



# September 2017 Newsletter

## Principal's Message

Greetings. A few weeks ago I was thinking that this has been one of the smoother openings of school I've ever experienced. The 110+ kindergarteners who have joined our community, the over 30 new students in grades 1-5 who have graced us with their curiosity, and all of their families are among the host of reasons I love this job. Observing our students in play and at work in their classrooms as they navigate new friendships with classmates and bonds with their teachers fills my soul and is why one rarely sees me in my office. The work is in our classrooms and on our play yard. My priority is and will always be observing the work in action so I can think about how to refine and strengthen it.

One of the challenges we had as school started was the task of filling a vacancy as we accepted the resignation of Ms. Kachadurian who moved to Boston with her husband. We are thankful for Ms. Mink's service as we conducted a thorough search for her replacement. We are thrilled to welcome to our community Ms. Amy Hou, who comes to us from Broadway's Mandarin Immersion program. She is brimming with enthusiasm and has 20 years of experience working with youth. Her official start date will be Thursday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, but she is with us currently observing instruction and preparing her lessons. In addition to her, we are also excited to welcome Ms. Lorretta Ruttenberg, who will be opening a new second grade classroom in room 25 to accommodate the surge we have had in our enrollment in kindergarten through third grade. Ms. Welch, fourth grade teacher, will be her neighbor in room 26, and Ms. Babchenko will teach music in room 8. These changes will take effect Monday, October 9. We understand that with change comes uncertainty, but we have to band together as a community and assure our students that with change comes new opportunity. Please know that we will take the utmost care during the reorganization process.

We have already had fun as we embark on this year's fundraising goals. We raised over \$500 at our first restaurant fundraiser, and Community Fund has hit the \$150,000 mark. We are so thankful for your faith in and commitment to our work. We have the Let's Lunch fundraiser on Sunday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, another restaurant fundraiser at Sharkey's on the 11<sup>th</sup>, and Spooky Saturday is just around the corner on October 28<sup>th</sup>. Volunteering in our classrooms and at these amazing events makes such a huge difference in the experience of our students. Thanks for all that you 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 82.8%, so let's keep that percentage high! **An attendance rate of 96% is no more than 7 absences in a year.** We are pleased that all of our grade groups are on track to meet that goal, which we hope to maintain through the engaging work in classrooms and our incentives. Attendance is such a critical factor in our students' success. Thank you for supporting us in this effort. Third grade wins the extra PE class, and all the classes with the best attendance will get an extra 10 minutes of recess. We will also be awarding students for perfect attendance each month with our very own CDA trading cards. Finally, Ms. Mink's and Ms. Hou's class gets a Mad Science class for their attendance rate. Bonus!

## Cumulative Attendance Data as of September 30, 2017

| The class with the best attendance wins a Mad Science class and all classes below get 10 minutes of extra recess. |               | The grade with the best attendance gets a PE class with Coach Jordan. |             |
|---|---------------|---|-------------|
| Percentage in Attendance by Class   |               | % of Students with 96% Attendance                                     |             |
| Fielding  | 98.04%        | Kindergarten  | 76          |
| <b>Mink / Hou</b>   | <b>99.04%</b> | First Grade   | 85          |
| Tepas   | 97.93%        | Second Grade  | 82.6        |
| Aver  | 97.99%        | <b>Third Grade</b>  | <b>87.3</b> |
| Saxton  | 98.28%        | Fourth Grade  | 80          |
| Querrey   | 97.49%        | Fifth Grade   | 86.3        |

## Professional Development and University Partnerships

This year we are excited to continue our partnership with UCLA as we deepen our practice in mathematics using Cognitively Guided Instruction (CGI). Dr. Nick Johnson will be working with our teachers and I over the course of the year during 8 of our Tuesday professional development sessions and during the day either on the Tuesday or another day. We will be analyzing student thinking, planning next steps, and trying out moves and strategies in classrooms. In addition to this work, we are also reading as a staff Tracy Zager's *Becoming the math teacher you wish you'd had*. In this book, we are exploring and implementing in our classrooms practices that create mathematical mindsets in all of our students. Next semester we will study a 2<sup>nd</sup> professional text: *Disrupting thinking* by Kyleen Beers and Robert Probst. We will be asking our students after they read a text, "How does this change you?" Finally, we have embarked on another partnership with UCLA through their school of visual arts. Starting this week, two teaching artists, Yue Wang and Lily Leon, will be working for 10 weeks with two of our second grade classes and two of our fourth and fifth grade classes as they complete their art teaching programs. This will be a banner year for learning!

## We Need You!

Each year we have to remind ourselves of the important role we have as models for our students. Children are consummate observers, and they watch our every move and hear every word, including the tones in our voices. If we want them to follow rules and act in kind ways, then we must do the same, consistently. Every time we park in a red zone, jay walk through traffic at valet, or speak in an unkind way to someone in our community, we give them license to break a rule or speak in ways that are disrespectful. Let's work together to ensure their success. Thanks.

## Important Dates

|  |   |
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| 10/02/17 Coffee & Tea with the Principal     | 10/19/17 Earthquake Drill                         |
| 10/04/17 Booster Club Meeting                | 10/19/17 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Outdoor Ed Meeting |
| 10/06/17 Ms. Jenkins' Class Field Trip       | 10/23/17 School Picture Day                       |
| 10/08/17 Let's Lunch Fundraiser              | 10/24/17 Brixology Ends                           |
| 10/11/17 Sharkey's Restaurant Fundraiser     | 10/26/17 Ms. Aver's Field Trip                    |
| 10/12/17 SSC / ELAC Meeting                  | 10/26/17 Ms. San Juan's Field Trip                |
| 10/13/17 Ms. Mead's & Ms. Block's Field Trip | 10/26/17 Prospective Family Tour                  |
| 10/16/17 Emergency Drills                    | 10/27/17 Environment Assemblies                   |
| 10/18/17 Ms. Neri's & Ms. Aver's Field Trip  | 10/28/17 Spooky Saturday                          |