



December 2017 Newsletter

Principal's Message

Greetings. As 2017 comes to a close, we are incredibly grateful to our students, teachers, and parents for what has again been a memorable, fun-filled, and educational first semester.

December was a short school month but that didn't stop us from taking every opportunity to grow and learn together. Parents who attended our Coffee and Tea with the Principal engaged around California's graduation requirements and asked and answered questions around our role in ensuring our students are college and career ready. Our CGI Parent Education night had the largest turnout ever in my history as a principal with 50 parents in attendance eager to build their toolboxes as they support their children's mathematics sense making at home. We are looking forward to another night of CGI learning for parents on February 15th. Our teachers studied together around ways we encourage students to notice, wonder, and ask questions in mathematics; and our book club finished their second book, *Visible Learning for Mathematics*, as they discussed ways we help students transfer their learning to new and novel situations. That was accomplished in 11 days. Tremendous!

December was also marked by our annual winter program. We are indebted to Ms. Babchenko, P.S. Arts, and our teachers as they prepared our students for a truly magical event. To see our students sing and create music together is one of the more exciting times of the year. We always look forward to seeing our families and are grateful to our room parents who organized our holiday basket auction and to Ms. McCarthy and Ms. Renee who orchestrated our Ms. Nelson's Book Fair. This year, thanks to your support, we raised \$5095 from our basket auction, and we are excited to use the proceeds from our book fair to purchase new and desired titles for our library. We recognize that rich libraries are essential in order to create lifelong readers in our students.

As we look ahead to 2018, we continue to think of ways to refine and strengthen our approaches. We are excited to welcome a new set of student council officers: Walker P., Hendrix A., Belle R., Holden N., Andrew B., Devon W. and Jordan S. These students will lead the way in community service, campus beautification, and civic responsibility. With our schoolwide spelling bee and pledge drive coming up, we will have many opportunities to see our students shine. Please take the time to celebrate their efforts, their curiosity, and their interests as we work together to create thoughtful, innovative learners. Your involvement is key. 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 70.1%, which represents a 0.8% increase from last month. **An attendance rate of 96% is no more than 7 absences in a year.** We look forward to sustaining or improving our rates. 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, **Mr. Rothschild's class gets a Mad Science class for their attendance rate.** Bonus!

Cumulative Attendance Data as of December 15, 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	
Mackavoy	95.45%	Kindergarten	65 (+4)
Hou	96.73%	First Grade	65 (-6.9)
Rothschild	99.57%	Second Grade	72.7 (+4.5)
Aver	97.63%	Third Grade	76.2 (+1.3)
Saxton	96.48%	Fourth Grade	70.4 (-4.6)
Payne	96.24%	Fifth Grade	70.1 (+6.5)

9th Annual School-Wide Spelling Bee and Pledge Drive

On January 8th, we will launch our 9th annual school-wide spelling bee and pledge drive. Spelling lists for students in grades one through five were emailed in November. (If you need to receive them again, please email Principal Jenkins.) Students will be collecting pledges on the number of words they can spell from their grade level lists. Pledge sheets should be turned in by Friday, January 19th. During the week of January 22nd, students will take their spelling challenges and bring back their pledge sheets for collection by January 26th. All pledges will be collected by February 2, 2018. Grade levels will determine their classroom spelling bee semi-finalists through a combination of the spelling challenges and in-class spelling bees. One student from each first grade class, two students from each second and third grade class, and three students from each fourth and fifth grade class will compete in our annual spelling bee on Tuesday, February 6th, at 2:00 PM. The winner from that competition will compete in the Scripps Regional Spelling Bee on March 11th. We are excited for another round of pledges and competition.

Mathematicians Take Risks

When we began our study of how we can become the math teachers we wish we'd had through a Tracy Zager book study, we made commitments to encourage risk taking in our classrooms by recognizing that there are different ways to approach problems, thinking and understanding are paramount, students can build new understanding from what they already know, discussions and asking questions should occur daily, teachers are guides and should help students interpret their work and make connections, students are sense makers, and mistakes are learning opportunities. The words we use and the stances we take affect our students' ability to take risks. We can do this!

Important Dates

01/08/18 School Resumes	01/19/18 STAR Nova Session 2 Ends
01/08/18 Coffee & Tea with the Principal	01/22/18 Japanese Sessions 2 Ends
01/08/18 SpellCheck Pledge Drive Begins	01/24/18 Mad Science Session 2 Ends
01/10/18 Booster Club Meeting	01/26/18 Mad Science Session 2 Ends (K)
01/11/18 SSC / ELAC Meeting	01/29/18 STAR Nova Session 3 Begins
01/12/18 Mid-Term Notices Go Home	01/29/18 Japanese Sessions 3 Begins
01/15/18 Dr. MLK Jr. Holiday	01/31/18 Mad Science Session 3 Begins
01/18/18 Emergency Drills	02/02/18 SpellCheck Pledge Drive Ends
01/18/18 Prospective Family Tour	02/02/18 After School Theater Begins