Principal’s Message

Dear Sequoia Families,

Happy New Year! I hope the break was fun and relaxing! My family and I enjoyed the break and now I am very happy to have back the routine and structure of school. It has been great to see the students again and hear about their vacation.

This is a great time of year! Students have settled into the routines and expectations. The community connections are established that allow students to take chances and grow together. Students dive in and excel and it is wonderful to watch!

We have a few exciting things coming up:

Students will be attending an Eco Hero Assembly to learn about our new compost and recycle program. We will be transitioning to the new program in order to comply with the city of Pleasant Hill’s requirement, and to support the health of our planet.

The Science Fair is scheduled for Thursday, February 7th. Thank you to Donavaughn Jones for coordinating this event. Please see his article below for more information.

The 4th and 5th grade students who participate in Instrumental Music will perform on the 29th. As many student carrying an instrument around school will tell you, I am really looking forward to hearing them play!

Thank you, as always, for the gift of your child,

Patricia Kawahara

Principal, Sequoia Elementary
STEM Fair

By Donavaughn Jones

Sequoia’s annual STEM fair is fast approaching! The STEM Fair is scheduled for February 7th, 6:00-9:00p.m.

We are only a month away from our annual STEM fair and are hoping that your student is as excited as we are! Projects give our students an opportunity to explore technical topics in a way that teaches key concepts through a hands on approach. As building blocks are uncovered, light bulbs turn on and creativity and excitement ensues. The hard work, pride, and joy that comes from participating is unique and special among school experiences.

Please join the fun by participating or attending the fair to explore student projects, cheer on our project winners, and maybe find inspiration for a project for next year’s fair. The MUR will be full of fun and creative display boards that detail complex and interesting projects. Our judges will have reviewed the projects and selected the best out of hundreds on display. We will end the evening with awards to the top projects in each grade and all participants receive a ribbon and certificate. Please join us in supporting and cheering on our students!

See our schedule here!

To register, please complete the the registration worksheet. Work through ideas and share them with your teacher. Once your student and teacher agree on topic and plan, transcribe entries in the worksheet into our online registration form. This registers your project for our event night and ensures your project and name will be on the judge sheets.

What if you make a change? No worries. Make sure your teacher agrees and then go back to the online registration form and register again. We will use your most recent submission for event night.

Get project boards from the school office OR pick one up at a local office supply store. Teachers will speak with students about when to bring their projects into class. Students will the deliver their project the MUR near the end of the school day on our event day. Projects will be sent home the day after the fair.

We are in need of a few more volunteer to make the evening special. We especially need judges. If you or someone you know has a technology or scientific background, please consider judging. It is a rich and fulfilling volunteer experience AND we provide snacks and coffee! Sign up through our SignUpGenius.
**District Facilities Master Plan**

The Mt. Diablo Unified School District is developing a Facilities Master Plan for facilities across the district. One of the first steps is to survey all stakeholders. You will receive an email from the district with a link to the survey. The link is also included below for your convenience. Additionally, hard copies are available in the office should you prefer a paper and pencil version. The deadline for the survey to be completed and turned in by January 25, 2019.

*English:* [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MDUSDparents](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MDUSDparents)

*Spanish:* [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MDUSDparents_sp](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MDUSDparents_sp)

**Neighbor Request**

Do you pick up your child(ren) on Theo Lane or any surrounding streets behind the school? If so, please turn off your car as you wait. A neighbor has reminded us that the exhaust can be problematic for folks with breathing problems and for the environment. I know they will appreciate our cooperation.

**School Supervision**

School supervision begins at 8:00 each morning and students are not meant to be on campus prior to that unless they are getting breakfast. Students who arrive for breakfast (starting at 7:30) are welcome to enter the cafeteria. At 8:00, students are welcome to come out to the playground where teachers are on duty. Dianne Adair daycare offers before school care starting at 7:00. Please contact Janet at Dianne Adair for more information. Thank you for your cooperation.

**Upcoming Dates**

1/21  No School – Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday

1/16  5th Grade Family Life Meeting, MUR 6:30-7:30 p.m.

1/24  Kindergarten Registration, MUR 8:30-10:30 a.m., 1:30-2:30 p.m.

1/29  Instrumental Music Performance, MUR 6:30 arrival for performers, 7:00 p.m. performance begins

02/07 STEM Fair MUR 6:00-9:00 p.m.