

# JOHN ADAMS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

## PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER



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Principal: Sandy Skora  
sskora@tusd.org



### Principal's Message



Welcome to the 2009-2010 school year! I am thrilled to welcome back our returning families who helped to make last year a wonderful success. Likewise, it is with great enthusiasm that I wish to extend a warm welcome to our new Adams Families. We at Adams Elementary School are committed to making this school year another positive experience for you and your family. Your active support and cooperation, combined with our best professional efforts, will ensure academic success for your child.

to help in this commitment. The PLC will give the teachers weekly time to attend professional development, collaborate with colleagues at our site and others, organize interventions, and conference with parents. This will continue to occur every Wednesday. Kindergartners will be dismissed at 1:50 p.m. First through third grade will dismiss at 2:18 and fourth and fifth grade dismiss at 2:27.

I look forward to the coming year as an opportunity to continue to grow as a school community. Our PTA leadership has been working diligently to plan programs and events to support our students and their families. The PTA and staff will continue to place emphasis on providing meaningful parent education opportunities to support you and your child's success. I hope you make the commitment to work with us on behalf of our kids. Learning is a life-long commitment for all of us.

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This year we will be welcoming Mrs. Leah Wolverton who will be teaching 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. Mrs. Wolverton has 9 years with Torrance Unified School District. She comes to us after working as Director of Kidszone and other duties she has performed at district level. She will be an excellent addition to our staff and we are excited to have her join our team.

We welcome back Mrs. Yoakum, Mrs. Underwood, and Mrs. Spears who will be offering special programs and activities for our students. Their added support for our students will help to further educate our at-risk and EL students.

It is critical that at each juncture of a child's education that he/she be provided with the necessary skills to be successful in the future. The first step along the pathway to preparing our students for a bright future is at the elementary school level. Therefore, teaching and learning will continue to be our top priority, along with ensuring a safe and nurturing environment which all students can feel a part of and where everyone has access to high quality instruction. Our Professional Learning Community time will continue

#### Upcoming Events

- ◆ *Picture Day*
- ◆ *Back to School Night*
- ◆ *PTA Fundraiser*

*See below for details*



### Adams New Bell Schedule

8:15	Breakfast
8:30	Campus opens
8:50	Class instruction begins
10:30	Morning recess (15 min.)
12:00	K-2 Lunch (45 min.)
12:30	3-5 Lunch (45 min.)
1:50	Kindergarten dismissal
2:15	Afternoon Recess (10 min.)
3:03	1-3 grades dismissal
3:12	4-5 grade dismissal
Early Out Wednesdays	
1:50	Kindergarten dismissal
2:18	1-3 grades dismissal
2:27	4-5 grade dismissal



## THANK YOU TO OUR ADAMS DONORS

Public schools are mandated to provide all the basic supplies necessary for students to succeed in school. We are not able to provide families with lists of supplies that students might wish to have to supplement that which we have provided. We are still operating on minimal supply budgets, so if you would like to make a donation to the school or to your teacher's classroom your generosity is much appreciated. We are always in need of Xerox paper, #2 pencils, glue sticks, erasers, colored markers, Kleenex, hand soap, etc. You are welcome to donate supplies directly to your child's classroom to be shared

with all of the students, and/or make a donation to the school and we will be glad to distribute it from the office. If you would like to make a monetary donation, we will deposit it and order bulk supplies.

FYI - our custodial budget has been reduced, like all budgets, over the past several years. If you would like to make a donation to ensure that we have the supplies to keep our campus clean, your generosity is most appreciated. If you choose to donate, please make your check payable to **John Adams**, memo "John Adams Custodial Supplies".

