



# Comet Connection

Oct 9, 2019

Cottage School, Montessori Education

San Juan Unified School District

## Greetings Cottage Community,

The year is progressing along quickly and this week your child will receive progress reports as we are already ½ way through the first trimester! Next month you will also receive information about parent conferences which will be held the week of November 18th.

With our progress reports, please note that they only indicate whether or not a child is working below their grade level expectations, not whether or not your child is making appropriate growth. Our goal for every child is that they make growth regardless of where they are academically.

Finally, our PTA held its first evening meeting in September and there are a lot of things in the works to support our students here at school as well as the experiences they will have at Cottage. Please feel free to reach out with any questions you might have regarding PTA regardless of whether or not you feel you can attend regular meetings.

**Sincerely,**  
**Dr. Arthur Estrada, Principal**

## Important Dates

<b>October 8-11</b>	<b>Progress Reports sent home</b>
<b>October 10</b>	<b>Vision Screening TK/K, 2nd, 5th grades</b>
<b>October 11</b>	<b>First Friday Parent Workshop – 8:45 am Library</b>
<b>October 17</b>	<b>Earthquake Drill 10:17 am</b>
<b>October 22</b>	<b>School Site Council 3:25 pm PTA Meeting 6:15 pm</b>
<b>October 24</b>	<b>English Language Advisory Committee 8:45 am PTA Jog-a-thon</b>

## Pick up and Drop off

While we try to get our children loaded at the end of the day as quickly as possible, safety is our primary concern. We thank you all for your patience as you pick up your children each day from the front of the school/bus zone area. For those of you who park your vehicles along the street or across at the park, please be careful in crossing the street and ensure that you are using the cul de sac at the end of the park parking lot for U-turns.

We have also noticed that many children are not utilizing their safety belts or appropriate car seats in vehicles. Car seats and seat belts required by law, and we recently had a child hurt just up Morse Avenue because they were not wearing a seatbelt at a sudden stop. Please help us keep our children safe.

## Why is my child in a multi-age classroom?

Children learn best by observing each other. In a Montessori classroom, the children are placed with their peers in a multi-age environment that allows the younger children to observe the work of the older children. It also helps the older children to reinforce their understanding every time they help the younger children.

Multi-age classrooms encourage the development of:

- **Self-esteem-** the child is in the same classroom for two to three years and knows the teacher and expectations.
- **Reinforcement of knowledge-** older children in the classroom share their knowledge with the younger ones, reinforcing their understanding and teaching them leadership.
- **Motivation-** younger children are inspired by the things the older children can do and strive to grow to that level.
- **Self-confidence-** older children model appropriate behavior for and nurture the younger children and naturally learn leadership skills.
- **Compassion and courtesy-** the classroom is a family-like setting where children develop strong, sibling-type relationships as they progress from being "younger siblings" during their first year to being "older siblings" in their last year, while remaining with the same teacher for two to three years.

*Mastro Montessori, 2017.*

<http://www.mastromontessori.org/why-montessori/multi-aged-class/>, *Multi-Aged Class.*

## Cottage PTA News

It was wonderful to have so many parents and family members at our first PTA meeting on September 24. If you were not able to make it – we encourage you to join us at the next meeting on Tuesday, October 22 at 6:15pm in the school library. As always, we offer childcare during the meeting, including activities and pizza for the kids.

### **The Jog-A-Thon is coming on October 24th!**

Watch for flyers announcing this PTA fundraiser. Your support will help fund buses for field trips, student assemblies, family community nights, and much more! Several volunteers are needed at the event to ensure things run smoothly. We'd love to have your help! If you are able to assist, please email us at [PTACottage@gmail.com](mailto:PTACottage@gmail.com).

Thank you for your support of Cottage Elementary and the PTA!

---

---

## October is Bullying Prevention Month

The goal of SJUSD's Bullying Prevention Program is to encourage school communities to work together to stop bullying and cyber-bullying by increasing awareness. You can support Bully Prevention in the following way:

- **Week of October 7:** Start a dialogue with your children about their role in addressing bullying and create a plan on how to respond to bullying and cyber-bullying.
- **Week of October 14:** Encourage your child to make friends with someone they do not know at school.
- **Week of October 21:** Role play with your child regarding what they should do if they see bullying.
- **Week of October 28:** Talk to your child about cyber-bullying and how what gets posted online needs to follow the same guidelines of grace and courtesy as what is said in person.