



May 2016 Newsletter

Principal's Message

Greetings. As we enter the last two weeks of school, let's take this time to reflect on all of our accomplishments both of our students and of our community as a whole. Each year our staff uses reflection to refine our approaches to ensure our students receive the best educational opportunities. Our work in professional development has helped us achieve a level of practice that is being replicated in other schools, and as we enter our fourth year in partnership with the Cotsen Foundation's Art of Teaching, we recognize that this is possible because of the collaborative spirit of our staff. This month we have engaged around the principles in what has been our third Cognitively Guided Instruction (CGI) professional read: *Thinking Mathematically*. Our teachers are able to see how students can develop mathematical properties through the careful selection of true / false and open number sentences; and as we reflected on this work, we agreed that we need to provide parents an opportunity to see this powerful thinking in action. I could not be more proud of our team and how expertly and openly they have embraced the new learning inherent in our adoption of balanced literacy and CGI.

Our students, as usual, have surpassed our expectations as the school year nears its closing. Our third through fifth graders reflected on their work and set goals for themselves as they undertook the state's Common Core summative assessments, the results from which will be shared with families and the community at large. It was heartening to see how seriously they took this work, given their understanding of its impact on their opportunities in the future. We are excited to celebrate all of our students' work this week at our annual Open House on Thursday, June 2nd, at 05:00 PM.

Finally, this work would not be possible if it were not for the partnership of our families. I am always astounded at how tirelessly our Booster Club works to guarantee our students benefit from the support of our teachers' assistants, the good health that comes from a vibrant PE program, creativity that is nurtured in a world class arts program, and the attention and care that librarian's like Ms. McCarthy and Ms. Penka provide. If you have not recently thanked Sarah Sung, Cara McKinley, and the rest of the Booster Club board, please take the time now. For next year, let's reflect on how all of us can do a little bit more to continue on this upward trajectory. When our students see us working together as a team, they try that much harder. *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 continue to do our best to reach out to families to ensure that our students are in school as much as possible. While we understand that illness is unavoidable, I do feel like there are many students who could be in school more. Please remember that we cannot teach who is not here! Currently our school-wide rate for students in attendance 96% of the time is 65.9%, an increase of 3.5 percentage points since our last newsletter. Let's end the school year with another increase! Second grade wins the extra PE class, and Ms. McDaniel's class wins a free Mad Science™ class for an attendance rate of 97.41%! Congratulations! Thanks.

Cumulative Attendance Data as of May 20, 2016

The class with the best attendance wins a free Mad Science class! All classes get 10 minute of extra recess.		Numbers in parentheses represent percent change since April.	
Percentage in Attendance by Class		% of Students with 96% Attendance	
McDaniel	97.41%	Kindergarten	68.9% (+7.8)
Phelps	97.08%	First Grade	67.3% (-0.9)
Rothschild	97.39%	Second Grade	72.9% (+5)
Bax	97.4%	Third Grade	66.6% (+4.7)
Flaxman	96.48%	Fourth Grade	61.6% (+2.7)
Buck	96.25%	Fifth Grade	67.9% (+6.4)

Introductions and Farewells

As we close out the year, I wanted to bid farewell to some treasured team members while at the same time welcome some new and returning members. After a combined 50 years of working with students, Dr. Rognstad and Mr. Bax are retiring. We are grateful for their years of service, particularly to our students. Coach David, Ms. Bock (TK/K), Mr. Delgado (art), and Ms. Penka (library) are also moving on to pursue other endeavors. We are also incredibly indebted to them for all of their passion and dedication. We hope to see them again in another capacity!

Below is our teaching team for the 2016-2017 school year. We are excited to welcome officially Ms. Querrey to our team as she develops a grades 4/5 program with Ms. Buck and Ms. Payne. We are also thrilled to welcome Ms. Kachadurian to our team. She will be working with our first grade team and will be on hand at Open House in Ms. Phelps' room to greet families who wish to meet her! Thanks.

Trans. Kinder.	First Grade	Second Grade	4th / 5th Grade
Ms. Elson	Ms. Forsythe	Mr. Rothschild	Ms. Querrey
Kindergarten	Ms. Lira	Third Grade	Ms. Buck
Ms. McDaniel	Ms. Kachadurian	Ms. Aver	Ms. Payne
Ms. Pippin	Ms. Tepas	Ms. Welch	Resource
Ms. Mackavoy	Second Grade	Ms. Neri-Muñoz	Ms. Smith
Ms. Masi	Ms. Fielding	Fourth Grade	Cotsen Mentor
Kinder/First	Ms. Block	Ms. Flaxman	Ms. Romero
Ms. Phelps	Ms. Jenkins	Ms. Saxton	
	Ms. San Juan		

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

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

Important Dates

05/31/16 Ms. Nelson's Book Fair Begins	06/03/16 Minimum Day (8:15 AM – 12:35 PM)
06/01/16 Field Trip (Rms. 1&2)	06/03/16 Field Trip (Rms. 18&24)
06/01/16 Field Trip (Rms. 3&22)	06/06/16 Mad Science Classes (Rms. 7&17)
06/01/16 Field Trip (Rm. 19)	06/09/16 Minimum Day (8:15 AM – 12:35 PM)
06/01/16 Booster Club Meeting (06:00 PM)	06/09/16 Ms. Nelson's Book Fair Ends
06/02/16 Field Trip (Rms. 5&21)	06/09/16 Minimum Day (8:15 AM – 12:35 PM)
06/02/16 Field Day (Gr. TK, K, 3, & 4)	06/09/16 Magic Show (01:15 PM)
06/02/16 Open House (5:00 – 7:00 PM)	06/10/16 Minimum Day (8:15 AM – 12:35 PM)
06/03/16 Field Day (Gr. 1, 2, & 5)	06/10/16 5 th Grade Culmination