



# November 2016 Newsletter

## Principal's Message

Greetings. November was a busy month, and we still have three more days to go when we return from the Thanksgiving break. Our annual Middle School Forum was well attended, and we were all transported to the 50's with Chad Scheppner's theater troupe's school rendition of the musical *Grease*. During this time of giving and considering those less fortunate than we, it was so nice to see our Westside Food Back barrels being filled by families and staff. It is an honor to be a part of such a socially conscious, thoughtful community. Now that the cat is out of the bag, I am also grateful for all of the well wishes before the break on my birthday and after. The highlight of my birthday was reading an impromptu story to one of our kindergarten classes during their visit to our library.

Thanks to all of our families who attended our family conferences and to our teachers for being so mindful of what research tells us about the potential deleterious effects of grades and the positive influences that growth mindset feedback has for our students. We understand the importance of parents being aware of their children's progress and how they measure up against the standards our students are expected to learn, but we must respond to the research that shows how actionable feedback supports students' conceptions of themselves as learners. When students understand what is expected of them, where they are on their learning path, and what tools are at their disposal to reach their goals, everyone wins. Education makes us all lifelong learners.

We are excited for the learning that December brings as we work with Growing Educators to refine our use of running records for reading instruction and the role of informative assessment. We also begin our study with Megan Franke and her team from UCLA as we partner with Charnock Road Elementary to expand Cognitively Guided Instruction as an instructional approach for mathematics teaching and learning and to deepen our practice simultaneously.

Finally, Ms. Babchenko and our students are busily preparing for our annual winter musical program while our room parents and Booster Club gear up for our holiday bazaar. Please think of a way you might contribute to these efforts so that our students continue to benefit from the wealth of programs and the talents of our team that our fundraising affords us. 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. Our school-wide attendance rate is 72.6%. **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. Our School Site Council analyzed attendance data and recommended that we start recognizing students with perfect attendance in the month of January, and continue that for each month through our end of year perfect attendance recognition. We are also sending out letters to families whose children fall in the strategic and intensive ranges for attendance to encourage better attendance. Second grade wins the extra PE class, and Ms. Saxton's class wins a free Mad Science™ class for an attendance rate of 98.63%! Congratulations!

## Cumulative Attendance Data as of November 18, 2016

The class with the best attendance wins a free Mad Science class! All classes get 10 minutes of extra recess.		The number in parentheses represents the percent change since October's newsletter.	
Percentage in Attendance by Class		% of Students with 96% Attendance	
Elson	96.8%	Kindergarten	51.1% (-9.1)
Tepas	98.10%	First Grade	78.8% (-6.6)
Block	98.3%	<b>Second Grade</b>	<b>80.2% (-5.5)</b>
Neri-Muñoz	97.8%	Third Grade	77.6% (-3.3)
<b>Saxton</b>	<b>98.36%</b>	Fourth Grade	75.6% (-9.5)
Payne	96.88%	Fifth Grade	73.8% (-5.4)

## The Role of Feedback

Too often in our work with students, we, teachers and parents, either feel the need to praise students for their abilities or "support" them by offering tips and strategies. Research has shown that this creates learners who become externally motivated and reliant, thereby lessening the chances our students can work independently with purpose and perseverance. One of the better ways we can support students is by asking them questions like: 1) What can you try? or 2) What can you do to find that answer? If we have modeled in other contexts, a read aloud or number talk, strategies readers, writers, and mathematicians use, then by asking questions like these, we empower our students to take risks and problem solve on their own. Then when they find success or correct a mistake (a natural and beneficial part of learning), we can provide feedback in the form of specifically naming what they did to move to the next stage of learning. Being clear about our goals, where we are in reaching them, and what we can do to accomplish what is expected also provides opportunities for us to converse about the learning process.

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

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

## Student Council

Congratulations to all of our candidates and winners for a positive, uplifting campaign. We look forward to the impact our council will have.

### Officers

President: Milan Valenzuela  
 Secretary: Audrey Phillips

Vice President: Morgan Kennedy  
 Treasurer: Adityan Swaminathan

### Representatives

1<sup>st</sup> Grade: Betty Payne  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade: Rosabelle Dunlap

2<sup>nd</sup> Grade: Devon Winer  
 4<sup>th</sup> Grade: Belle Reeves & Aliyah Redding

## Important Dates

12/01/16 Student Council Meeting	01/09/17 School Resumes
12/05/16 Coffee & Tea with the Principal	01/09/17 Spelling Bee Fundraiser Begins
12/05/16 Emergency Drills	01/09/17 Coffee & Tea with the Principal
12/07/16 Booster Club Meeting (05:00 PM)	01/13/17 Mid-Term Notices Go Home
12/07/16 CPK Restaurant Fundraiser	01/16/17 No School: MLK Jr. Day
12/15/16 Holiday Bazaar	01/19/17 Emergency Drills
12/15/16 Winter Program	01/19/17 SSC/ELAC Meeting
12/16/16 Minimum Day (8:15 AM – 12:35 PM)	01/20/17 STAR Nova Session 2 Ends
12/19/16 Winter Break Begins	01/26/17 Prospective Family Tour
01/06/16 Winter Break Ends	01/27/17 Mad Science (K) Session 2 Ends

