



January 2016 Newsletter

Principal's Message

Greetings. January has been an exciting month, with our annual Spelling Bee as the highlight. We are so proud of all of our students for the enthusiasm with which they approached this year's spelling words. Our semi-finalists performed admirably on stage; and based on all of the pledges that continue to pour in, I expect that we will once again break fundraising records. If you haven't yet turned in your pledge monies, there is still time. We will honor our spellers and fundraising winners at February 8th's morning assembly. Thanks for your participation.

Thanks go as well to Danielle and Danny Dunlap for coordinating another successful scavenger hunt fundraiser and to Juliet Chowdhury and Katherine Conway for organizing this month's restaurant fundraiser at Killer Café. We are so appreciative of all the efforts of our families who sacrifice their precious time to give back to our students, and it's always a bonus when we can have fun as a result. I encourage you to attend this Wednesday's Booster Club meeting or our monthly SSC / ELAC meeting on February 11th to do your part in making our school a place of wonder and excitement. As we kick off our annual February Community Fund campaign, consider how a contribution of time and / or money can make a difference in the education of our students.

Our teachers and I engaged in another round of study with Erin Donelson, our Growing Educators balanced literacy expert. This month we invited room parents to share in the work that we do with her in classrooms, and they shared their experiences with the families in their classes. After reading *Mindset and moves*, I was reminded of the many roles we take on as teachers in English language arts and mathematics: from admirer to miner, mirror to model, and finally when our students need that needed practice to the role of a mentor. I was struck by her call for us as teachers, which would include our parents, to look at our students with an admiring lens rather than a deficit lens. She argues that when we do this, we are better able to build on students' strengths while at the same time empowering them as learners. We have so much to learn from them.

Finally, I want to encourage you to stay involved in your child's education by reviewing the standards they are expected to master and by staying abreast of what they are learning in class through teacher communication and homework.

Thanks for your support! *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.** We just received our School Quality Index report, which highlights areas of strength and need. Attendance was an area of need. We also sent letters to families with 3 absences or more. While we understand that illness is unavoidable, I do feel like there are many students who could be in school more. I will be reaching out to their families. Currently our school-wide rate for students in attendance 96% of the time is 64.5%. Let's ensure that we are only absent for excused reasons. Second grade wins the extra PE class and Mr. Rothschild's class wins a free Mad Science™ class for an attendance rate of 96.89%! Congratulations! Thanks.

Cumulative Attendance Data as of January 29, 2016

The class with the best attendance wins a free Mad Science class! All classes get 10 minute of extra recess.		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	96.60%	Kindergarten	63.8%
Phelps	95.79%	First Grade	68.2%
Rothschild	96.89%	Second Grade	70.3%
Bax	96.87%	Third Grade	65.4%
Saxton	95.19%	Fourth Grade	59.3%
Payne	95.41%	Fifth Grade	65.3%

Shared Reading

Shared reading is a strategy developed by educators and originally was meant to imitate the experience of a child sitting with a parent while the parent reads aloud a text. Just like that experience, when students participate in shared reading with their teachers, they pause and respond to various parts of the text. This component of balanced literacy falls outside of the readers' workshop hour, is usually conducted whole class but can be equally effective in a small group, and uses a text at or above the class' grade's reading level. Students study the same text each day for a week, practicing fluency chorally, investigating text features, unpacking grammatical structures, and building comprehension strategies. Many teachers use this time to conduct close reading, which is a strategy in which students engage with a text of adequate complexity so that they can methodically and thoroughly understand it.

Spelling Bee 2016

We could not be more proud of our students who competed in our seventh annual spelling bee. Congratulations to Rafael L., our champion, and Kahri S. and Brian F., the runners up. They spelled, along with others, mind-boggling words. Below are our competitors. Grade level champions are highlighted in bold.

Napili Y. Lucca B. Delilah M. Yaeli M. Kyaiah M. Anthony P.
 Austin S. Max T. Thomas T. Johnny P. Isaak E. **Rafael L.** Itai F.
 Claire J. Yoni F. Hunter C. **Kahri S.** Chloe P. Angelina T. Mia E.
 Roxana B. Mia C. **Brian F.** Danielle B. Solly C. Tate A.
 Timothy D. Andrew J. Finn Z. Casey C. Alicia L. Willa L.
 Lilah B. Ricardo M. Kali L. **Jacob G.** Azharian F.

Click on this link to learn what your child should be learning!

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/be/st/ss/index.asp>

Important Dates

02/01/16 Community Fund Campaign Kick-Off	02/12/16 Valentine's Day Fundraiser
02/01/16 Coffee & Tea with the Principal	02/15/16 No School
02/01/16 5 th Grade Fitness Exam Begins	02/16/16 Emergency Drills
02/01/16 Kindergarten Field Trip	02/18/16 Prospective Family Tour
02/01/16 1 st and 2 nd Grade Anti-Bullying Show	02/18/16 Rms. 7 & 9 Class Field Trip
02/03/16 Booster Club Meeting	02/20/16 Winter Dance
02/08/16 2 nd Grade Anti-Bullying Show	02/22/16 1 st & 2 nd Grade Anti-Bullying Show
02/10/16 Betsy Brown Braun Talk	02/23/16 Rms. 6 & 8 Class Field Trip
02/11/16 SSC / ELAC Meeting	02/24/16 5 th Grade Outdoor Ed Begins