



October 2016 Newsletter

Principal's Message

Greetings. Happy Halloween! We had another fun-filled Spooky Saturday thanks to the leadership of Cara McKinley and Fiona Chilcott. It is always so gratifying to witness scores of parents and community members coming together to create what was truly one of the more memorable fundraisers. The feeling of community was so strong, and I received so many positive comments from our parents. We are truly blessed to have such a vital and caring parent body. While we have already raised over \$200,000 this year, we still have at least \$175,000 more to go if we plan to maintain and sustain our amazing programs and staff. Please consider ways that you can support the effort!

As we further our work around instilling growth mindsets in our students, we have studied the impacts of homework, the role of mistakes, reflection, rich mathematical tasks, practice and drill, assessment, and grades on our students' conceptions of themselves as learners. We believe that by responding to what has been proven to influence positively student performance, we will be able to create success for all of our students. We will continue to share our work with you at our monthly Coffee and Tea with the Principal, School Site and English Advisory Council meetings, and Booster Club meetings so that you can mirror the support that we are giving your students in school at home. My monthly newsletters will also include ways that you can strengthen your role as the home teacher. Your guidance at home is critical. Also, I have opened a Twitter account (@principalcda), which I will use to highlight the groundbreaking work that is happening in our classrooms. We are proud to share that our work has become so recognized that we have been asked to demonstrate for other teachers in schools around the district and to participate in an action research study with Megan Franke, one of the co-authors of *Children's Mathematics: Cognitively Guided Instruction*, as the district embarks on a model to grow CGI district-wide.

Finally, as we near the end of the first reporting period, please make sure to schedule a family conference the week of November 14th. These conferences are critical as we identify what your child is expected to learn this year, where s/he is in that learning process, and what we can do as a team to ensure s/he reaches his / her learning target. By identifying the success criteria and where we are on that path, we can be strategic in reaching our goals. Thanks for your support as always!

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 79.2%, which is 3.2 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. Fielding's class wins a free Mad Science™ class for an attendance rate of 98.63%! 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	
Pippin	96.20%	Kindergarten	60.2%
Tepas	98.19%	First Grade	85.4%
Fielding	98.63%	Second Grade	85.7%
Neri-Muñoz	97.91%	Third Grade	80.9%
Saxton	98.56%	Fourth Grade	85.1%
Payne	97.10%	Fifth Grade	79.2%

Questions that Encourage Growth Mindsets in Mathematics

Jo Boaler, a researcher from Stanford, who wrote the book *Mathematical Mindsets* that we are studying as a team, talks about the power of questions and ways to encourage students to explain their thinking. Having students communicate their thinking and restate each other's ideas has actually been shown to deepen conceptual understanding, which translates to better performance on all measures. Below are some questions you can ask your child(ren) at home as they solve problems:

- 1) How do you see that idea?
- 2) Why does that method work?
- 3) How can you prove it visually?
- 4) How can that idea be represented in different ways?
- 5) What interesting mistakes did you make? What did you learn?
- 6) Why does that make sense?
- 7) How can you prove it?
- 8) What would happen if...?

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

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

Student Council

This year we are starting a Student Council to provide opportunities for leadership and service for our students. Jackie Forsythe and David Gonzalez are reviewing candidate statements and will decide through classroom elections final candidates for the office of president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer. Each grade, one through five, will have a class representative. It is our goal to have the election on Tuesday, November 8th, to coincide with our state and national elections. Our students are excited for the opportunity. Thanks.

Important Dates

11/01/16 Brixology Session 1 Ends	11/09/16 Gardening Session 1 Ends
11/02/16 Japanese Program 3 Session 2 Begins	11/09/16 Mad Science Session 1 Ends (Gr. 1-5)
11/02/16 Booster Club Meeting (06:00 PM)	11/09/16 Middle School Forum (5:00 PM)
11/04/16 Ms. Lira's and Ms. Buck's Field Trip	11/10/16 eChoices Deadline (5:00 PM)
11/04/16 Marking Period One Ends	11/10/16 Dance Session 1 Ends
11/04/16 Mad Science Session 2 Begins (K)	11/10/16 Prospective Family Tour
11/06/16 Daylight Savings Ends	11/10/16 SSC/ELAC Meeting
11/07/16 Coffee & Tea with the Principal	11/10/16 Mr. Rothschild's Field Trip
11/07/16 Emergency Drills	11/11/16 No School: Veterans' Day
11/08/16 Ms. Lira's Class Field Trip	11/14/16 Make-Up Picture Day

