



October Principal's Newsletter

Hickory Elementary School

"An Adventure in Learning~ A Place in the Sun for Everyone"

October 5, 2017

Mrs. E. Schumacher, Principal
Mrs. Maggie Mabery, AP

Great Beginnings... The opening of the 2017-2018 school year was again a great success. Thank you goes out to our wonderful PTA parents who helped direct traffic and answer questions, new families and students felt welcomed and reassured. I was very happy to see the large number of parents who attended the "Kiss and Cry" social for new and kinder families. Back To School Nights were well attended, thank you for your understanding when we had to change our original schedule.

Students are adjusting to their new schedules and grade levels. All students in grades 1-5 have PE every THURSDAY, you can help us by making sure your child is dressed appropriately wearing their Hickory T-Shirt or their Class T-Shirt, wearing the appropriate shoes, and they have a water bottle.

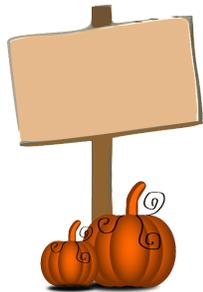
Please remember that every WEDNESDAY we have early dismissal for PLC (Professional Learning Community) collaboration, students are dismissed at 2:27. It is important that you make arrangements for early pick up on that day. Using the valet program we have in place is the safest way for you to meet your child after school. We have teachers supervising the valet area in front of school until 3:30 every day. **We do not provide supervision in the park or on Greenwood. Please do not have your child wait for you in those unsupervised areas.**

The district is changing over to a new student management system called "PowerSchool" when you receive information and directions on how to enter students information, please do so immediately. This is extremely important. In the event of illness, or injury that is our only way of getting your contact information. It is very distressing to be faced with an emergency situation and not be able to contact anyone because the on-line information has not been filled out. PLEASE make sure you have done this. If you need assistance, please contact the school office. (310)533-4672.

Your child's safety is always our priority. Our campus is locked and secure at 8:50 when our first bell rings for the upper grades to begin their day. Please exit the campus at that time. All gates are to be closed and locked. If you are on campus after that time, PLEASE EXIT through the school office.

It is our responsibility as a school community to ensure all students have sufficient textbooks and/or instructional materials that are aligned to the content

standards in the areas of mathematics, science, history-social science, and English language arts. These textbooks and/or materials should be available for students to utilize when teachers assign class work, reading, and/or homework based upon information from the textbooks or instructional materials. If your child does not have the appropriate instructional materials for class, please contact your child's teacher so that he/she can remedy the situation.



October is “Stamp Out Bullying”

Month... Bullying is one of the most serious and pervasive challenges facing our schools nationally. Surveys indicate that children view bullying as one of the worst experiences of childhood. Being taunted verbally or attacked physically can be a painful ordeal that can leave lasting scars.

Victims of bullying may experience anxiety and low self-esteem. Bullying also affects students who are not victims but who witness these incidents. It can create an atmosphere of fear and anxiety, distracting students from their schoolwork and impeding their ability to learn. Throughout the month of October, we will be discussing the subject of bullying and focusing on being able to identify bullying, what can we do if we witness bullying, what can we do if we are being bullied. We are committed to addressing these issues with our students in the month long series of assemblies and class discussions. As parents, we ask you to support our no-bullying rules and have open discussions with your child about bullying. The week of October 16 is declared “Digital Citizenship” week in the state of California. Our teachers will be speaking with their classes about digital safety and digital bullying. PLEASE take this time to protect your child by having a discussion about the appropriate ways to use technology. I will include information later in this Newsletter. *Thank you!*

Homework and Multi-tasking.... Look around at homework time. Is your child studying while singing along to music? Are you answering his questions while checking your email? “Multitasking” has become a way of life, but that isn’t necessarily good. In fact, while multitasking, the brain doesn’t *really* concentrate on several tasks at once. It moves quickly from one to another, *not giving anything its full attention*. To avoid multi-tasking mistakes:

- ***Prevent distractions.** Choose a calm place for your child to study.
- ***Take breaks.** Instead of doing several things at once, schedule tasks consecutively.
- ***Find solutions.** Your child wants to watch TV, but he has math to do. Record the show so he can concentrate on his assignment.

***Set a good example.** It's natural to want to accomplish as much as possible, as quickly as possible. But do what really works. When you give your child undivided attention, you show him how to focus.

Remember the purpose of homework is to reinforce what is learned during the day. It is not the amount of homework that is important, but the quality of the task and its relationship to the curriculum. As a staff we continue to discuss, research, and read about the effectiveness of "homework" many grade levels have already chosen to revise their homework policies. As the administrators, Mrs. Mabery and I feel, based on research, that spending time on the basics like reading, writing, and math are the most effective ways to support your child's learning. To that end, Hickory continues to provide access to several researched based programs. Your child has access everyday to **STMath, RAZ Kids, and in the upper grades Achieve 3000**. These programs, used routinely with intention, will support your child's success in school. If you have any questions regarding accessing these programs please speak with your classroom teacher or contact the school office.

Torrance Librarian visits 1st Graders!



Once again the Torrance Library is sponsoring a drive to encourage 1st graders to sign up for a library card! The librarian from the children's section will be visiting all the classrooms and talking about reading and the library services. Each child who visits the Torrance Library during the month of October will receive a free book to keep. It is never too early to use the library!

English Language MultiCultural Advisory Committee...

