

The Communicator

Spring 2007

*CCPA: Preparing learners, thinkers, communicators,
and citizens of tomorrow*



**COLISEUM COLLEGE PREP
ACADEMY**

Greetings from Coliseum College Prep Academy! In the spirit of keeping our supporters, near and far, up to date on the happenings and achievements on our campus, we're excited to bring you the inaugural edition of *The Communicator*.

Join Us at Our Year-End Open House!

For those of you in the Bay Area, we'd like to extend an invitation to our year-end Open House event on June 7. Our dynamic slate of presentations and activities will give you a first-hand look at all we've accomplished this year. We'll give out awards to students, staff, and community supporters. Later, visitors can tour our classrooms for a chance to hear from teachers and view our students' ambitious work. Hope to see you there!

Where: CCPA Auditorium, 1390 66th Ave., Oakland

When: June 7, 6-8 PM



CCPA students Cristina Ojeda and Jennifer Tran

Student-Led Conferences to Highlight Year's Work

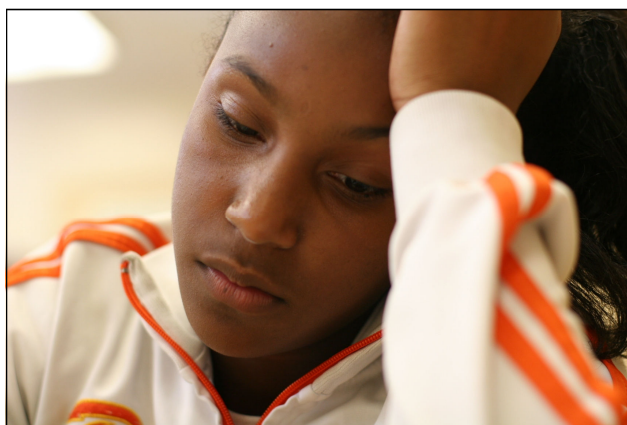
"So, how was school today?" Anyone with kids has likely run into some version of the one-word reply: "Alright." CCPA's student-run conferences serve to answer this question in rich detail, right in the classroom. During the week of June 4-7, students – with the help of their teachers and advisors – will present examples of their work to parents, demonstrating what they've learned throughout the school year. Now that testing is over, kids are busy preparing and polishing their presentations. In addition to parents, anyone

from the wider CCPA community is welcome to drop by and observe the educational strides our students have made this year.

One example is a study of ancient cultures that resulted in a thought-provoking essay on cultural conflicts. Among the other presentations: students demonstrating their mastery of Powerpoint, and young scientists displaying discoveries from their cheek cell lab. Not only will the conferences be a chance to find out "how school was today," but also to witness the connection between our teachers and students.



Antonio Betancio, Christian Henrriquez, Jose Sanchez, and Jose Mendez



Dashinque Smith hard at work



Rosa Enriquez works in the school garden



Siliveinusi Tomasi outside CCPA

CCPA Takes Up the Healthy Lunch Movement

Today, with obesity and related conditions such as type 2 diabetes at an all-time high, it's no wonder national attention has turned to improving our kids' diets. But forces in popular culture, such as advertising, make trends tough to reverse. For example, today's teenagers see an average of 17 food-related commercials a day, nearly half of which feature snacks, candy, and fast food. It's no shock to see a lot of these items turn up in lunch bags around the country. While the United States Dietary Association has pledged to greatly expand the amount of fruits and vegetables in U.S. cafeterias, its plan is a 10-year effort. At CCPA, kids are taking better nutrition into their own hands – now.

In collaboration with Roots International Academy and Havenscourt Middle School (the other two

schools that share our site), and thanks to a generous grant from the Bechtel Foundation, this month we opened a salad bar in our cafeteria! A group of student leaders oversees the operation, ensuring the bar is stocked with healthy lunch options. To complement the effort, a group of teachers has launched a nutrition education program. “Since we began our community outreach for CCPA, one of the first issues on families’ minds were healthier options for students at school,” says Principal Aaron Townsend. “It feels good to be able to deliver concretely on this need.” Congratulations to everyone involved in putting CCPA ahead of the curve in the healthy lunch movement!

Napa House Party Extends CCPA Community!

A big thanks to Lona and Bill Hardy, who hosted a CCPA fundraiser in March at their home in Napa. About 25 supporters turned out to meet Principal Aaron Townsend, Teacher Fabiana Ahumada, Parent Coordinator Deanita Lewis, and students Cristina Ojeda and Stephanie Buggs, who shared with them our college-focused philosophy and programs. Money raised at the event will help fund our library improvements.

Overall, this year we've raised \$3,500 from individual donations, leaving us \$6,500 shy of our \$10,000 goal. These funds will help us build out and

reopen our school library, furnish CCPA's computer lab, keep our salad bar filled with fresh items, and help maintain small class sizes. If you'd like to make a tax-deductible donation, you can write a check to “OSSF – Coliseum College Prep Academy Fund,” and address the envelope to Aaron Townsend – CCPA, c/o OSSF, P.O. Box 20238, Oakland, CA 94620-0238. To donate on-line, visit www.smallschoolsfoundation.org and click “Donate Now.” On the donation page, be sure to type “Coliseum College Prep Academy” in the Designation field. We appreciate your support!