## WE'RE LOOKING GOOD - THANKS TO OUR WORK PARTY

On Saturday, August 29<sup>th</sup>, we had a fabulous crew of parents, students and friends gather to ready the campus for the start of school. We cleaned the grounds, cleaned out the flowerbeds, planted new color plants; power washed our buildings and cafeteria area, and picked up trash. A big thank you to the following Patriots for all of their help: Schluchter family and Allie's papa, Herb Graham; Sheardown family; Kaku family; Kirkwood family; Silk Handley;

Oto family; Chris Norwood; Richard Tamura; Toshi Katsuo and Yudai Takuma; Bonnie and Olivia Magee; Julissa Salvatierra; Christine, Megan, and Tori Takahashi; and Krysta and Rose Hollomon. Thank you also for the donations of food and water for the day (Sheardown & Norwood families), plants (Okada Nursery & Kaku family), potting soil (Kaku family), and supplies for our clean-up day. We're looking good!

## LOOK WHAT'S NEW AT ADAMS

Over the summer we had some exciting changes take place to help update our campus. Thanks to the generous gift of \$7,000 from our PTA and donation of \$1,000 from Tony Iovine's company Chubb Group of Insurance Companies, we were able to purchase a camera security system for our campus. This system will be able to help our front office see what's happening on campus as well as help to protect our campus from possible thefts and vandalism.

Maybe you have noticed the canopy that now covers the picnic tables on the upper grade playground. Thank you so much to Rick Kirkwood for taking his time to research, purchase, and install this canopy for our upper grade students. The YMCA has had the opportunity to enjoy the shade made available from this canopy during the summer months and we look forward to many years of enjoyment for our students.

## ABSENCES AND REQUESTS FOR HOMEWORK

Please help us by calling the office to request homework for students who will be absent two or more days. We discourage you from requesting work for a single day because the student can easily make it up when they're back to school and feeling better. If you let the office know before 10:30 a.m. we will do our best to have the work on the counter by the end of the day. When parents go straight to the classroom and ask the teacher for assignments, it

interrupts their teaching and makes it difficult for them to do their job. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

If you know that your child will be out of school for five consecutive days or more, we can prepare an "independent study" packet for them to take with them. This allows students to keep up with their class work and allows the school to continue to receive ADA (\$) for them in their absence.

*We also request that all individuals volunteering on campus or visiting classrooms, dress in a modest and appropriate fashion.*

## TUSD ENFORCES STRICT DRESS CODE

In spring 2004 the TUSD Board of Education adopted the following dress code:

"In cooperation with teachers, students, and parents/guardians, the principal shall establish school rules governing dress and grooming which are consistent with law, Board policy and administrative regulations. Each school shall allow students to wear sun-protective clothing, including but not limited to hats, for outdoor use during the school day.

In addition, the following guidelines shall apply to all regular school activities:

- Shoes must be worn at all times. **Elementary students must wear flat, closed shoes.**
- Clothing, jewelry and personal items (backpacks, fanny packs, gym bags, water bottles, etc.) shall be free from writing, pictures or any other insignia, which are vulgar, profane, or which advocate racial, ethnic, sexual orientation, or religious prejudice.

- Sunglasses, hats, caps and other head coverings shall not be worn indoors. Only medically/religiously required headgear, approved by the principal may be worn indoors. Sun-protective clothing must comply with District and school site dress and grooming standards.
- **Clothes shall conceal underwear at all times.** See-through or fishnet fabrics, halter-tops, off-the-shoulder or low-cut tops, bare midriffs and skirts or shorts shorter than mid-thigh are prohibited.
- Swimwear, pajamas, nightgowns, and oversized clothing are not appropriate school wear.

Because we work hard to provide a focused learning environment, at Adams we discourage any style of dress, hairstyle and/or accessory that is hazardous or would be distracting to the student and/or other students. These issues will be handled on an individual basis.

## SCHOOL SITE COUNCIL

This year's School Site Council will include: **Parents** - Cindy Paulson, Miguel Sepulveda, and Anthony Iovine. We have open seats for parents who are interested; **Staff** - Sharon Jones (Secretary), Sandy Skora (Principal), Tracey Arney, Joyce Wong and Kerry

Lee. Our first meeting is September 16th at 3:25 PM in our library. Our agenda will include a budget review, our 2008 STAR test data, and a discussion of goals for the school for the coming year. It's an open meeting and we welcome your participation.

