



# March 2017 Newsletter

## Principal's Message

Greetings. On Thursday I was reminded of how vital our community is as our parents, students, and teachers cheered each other on as we participated in our annual Jogathon. On Thursday our pledge total was \$2,000 below our \$30,000 goal, but I have every confidence that we will meet or exceed that goal. I would like to thank Coach Stacey and her team for their efforts to boost the spirit of our families as we worked toward raising money for our PE program.

In March, we continued our work with Charnock Road Elementary and UCLA as we support the adoption of CGI district-wide. In addition to our teachers engaging in lesson study with Charnock's teachers, we came together twice at their school for professional development to refine our teaching around warm-ups and counting collections and the problem solving that can be accomplished in both. I could not be more proud of our team for their openness to collaboration and study. In addition to supporting their school, we also hosted seven schools over two days to share our work not only in CGI but also in balanced literacy. Teachers and administrators from these schools observed full lessons in mathematics, reading, and writing and debriefed with our teachers to learn more about how to implement these practices back at their own school sites. The willingness of our teachers to share their work is commendable. Finally, as part of the CGI expansion effort, three of our teachers were filmed teaching lessons in mathematics, the footage from which will be used to create blended learning modules for teachers to access district-wide. In the words of Jo Boaler, "Vivá la Revolución!"

As we enter a short month and look forward to a well-deserved Spring Break (April 10-14), we are also reminded that we still have 44 days of instruction left and two of our bigger fundraisers to knock out of the ballpark: Teacher Time Auction and Spring Fling. I appreciate how burdensome the focus on fundraising can be; but we must remember that without the approximately \$375,000 we raise each year, we wouldn't have the benefit of instructional support through our teachers' assistants, a full-time librarian, a robust PE program, visual arts and music, technology support and hardware, and field trips. Because we know without these, our students would not have the experiences they do, we make the sacrifices that they require; and I could not be more grateful. I know our families think of how they can participate, and that means so much. Thanks a million.

*Principal Jenkins*

## Attendance

Our goal is for 73% or more of our students to be in attendance 96% of the time. Our school-wide attendance rate is 62.6%, which reflects a decrease of 5.8 percentage points since our last newsletter. **An attendance rate of 96% is no more than 7 absences.** We recently sent letters out to families of students in at-risk categories, and I appreciate all of the families who have reached out to us. Please make sure to schedule trips on weekends and over holidays and take measures to stay healthy to avoid illness. Spring Break will be the week of April 10<sup>th</sup>. 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 most improved attendance win a free Mad Science class. Congratulations! 44 more days!

## Cumulative Attendance Data as of March 30, 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 February's newsletter.	
Percentage in Attendance by Class		% of Students with 96% Attendance	
Pippin	95%	Kindergarten	52% (-3.6)
Oppel	96%	First Grade	64.9% (-8.5)
Fielding	96%	<b>Second Grade</b>	<b>75.4% (-3.5)</b>
Aver	95%	Third Grade	62.1% (-4.9)
Flaxman	95%	Fourth Grade	67% (-5.2)
Querrey	95%	Fifth Grade	55% (-7.5)

## Warm Ups and Counting Collections

In our work in professional development, teachers engaged with experts from UCLA to refine how we work with our students at the beginning of and during our mathematics block so that our students strengthen their number sense, critically think about number and the operations that govern them, and defend and debate strategies for counting and problem solving. One of the warm-ups we saw demonstrated and have incorporated into our practice is called "Three of These Things." In this warm-up, students are shown four number sets or other items and asked to think about what three of them have in common and why the fourth does not fit into their category. Through this warm up, students think critically, analyze similarities and differences, defend their reasoning; and when using numbers, they can strengthen their number sense, understanding of place value, and concepts of equivalence. The possibilities are endless.

Through counting collections, students have opportunities to think about how best to use grouping when counting a collection, which lends itself to understanding our base-10 number system, and they develop a sense of the relative size of larger numbers. Teachers can pose problems in the context of their counting, which creates more opportunities for students to count and reason about number. There is nothing more gratifying than seeing a group of first graders count by tens to 474 and then easily switch to counting by ones to finish off the counting. These experiences are creating in our students a sense of efficacy.

## Fifth Grade Science and Third through Fifth Grade Assessments

On May 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>, our fifth graders will take the state's annual science assessment. During the weeks of May 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, and 22<sup>nd</sup>, all third, fourth, and fifth graders will take our state's Smarter Balanced Common Core CAASPP assessments (<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/>). Thanks to a generous donation from one of our families, all of our students can take the assessment together in their classrooms, as we are now 1:1 with Chromebooks devices. Look for a letter this week.

## Important Dates

04/03/17 Coffee & Tea with the Principal	04/07/17 Mad Science Session 4 Begins (K)
04/03/17 GATE Informational Meeting	04/07/17 Ms. Mackavoy's Class Field Trip
04/03/17 Enrollment for 2017-18 School Year Begins	04/10-14/17 Spring Break
04/05/17 Mad Science Session 4 Begins (GR. 1-5)	04/17/17 Teacher Time Auction Begins
04/05/17 SSC/ELAC Meeting	04/18/17 Spring Portraits
04/05/17 Japanese Program 4 Begins	04/20/17 Fifth Grade Panorama Picture
04/05/17 Booster Club Meeting	04/20/17 SSC/ELAC Meeting
04/05/17 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Science Assessment Window Opens	04/21/17 Prospective Family Tour
04/07/17 Emergency Drills	04/21/17 Mid-Term Notices Go Home