



# May / June 2018 Newsletter

## Principal's Message

Greetings. May was a full month of learning and community building. As we near the end of the school year, we have to reflect on all that we have accomplished and set goals for continued improvement and growth. Our teachers expanded their repertoire of teaching strategies and approaches. We returned to our study of Tracy Zager's *Becoming the math teacher you wish you'd had*, and we were thrilled when the author herself joined us by Zoom for one of our chapter discussions. In book club, our teachers pondered how we create relevance for our readers and provide opportunities for them to read *and* reread without interruption. Finally, we are grateful for our third through fifth grade students and their teachers for successfully completing this year's Common Core State Standards assessments (CAASPP). Our students really took these assessments seriously.

May was action packed with school events and fundraisers! Thanks again to Rita and Zenobia and everyone who supported them for a tremendously successful Springapalooza. Our room parents created some really fun activity booths this year, and the music was amazing. Speaking of music, we are incredibly proud to announce that two of our Rockstar bands, The Hellraisers and Rolling Thunder, won the Battle of the Bands competition in both age categories, which is the 2<sup>nd</sup> time this has happened in my tenure as principal; and as a result they will record their winning songs on June 9<sup>th</sup> at the world famous The Village. A huge debt of gratitude goes to Clay for his work with our students. We are so lucky to have him on board.

As we wrap up the year, we have to take stock in all that we accomplished this year. We hosted over 300 educators in our classrooms who are looking to replicate our research-based practices. We grew another teaching position and weathered with grace transitions and changes. We exceeded our fundraising goals with over \$440,000 raised, breaking records with Community Fund and Jogathon. We did all of this because of the dedication and passion our teachers *and* parents bring to this work on behalf of our students. We understand, though, that the work is never done. We will set new goals next year, will look for ways to grow our practice, and will rely on new leadership in our Booster Club. Currently we are looking for a new president to coordinate the work of various board positions and three vice presidents to support him/her. Please join our families at our last meeting on Wednesday, June 6<sup>th</sup>. We need you! Thanks.

## 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 68.5%, which reflects an increase of 3.7 percentage points since our last newsletter. **An attendance rate of 96% is no more than 7 absences.** This month Ms. Oppel's class will receive a Mad Science class for their attendance in May, and fourth grade wins the PE challenge for most improved attendance. Attendance is an area where we need to work to improve. We continue to receive reports that families are taking vacations during school time, and while we know that you are your child's first teacher, our school's revenues depend on in-seat attendance. This year so far, we have lost \$251,635 as a result of absences month to month. Let's work to improve these numbers next year. We can do it! Thanks.

## Cumulative Attendance Data as of May 31, 2018

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 April's newsletter.	
<b>Percentage in Attendance by Class</b>		<b>% of Students with 96% Attendance</b>	
San Juan	97.31%	Kindergarten	52.8% (-3.8)
Gonzalez	98.3%	First Grade	66% (-0.1)
<b>Oppel</b>	<b>98.86%</b>	Second Grade	68.3 (-4.9)
Romero	98.48%	Third Grade	70.8% (-2.5)
Saxton	97.65%	<b>Fourth Grade</b>	<b>70.1% (+2.6)</b>
Gonzalez	98.42%	Fifth Grade	68.6% (+1.5)

## Teaching Staff for 2018-2019

After 29 years at our school, our beloved Mrs. Saxton is taking a well-deserved retirement and entering a new chapter in her life. She has worked thoughtfully and diligently with students in her care, and I have relied on her for counsel and support. We will truly miss her.

Below is our teaching staff for next school year. (Combo classes indicated.) Kudos to teachers who have taken on new challenges. We are thrilled to welcome Ms. Karli Kauffman to our team as our new first grade teacher and Ms. Jessica Alberi who will be teaching fifth grade. Ms. Gill will teach Ms. Keri's class while she is on maternity leave. 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)	Ruttenberg	Oppel (1/2)	Block	Gonzalez
Mackavoy	Kauffman	Welch	Jenkins	Tepas
Lira	Masi	Flaxman	Aver	<b>5<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>
Mead	Keri/Gill	Rothschild	Romero	Payne (4/5)
Pippin	<b>Resource</b> Smith		Neri-Muñoz (3/4)	Buck Alberi

## PASSport (<http://passportapp.lausd.net/parentaccess/>)

Thanks for registering with the District's PASSport system. We are over halfway to our goal of 25% with 16% registered. Please take time this week to register. If you want to assign your child to your account to use the portal next year, you can get his/her 10-digit ID number from your room parent or me or by stopping by the main office. Next year this portal will allow you to monitor your child's attendance and final grades, update emergency telephone numbers, track your child's progress towards completion of graduation requirements, connect with the classroom teacher, track progress of students who are learning English as a second language, and much more.

## Avoiding the Summer Slide

Summer is a time to relax and connect with family and friends. Research shows, though, that students who do not maintain reading, writing, and mathematics practices often lose progress from end of year to beginning of a new school year. Families can avoid this by looking for opportunities to talk "math" with their child, providing them time to journal their summer fun, and ensuring they have rich reading material at their fingertips. Help us maintain their progress by being their resource for learning at home.

## Important Dates

06/04/18 Coffee & Tea with the Principal 06/07/17 Last Day of School  
 06/06/18 Booster Club Meeting (6:00 PM) 08/06/18 Kindergarten Warm-Ups  
 06/07/18 Minimum Day (8:05 AM – 12:35 PM) 08/13/18 K & New Family Orientation  
 06/07/18 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Culmination (10:20 AM) 08/14/18 First Day of School