

JOHN ADAMS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

Diana Smith
Principal

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dsmith@tUSD.org

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Adams is always a very busy place! One of the great joys of my job is walking campus and seeing all that goes on on a daily basis. Our teachers and students are very much focused on teaching and learning! The goals for instruction are clear, and students are involved! Our Library is up and running thanks to our wonderful volunteers: Teri Dykzeul, Cindy Nelson and Paula Fuentes. Our computer lab assistant, Mrs. Boggero, has input this year's student rosters so that our Accelerated Reader and SuccessMaker programs are ready to go for the new school year. The teachers and I have collaborated to identify our at-risk learners, and Mrs. Yoakum, our Intervention teacher, is starting to meet with individuals and small groups to support classroom instruction. The Learning Center program is going beautifully. It's working just the way we envisioned to support identified special needs and academically at-risk students. We have started our before school classes for our English Learners, and are about to start the before school SuccessMaker lab for our Title I students. We have a lot that we want to accomplish this year, and we have taken our first big leaps down the path to success.

We've had our first round of Student Council elections, and have an energetic, creative, and responsible group of student leaders. Back-To-School Night was very successful and we had a great turn out! Our PTA Association meeting was very informative, really helping families to become aware of all that PTA does and how parents can be involved in supporting our school. If you missed the presentations, do visit our website (www.johnadams-torrance.com). It's amazing the information and resources available at our site. The teachers made wonderful presentations, explaining their programs and expectations. I do hope that you were able to participate. We have had our Book Fair and Grandfriends Days as well, and both were exceptional.

We have a lot that we want to accomplish this year, and we have taken our first big leaps down the path to success. We are fortunate to have the active support of a wonderful school community. I love our PTA President's theme: **"NO ONE CAN DO EVERYTHING, BUT EVERYONE CAN DO SOMETHING. IT'S FOR THE KIDS!"** Thank you Rachel Tobin.

THANK YOU TO OUR ADAMS DONORS

Thank you to all who donated their service and time to Adams this month. We had a wonderful Book Fair (Rena Hyami), Grandfriends Day (Susi Noble), newsletter (Nikki Gerdes), Membership Drive (Debbie Nilsson), and Fundraiser (Barbara Reynolds). Thank you to the following donors: The Hino family (Justin and Jordin), and the Hyami family (Karin Bolin-Sabaky) for paper, and the Morisako (Kevin) family for a cash donation (to be matched by Toyota!!).

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW STUDENT COUNCIL

We had a wonderful election week. We had great candidates who were very creative in their posters and speeches. We are tremendously proud of each and every candidate who ran for Council Office or for Room Representative. We are pleased to announce our new Student Council members:

President: Sydney Webb **Vice President: Noelle Ly** **Secretary: Kayla Cayson**
Treasurer: Samantha Gumm **Activities Director: Madison Kelly**

Room Reps: Room 9 – John Banuelos & Madison Chomori; Room 10 – Joshua Santos & Edith Siguenza; Room 12 – Haley Noble, Samantha Dingee & Jeremy Hildebrand; Room 13 – Gina Lazaro & Zach Shannon; Room 14 – Brianna Ollivares & Aya Koscielniak; Room 15 – Karin Bohlin-Sabacky & Matt Hixenbaugh; Room 16 – Melissa Knappenberger & Britney Knappenberger; Room 17 – Ally Sakurai & Jennifer Verduzco

TUSD SEARCH AND SERVE NOTIFICATION

Do you know a child with a disability? Do you have concerns about your own child? Do you know of children with concerns in the area of hearing, talking, walking, seeing or eating?

The Torrance Unified School District, in conjunction with the Southwest Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA), have resources to assist. Per state and federal law, we will provide an assessment for a suspected disability. Assessment is the first step to services if your child is found to be eligible. For school age pupils, your neighborhood school may elect to hold a Student Study Team meeting as a way to gather information.

For more information, contact the Torrance Unified School District Special Education Office at (310) 972-6100 or talk to Mrs. Smith. For additional information on a disability, parent support, and the process for obtaining services, contact the Southwest Special Education Family Resource Center at 310-798-2965.

TUSD INDEPENDENT STUDY PROGRAM

For many years there has been an Independent Study Program available for older students in Torrance Unified. Recently, Torrance Unified School District developed an Independent Study Contract for children in kindergarten through fifth grade. Enrollment in this program will provide support to the home schooling family by providing core subject materials and access to assemblies and fieldtrips that are planned by your local attendance area school. In addition to the material support, there is a credentialed teacher that will provide guidance in developing lessons and assist parents in assessing academic progress. These home school services are provided free of cost to interested families.

Participation in the Independent Study program for kindergarten through fifth grade requires that the parent commit to weekly (k-3) or bi weekly (4-5) meetings with the teacher. Continuation in the program requires that all student assignments are completed and that the student make adequate progress.

