



# September 2018 Newsletter

## Principal's Message

Greetings. As we enter our eighth week of school, we have much for which to be thankful. Our school continues to receive recognition for its work in establishing and sustaining research-based practices that support our student's creativity and lifelong love of learning. On the very first day of school, we were chosen as one of 13 schools that Superintendent Beutner visited, and the *Los Angeles Times* featured us in their [coverage](#) of the day. We are grateful to our students, staff, and parents who represented us so well and showcased the strong community we have built. Our parents are our partners in this work, and it has been a wonderful experience to engage with them at our annual Beach Meet and Greet, our Back to School Night event and social gathering afterward, our Pitfire Restaurant fundraiser, and our Let's Lunch fundraiser, the latter of which went off without a hitch thanks to Fiona and her team. I am committed to being the kind of present and engaged principal that has been one of the reasons you love our school, but I always remember that our teachers are the main attraction. We are indebted to them.

This year we are excited to continue our work with the [UCLA Math Project](#) (UCLAMP) and LAUSD's Division of Instruction (DOI) as Cognitively Guided Instruction (CGI) is adopted as a school wide practice for the teaching and learning of mathematics across the district. 120 schools are now working with the district through the support of UCLAMP, the DOI, and our school. Seven of our teachers are supporting 6 schools on 8 Tuesdays; and in October, we will be hosting hundreds of educators over two Thursdays, so they can see the work in action. In addition, five of our teachers' [videotaped lessons](#) are being used to support teachers as they work toward using children's thinking to guide their instructional decisions. The sacrifice of time our teachers make each and every day goes beyond the walls of our school, and we have established a vibrant learning community not only for students but also for other educators.

Thanks to all of our families who have donated to our Community Fund as we work toward our first goal of \$150,000. Today I accepted a \$2,000 grant from the Abbot Kinney Street Festival for our fifth graders' outdoor education trip to the [Pali Institute](#), and we are excited about the upcoming Dave and Buster's fundraiser on October 9<sup>th</sup>, our Heritage Dress Day on the October 15<sup>th</sup>, and our Spooky Saturday fundraiser on October 27<sup>th</sup>. Let's make this a banner year! Thanks for all that you do.

## Attendance

Our goal is for 71% or more of our students to be in attendance 96% of the time. Our school-wide attendance rate is 86.1%, 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 our 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. Oppel's class gets a Mad Science class for their attendance rate. Bonus!

## Cumulative Attendance Data as of September 30, 2018

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	97.68%	Kindergarten	83
<b>Oppel</b>	<b>99.23%</b>	<b>First Grade</b>	<b>88.8</b>
Welch	98.07%	Second Grade	88.2
Aver	97.91%	Third Grade	86.7
Tepas	97.54%	Fourth Grade	87.6
Payne	99%	Fifth Grade	79.4

## 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). We have also partnered with their [Science Project](#) to deepen our understanding of the Next Generation Science Standards. This year our fifth graders will take a state assessment to determine how well they understand the Disciplinary Core Ideas that are embedded within these standards. Our work will be focused on creating opportunities for our students to ask and pursue their own questions, and their work in our garden science program will support them as they seek to know more about the world around them. We will be using a text, [Ambitious Science Teaching](#), to guide our work, and each of our grade groups will have a lab day to build units of study and test out lessons with our students. Finally, we will continue our work with Erin Donelson, our balanced literacy expert, as we refine and grow our practice in balanced literacy, readers' and writers' workshop.

## Common Core State Assessment Data

We are incredibly proud of our students and teachers for their continued growth on the CA Assessment of Student Performance and Progress. Let's celebrate together their efforts and drive.

CAASPP Met / Exceeded Standards		
Year	ELA	Math
2015	52%	46%
2016	72%	69%
2017	69%	63%
2018	79%	72%

## Important Dates

10/01/18 Coffee & Tea with the Principal	10/18/18 Earthquake Drill
10/03/18 Ms. Tepas' & Ms. Neri Muñoz's Field Trip	10/19/18 Ms. Mead's & Ms. Block's Field Trip
10/04/18 Lift Cooking Classes Begin	10/19/18 Prospective Family Tour
10/05/18 Fifth Grade Field Trip	10/19/18 Mad Science Begins (TK/K)
10/08/18 Booster Club Meeting	10/22/18 School Picture Day
10/11/18 CGI Demo Day (Grades 3-5)	10/24/18 2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade Field Trip
10/11/18 SSC / ELAC Meeting	10/25/18 CGI Demo Day (Gr. TK-2)
10/15/18 Emergency Drills	10/26/18 STAR Nova Session 1 Ends
10/15/18 Heritage Dress Day	10/27/18 Spooky Saturday
10/18/18 Mad Science Begins (Gr. 1-5)	10/29/18 STAR Nova Session 2 Begins