Sequoia Elementary School

October 2018

Principal’s Notes

Dear Sequoia Families,

Thank you for such a warm welcome!! I have settled in, and while it has only been a short time, Sequoia already feels like home.

September has been very busy! We have had two assemblies (bike safety and Believe fundraiser kick off), a Community Service Day, and two full days of whole school Professional Development as we dive into the International Baccalaureate Candidacy process.

Thank you to Scot Mehl for coordinating the Believe fundraiser. Catalog orders should be in by early November. We’ll keep you posted as to the exact date. Community Service Day was a success! Thank you to parent volunteer Dee Dee Tully for coordinating, parent volunteer Mr. Franke and Cleary Brothers Landscape and The Village Nursery for landscaping expertise and plant donations, and to teachers Jennifer Risken, Leslie Altman and Mary Ann Spakousky for coordinating and representing. We had a great turn out and a lot of projects were accomplished. Thanks to all who came out!

Sequoia Elementary has been accepted into the candidacy phase of the International Baccalaureate program. This is a rigorous program that provides an engaging, integrated learning experience that fosters a global understanding. The teachers and I spent two days this week developing our understanding of the program and what it will look like at Sequoia. The candidacy phase lasts a few years during which time the program will be built and gradually implemented. We will keep you posted as we move through the process!

October promises to be another busy month – with the Book Fair coming at the end (more details to follow). Enjoy the shift of light and coolness in the air!

Thank you for the gift of your child,

Patricia Kawahara, Principal Sequoia Elementary
Spotlight on Patty Liu

My name is Patty Liu and I'm the new Speech Language Pathologist (SLP) at Sequoia Elementary. I've been a pediatric SLP for around 6 years working in the private practice and school settings. I've worked with children ages 3-17 on their articulation, social communication, receptive/expressive language skills, and more. I am excited to be here at Sequoia and look forward to working with the students. I'm on campus Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Friday afternoons. If you have any questions, please feel free to email me and thanks for your support!

School Site Council

Thank you to all who submitted names for the School Site Council ballot and for those who agreed to stand for the council. We really appreciate everyone’s willingness to step in!

The School Site Council parent representatives for the 2018/19 school year are:

Rachael Burt
Jolyn Duquette
Jeannette Antink
Emily Strong Getty
Scot Mehl

While the representatives are responsible for voting on various items, the meetings are open to the school community and an agenda is posted in advance. If you are able to join us, please do.

Lunch Updates

The lunch schedule has been revised to allow students to eat first and play second. This shift has been made to allow students to stay in the cafeteria after the dismissal to finish up should they need more time to eat. In order to accommodate this change, some timing had to shift and grade levels that were once eating on their own are now doubled up with another grade. You can support the success of this shift by sending your student with a nutritious, protein based snack. Thank you!
Parking Lot Protocols

If you have dropped off or picked up your child at school, you are aware of how congested the parking lot can get! To help with this, please keep the following protocols in mind:

Please pull your car forward as far as possible
Please do not let students out of the car until you have rounded the corner. This keeps the students safe and keeps the line moving.

Absences: Please be sure your child is here and on time every day! Should your child be sick, please call or email the office to clear the absence right away (935-5721). Thank you!

Pick Up

Please arrange for your student to be picked up promptly after school lets out. School lets out at 2:45 everyday but Wednesday when school lets out at 1:45. We provide supervision at the dismissal area until 3:00. If you are running late, please call the office (935-5721). We have had a number of students left at school until well past 4:00. This is a challenge for us as the school office closes at 4:00 and I am often in meetings around campus or at the district. This means that our office manager has to stay late so that children are not left unsupervised. Thank you!

A Night at the Derby Gala Event
The Sequoia Parents Association is inviting you to participate in our largest fundraiser of the year: our annual Gala Dinner/Dance/Auction. Our theme this year is “A Night at the Derby”, and the event will take place on Saturday, March 2, 2019, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Concord, CA. Tickets are still available and donations are being accepted. If you have any questions, please contact Toni Shay at SequoiaGala@gmail.com or 925-286-1868

Dates to Remember:
October 11th: Sequoia Parent Association (SPA) Meeting
October 23rd: Make Up Picture Day & 5th grade Panoramic Photo
October 31st: Halloween Parade (We will keep you posted on the details)
October 31st: Opening of Book Fair
November 2nd: Movie Night