



# February 2017 Newsletter

## Principal's Message

Greetings. Yesterday at our morning assembly, I spoke to the leadership and character that our fifth graders evinced at our outdoor education trip to Idyllwild. Nothing is more gratifying than seeing our students grow and develop from pre-kindergarten through fifth grade or anywhere along the way into learners with grit and determination. In a recent reading on the effects that powerful approaches have on our students, I am reminded that these students and their younger counterparts have had almost three to four years of practices in English language arts and mathematics that encourage choice, risk taking, collaboration, discourse, and reasoning. I know it will be with great pride when I usher them into their next chapter of learning as they make their way to middle school. I am so grateful to our teachers for their sacrifice of time to provide this rich learning experience, Astro Camp, to our fifth graders and to our parents, particularly Fiona Chilcott, who helped make this trip possible as well.

In February, we continued our study of balanced literacy with Erin, our learning partner at Growing Educators, by thinking about how we differentiate literacy experiences for our students. We practiced conferring with our readers to gather data for future lessons and to learn more about them as thinkers. This form of professional development, micro-teaching, has measurable impacts in the long run for our students, and we are excited to engage in a similar kind of work in mathematics when we travel to Charnock Road Elementary in March to support and learn with their teachers as they embark on their use of Cognitively Guided Instruction (CGI). Our focus has been using student thinking as a means to make connections and explore problem solving approaches. When students have an opportunity to explain fully their thinking and ask and answer questions around it, all learners deepen their understanding.

Finally, we owe a huge debt of gratitude to our families for a record breaking month of fundraising. Thanks to Lisa Farr, Tania Campus, Cara McKinley, and many others we raised almost \$60,000 through our spelling bee pledge drive, winter dance, and hearts campaign for our Community Fund. We have our annual jogathon, Teacher Time Auction, and Spring Fling still to come and with all of the fun we will have with each, we will reach our goal of \$375,000 or beyond! Through your hours of volunteering and your generous giving, we are able to sustain and refine the powerful work we do. *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 68.4%, which reflects an increase of 3.3 percentage points since our last newsletter. **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 schedule trips on weekends and over holidays. Spring Break will be the week of April 10<sup>th</sup>, and we have a long weekend coming up: March 31 - April 2. Attendance is such a critical factor in our students' success. Please support us in this effort. Second grade wins the extra PE class, and as promised all classes in each grade with the best attendance win a free Mad Science class! Congratulations! Let's keep the momentum strong.

## Cumulative Attendance Data as of February 28, 2017

The classes with the best attendance win a free Mad Science class and 10 minutes of extra recess.		The number in parentheses represents the percent change since January's newsletter.	
Percentage in Attendance by Class		% of Students with 96% Attendance	
Mackavoy	96.03%	Kindergarten	55.6% (+9.2)
Tepas	97.26%	First Grade	73.4% (+4.9)
Rothschild	97.82%	<b>Second Grade</b>	<b>78.9% (+4.6)</b>
Neri-Muñoz	97.89%	Third Grade	67% (-2.8)
Saxton	97.27%	Fourth Grade	72.2% (-0.7)
Payne	96.12%	Fifth Grade	62.5% (-5)

## Learning Intentions and Success Criteria

In our work in professional development, we have begun framing our expectations and assessment criteria as *learning intentions* and *success criteria*. We feel our students will experience more success when we are clear on what they are expected to learn or do and how they will know they are successful. Below are descriptions of each:

*A starting place for lesson planning is the **learning intention**, or the statement of what students are expected to learn from the lesson. The learning intention for a given lesson, and the ability to communicate it clearly to students such that they can use it to gauge their progress, is foundational in the learning sciences. Stated simply, when one knows what the target is, there is an increased likelihood that the target will be achieved. Knowing one's learning destination is crucial...*

*If learning intentions serve as one bookend for learning, the other bookend consists of the criteria used to measure success. How do you know whether your students are successful at learning what you wanted them to? How do they know whether they're successful? How can they know whether or not they've met the intended learning intentions, or whether they're making progress toward doing so? With **success criteria**. Success criteria are statements that describe what success looks like when the learning goal is reached. They are specific, concrete, and measurable.*

Visible Learning for Mathematics, J. Hattie, D. Fisher, & N. Frey

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

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

## Family Conferences

With our focus on feedback and a growth mindset on teaching and learning, please make sure to schedule your family conference next week. March 8<sup>th</sup> through 10<sup>th</sup> will be minimum days: 08:05 AM – 12:35 PM to provide the time needed. Thanks.

## Important Dates

03/01/17 Betsy Brown Braun Night	03/12/17 Daylight Savings Ends
03/06/17 Jogathon Kick-Off	03/12/17 Scripps Regional Spelling Bee
03/06/17 Coffee & Tea with the Principal	03/13/17 Emergency Drills
03/07/17 PSArts Family Arts Night	03/14/17 4 <sup>th</sup> /5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Field Trip
03/08/17 Minimum Day (08:05 AM – 12:35 PM)	03/15/17 Booster Club Meeting
03/08/17 CAASPP Window Opens	03/17/17 Fifth Grade Fitness Exam Window Closes
03/09/17 Minimum Day (08:05 AM – 12:35 PM)	03/23/17 Prospective Family Tour
03/09/17 Lockdown Drill	03/23/17 SSC / ELAC Meeting
03/10/17 Minimum Day (08:05 AM – 12:35 PM)	03/24/17 Mad Science (K) & STAR Nova Session 3 End