



May / June 2019 Newsletter

Principal's Message

Greetings. This is the time of year when I have an opportunity to reflect on all that we have accomplished as a community. I first need to thank our teachers, especially as we wrap up teachers' appreciation week, for being our touchstones and the ones who remind me why I came into this work. They are true innovators. Of course, our students are as well our impetus for coming to work every day, and I could not have asked for more curious minds, brighter smiles, and kinder hearts. The hugs, laughter, and new learning we were able to share this year will never leave me. Finally, our parents have been what we expect when we say "partners". That we have again exceeded fundraising targets, weathered a strike which grew us stronger as a community, and ensured our students have the very best in staff and resources is a testament to how committed we are to the cause of public education. Thanks to everyone for keeping our focus laser-like on what research says is best for our students. We continue to think of new ways to refine and strengthen our approaches. Next year we will look for ways to incorporate intrinsic rewards into our work with students. Our goal is for our students to do what is best for them and the community. Learning how to be a vital member of a community is worthwhile work, and together we know we can achieve that goal. Have a great summer!

☀️ *Andrew Jenkins*

Measure EE

Recently the Los Angeles Unified Board of Education voted to place Measure EE, a local school funding parcel tax, on the June 4, 2019 special election ballot. If approved by two-thirds of voters in a special election on June 4, 2019, Measure EE would provide local school funding to support Los Angeles public schools through a 16-cent per square foot parcel tax for 12 years.

Seniors citizens and certain low-income property owners with disabilities would be eligible for an exemption from the cost of the measure. Measure EE funds would be used to retain and attract quality teachers, reduce class sizes, and support instructional programs including arts, music, science, technology, English and math. By law, all Measure EE funds must be used to support Los Angeles public schools and could not be taken by the state and federal governments.

As a reminder, the deadline to register to vote in the June 4 election is Monday, May 20. To register to vote, please visit the Secretary of State's website at: <https://registertovote.ca.gov/>. More information about Measure EE and about voting in the June 4 election is available at www.MeasureEELAUSD.org. Thank you.

Attendance

Our goal is for 71% or more of our students to be in attendance 96% of the time. **An attendance rate of 96% is no more than 7 absences.** This month Ms. Romero's class will receive a Mad Science class for their attendance in April, and second 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, not counting January, we have lost \$212,756 as a result of absences month to month. Let's work to improve these numbers next year. We can do it! **Keep it under 7.** ☺️

Cumulative Attendance Data as of April 30, 2019

The class with the best attendance wins a Mad Science class, and every class receives 10 minutes of extra recess.		The classes in the grade with the best attendance get a PE class with Coach Jordan.	
Percentage in Attendance by Class		% of Students in Attendance	
Mackavoy	97.92%	Kindergarten	95.27
Ruttenberg	98.10%	First Grade	94.21
Welch	98.25%	Second Grade	96.14
Romero	98.78%	Third Grade	95.81
Tepas	96.21%	Fourth Grade	95.89
Payne	97.84%	Fifth Grade	95.86

Teaching Staff for 2019-2020

This year we wish the best to three of our more beloved teachers. For a combined 54 years, they have instilled joy and wonder into the hearts and minds of hundreds of students. Students regularly name them as their favorite teachers; and they each have unique talents and strengths, but they share a passion for and commitment to the education of youth that has been worthy of emulation. I have been honored to work with each of them and have grown as an educator because of them. We know that Ms. Romero and Ms. Welch will continue to touch the lives of students and teachers alike in their new assignments. Ms. Pippin, though, will be able to pursue her own interests as she enters a well-deserved retirement. I can hardly imagine our school without them.

Below is our teaching staff for next school year. (Combo class indicated.) We are thrilled to welcome three new teachers to our team and a familiar face. Congratulations to Mr. Yin, our fifth-grade teachers' assistant, who is being promoted to teacher. We are so excited for him. We are also delighted to welcome David Victorin, a veteran teacher, who last year worked as a teacher coordinator at Overland Elementary; Allie Webb, who has been working for the past five years in charter elementary schools; and Maggie Kells, who student taught with Ms. Block last semester and just completed a long-term assignment in Manhattan Beach. Together the four of them will bring fresh eyes to our work and help us in our continual pursuit of excellence and innovation. 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	Block	Victorin
Mackavoy	Kauffman	Kells	Aver	5th Grade
Lira	Masi	Flaxman	Neri-Muñoz	Yin
Mead	Gonzalez	Rothschild	4th Grade	Payne
Alberi	Resource	2nd/3rd Grade	Webb	Buck
	Smith	Jenkins	Tepas	

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. Our teachers will also be sending home a menu of activities from which you can choose.

Important Dates

05/13/19 Booster Club Meeting (8:45 AM) 06/07/19 Last Day of School
 06/03/19 Coffee & Tea with the Principal 08/12/19 Kindergarten Warm-Ups
 06/07/19 Minimum Day (8:05 AM – 12:35 PM) 08/19/19 K & New Family Orientation
 06/07/19 5th Grade Culmination (10:20 AM) 08/20/19 First Day of School

