



Arroyo School

Principal's Message

Dear Arroyo Families,

I'd like to wish you and your family a wonderful Thanksgiving. Remember that Arroyo will be closed all week. Enjoy the time with friends and family. We all have much to be grateful for, including being a part of such a great community.

The holidays are drawing near and we would like to invite you to extend your holiday giving by donating a grocery store or toy store gift card, such as Safeway or Target, to be given to an Arroyo family in need this year. Both the giving and receiving will remain confidential. We will be collecting gift cards to be given to families for their holiday celebrations this December. Gift cards can be placed in an envelope addressed to Mindy Shelton and brought to the school office by Friday, December 13. Gift cards in any denomination will be appreciated.

I sent home an email earlier this year asking parents to respond if they would like to be a recipient of various donations this year. I've attached [the letter](#) again in case anyone else has found their family in need of support. No need to fill it out again if you've already responded. Please let me know if we can support you in any of these ways. I will do my best to meet your request.

As you think about your holiday shopping this year, I know that smartphones are high on the list of things many Arroyo students are hoping to receive. I'd like to encourage you to consider NOT purchasing a smartphone for your child. The San Carlos parent community has begun to engage in a great discussion around the [Wait Until 8th Campaign](#). I first shared this with you in my [October 6 Eagle Eye Principal Message](#). I'd also like to

share with you what [Central Principal Tom Domer recently included in his newsletter](#). Having spent the last 3 years at Central, I whole-heartedly agree with what Mr. Domer wrote about the impact of smartphones on campus. I'm happy to share that I don't yet see that same impact at Arroyo, but I believe now is the time to consider what we can do as a community to pull back that impact by the time your students get to Central. If you feel the need for your child to have a phone for communication purposes, please consider buying a flip phone instead.

Is your student learning different math strategies than you were taught in school? Not sure how to best help your child? The San Carlos School District will be hosting a parent education night for 3rd-5th grade parents to learn about the mathematical strategies and practices that our students use in our Math In Focus curriculum. Susan Resncik, author of Singapore Math: Fact Fluency and US Consultant for Math in Focus 2020 edition, will share common math concepts taught in 3rd-5th grade, including fractions, decimals, multiplication, division, and the bar model. Join us at the District Office on December 9 from 6:30-8:00 pm. Please [RSVP here](#) so we know how many people to prepare for.

PTAs in conjunction with San Carlos Children's Theater are considering offering an after school theater option for only Arroyo and Mariposa students. This will provide the possibility for 4th and 5th graders to have main roles or gain theater experience. If there is adequate interest, registration will occur in December. Approximately 40 students are needed in order to offer this opportunity. [Please complete the survey](#) by Monday, December 2nd if your child is interested even if s/he might not be able to participate. We have had a good response to our survey so far but we are not quite at a sufficient interest level to be able to make it work. Theater is a great way for students to practice performing in front of an audience, be part of a team, and experience the joy of helping to create something larger than themselves. Participants also get to experience the rewards of consistent practice leading to mastery and accomplishment. For further information, contact Kirsten Kell, school@kkmft.com

Again, I wish you a very happy Thanksgiving. I'm truly grateful to be at Arroyo. It's such a pleasure to come to work each day and learn alongside such amazing students, teachers and families.

Warmly,

Mindy Shelton

Principal



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