

Sequoia Elementary School Community Newsletter: Feb. 8, 2016



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www.SequoiaSchool.net -and- [Facebook.com/groups/sequoiaelementary](https://www.facebook.com/groups/sequoiaelementary)

Three Week Calendar



Wednesdays are minimum days

Mon Feb 8:	Lunar New Year: Year of the Monkey Begins
Tue Feb 9:	FOSS Meeting , 6 p.m., <i>Cafeteria</i> , Dinner and child care provided
Sat Feb 13:	East Bay Chinese School's Chinese New Year Celebration , 10:30 a.m. - 1 p.m., <i>Auditorium</i>
Sun Feb 14:	Valentine's Day
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Mon Feb 15:	Presidents' Day: No School For Students
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Mon Feb 22:	Breakfast with Principal Bertolo , 8:30 - 9:30 a.m., <i>Cafeteria</i>
Tue Feb 23:	SSC Meeting , 5-6 p.m., <i>Library</i>
Fri Feb 26:	Readathon Begins , continues through Monday, March 7
Fri Feb 26:	Lost & Found Items Cleared and Donated
Sat Feb 27:	Dads' Club Sponsored Variety Show Try Outs , 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., <i>Auditorium</i>

School Closed on Presidents' Day

Sequoia will be closed Monday, Feb. 15 in observance of the Presidents' Day holiday.



La escuela estará cerrada el lunes 15 de Febrero en observación del día de los presidentes.

Trường Sequoia sẽ đóng cửa Thứ Hai Ngày 15 Tháng 2 để tưởng niệm ngày lễ Tổng Thống.

سيتم إغلاق المدرسة يوم الاثنين 15 فبراير وذلك احتفالاً بعطلة عيد الرؤساء .

红杉将关闭周一二月15日为总统日“假期”。

Come Check Out FOSS



Please join us at the FOSS (Friends of Sequoia School) meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 9, from 6-8 p.m. in the school cafeteria. A light dinner will be available and childcare will be provided by middle school-age Sequoia alums. Please join us! All people and ideas are welcome!

FOSS is a volunteer group, much like a Parent-Teachers Association (PTA), that supports students and teachers for basic classroom needs, teacher professional development, and Sequoia's enrichment programs — including art, music, kindergarten motor skills, science, garden, and library. FOSS helps to foster communication between teachers and families, and helps to inform parents about education and child development topics.

Help Out at the Book Fair

You can volunteer for set up, separating flyers, putting up signs, running the fair, and tear down. It will be held Thursday, Feb. 25 through Wednesday, March 2.



We're using VolunteerSpot to organize our upcoming Sign-ups. Here's how it works in three easy steps:

- 1) Click this link to see our Sign-up on VolunteerSpot: <http://vols.pt/v9GmVy>
- 2) Review the options listed and choose the spot(s) you like.
- 3) Sign up! It's easy - you will not need to register an account or keep a password on VolunteerSpot.

Please email me if you have any questions heatherking.lmt@gmail.com

Get Ready to Read Like Crazy



The 2016 Sequoia Read-a-thon is from Friday, Feb. 26 to Monday, March 7! This is a fun competition and fundraiser to see who can read the most minutes and raise the most money for Sequoia. Packets with explanation and forms will go home on February 26, and teachers will collect them on March 7. Highlights include:

Week of February 29: Scholastic Book Fair
Tuesday, March 1: Family Reading Night at Sequoia
Friday, March 4: Drop Everything and Read (DEAR) Day
Mid-March: Readers' Tea for top readers/fundraisers from each class

Potential volunteers please contact us. Everyone else, please check your student's backpack on Friday, Feb. 26 and help them get ready to read, read, read!

Coordinators: Kathie Rhodes (kathierhodes2010@gmail.com), Melissa Benham-Cunningham (melissa.r.benham@gmail.com) and Brent Cunningham (acloudintrousers@yahoo.com)

Try Out for the Variety Show!

Tryouts for the Sequoia Variety Show will be held Saturday, Feb. 27, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., in the Sequoia auditorium. Tryouts are mandatory for any individual or group act that wants to be involved in the show.



Now in its 27th year, Sequoia Variety Show is sponsored by the Sequoia Dads' Club and is an annual tradition for our school and community. On Friday, March 18, Sequoia students will get to show off their unique talents by singing, playing, dancing, juggling, telling jokes, wowing us with magic, and much more. The event is great fun for performers and audience members alike!

Performing in the Variety Show

We are excited to see new faces at our tryouts this year, so encourage your student to get involved! A few things to know for interested performers:

- Each student can only be involved in one act. (Exceptions made for very large group acts.)
- "Tryouts" are really just a chance for the production team to see your act; it's not really a competition, and all students who come to tryouts will be allowed to participate. However, they are mandatory. If you absolutely cannot be at tryouts, please contact Stacey Gordon at stacey@suiteseven.com BEFORE the tryout date to schedule a makeup session. You cannot be in the performance if you don't try out.
- Registration at tryouts is often crowded. Your tryout spot depends on the order that you arrive and register — no exceptions will be made. To save time, you should register online at <http://sequoiaschool.net/varietyshow> before tryouts so you don't have to take time to register while there.
- Each student who plans to participate must be registered, even if the student is part of a group act. There is also a group act registration form so we know who is performing with whom.

