




November 2019 Newsletter

Principal's Message

Greetings. November is over, and it could not have been more action packed and enriching! Thanks to all of our families who came to celebrate our students' growth and set goals for the second marking period during our first round of family conferences. Your involvement in your children's education has been proven by research to boost academic achievement, so let's keep the momentum strong. While it seems like the year is half over, we still have 117 more days of instruction. Take a look at our attendance data points and make sure your children are in school, ready to grow. Our dedicated team can pack a lot of learning into that time. Thanks to our teachers and support staff for creating the kind of school worthy of emulation. We are so proud of the coordinated efforts of all of our stakeholders as they recognize the power of a world-class public education. We have much for which to be thankful.

Even though November was shorter than most, we still made the most of our 15 days with our annual Middle School Form, two NGSS science lab days for teachers, a quiz night fundraiser, and a mathematics conference that 7 of us attended. We are so grateful to our Booster Club for creating a professional development fund which covers attendance fees, travel, and lodging for conferences. The value it places on our teachers does not go unnoticed. Each and every time our teachers attend a conference, they share their learning with their teams so that everyone benefits. We understand why the UCLA Math Project and the Cotsen Art of Teaching have chosen us as a demonstration site for teaching and learning. Our teachers' lifelong pursuit of learning creates the conditions from which others can learn and develop. Go team!

December is shortened by a week, but in classic form, we are making the most of our 15 days. Thanks to our families for their participation in our annual food drive and for maintaining that giving spirit through our participation in the Holiday Backpack Drive that will fill backpacks for more than 300 unhoused and foster students in the Venice family of schools. As we end the year, we look forward to more learning with our balanced literacy expert, two assemblies around environmental awareness and fitness, our annual winter program, and a Ms. Nelson's Book Fair. Make sure to say hello at assembly as we refine our approaches through telling stories of the greatness among us and showcasing the talents of our students through poetry and song. Your engagement is everything.  Andrew Jenkins

Attendance

Our goal is for 72% 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 67% of our students are meeting this target, which is a decline of 9 percentage points since our last newsletter. With the onset of flu season, let's make sure our students are washing their hands, eating well, exercising, and getting plenty of rest. Kindergarten 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. Payne's class gets a Mad Science class. Bonus! **Keep it at 7!** We can do this. Thanks.

Cumulative Attendance Data as of November 22, 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	97.67%	Kindergarten	73.7 (-1.1)
Gonzalez	95.63%	First Grade	67 (-16.8)
Flaxman	96.88%	Second Grade	60.6 (-9.9)
Block	95.83%	Third Grade	65.3 (-10.7)
Tepas	96.70%	Fourth Grade	63 (-16.5)
Payne	98.47%	Fifth Grade	72.2 (-3)

Reaching all by Creating Tribes Learning Communities

Another component of the Tribes community building program is "I" messages, which we began using my first year as principal. In Kristi Mraz's and Christine Hertz's book, *Kids 1st from Day 1*, they discuss how social skills can be taught, and our "I" messages are a critical piece of the work we do in helping students communicate and resolve conflict peacefully and respectfully. When a student feels maligned or disrespected, s/he can take action by communicating how it makes them feel: I feel ...when you...and I need you to ...It's important that students are specific as to what exactly has happened that has caused them to be hurt or offended and then ask for something to resolve the situation like an apology or for the offending party to stop. We teach students to take this first step and if it does not work to go to an adult for help. I can't tell you how many times that the "I" message has actually worked. (I use them too!) It's exciting when our students are able to solve their own problems. Let's continue to encourage it.

Teacher Time Auction

We are thrilled and thankful to report that we are currently at \$22,600 in bids for our Teacher Time Auction fundraiser. Thanks to our teachers and support staff for creating such attractive events and to our families for their generosity and engagement. In the spirit of giving as we wrap up some bidding battles, I am allowing bids for any openings in a few of our events. All current bids are secure, and any late bids will only be honored if there are available spots. Let's stretch our goals and see if we can exceed last year's total even more than expected. Let the bidding continue!

Important Dates

12/02/19 CPK Restaurant Fundraiser	12/19/19 Winter Program
12/03/19 Environmental Defenders Assemblies	12/19/19 Class Basket Auction
12/03/19 CPK Restaurant Fundraiser	12/19/19 Holiday Bazaar
12/04/19 Play 60 Challenge Assembly	12/19/19 After School PE Ends
12/06/19 Gardening Session 2 Begins	12/20/19 Minimum Day
12/11/19 Emergency Drills	12/20/19 Ms. Nelson's Book Fair Ends
12/11/19 Booster Club Meeting	12/23/19 Winter Break Begins
12/11/19 Conga Kids Performance	01/10/20 Winter Break Ends
12/13/19 Second Grade Field Trip	01/13/20 School Resumes
12/13/19 Conga Kids Competition	01/13/20 Spelling Bee Pledge Drive Begins
12/16/19 Ms. Nelson's Book Fair Begins	01/13/20 Coffee & Tea with the Principal