



October 2017 Newsletter

Principal's Message

Greetings. Who can believe that we have beat the heat and moved into what is hopefully more fall-like weather? This past weekend marked what again was an exceedingly fun and successful fundraiser. Thanks to Monika Zemsky, Patricia Candido, and their team of volunteers for creating magic and adventure at our annual Spooky Saturday. A huge "thank you" goes as well to Katie and Fiona for orchestrating and hosting our annual Let's Lunch fundraiser. We appreciate the sacrifice of time these events require. Next up: Teacher Time Auction!

As parents have been busily working to raise money for our classrooms and students, our teachers have been delving deeply into instructional practices through our book study, our work with UCLA's CGI expert, and conferences. Our work continues to garner attention from other schools, and this past month, 9 of our teachers hosted over 25 educators on September 12th and 20 principals on September 18th as both groups work toward implementing at their schools Cognitively Guided Instruction (CGI) as an instructional approach for the teaching of mathematics. I could not be more proud of all of our teachers for their unwavering zest for learning and their collaborative spirit as they not only work toward refining their own craft but also are open to sharing it with others. This next month we will continue our study of how to build confidence in our mathematicians as we read Chapter 6, *Mathematicians Rise to a Challenge*, of our Tracy Zager book!

The third reporting period ends on Friday and we have family conferences scheduled for the week of November 13th, with minimum days (8:05 AM – 12:35 PM) on 11/15, 11/16, and 11/17. These conferences are critical to the success of our students. Research shows that when our students receive timely and accurate feedback on their work, their learning is maximized. Please make sure to schedule a conference and involve your child(ren) in the process so they understand that we are working together to ensure their progress. Finally, with our new approach to homework, we do not want there to be the misconception that students are to do nothing at home. 30 minutes of eyes on print reading in school and then again at home supports a lifelong love of and success in reading. Our teachers in their weekly and monthly communication share ideas for activities and questions that you can use to make connections to the work we do in school. Take advantage of these opportunities. We rely on you! Thanks 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 88.8%, which represent a 4% drop from last month. **An attendance rate of 96% is no more than 7 absences in a year.** We are pleased that 5 of our 6 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. **First 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. Saxton's class gets a Mad Science class for their attendance rate.** Bonus!

Cumulative Attendance Data as of October 31, 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	96.93%	Kindergarten	70.2
Hou	98.06%	First Grade	84.1
Rothschild	97.73%	Second Grade	78.9
Romero	98.11%	Third Grade	83.7
Saxton	98.2%	Fourth Grade	81.6
Querrey	96.51%	Fifth Grade	78.8

Notice and Note: Strategies for Close Reading

As part of the work our upper grade students do to determine theme and understand character, our teachers have been using work from Kylene Beers and Robert Probst to help students be aware of clues or "signposts" that authors use to cue readers into important story developments. Below are the six signposts and the questions students should ask themselves as they come across them. See if you can find them!

Signposts	
Contracts and Contradictions: When a character does something that surprises you STOP & ask: Why is s/he doing that?	Words of the Wiser: When a sage character takes the main character aside to offer advice STOP & ask: What's the life lesson and how might it affect the character?
Aha Moment: When a character realizes, understands, or finally figures out something STOP & ask: How might this change things?	Again & Again: When you notice a word, phrase, or situation mentioned over and over STOP & ask: Why does this keep happening?
Tough Questions: When a character asks herself a difficult question STOP & ask: What does this question make me wonder?	Memory Moment: When the author interrupts the action to tell you about a memory STOP & ask: Why might this memory be important?

Middle School Forum and eChoices

Each year our Booster Club organizes a Middle School Forum to provide opportunities for our community to learn about all of the amazing middle school options for our students. Please join us this Thursday, November 2nd, at 5:30 PM to learn about opportunities offered at over 12 public middle schools. Also, learn how to navigate the eChoices application process so that your child's chances at gaining admission to the magnet of your choice is increased. Finally, the deadline for the eChoices is Thursday, November 9th. Go to <http://echoices.lausd.net/> today! Thanks.

Important Dates

11/01/17 Mad Science Session 1 Ends (GR. 1-5)	11/06/17 Teacher Time Auctions Begins
11/01/17 Booster Club Meeting	11/06/17 5 th Grade Class Field Trip
11/01/17 Japanese After-School Program 3 Begins	11/08/17 Mad Science Session 2 Begins (GR. 1-5)
11/02/17 Middle School Forum	11/09/17 eChoices Deadline
11/03/17 Rothschild and Pippin Field Trip	11/09/17 SSC/ELAC Meeting
11/03/17 Marking Period 3 Ends	11/10/17 No School
11/03/17 Mad Science Session 2 Begins (K)	11/14/17 Make-Up Picture Day
11/05/17 Daylight Savings Ends	11/14/17 Emergency Drills
11/06/17 Coffee & Tea with the Principal	11/15-17/17 Minimum Days