What does "**being involved**" with your child's education really mean? It means you should try to:

*Always be aware *Attend school events *Keep up with class activities

ELMAC is an easy, friendly way to do all three things. ELMAC is a forum for parents whose primary language is not English to hear about school programs, express their needs, and keep informed about school and district policies and help their children with their English language acquisition. Our first meeting will take place, October 18, 2017 at 9:00 am in the school cafeteria. Please plan on attending and **Bring a Friend !**

Statewide Public Earthquake Drill --Oct. 19!

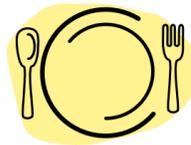
Hickory students and staff will again participate in the Statewide “drop, cover, and hold on” earthquake drill on Oct. 19 at 10:19 a.m. The purpose of the drill is to stress the importance of being prepared! This drill gives us the opportunity to practice our drill and to test the safeguards we have put in place to assure student safety.



Health Room News.....

These first weeks of school are very important in regards to the health and safety of your children. If your child needs medication to be kept at school, please work with Mrs. Shelly Contreras or Mrs. Elaine Reulein in the Health Room. If your child has severe allergies, please notify the health office.

The health office is always in need of extra “slightly used” pants, socks, t-shirts, underwear. Thank you in advance. If your child has had a fever or has vomited, they should not return to school for 24 hours after the last occurrence. We do not wish illnesses to spread at school, please keep students home who have flu-like symptoms and remind students to wash their hands often. Another reminder, students who are injured and come to school with a cast, brace, or splint etc. should check in with the health office and are not allowed on the school playground during recess without a release from their doctor. Students are to sit in the school office or on the benches by the office.



Hickory Family Restaurant Nights!!

One way we raise money for school supplies, events, activities technology and more, is to sponsor restaurant nights. Local restaurants invite us to arrange and publicize evenings when Hickory families patronize the restaurant. The restaurants donate 15%-20% back to the school. It is a fun night out, a chance to see friends and enjoy an evening out while helping Hickory. We will be arranging several of these restaurant nights throughout the school year.

Our 1st Restaurant Night is at our neighborhood “Islands” **We have two days! Oct. 17 and Oct. 18. Primary teachers will attend on Tuesday and Upper grade teachers will attend on Wednesday! Come out and join the fun!**

We appreciate your support and look forward to seeing you at dinner!



Local Control Accountability Plan... Under the new state funding formula, Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) the School Plan for Student Achievement (SPSA) is an accountability measure mandated by the state(It is also a new name). The SPSA sets goals to increase and improve both services and progress for students. The goals are aligned to the 8 state priorities and dollars are connected to the goals. The SPSA is a 3 year plan updated annually based on student outcomes and stakeholder's input. We will be sharing our SPSA with the PTA, ELMAC, SSC and parents, holding several meetings in the coming weeks. Our Parent Meeting is scheduled to take place on Oct. 19 at 6:00 pm in the school cafeteria. We invite all parents to attend!

SBAC Results are in! Last May all 3,4 and 5th graders took the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium tests. The assessment measures student proficiency on the California Common Core Standards. Once again, our Hickory students did very well on these statewide assessments. You should have received your child's results in the mail. I will give a brief presentation on how to read the results and report on how Hickory performed on Oct. 19. I hope to see many of you that evening to hear how well we did.

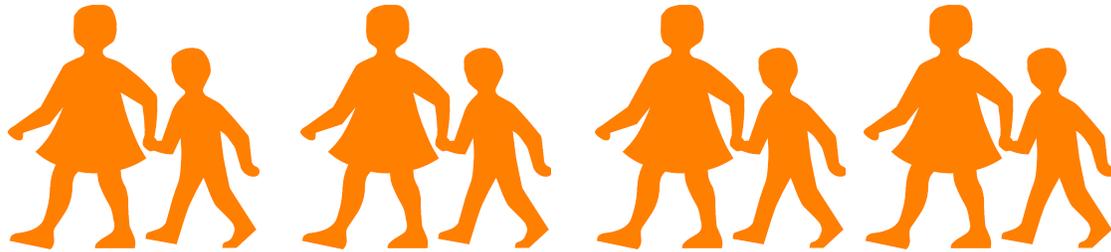


SKECHERS PIER TO PIER FRIENDSHIP WALK! OCT. 29

It is that time of year! This is a wonderful opportunity to help raise money for Hickory School and enjoy a beautiful morning out in the fresh air! This is the ONLY fundraiser where ALL the money raised by Hickory families comes right back to the school. Last year we had over 300 walkers or virtual walkers and we raised almost \$5000.00. This year, **Torrance Ed Foundation will again offer a VERY generous incentive for Hickory families! To encourage families to join the SKECHERS WALK, TEF will donate an additional \$1000.00 to our school when we meet our goal, sign up over 300 walkers!** THIS is an AMAZING opportunity for Hickory School. It is a lot of fun and a great healthy way to spend the morning right here in our

own backyard. I hope to see you at the Manhattan Beach Pier on Oct. 29! Please see the flyer in this week's [Communicator](#) and join the fun and support Hickory!
[SKECHERS WALK](#)

PLEASE HELP US REACH OUR GOAL OF SIGNING UP 300 WALKERS!
WE CAN DO IT!



Thank you for your school spirit in ordering class T-Shirts.
We will place the last order Oct. 13. If you do not have your shirt order it now! Check this week's Communicator for the order form.

**REMEMBER OCTOBER 9-10
ARE STUDENT FREE DAYS!
NO SCHOOL...ENJOY THE DAY WITH YOUR FAMILY**