



April / May 2017 Newsletter

Principal's Message

Greetings. This is the time of year that gets the better of me. With April being a short month instructionally and all of the tasks that pile up towards the end of the year: evaluations, assessments, staffing, and enrollment, it seems like I have for the past couple of years had to combine newsletters for April and May. I think I may just have to write one for June to celebrate all that we have accomplished this year.

April was short but action packed! Thanks to Rita and Zenobia and everyone who supported them for a tremendously successful Spring fundraiser: Rock-N-Luau. I am always amazed at how effortless our parents make it seem when they coordinate one of these events, and this year like every one that has come before it has helped us break records, as we approach the \$400,000 threshold in monies raised. Our Booster Club has voted on our budget for next year, and we have been able to maintain programs and staff through our 15 teachers' assistants, our PE program, our librarian's aide support, our gardening program, and our arts programming. Because of increasing costs through PSArts, in order to keep our 30 weeks of music, our teachers have stepped up to teach visual arts, with the support of a parent liaison and a robust arts budget. We value the arts and with the district supported dance and theater programs, all of our students will continue to receive an arts integrated education. Please help us elect a new board and end the year with celebration and cheer by attending our last Booster Club meeting on May 31 at 6:00 PM.

Thanks to our teachers and students for showcasing all the work they have accomplished this year at our annual Open House. We have continued our study of facilitating rich discussions through work from the book *Intentional Talk*. 22 of our second graders showcased for us the potential that can be achieved when we invite and expect a variety of approaches when solving meaningful problems. At one of our meetings, a second grader invented his own algorithm for a multidigit comparison problem, and we established a conjecture that set the groundwork for students to engage in proof. Our teachers and I could not have been more proud of the ways in which our students questioned each other's thinking. This month, we are looking at how we help students develop agency and independence in their choice of books and the ways in which they interact with them. Thanks as always for your support as we near the end of what has again been an extremely rich year of learning.

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 69.1%, which reflects an increase of 6.5 percentage points since our last newsletter. **An attendance rate of 96% is no more than 7 absences.** We are so excited that all of our grade groups showed increases in their attendance, which leads us to think that our incentives and outreach have made an impact. Attendance is such a critical factor in our students' success. Thank you for supporting us in this effort. Second grade wins the extra PE class, and all classes will get an extra 10 minutes of recess for their gains. Also, Ms. Block's class gets an afternoon of fun for having the best attendance for May. Congratulations! Perfect attendance trophies will be given out on June 5th. 18 more days!

Cumulative Attendance Data as of May 5, 2017

| The class with the best attendance wins an afternoon of fun and 10 minutes of extra recess. | | The number in parentheses represents the percent change since March's newsletter. | |
|---|---------------|---|---------------------|
| Percentage in Attendance by Class | | % of Students with 96% Attendance | |
| Mackavoy | 95.83% | Kindergarten | 58.5% (+6.5) |
| Tepas | 96.62% | First Grade | 69.4% (+6.9) |
| Block | 97.78% | Second Grade | 82.9% (+7.5) |
| Welch | 96.23% | Third Grade | 69.8% (+7.7) |
| Saxton | 96.73% | Fourth Grade | 71.1% (+4.1) |
| Querrey | 96.09% | Fifth Grade | 66.3% (+11.3) |

Teaching Staff for 2017-2108

After 24 years at our school, our beloved Ms. Elson is taking a well-deserved bow and entering a new chapter in her life. Over the past 8 years, I have been the recipient of heaps of praise and gratitude from families she has served for her undying devotion to all of the students who had the fortune of passing through her room. Please join me in thanking her for her selflessness, dedication, ingenuity, and collaboration. We could not be more grateful.

Below is our teaching staff for next school year. (Combo classes indicated.) Kudos to teachers who have taken on new challenges. Some of our teachers will be moving classrooms so please stay on the lookout for emails enlisting your help. Many hands make light work!

| Kindergarten | First Grade | Second Grade | Third Grade | 4th Grade |
|---------------|-----------------|--------------|------------------|-----------------------------|
| Fielding (TK) | Forsythe | Tepas | Block | Welch |
| Mackavoy | Lira | Kachadurian | Jenkins | Saxton |
| San Juan | Masi | Flaxman | Aver | 5th Grade |
| McDaniel | Oppel (1/2) | Rothschild | Romero | Querrey |
| Pippin | Resource | | Neri-Muñoz (3/4) | Buck |
| | Smith | | | Payne |

Intentional Talk Discussion Protocols

After students have solved problems independently and had time to share their strategies with their peers, they gather on the rug to discuss approaches that the teacher has selected. *Open strategy* share is the most common way to engage around students' thinking, but when we want to be more intentional, we might *Compare & Connect* or ask students, *Why? Let's justify*, the former of which asks students to make connections and the latter of which requires students to prove why a strategy works. If we want students to work through a misconception or error, we can *Troubleshoot and Revise*; or if we're introducing a new tool or method, *Define and Clarify* works well. Finally, *What's Best for You and Why?* asks students to think what works for them and why it fits their style.

Important Dates

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| 05/18/17 Emergency Drills | 05/31/17 Booster Club Meeting |
| 05/19/17 School Play: Wizard of Oz | 06/02/17 Music and Visual Arts End |
| 05/22/17 Ms. Fielding's Mad Science Class | 06/02/17 Mad Science Session 4 Ends (K) |
| 05/22/17 Ms. Oppel's Mad Science Class | 06/05/17 Coffee & Tea with the Principal |
| 05/23/17 4 th /5 th Grade Field Trip (Rms. 12-14) | 06/09/17 Fifth Grade Culmination |
| 05/26/17 STAR Nova Session 4 Ends | 06/09/17 Minimum Day |
| 05/26/17 Ms. Masi's & Ms. McDaniel's Field Trip | 06/09/17 Last Day of School |
| 05/29/17 No School: Memorial Day | 08/14/17 K & New Family Orientation |
| 05/31/17 Mad Science Session 4 Ends (Gr. 1-5) | 08/15/17 First Day of School |