



October 2019 Newsletter

Principal's Message

Greetings. As October draws to a close, we have so much for which we are thankful. Thanks to our Community Fund team and our teachers for communicating how our annual giving supports the work at our school. Because of the many generous donations, we met our initial target of \$200,000 and are on our way to our annual Community Fund goal of \$350,000, which will enable us to continue to have the world class programs and amazing staff that we would not otherwise have without our families' commitment to our students. We wish we could operate with a funding model that did not require the kinds of fundraising we undertake, but your acknowledgment of how these monies benefit our students does not go unnoticed. We appreciate you!

October has been a busy month for our teachers. In addition to their everyday work of planning, delivering, and reflecting on student-centered lessons, they hosted over 250 educators for our Division of Instruction / UCLA Math Project CGI demonstration days as well as an additional 40 educators for a balanced literacy lab morning, as part of our role as a demo site for the Cotsen Art of Teaching Foundation. Our teachers are able to be leaders in their field because of their hours of professional study, and they began this work in earnest with Erin Donelson, our balanced literacy expert, and Kristine Mraz, a new expert who is working with us on refining our approaches with a social emotional lens. We are also excited to continue our work with Matthew Medrano from the UCLA science project, who will continue to support us as we design vibrant units of study in the sciences. Thanks to this latter work, our gardening teachers, 3 teachers, and I were able to design units of study by grade level for students' work in the gardens. We realize that the work is ongoing, and we are so lucky to have a team that never stops learning and growing.

November looks to be another fun month, albeit a bit shorter. Please be on the lookout for invitations for our fall family conferences, which will be the week of November 18th, and the announcement for our annual Teacher Time Auction fundraiser, which will begin the week of 11/4. Staying connected to the work we do at our school is easy when we have teachers and a Booster Club who are regularly keeping us abreast of all of the wonderful opportunities our students have. Make sure to attend one of Booster Club meetings and / or a monthly Coffee and Tea. See you at Spooky Saturday! ☹️🍷

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.** Currently 76% of our students are meeting this target, which is awesome. Let's work to keep our students attending school as much as possible, as we know this contributes to students meeting the goals they and their teachers are setting. 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, Mrs. Gonzalez's class gets a Mad Science class. Bonus! **Keep it at 7!** We can do this. Thanks.

Cumulative Attendance Data as of October 18, 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 Jordan.	
Percentage in Attendance by Class		% of Students with 100% Attendance	
Lira	98.43%	Kindergarten	74.8
Gonzalez	99.52%	First Grade	83.8
Rothschild	97.52%	Second Grade	70.5
Block	98.4%	Third Grade	76
Tepas	98.42%	Fourth Grade	79.5
Payne	98%	Fifth Grade	75

Reaching all by Creating Tribes Learning Communities

Our teachers and I have been refining our work in social emotional learning as we enter our third year of using *Tribes* as a tool for building community and creating opportunities for students to define their place as a productive student. One of the central structures of *Tribes* is **community circle**, in which our teachers and students engage together as a team 3-5 times a week. All students sit in a circle, typically on the rug, and share something about themselves, often times in response to a prompt that the community or the teacher provides. Students might share a favorite memory from their weekend or something to which they are looking forward. They might share how they are feeling that day and why. The circle is guided by four essential agreements: 1) Attentive listening 2) Mutual respect 3) Right to pass / participate and 4) Appreciations / no put downs. Ask your children how the circle supports them in their work. What they share should help you understand how this helps them feel included and regarded.

Get Ready! Teacher Time Auction

One of our more popular fundraisers is our Teacher Time Auction, which we are now running the few weeks before our Thanksgiving break. Each year our staff and I create fun events on which families can bid. This is a blind auction, and families only have one opportunity to bid. The bidding will open on November 4th and will close on November 22nd. Winners will be announced when we return from Thanksgiving break on December 2nd. Bid sheets will be emailed and sent as a hard copy. Email Mrs. Buck (mrsbuck4@gmail.com) or Mr. Jenkins with any questions. Thanks!

Important Dates

10/23/19 Picture Day	11/04/19 Teacher Time Auction Begins
10/24/19 Spanish Session 1 Ends (Tu/Th)	11/04/19 Spanish Session 1 Ends (Mon)
10/25/19 Prospective Family Tour	11/04/19 Mad Science Ends (NASA)
10/26/19 Spooky Saturday	11/04/19 STAR Nova Session 2 Begins
10/31/19 Afterschool PE Session 1 Ends	11/06/19 Cotsen CGI Lab Day
11/01/19 Mr. Victorin's Class Field Trip	11/06/19 SSC/ELAC Meeting
11/01/19 Mr. Rothschild's Class Field Trip	11/06/19 Mad Science Ends (Gr. 1-5)
11/01/19 Mad Science Ends (TK/K)	11/06/19 Middle School Forum
11/01/19 STAR Nova Session 1 Ends	11/08/19 Prospective Family Tour
11/03/19 Daylight Savings Ends	11/11/19 No School: Veterans Day
11/04/19 Coffee & Tea with the Principal	11/13/19 Booster Club Meeting