



October 2018 Newsletter

Principal's Message

Greetings. We really know how to usher in fall. Not only did our Booster Club and their teams of parent volunteers host over 500 visitors for our annual Spooky Saturday, but our teachers, room parents, and I welcomed approximately 250 educators over two Thursdays for our CGI Demonstration Days in partnership with the LAUSD's Division of Instruction and the UCLA Math Project (UCLAMP). What has become abundantly clear is that we have developed and sustained a community to which people are drawn for not only do families who have moved to other areas or whose children who have culminated return to enjoy our festivals, but teachers from around southern California travel many miles as they endeavor to replicate our research-based practices. It was so heartening to see so many former and prospective students at our event this past Saturday, and as I reflected on the second of our two demo days, I could not help but think of the adage: "If you build it, they will come." What we have built, together as parents and staff, is a school that is a community of learners where students and teachers from all over the Los Angeles area can thrive and grow.

This past month, our teachers continued their study of balanced literacy, mathematics, and the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). We spent a Saturday with the UCLA Science Project studying ways to position our students to be curious and pose and answer questions. Our teachers, in partnership with the UCLAMP, co-facilitated opportunities for our teachers to analyze student thinking and plan for next steps in learning; and we have begun in earnest with our balanced literacy expert, Erin, our study of the ways in which our students engage with text and author their own. The next time you have the opportunity to communicate with your child's teacher, hopefully no later than the week of family conferences, thank him/her for their openness to new learning and continued study. Our teachers attend conferences on Saturdays, read professional texts at home, and continually collaborate in so many arenas in order to be the best teacher for our students. We honor them!

We have much to look forward as we end our first reporting period this Friday. Please make sure to schedule your child's family conference the week of November 12th and keep an eye out for our Teacher Time Auction fundraiser events that will be sent out this Monday. You, our families, are so generous with your time and resources. We could not do this work without you. Thanks so much. ❤️ *Principal Jenkins*

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 78.8%, which is a drop of 7.3 percentage points from last month, but still above our goal. **An attendance rate of 96% is no more than 7 absences in a year.** We are pleased that 5/6 of our grade groups are on track to meet that goal, which we hope to maintain. Attendance is such a critical factor in our students' success. Thank you for supporting us in this effort. 4th 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. Ruttenberg's class gets a Mad Science class for their attendance rate. Bonus! **No more than 7 absences. Keep it under 7.**

Cumulative Attendance Data as of October 31, 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	97.73%	Kindergarten	73.5 (-9.5)
Ruttenberg	98.55%	First Grade	80.1 (-8.7)
Rothschild	97.10%	Second Grade	82.1 (-6.1)
Aver	97.10%	Third Grade	80.3 (-6.4)
Tepas	98.29%	Fourth Grade	84.5 (-3.1)
Payne	97.75%	Fifth Grade	68.2 (-8.2)

Words Their Way and the Annual Spelling Bee

Traditionally, when we think of spelling, we think of spelling lists and Friday spelling tests. In our work with balanced literacy, our approach has changed. If I asked you to spell an unfamiliar word, as an adult you would have a fairly good shot because you have learned how words work and the spelling patterns that govern them. Our work with students enables them to discover those patterns collaboratively. At the beginning of each year, our teachers administer spelling inventories and use those to decide where their students are in their understanding of words and their spelling patterns. Students work 3-5 times a week in small groups around various sorts for their word groups. As they master a word family, they move on to the next set. Teachers send home these sorts so that you as family can engage with them as well. That being said, our annual spelling bee (Grades 1-5) in February engages another kind of learning: memorization. We only expect that our students use what they know to spell the words from their grade level lists as they collect pledges on the number of words they spell. Students who wish to engage in our bee can compete for that opportunity. We are proud of all of our spellers.

Passport and Volunteer Requirements

Thanks to all of our families, 34% to be exact, who have registered their children on the district's parent Passport portal, a site that provides families access to a host of data. Please take time to register now: <http://passportapp.lausd.net/parentaccess/>, as our goal is 100%. Also, the district has new requirements for volunteers, which includes a fingerprint clearance. If you wish to volunteer in classrooms or on field trips, please start the application process now at <https://volunteerapp.lausd.net/>. If you have questions or concerns, please email me. Thanks.

Important Dates

11/01/18 Sylvan Science Night (Gr. 3-5)	11/08/18 Lift Cooking Session 1 Ends
11/01/18 Middle School Forum	11/08/18 SSC/ELAC Meeting
11/02/18 Marking Period One Ends	11/09/18 eChoices Deadline
11/02/18 Mr. Rothschild's Class Field Trip	11/09/18 Gardening Session 1 Ends
11/04/18 Daylight Savings Ends	11/12/18 Veterans' Day
11/05/18 Marking Period 2 Begins	11/13/18 Make Up Picture Day
11/05/18 Coffee & Tea with the Principal	11/13/18 Booster Club Meeting
11/05/18 Teacher Time Auction Begins	11/13/18 Emergency Drills
11/07/18 NGSS Studio Lab Day (Gr. 3)	11/14-16/18 Minimum Days (8:05 – 12:35)
11/07/18 Ms. Masi's & Ms. Kaufmann's Field Trip	11/16/18 School Play