



# January / February 2020 Newsletter

## Principal's Message

Greetings. As we eased into the new year, as usual our pace quickened and our calendars filled, and here we are in February, combining two months for a winter update. We have been so buoyed by our students' continued enthusiasm for learning, our teachers' drive to teach at their best, and our parent's undying efforts to ensure we have all of the resources a school like ours needs to thrive. We began the year with our 11<sup>th</sup> annual spelling bee pledge drive and competition and were so heartened when one of our parents offered to match dollar for dollar every pledge collected. Then our grades 1-5 classrooms engaged in spelling work to select our 38 spelling bee semi-finalists who competed with such poise at our bee on Tuesday, February 11<sup>th</sup>. To witness second graders on stage with their fourth and fifth grade counterparts always inspires awe in all of us, and once again we have a third grade champion. Congratulations to Lincoln R. and Mikaella K., our runner up.

January marked the launch of a new book that we are using for a source of study: *Math Exchanges*, and we were honored when its author agreed to facilitate our first meeting in January. Because of the attention our approaches have drawn, she had asked to visit our school when she was in town for LAUSD's and UCLA's CGI Celebration conference on January 25<sup>th</sup>, and by coincidence it came on the same day as our meeting. We have been focusing our work in math teaching on how we listen to our students and how we position them to listen to each other, so her book has become one we can use to think about that work. We were also thrilled to welcome back Liz Romero, who taught with us for over 20 years, as she coaches us for 4 days over the course of this semester. If you happen to see her on campus, say hello! Finally, we are continuing our study of social emotional learning through our use of *Tribes* and *Kids 1<sup>st</sup> from Day 1*, and this month marks the end of our work with Erin Donelson, our balanced literacy expert. Our teachers and I are so fortunate to have these opportunities to grow and learn, but they would not be possible without you! That is why your support of our annual Community Fund Hearts Campaign is so vital. Let's reach 100% giving this month. Give what you can. ❤️❤️❤️❤️❤️❤️

Before you know it, we will be barreling into March and readying ourselves for our winter dance (3/7), our 2<sup>nd</sup> round of family conferences (3/9-13), our annual Jogathon (3/27), and Open House (3/31) as well. Thanks for your support and see you on campus! 🏃🏃🏃 *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 66.5% of our students are meeting this target, and while this was a decrease of 5.5 percentage points from our last newsletter, I was encouraged by this number. We've seen quite a few students out with the flu, so let's keep washing those hands and getting our 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. Aver's class gets a Mad Science class. Bonus! **Keep it at 7!** We can do this. Thanks.

## Cumulative Attendance Data as of February 14, 2020

| 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                                    |                    |
| Alberi  | 96.53%     | <b>Kindergarten</b>   | <b>72.8 (-6.6)</b> |
| Masi  | 96.04%     | First Grade   | 65.2 (-9.8)        |
| Rothschild  | 96.74%     | Second Grade  | 65.8 (-0.3)        |
| <b>Aver</b>   | <b>97%</b> | Third Grade   | 61.9 (-2.5)        |
| Tepas   | 96.26%     | Fourth Grade  | 66 (-8.7)          |
| Yin   | 96.18%     | Fifth Grade   | 71.7 (-0.3)        |

## 11<sup>th</sup> Annual School-Wide Spelling Bee Champions

Thanks to all of our families who helped their children collect pledges for our spelling bee drive. Even though our work around spelling is more guided by patterns than memorization, our spelling bee has become a beloved tradition. We are so proud of our competitors, below, and the champions for each grade, in bold, our runner up, Mikaella\* and champion, Lincoln\*\*. We will be honoring them at assembly on March 2<sup>nd</sup> and announcing our fundraising totals and winners of the pledge drive competition.

| <u>First Grade</u>  | <u>Second Grade</u> | <u>Third Grade</u>  | <u>Fourth Grade</u> |           |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------|
| <b>Hannah C.</b>    | Rocco B.            | Kobe S.             | Phillip S.          | Fatima A. |
| Jolene P.           | <b>Isobel M.</b>    | Nils A.             |                     |           |
| Misty S.            | Rian Rose H.        | <u>Fourth Grade</u> | <u>Fifth Grade</u>  |           |
| Jack T.             | Ry E.               | Fabian G.           | Anaiya T.           | Yuval E.  |
| <u>Second Grade</u> | Cyrus B.            | Cal R.              | Lael S.             | Chase C.  |
| Tommaso R.          | <u>Third Grade</u>  | Finn G.             | Zino B.             | Daphne R. |
| Enlileo A.          | <b>Lincoln R.**</b> | Sophia P.           | Liliya R.           | Emma S.   |
| Victor K.           | Alain M.            | Sophia R.           | <b>Jaden A.</b>     |           |
| Sofia S.            | Gia S.              | <b>Mikaella K.*</b> |                     |           |
| Charlotte K.        | Evan A.             | Xavier S.           |                     |           |

## Productive Struggle

Much of our work is guided by a belief that struggle and mistakes are growth opportunities, which is supported by research. As much as we think that we are "helping" our youngsters when they seem to be struggling, we might be in fact hurting them in the long run. Think of the reward you have felt when you have overcome a worthwhile obstacle. Let's ensure our students' success by encouraging them to be problem solvers and perseverant workers.

## Important Dates

|   |  |
|---|--|
| 02/24/20 Emergency Drills                           | 03/05/20 First Grade Field Trip          |
| 02/24/20 Mad Science Mission Code Begins            | 03/06/20 Marking Period 2 Ends           |
| 02/26/20 Mad Science Begins (Gr. 1-5)               | 03/07/20 Scripps Regional Spelling Bee   |
| 02/27/20 Prospective Family Tour                    | 03/07/20 Winter Dance                    |
| 02/28/20 Jazz in Schools Program                    | 03/09/20 Jogathon Kickoff                |
| 02/28/20 Mad Science Begins (TK/K)                  | 03/09/20 Coffee & Tea with the Principal |
| 02/28/20 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Fitness Window Opens | 03/09/20 GATE Informational Meeting      |
| 02/28/20 ELPAC Exam Window Opens                    | 02/07/20 Mad Science (TK/K) Begins       |
| 03/02/20 Spanish Session 2 Ends (Adv.)              | 03/11/20 Booster Club Meeting            |
| 03/04/20 Fourth Grade Field Trip                    | 03/11-13/20 Minimum Days                 |
| 03/04/20 SSC/ELAC Meeting                           | 03/13/20 Prospective Family Tour         |