



September 2019 Newsletter

Principal's Message

Greetings. As we march into September, we are so grateful for the tremendous outpouring of support from our families and community. Thanks to monies raised through Booster Club fundraisers, our front landscaping was given a much-needed renovation. The delight it has brought to our students as they enter and exit our school each day is heartening. We are grateful as well for the coordinated efforts of our families, community volunteers, and our beautification team who spearheaded a community service day the Saturday before school started and helped oversee the resurfacing of our playground murals. Taking pride in our grounds communicates to our students that we care about them and want the very best for their learning environment. We could not have asked for a better start to the school year.

This year we will 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. 210 schools are now working with the district through the support of UCLAMP, the DOI, and our school. In October, we will be hosting hundreds of educators over two Thursdays, so they can see the work in action. 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. We are also thrilled to continue our partnership with the UCLA Science Project as we refine our approaches in science. This work has helped us develop vibrant units of study in which students investigate and test out theories as their understanding of core concepts in science develop. Finally, stay tuned for updates on the ways in which we are adjusting our approach to positive behavior support as we move away from extrinsic rewards to systems that develop in students an intrinsic motivation to act and behave in ways that support them and others.

Thanks to all of our families who have donated to our Community Fund as we work toward our first goal of \$200,000. Each year I am reminded of how lucky we are to have such a vibrant, dedicated corps of families. It was great to see such great turnout at our first two Coffee and Tea with the Principal and Booster Club meetings. Make sure to read the communications from our teachers so you stay connected to the learning. Thanks.

Andrew Jenkins

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 in a year.** Absent strike days last year, **we had a surprisingly low rate of students in attendance 96% of the time: 39.3%.** We have to ensure that our students are in attendance more regularly if we expect them to learn all that is expected for them by the state. One might attribute a dip in our CAASPP results (below) to our low attendance rate. Let's work together this year to improve these numbers. Fourth 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, Mrs. Rybak's class gets a Mad Science class. Bonus!

Cumulative Attendance Data as of August 31, 2019

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 Taylor.	
Percentage in Attendance by Class		% of Students with 100% Attendance	
Lira	98.31%	Kindergarten	82.3
Rybak	100%	First Grade	83.7
Rothschild	98.91%	Second Grade	77.5
Aver	99.5%	Third Grade	80
Victorin	99.07%	Fourth Grade	88.6
Buck	98.66%	Fifth Grade	83

Tribes and Kids 1st from Day 1

Our teachers and I have put a renewed emphasis on our schoolwide character development program: *Reaching All by Creating Tribes Learning Communities*. You should hear from your child how they are taught to use "I" messages to resolve conflicts, how community circle builds community, and how their tribes are opportunities to share appreciations and develop inclusivity. Coupled with this program, we are studying the work of Kristine Mraz in her book *Kids 1st from Day 1*. Our teachers and I are discussing and reflecting on the systems we have in our classrooms and beyond and how they support students in learning and trying out social skills that are essential to a peaceful, supportive learning community.

Common Core State Assessment Data

We are incredibly proud of our students and teachers for student performance on the CA Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP). Let's continue to set goals by refining and rethinking our approaches. Thanks.

CAASPP Met / Exceeded Standards (All Students; Grades 3-5)		
Year	ELA	Math
2015	52%	46%
2016	72%	69%
2017	69%	63%
2018	79%	72%
2019	74%	66%

Important Dates

09/17/19 Mr. Victorin's Class Field Trip	10/01/19 Mid-Term Notices Go Home
09/17/19 After School PE Starts	10/02/19 Cotsen Balanced Literacy Lab Day
09/20/19 Prospective Family Tour	10/03/19 CGI Demo Day (Gr. TK-2)
09/20/19 Conga Kids Begins (Gr. 5)	10/07/19 Coffee & Tea with the Principal
09/20/19 After School Theater Begins	10/07/19 GATE Informational Meeting
09/23/19 Mad Science NASA Begins	10/09/19 No School
09/25/19 Mad Science Begins (Gr. 1-5)	10/10/19 CGI Demo Day (Gr. 3-5)
09/27/19 Mad Science Begins (TK/K)	10/10/19 SSC/ELAC Meeting
09/29/19 Let's Lunch Fundraiser	10/11/19 Booster Club Meeting
09/30/19 No School	10/11/19 LA Streets Smarts Program