(MORE VARIETY SHOW DETAILS ON REVERSE)

Sequoia Shout Outs



Sequoia would not be the wonderful school it is without the efforts of our volunteers. Each week we express appreciation for those efforts.

Big shout outs to all the parents who helped mulch, repair, prune and fix up the Lincoln Garden on the January work day!! Special thanks to the Smith-Gumataotao's (Felix, 1st) for their continued support as Parent/Garden liaisons, and Roger King (Eliza, 3rd) for organizing such a well orchestrated work day!

Family Workday: Jessie O'Brian, Doug Berger, Erich Vogel, Luke Milich, Chris Coffee, Lucien Salyk, Jessica Applegren, Sara Smith Gumataotao, Jason Gunataotao, Kevin Smith, Jane Steele, Tim Sullivan, Sarah Heilbrun, David Gross, Heidi Aboites, and David Cruz (custodian).

Feb. 1 Belated Shout Outs: Thank you from TK & K:

Donations: Tarin

100th Day snacks: Tarin, Myles, Pononui, Pablo

Dictation: Hailey

Snack set-up: Hailey, Aruna, Josh, Elizabeth, Kirsten

Motor Skills: Jeffrey, Aruna, Keith, Vicki, Kirsten, Kate, Chet, Caren, Susannah, Michele, J. Dere, Tracey, Les

100th day help: Rachel and Michael

Rug cleaning: Dad's Club

Reminders: Nel

100th Day snacks: Tarin, Myles, Pononui, Pablo, Yanis, Oliver, Walter, Cooper, Jeffrey, Caleb, Addison, Rory

Dictation: Hailey

Snack set-up: Hailey, Aruna, Josh, Elizabeth, Kirsten

Motor Skills: Ann, Ms. D, Michole, Sean, Chet, Jean, Caren, Kristin, Matt, Veronica

Garden Notes



Our second round of Garden Ambassadors have joined the garden program! We are so happy to have their presence and leadership in the Sequoia gardens!

Last week: First graders enjoyed dino kale/Swiss chard sauté (see last week's newsletter for recipe!). Mr. Fleischman's class had their first experience "drawing with flowers," using the pigments of various garden plants to make artworks. Ms. Thompson's and Mr. Handy's classes sifted compost making more top soil for the garden beds and learned about decomposers while doing so, transferring the bugs, slugs and worms from the unsifted compost to the new composts recently built so they could do their job. Ms. N's, Ms. Love's and Ms. Heather's classes planted cover crops of buckwheat and mustard throughout the school gardens. And Ms. Catalano's class clipped back the buckwheat cover crop and learned about 'green manure' and how the cut grass makes for an excellent soil supplement as well as leaving the roots in the soil to decompose, readying the beds for early spring planting.

Next week I am asking students to bring any Meyer lemons from trees they may have in their own gardens to make delicious lemonade. Please remind your garden student to bring a bag full of lemons if you have a tree that is exploding with them! Thanks.

Variety Show Details Continued...



• Many times, we have situations where several performers want to use the same music. To reserve a song for your act, go to <http://sequoiaschool.net/varietyshow>

and upload the MP3 or M4A file of your song, so we can review it ahead of time and have it ready to go for tryouts. Be aware that the production team has the right to refuse a song if we deem it inappropriate.

Choreography Workshops

Co-producer Heidi Aboites is a professional choreographer and is volunteering to work with individual and group acts before tryouts. If you are interested, contact her at heidiaabotes@gmail.com to find out about workshops or coordinate a time.

Volunteers Opportunities!

If you're a parent or family member who's interested in helping out, or if you can donate food items for the March 18 performance, please contact Stacey Gordon at stacey@suiteseven.com or complete our volunteer form at <http://sequoiaschool.net/varietyshow>.

We hope to see your shining stars at the Variety Show Tryouts!

Earn Money for Sequoia on Amazon.com



Did you know that you can help our school when you shop on Amazon.com? Just access Amazon via the Amazon Smile link on our website's "Shop for Sequoia" page: sequoiaschool.net/donate/shop-for-sequoia. When you do this, Amazon gives us 6-8 percent of your purchase price—at no cost to you!

The link on our website goes to "Amazon Smile"—it's the same as the regular Amazon site, except that you can choose a charity to support with your purchase. If you choose Sequoia Dads' Club as your charity, we get an extra half percent in addition to the money that we get because you used our link.

Remember, using the link brings us a LOT more money than choosing us as your Amazon Smile charity. Please bookmark the Shop for Sequoia link above, and tell your family members, friends, co-workers and neighbors to begin all their Amazon shopping at our school's website. Thanks for your support!

Chinese New Year Celebration 2/13



The East Bay Chinese School invites all Sequoia families to join them for their Chinese New Year Celebration from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Sequoia on Saturday, Feb. 13th. There will be performances, food and games; performances start at 10:30 a.m. in the auditorium, and will happen every 30 minutes. Please come join in the fun!