



November 2017 Newsletter

Principal's Message

Greetings. November was a short but busy month! We are forever grateful to our families for another successful food drive. Thanks to Sheeva and her team for organizing our barrels and to our teachers for decorating their barrels and encouraging their families to fill them. During this season of giving and thanks, there are important lessons learned when we give back and recognize that we all have something to contribute. We are also grateful to our families who took part in our auction fundraiser and came out for our Pitfire restaurant fundraiser. With over \$20,000 raised, we know that this money goes right back to our students for next year's programs and staff.

Our teachers continue to engage in professional development around powerful practices for teaching and learning. This month we discussed the importance of providing opportunities for students to productively struggle and for us to pull back and rely on them to access those tools and strategies that we have shared with them in our mini-lessons and warm-ups. In December, we will think of how we set the stage for students to ask questions of each other and how those questions can support authentic discussion and deep understanding of content. Nick Johnson, our UCLA CGI expert, worked with us in professional development and in our classrooms as we used strategies students generated around rich tasks to consider questions we might ask and next steps for instruction. Our work with him has supported us as we refine our CGI practice. We are excited as we move forward with our work with our experts and are finding windows of time to observe each other because we recognize the strength among us.

Thanks to all of our families who attended our November family conferences. We hope for those of you who are returning this year that you found the level of detail in our new report card helpful as you support your child(ren) at home as they work toward mastery of the content in our Common Core State Standards (CCSS). If you did not have a chance to meet with your child's teacher during the week of November 13th, please reach out to him / her and schedule a conference so that you can collaborate around ways to ensure success. We are here to answer your questions and brainstorm ways to address areas of need. I look forward to seeing everyone at our annual winter program on December 14th at either 8:30 AM or 1:00 PM, and I wish everyone a restful 3-week vacation. School resumes on January 8th. Thanks. *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 69.3%, which represents a 19.5% drop from last month. **An attendance rate of 96% is no more than 7 absences in a year.** We are concerned with the dramatic drop in attendance rates. Attendance is such a critical factor in our students' success. Thank you for supporting us in this effort. **Fourth 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. Romero's class gets a Mad Science class for their attendance rate.** Bonus!

Cumulative Attendance Data as of November 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	97.10%	Kindergarten	61 (-9.2)
Hou	97.91%	First Grade	71.9 (-12.2)
Rothschild	97.32%	Second Grade	68.2 (-10.7)
Romero	98.19%	Third Grade	74.9 (-5.8)
Saxton	97.96%	Fourth Grade	75 (-6.6)
Buck	96.87%	Fifth Grade	63.6 (-15.2)

Reading Nonfiction: Notice & Note Stances, Signposts, and Strategies

Last month we shared signposts for fiction reading developed by Kylene Beers and Robert Probst. As most of our students are engaged in nonfiction units of study, our grades 3-5 teachers use 3 essential questions to support comprehension: 1) What surprised me? 2) What did the author think I already knew? 3) What challenged, changed, or confirmed what I knew? They also use the non-fiction signposts below to help students take notice and wonder as they read. See if you can notice these when you read non-fiction texts with your child and help your child stop and wonder.

Signposts

Quoted Words: When you notice the author quotes a Voice of Authority, a Personal Perspective, or cited Other's Words **STOP** & ask: Why did the author quote or cite this person?

Extreme or Absolute Language: When the author uses language that leaves little doubt, exaggerates or pushes to the limit **STOP** & ask: Why did the author say it like that?

Number & Stat: When you notice specific numbers, number words or amounts **STOP** & ask: Why did the author use those numbers or amounts?

Contracts and Contradictions: When the author presents a difference between what you know and what is happening in the text *or* a difference between two or more things in the text **STOP** & ask: What is the difference and why does it matter?

Word Gaps: When the author uses a word or phrase you don't know **STOP** & ask: Do I know this word from someplace else? *or* Does this seem like technical talk from experts of this topic? *or* Can I find clues in the sentence to help me understand the word?

CGI Parent Education Night: December 7, 2017 (5:30 PM)

Join Mrs. Payne and Ms. Romero in the library as they help support your understanding of CGI (Cognitive Guided Instruction) mathematics and discuss how you can support your child at home. Several other CDA teachers will also be there to support you in the work. This is part one of two sessions.

Important Dates

12/01/17 Mad Science Coding Ends (GR. 3-5)	12/13/17 Emergency Drills
12/04/17 Coffee & Tea with the Principal	12/14/17 Winter Program
12/04/17 Ms. Saxton's Mad Science Class	12/15/17 Minimum Day
12/04/17 Ms. Hou's Mad Science Class	12/18/17 Winter Break Begins
12/06/17 Booster Club Meeting	01/05/18 Winter Break Ends
12/07/17 Ms. Romero's Class Field Trip	01/08/18 Coffee & Tea with the Principal
12/07/17 CGI Parent Education Night	01/08/18 SpellCheck Pledge Drive Begins
12/07/17 Sylvan Math Night (TK-2)	01/10/18 Booster Club Meeting
12/08/17 Fifth Grade Field Trip	01/11/18 SSC / ELAC Meeting