



November 2015 Newsletter

Principal's Message

Greetings. I hope everyone enjoyed our week off from school and that you were able to spend some time with friends and family. A heartfelt thanks goes to all of our teachers, families, and students for their well wishes and thoughtfulness on my 50th birthday. It is an honor to work alongside such dedicated, passionate people. Who can believe we are just three weeks away from a three-week winter break and nearly halfway through the school year? It was heartening to see so many of our families the week before last as our teachers, students, and parents celebrated our students' progress and set goals for future academic and social gains. Your partnership is critical to the success of your child so if you were not able to attend your child's family conference the week of November 16th, please reach out to your child's teacher and schedule one for this week. In addition to your child's report card, teachers share examples of work and highlight areas of gain and need.

As a Cotsen Art of Teaching school, we recognize that our learning is life-long (www.cotsen.org). Our efforts were recently recognized in their monthly newsletter, so if you did not have a chance to read it, you can access it on their website under Latest News. The article highlights our team's openness to change and innovation and how through collaboration and hard work, anything can be achieved. This month, we continue our learning by engaging with Growing Educators, our balanced literacy partner, around our new approach to the teaching of spelling, word work, and one of our teachers will facilitate part one of a two session professional development series on the Next Generation Science Standards (<http://www.nextgenscience.org/>), to which we are transitioning next school year. It is so powerful and meaningful when we learn from each other; and as our teachers grow on their own time, they share their learning with their peers.

Finally, our Winter Program will be the week of December 14th, so make sure to mark your calendars for Thursday, December 17th. (Ms. Saxton's, Dr. Rognstad's and Ms. Flaxman's classes will perform on the 15th.) We will have our annual classroom basket auction and Ms. Nelson's Book Fair in addition to other fun events and fundraisers. It is through these kinds of events that we not only share in the talents of our students but also raise money for all of the people and programs that make our school world class. Thanks. *Principal Jenkins*

Attendance

Our goal is for 76% or more of our students to be in attendance 96% of the time. **An attendance rate of 96% is no more than 7 absences.** The table shows by grade the class with the best attendance and the percent of students with a current 96% attendance rate. Currently our school-wide rate for students in attendance 96% of the time is 70.2%. Let's ensure that we are only absent for excused reasons. The classes with the best attendance get an extra 10 minutes of recess, and fifth grade wins the extra PE class. Finally, Ms. Flaxman's class wins a free Mad Science™ class for an attendance rate of 98.48%! Thanks.

Cumulative Attendance Data as of October 29, 2015

The class with the best attendance wins a free Mad Science class!		The grade with the best attendance wins an extra PE class with Coach David and Coach Brittany!	
Percentage in Attendance by Class		% of Students with 96% Attendance	
Masi	97.62%	Kindergarten	71.4%
Phelps	97.85%	First Grade	67.9%
Rothschild	98.16%	Second Grade	69.6%
Bax	98.04%	Third Grade	68.9%
Flaxman	98.48%	Fourth Grade	68.6%
Payne	97%	Fifth Grade	74.6%

Readers Workshop Strategy and Guided Reading Groups

As part of the one-hour readers workshop time, our teachers work with students in small groups in what we call guided reading groups (grades K-2) or strategy groups (grades 3-5). In guided reading groups, typically students are using the same text to strengthen a strategy for reading that they may have learned during a mini-lesson. In strategy groups, they do the same, but practice with a book that they are currently reading. The format of the lesson is similar to a one-on-one conference, during which the teacher provides feedback to students on what they've been doing well and tells them why they have been pulled together. Then s/he teaches, providing a brief demonstration, shared practice, example, or explanation. Then the students have opportunities to engage with their text using the strategy. Finally, the session is ended with a link that invites students to continue to use the strategy as they read.

Annual Spelling Bee

We have sent home grade level and school-wide spelling bee lists for our seventh annual spelling bee, which will be held on Tuesday, January 26th, at 02:00 PM. Students in grades 1-5 will first focus on their grade level words, and teachers will administer spelling tests and class spelling bees to send 1 student from each 1st grade class, 2 students from each 2nd and 3rd grade class, and 3 students from each 4th and 5th grade class to our school-wide bee. (Room 5 will send 1 first grader and 2 second graders, and room 12 will send 2 fourth and fifth graders each.) **We highly recommend that students who have hopes of being in our school-wide bee start studying now.** Students should first master their grade level words, then all words for grades 1-8, and then start studying the words from the *Spell it!* lists. If you need copies of the lists, please email your room parent, your teacher, or me. This year the regional bee is scheduled for Sunday, March 13th at 02:00 PM. Thanks.

Important Dates

11/30/15 Heal the Bay Assemblies	12/21/15 Winter Break Begins
12/02/15 Booster Club Meeting	01/08/16 Winter Break Ends
12/07/15 Coffee & Tea with the Principal	01/11/16 School Resumes
12/07/15 Emergency Drills	01/11/16 Coffee & Tea with the Principal
12/14/15 Ms. Nelson's Book Fair Begins	01/11/16 DIBELS MOY & TRC Begins
12/15/15 Winter Program (Rms. 10-12)	01/11/16 Spelling Bee Pledge Drive Begins
12/17/15 Winter Program	01/13/16 Booster Club Meeting
12/17/15 Holiday Bazaar/Basket Auction	01/14/16 Emergency Drills
12/18/15 Ms. Nelson's Book Fair Ends	01/18/16 No School: MLK Holiday
12/18/16 Minimum Day (8:15 AM – 12:35 PM)	01/19/16 Mid-Term Notices