To legally home school your child, you must be a credentialed teacher, hire a credentialed tutor, enroll in a private home school program or participate in a school district's Independent Study Program. Independent Study is not an exemption from public school attendance, but rather, an alternative to classroom instruction. Independent Study allows students to carry on their education outside the classroom based on a written agreement and oversight by a credentialed teacher. If this sounds like something that you would like to consider for your child, please contact our Independent Study Program Office at 972-6977 for further information.

HEALTHY KIDS LEARN BETER

There are more than 350,000 uninsured children and youth 18 and younger in Los Angeles County. Most of them are eligible for the State of California low-cost and free health care coverage programs for children - Medi-Cal, Healthy Families, and Healthy Kids Programs.

Here is a brief summary on these programs. You are encouraged to call if you don't have health insurance for your children. Call even if you have a job and have a steady income:

- **Medi-Cal** – free or low-cost program for children in families with low income. This program is for permanent residents only. (1-888-747-1222)
- **Healthy Families** – low-cost insurance for children in families whose income is too high to qualify for Medi-Cal but does not exceed 250 % of the Federal Poverty Level. This program is also for permanent residents only. (1-888-747-1222)
- **Healthy Kids** – new program funded from the Children's Health Initiative. It covers youth through age 18 in families at or below 300% of the Federal Poverty Level who are ineligible for Medi-Cal and Healthy Families. Your immigration status does not matter in this program. (1-888-4LA-KIDS (452-5437)
- **AIM** – Access for Infants and Mothers

For questions about completing an application, eligibility or insurance options, please call:

- **1-323-299-9295 - Crystal Stairs Inc.**
 - Children's Health and Wellness Program
 - Assists with applications for insurance
 - No charge to caller; helps you apply for Medi-cal, Healthy Families, Healthy Kids, Kaiser/Medi-cal, and/or AIM (Access for Infants and Mothers) depending on your need.
 - Will arrange appointments to help you complete the application in their offices. They also assist with annual renewals and advocacy for people. They have several locations throughout the Los Angeles County.

SCHOOL SITE COUNCIL

Our Site Council met on September 28th. We discussed upcoming school and PTA events. Council reviewed the TUSD Mission Statement and 5 year goals. Test scores, our Academic Performance Index (API) and Annual Yearly Progress (AYP) were all discussed. We continue to meet the No Child Left Behind annual goals for all significant sub-groups as well as AYP goals, and our API remained strong at 821. Since June there has been one act of vandalism and no suspensions. We have added \$3100 of Accelerated Reader quizzes to our server to support this program, and ordered 2 computers and 2 printers for classrooms. We reviewed the Title I, School Improvement, and Economic Impact Aide/Limited English Proficient budgets and have begun to consider goals for this year's expenditures. We elected the following officers: Karen Knappenberger - President, Michelle Dondick -Vice President.

ENGLISH LEARNERS MULTICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ELMAC) MEETS IN OCTOBER

Our first ELMAC meeting will be held on Friday, October 21st at 9:00 a.m. in the library (room 22). 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.

HALLOWEEN AT ADAMS

In the spirit of the season, we will be holding our annual Halloween Parade on Monday, October 31st. We hope that you can join us....and please do come in costume, it makes the day so much more fun for everyone! Students are encouraged to wear their costumes to school and change into school clothes after the parade. Costume accessories are not allowed on the playground during the school day, but may be worn with costumes for the parade. The students parade by grade level. At the end of the parade we invite all of our guests to come out and parade for the students – so bring your little ones (of all ages) and enjoy the spirit of the season. The primary playground will be open for additional parking. We ask that cars leave the playground as soon as possible after the parade so that we can resume our regular schedule. Student Council will be hosting a Haunted House for our students in the cafeteria after the parade. Classes will sign up for a time to come through. If for any reason you do not want your child to participate in this activity, please be sure to let their classroom teacher know. WE WILL HAVE A PARADE EVEN IF IT RAINS!

MONTH AT A GLANCE

Oct.	21	Reflection Contest kick-off ELMAC, 9:00, Adams Library Progress Reports go home
	24	Red Ribbon Kick-off TUSD Board of Education Meeting, 7:30
	28	Conflict Management Day
	30	Daylight Savings ends – set clocks back 1 hr.
	31	Halloween Parade, 9:00 AM, upper grade playground
Nov.	1-22	Canned Food Drive – drop your contributions off by the office
	2	Early Dismissal grades 1-5, teacher inservice
	4	Flag - Citizenship
	7	TUSD Board of Education Meeting, 7:30
	8	Election Day – REMEMBER TO VOTE
	9	Reflections entries due
	10	Flag – Writing Wonders Fund Raiser pick-up at dismissal PTA Board Meeting, 6:30, Café
	11	Veterans' Day Holiday – No School
	15	Picture-Make-Up Day (retakes and absences) Cookie-Dough pick up at dismissal
	16	School Site Council, 3:00, Rm. 6
	17	Kindergarten Minimum Day, 12:30 dismissal
	18	Flag – Art Awards Western Day Hoe-Down Family Party