



September 2016 Newsletter

Principal's Message

Greetings. This has been an exciting first six weeks of school. Welcoming so many new families to our school is always heartening. Seeing so many returning families reminds me of the faith everyone has put in the work we do with our students. While sitting in professional development this past Saturday, I was excited to share in new learning with some of our teachers and think deeply about our approaches. While we are encouraged by our double digit jumps on the state's Common Core Smarter Balanced assessments, a gain of 23 percentage points in mathematics and 18 in English language arts, we never rest too long on our laurels, but instead think, "What next?" How can we continue on the upward trajectory of reform and innovation that has distinguished us as a team? Those are just some of the questions we ask ourselves as we move forward.

This year we are framing our work around two seminal texts: Jo Boaler's *Mathematical Mindsets* and John Hattie's *Visible Learning for Teachers*. Both authors frame their arguments around research that has shown the importance of knowing our learners well, seeing the learning through their eyes, communicating growth mindset messages both verbally and through our systems, and clearly articulating the criteria for learning and where our students are in their path toward mastery so they can better close the gap. We have already begun making adjustments to our homework, adding in more reflection, which has been shown to impact student achievement positively; and we will be looking at how we use assessments, grades, and feedback so that our students see all thinking, especially mistakes, as learning opportunities. Make sure to attend our Coffee and Tea with the Principal and School Site / English Learner Advisory Council meetings to stay up to date with our work and provide input, which we value.

Finally, I want to thank all of our families who recognize that without our Community Fund campaign and other fundraisers, we would not be able to offer the host of programs and valuable staff that we expect of an exemplary institution like ours. I appreciate the sacrifice of time we ask of you. While we ask for an annual donation, there are so many ways that you can give to benefit our students. This year we are structuring our bigger fundraisers: Spooky Saturday, Winter Dance, and Spring Fling, so that parents in identified grade groups can build community and momentum to make each a success. Thanks for your support and a great start! *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. Please make sure to make healthy choices so our students avoid illness. We cannot teach who is not here! Currently our school-wide rate for students in attendance 96% of the time is 86.6%, which is 10 percentage points over the goal. Let's keep those numbers strong! Last year we ended with a rate of 68.4%, which is 7.6 percentage points below the goal. I know we can do better! Second grade wins the extra PE class, and Ms. Block's class wins a free Mad Science™ class for an attendance rate of 99.44%! Congratulations! Thanks.

Cumulative Attendance Data as of September 23, 2016

The class with the best attendance wins a free Mad Science class! All classes get 10 minutes of extra recess.		The grade with the highest percentage of students who have been here 96% of the time wins an extra PE class.	
Percentage in Attendance by Class		% of Students with 96% Attendance	
McDaniel	96.77%	Kindergarten	74.5%
Kachadurian	98.33%	First Grade	87.4%
Block	99.44%	Second Grade	93.2%
Neri-Muñoz	98.75%	Third Grade	90.5%
Flaxman	97.81%	Fourth Grade	89.2%
Payne	98.23%	Fifth Grade	83.1%

Introductions and Farewells

We would like to welcome a new teachers' assistant, Bar Farchi, who is working with our first grade teachers. Because Coach David (aka Mr. Gonzalez) moved to a classroom teaching assistant position in third grade, we are thrilled to welcome a CDA alumnus, Jordan McCowan, as one of our two campus aides, Danielle Vasquez being the other. We are also elated that Claire Scivoletto and Renee Dewire Domino have accepted our offer to support our library program with Ms. McCarthy, who will be working 2 ½ days this year while Renee and Claire fill in the gaps with the support of Mr. Gonzalez, Ms. Ellis, and Mr. Yin. We are also excited to welcome a new evening custodian, Laura Escobar. On the arts end, we welcome Ari Sturr and Leslie Seror, who will be co-teaching visual arts, and Chris Keene, who will teach dramatic arts to our kindergarteners and second and fourth graders. Finally, we hope everyone had an opportunity to bid farewell to Ron Cohens, evening custodian, and Brittany Johnston, aide and PE coach, as they move on to other opportunities. It's going to be a great year!

School Site Council

Thanks to our parents who were nominated as School Site Council members and to everyone who voted. **David Cash, Zenobia Moore, Rita Satuloff, Pamela Michaels Kleen, and Ryan Gustafson** will be serving for two years on our council. Our first meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 13th, at 2:45 PM (Rm. 14) during which we will elect officers. All families are welcome to attend.

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

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

Important Dates

09/26/16 Mid-Term Notices Go Home	10/13/16 Prospective Family Tour
09/28/16 Booster Club Gathering	10/13/16 School Site Council Meeting
09/29/16 Safety Assembly (Grs. 3&4)	10/18/16 GATE Parent Meeting (5:00 PM)
09/30/16 1 st Grade Anti-Bullying Assembly	10/20/16 Great American Shakeout
10/03/16 No School	10/20/16 Dance Session 1 Ends
10/04/16 Coffee & Tea with the Principal	10/21/16 Annual CELDT Ends
10/05/16 Booster Club Meeting (6:00 PM)	10/24/16 Picture Day
10/06/16 English Learner Advisory Council Meeting	10/25/16 Emergency Drills
10/09/16 Let's Lunch Fundraiser	10/26/16 Environmental Awareness Assemblies