

September 2017 Newsletter

Happy September! September always reminds me of the new, fresh start of new events. The weather changes a bit, school starts up again, football season begins, and our parents are always happy to see the children back in school. We are happy to be back in school also! Let me take this opportunity to share our upcoming school year and focus issues for the 2017-2018 school year.

To start off this school year I must thank you for all your support as we worked very hard to meet all the challenges and standards in our International Baccalaureate World School re-authorization process. We did very well and passed the evaluation which re-authorized us as an IB World School for another 4 years! The IB requirements are demanding as the teachers must use our California state adopted curriculum to create and write our IB Units of study for each transdisciplinary theme in each grade level. That is a lot of curriculum!

We have our walls painted with our IB Learner Profile and Attitude words as a constant reminder of what a learner should be. This artwork is on behalf of our local Boy Scouts. Thank you Boy Scouts! Take a look at the wall when you need to be encouraged!

I reviewed our SBAC assessment scores and am very happy with how our students performed. I saw some really great growth and was encouraged by the range our students scored in for the Math and ELA. In my further analysis of the scores I saw a trend in Math. Calculations were an area we can all work on. Please practice multiplication facts, division facts, adding and subtracting facts with your child(ren). Starting a little later this year we will have awards for our Math Masters given to those students who have mastered their math facts. Your teachers will have more information on this program after Thanksgiving holiday. So, get a head start now, start working with your child(ren) on memorizing their math facts.

Starting in September we will have a monthly Principal's Writing Challenge. Any student (k-6) who wants to participate is more than welcome to join in. Each month I will assign a different topic for our young writers to explore and create their written work of art. We will have awards for those who participate in the writing challenge. This challenge is to inspire and motivate our students to write! You will see the first topic coming out mid September. Sharpen up those pencils!

Spirit day Fridays. Please encourage your child to wear Stowers Green on Spirit days. The classroom competition for Snowy as the classroom pet is fierce! If you don't have a Stowers shirt our PTA has them for sale. If you still don't have a Stower shirt any dark green shirt will also count. Think Green!

Rules and Safety are always my concern. Rules keep us safe and Safety procedures and practices make us that much more safe. Please help us keep Stowers a fun and safe environment for you and for all our children. As I constantly tell our students, "If you don't do it at home, DON'T do it at school." I know our parking lot is not perfect and I know the red curb out front is not always being used but, it is there for safety and security reasons. Please help us all to be safe, follow the rules and the laws.

As we start this school year off I ask that we all take a moment and reflect on what our children need to be successful. You know your child(ren) better than I. So, please get involved. Help with homework, home projects, and other tasks that will make our children the best they can be.

Keep looking at the calendar for all our events. We again have a very busy school year planned. Here are just a few reminders:

9/8 Grandparents Day Lunch, 12-1:00

9/8 Minimum Day. School dismisses at 1:20

9/11 Principal's Assembly, wear Red, White, and Blue. Fall Fundraiser kick off. 8:10

9/12 Picture Day. Bring your biggest smile.

9/13 Minimum Day

9/25 Kindergarten starts full days

9/25 Parent Leadership Academy presenting a workshop "Let's Talk: How to Communicate with our Children." 8:30 bldg 401

9/27 Minimum Day

9/29 Coffee with the Principal, topic is: Math Facts Mastery, Principal's Writing Challenge. Please join us for this and all our events.