## STAR RESULTS ARE HERE

We are presently in the process of analyzing STAR results and looking to see if any patterns emerge that we can use to improve instruction at Adams. Student test scores are used to help plan school improvement efforts, to identify students who are academically at risk and as an initial screening for the GATE program. The test data will help us to target interventions where they are most needed. Our test scores continue to rise. Congratulations to our awesome staff!



*We are on the Web:*  
[www.johnadams-torrance.com](http://www.johnadams-torrance.com)  
 e-mail:  
[johnadams\\_elementary@yahoo.com](mailto:johnadams_elementary@yahoo.com)



**Back-to-School  
at a glance:**

6:00 PM - 6:45 PM:  
K-2 classroom  
presentations

6:45 PM - 7:15 PM:  
PTA meeting in cafeteria

7:15 PM - 8:00 PM:  
3-5 classroom  
presentations

**JOIN US FOR BACK-TO-SCHOOL NIGHT**

Thursday, September 24<sup>th</sup>, is our Back-To-School-Night. This is a time for parents and teachers to meet and discuss the coming school year. Teachers will go over their classroom expectations, grade level content, and any special plans they have for the year. This is not a good time to try to have a parent/teacher conference. If you have concerns relevant to your child only, let the teacher know that you'd like to set up a time to talk privately. This is an "adults only" evening. Please make arrangements for your children to be supervised off campus. Parking will be available on the 237<sup>th</sup> street playground. Due to the evening program, this is an

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup>, 2009**  
early dismissal day for grades 1-5. Kindergarten dismisses at 1:50. Grades 1-3 will be dismissed at 2:03 and grades 4-5 will be dismissed at 2:12. This year's School Site Council will include: **Parents** - Cindy Paulson, Miguel Sepulveda, and Anthony Iovine. We have open seats for parents who are interested; **Staff** - Sharon Jones (Secretary), Sandy Skora (Principal), Tracey Arney, Joyce Wong and Kerry Lee. Our first meeting is September 16<sup>th</sup> at 3:25 PM in our library. Our agenda will include a budget review, our 2008 STAR test data, and a discussion of goals for the school for the coming year. It's an open meeting and we welcome your participation.

**ENGLISH LEARNERS MULTICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ELMAC) MEETS IN OCTOBER**

Our first ELMAC meeting will be held on Friday, October 16<sup>th</sup>. We encourage parents of our second language learners to attend this meeting to learn more about the program we offer at Adams and how we can work together to help your children succeed in school. It's also a great time to meet other parents of your culture and make new friends. We hope to see you there.



**MONTH AT A GLANCE**

September	15	Picture Day - Individual (Bring money in envelope provided)
	16	PLC - Early out (Don't forget every Wednesday we get out early) Kindergarten 1:50 Grades 1-3 2:18 Grade 4-5 2:27
	16	School Site Council Meeting in library - 3:25
	24	Early dismissal grades 1-5, Back to School Night (See above) 6:00 - 6:45 3-5 classroom presentations 6:45 - 7:15 PTA meeting in cafeteria 7:15 - 8:00 K-2 classroom presentations
	28	PTA Fundraiser Kick-Off
October	2	Flag - citizenship
	2	Student council elections
	9	Flag - special recognition
	12	Student Free Day - NO SCHOOL
	14	School Site Council Meeting - 3:25
	16	ELMAC Meeting, 9:00 in library
	19-23	Book fair (before and after school in the cafeteria)
	23	Grandfriends' Day - Classroom activities 11:15 - 12:00, Picnic 12-1
	26-30	Red Ribbon Week (Say NO to Drugs)
	30	Halloween Parade - EVERYONE wears costumes, 9:15 on upper playground (Remember to bring a change of clothes for after the parade)

