



December / January 2018-2019 Newsletter

Principal's Message

Greetings and Happy New Year! We had another short month of instruction in December, but as always it was action packed, and we look forward to a robust January. Thanks to all of our families for their heartfelt recognition of our teachers and staff before the holidays. One of my favored traditions in the school year is to sit in my den and read the holiday cards from students and parents. Your recognition of our work does not go unnoticed. Our goal is always to provide the very best in educational experiences for your children, and your partnership is critical. As much as you appreciate all that we do, we understand that the work starts at home. Thanks for sending us such happy, curious children, ready to learn and grow. We appreciate you too!

A huge debt of gratitude goes to Ms. Babchenko, our PSArts music teacher, our teachers, and their students for a truly memorable winter program. This year we started a new tradition of scheduling performances all day, with each class performing once, and the extra time that classes had to perform provided the opportunity for them really to shine. Nothing is more heartwarming than to see scores of children singing together. We are also grateful to Ms. McCarthy and Ms. Renee for staging the 2nd of our three book fairs, which provided our families opportunities to squeeze in some extra holiday shopping and raised monies for our school and classroom libraries. Finally, kudos to our room parents, Booster Club, and parent volunteers for staging another hugely successful holiday basket auction that raised over \$5,200 and to our fifth-grade room parents for raising approximately \$2,500, ping pong style, for our 5th grade outdoor education trip! We are over the moon.

We have much to which to look forward in January. While uncertainty looms with the prolonged and currently unsuccessful negotiations between our district and the United Teachers of Los Angeles (UTLA), the bargaining unit that represent our teachers and nurses, we are hopeful that an agreement will be reached in a timely manner. That notwithstanding, our teachers are ready to return for more teaching and learning. We will continue with our study of balanced literacy (K&3) and the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS; TK-2); and January kicks of our annual Spelling Bee Pledge Drive and Spelling Bee Competition (Grades 1-5). This fundraiser provides essential funding for all of our field trips, extracurricular activities, and recess equipment. Please make sure to review the information attached, which will also come home as a hard copy. Your support of our school is as always appreciated. ❤️ *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 71.2%, which is a drop of 0.1 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 1/2 of our grade groups are on track to meet that goal, which we can improve. 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 award 3rd grade with an extra PE class for having the most improved attendance. Students with perfect attendance for December will be recognized with our very own CDA trading cards. Finally, Ms. Block'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 December 14, 2018

The class with the best attendance wins a Mad Science class and all classes below get 10 minutes of extra recess.		The grades with the best and most improved attendance get a PE class with Coach Jordan.	
Percentage in Attendance by Class		% of Students with 96% Attendance	
Pippin	97.39%	Kindergarten	68.3 (0)
Kauffman	97.08%	First Grade	70 (+0.5)
Rothschild	98.4%	Second Grade	73.2 (-1.2)
Block	98.5%	Third Grade	73.7 (+1.2)
Tepas	95.76%	Fourth Grade	76.3 (-1.3)
Payne	97.1%	Fifth Grade	63.2 (-8.1)

Update on Contract Negotiations with UTLA and LAUSD

Thanks to all of our parents who have reached out to me to inquire about UTLA's announcement of a potential strike by its members: teachers, nurses, and counselors, as a result of unsuccessful negotiations for a new contract. We are so appreciative of the dedication and passion our teachers bring to the work, and no team of folk is more deserving of a solid contract than they and their counterparts in health and human services. We are also hopeful that the meeting that is scheduled on Monday, January 7, 2019, between the two parties, UTLA and LAUSD, will result in an agreement that will prevent a job action and a disruption in our students' program. In the event an agreement is not reached by January 10, 2019, and a strike does occur, school will remain open. We have a plan in place to serve all of our students, which will include daily instruction in all of the core subjects. I of course will lead the work with the help of support staff, district personnel, and volunteers. All volunteers must have completed applications on file. Please email me the week of January 7th with any questions. I will use our Coffee and Tea with the Principal on Monday, January 7th, at 08:45 AM to provide more detailed updates and to field questions from our community. These are challenging times, but together as a community we will manage them together, as we always do. Thanks.

Spelling Bee Pledge Drive and Competition

It's that time of the school year again where we cheer on our competitive spellers and raise money for our school's field trips, extracurricular activities, and recess equipment. Our spelling bee is a different but time-honored way for some of our students to demonstrate their spelling acumen. Please make sure to read the attached letter and join us to cheer on our spelling bee semi-finalists on Tuesday, February 5th, at 02:00 PM in our auditorium. Thanks!

Important Dates

01/07/19 School Resumes	01/25/19 Spelling Bee Pledge Drive Ends
01/07/19 Spelling Bee Pledge Drive Begins	01/25/19 STAR Nova Session 2 Ends
01/07/19 Coffee & Tea with the Principal	01/30/19 Theater Session 3 Begins
01/10/19 SSC/ELAC Meeting	02/01/19 After School Theater Begins
01/11/19 Mid-Term Notices Go Home	02/01/19 5 th Grade Fitness Exam Begins
01/14/19 Booster Club Meeting (8:45 AM)	02/01/19 ELPAC Exam Window Opens
01/16/19 Prospective Family Tour	02/04/19 Coffee & Tea with the Principal
01/17/19 Emergency Drills	02/04/19 Hearts Campaign Begins
01/21/19 No School: Dr. MLK Jr. Holiday	02/04/19 STAR Nova Session 3 Begins
01/23/19 Theater Session 2 Ends	02/05/19 Annual Spelling Bee