event Schedule:

- September 7** – Labor Day (No School)
- September 8** – SES Tutoring Parent Meeting @ 8:45am (Rm. 62)
- September 10** – *School Smarts* Kick-off @ 2:30pm (Rm. 62)
- September 15** - *School Smarts* Parent Program, 8:15am (Rm. 33)
- September 15** – Back to School Night beginning at 5:30pm
- September 22** – *School Smarts* Parent Program, 8:15am (Rm. 33)
- September 23** – Cambridge Night at Ricardo's Restaurant
- September 29** – *School Smarts* Parent Program, 8:15am (Rm. 33)
- October 5** – ELAC Meeting @ 8:30am (Rm. 33)
- October 6** – *School Smarts* Parent Program, 8:15am (Rm. 33)
- October 8** – SSC Meeting @ 2:30pm (Rm. 33)
- October 12 – 15** – Parent/Teacher Conferences (Minimum Days)
- October 13** – *School Smarts* Parent Program, 8:15am (Rm. 33)
- October 20** – *School Smarts* Parent Program, 8:15am (Rm. 33)
- October 23** – Camp-out and *Trunk or Treat* night Beginning @ 5:30pm through 10:00am, October 24th
- October 27** – *School Smarts* Parent Program, 8:15am (Rm. 33)
- November 11** – Veterans Day (No School)
- November 20** – Jog-a-thon
- November 20** – End of Trimester (Minimum Day)
- November 23 – 27** Thanksgiving Holiday