



Two Week Calendar

Every day is a minimum day for the first two weeks of school (1:20 p.m. dismissal)



Mon Aug 24:	First Day of School
Mon Aug 24:	First Day Welcome Tea , 8:30 a.m., Cafeteria
Tue Aug 25:	Healthy Start Orientation (1st – 5th Grade Parents) , 5:30 – 6:30 p.m., Cafeteria 6 – 8:30 p.m.
Wed Aug 26:	Healthy Start 1st – 5th After School Program Starts
Thu Aug 27:	Dads' Club Meeting , 7 p.m., Red Boy Pizza (1500 Leimert Boulevard)
Sat Aug 29:	Welcome Picnic , 11 a.m., Dimond Park (near tennis courts)
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Mon Aug 31	Healthy Start TK/Kindergarten After School Program Starts
Wed Sept 2:	Sequoia Sings! , 8:30 a.m., Auditorium
Thu Sept 3:	Room Parent Meeting , 7 – 8:30 p.m., Library

Minimum Days for First Two Weeks

The first two weeks of school will be minimum days, to allow teachers to assess their students. Students will be dismissed at 1:20 p.m. from Monday, Aug. 24 to Friday, Sept. 4.



Sign-ups for assessment times will be sent home the first day of school.

Starting the week of September 7, only Wednesdays will be minimum days.

Las primeras dos semanas de clases serán días mínimos, que permitirán que los maestros evalúen a sus estudiantes. Los estudiantes serán despedidos a la 1:20 de lunes, 24 de agosto hasta el viernes, 4 de septiembre. Comenzando la semana del 7 de septiembre, sólo los miércoles serán días mínimos.

暑假過得很快，新的學期會在八月二十四日開學，由八月二十四日至九月四日，放學時間是下午一時二十分，從九月七日這星期會照正常時間放學，之是每星期三放早，多謝各位家長！

Hai tuần đầu tiên khi trường trở lại học sẽ là những ngày ngắn, để cho phép giáo viên có thời gian đánh giá các học sinh. Học sinh sẽ được tan học lúc 1:20 chiều từ Thứ Hai, Ngày 24 Tháng 8 đến Thứ Sáu, Ngày 4 Tháng Chín. Bắt đầu từ tuần của Ngày 07 Tháng 9, chỉ có ngày Thứ Tư sẽ là ngày học ngắn.

وخلال الأسبوعين الأولين من المدرسة أن يكون الحد الأدنى أيام، للسماح للمعلمين لتقييم طلابهم. سيتم رفض الطلاب في 20:1 من الاثنين 24 أغسطس إلى الجمعة، 4. سبتمبر ابتداء من الأسبوع من 7 سبتمبر، وسوف يكون الحد الأدنى فقط الأربعاء يوماً.

School Start/Dismissal Times

Sequoia will continue with the staggered start and dismissal schedule the school implemented last year.

Transitional kindergarten and kindergarten classes will start at 8:45 a.m. and will be dismissed at 2:45 p.m.

Fourth and fifth graders will start at 8:20 a.m. while first, second and third graders will start at 8:30 a.m. First through fifth grade classes are dismissed at 3 p.m.

On Wednesdays, all grades are dismissed at 1:20 p.m.; for the first two weeks of school, all classes are dismissed at 1:20 p.m.

Message from Sequoia's New Principal Donald Bertolo

Hello My Esteemed Sequoia Families...



Welcome back to Sequoia. I am honored and privileged to serve as the new principal of Sequoia. Not only do I look forward to working with all of your wonderful students and a dedicated and highly qualified staff, but I am thrilled to get to know all of you and engage in the educational process together. As a lifelong learner, I bring a firm commitment to the students and families to continue creating a positive culture, and a rigorous academic program focused on arts integration and a vision of college, career, and community readiness. We will continue implementing the California Common Core Curriculum, a balanced literacy model, and developing the workshop model for English Language Arts and Mathematics. In addition, we will be focusing on a new social and emotional support curriculum, and continue our efforts to decrease bullying.

To help each child achieve his/her fullest potential, the school provides both enrichment and acceleration supports for students. We truly believe in supporting the whole child, and will continue to focus many of our efforts on ensuring our school is a place of safety and joy. Our staff is committed to working with students and their families as a team, building relationships, and knowing each child by "name and need." My promise is that the work you have all started as a community will continue to be nurtured, developed and structured to cultivate a strong culture of learning and collaboration. Research shows that parental and community engagement benefits the child with higher levels of academic achievement, positive attitude, and greater maturity and responsibility. Because those benefits are so important, I urge you to make this year the one to become involved. Engagement at Sequoia is remarkable, and I would love to see even more parents involved in our day to day efforts.

I want to personally welcome back all our families for another exciting and challenging year. Thank you for your on-going commitment to the Sequoia community. I look forward to meeting each of you, and expanding our Sequoia family.

With Warmest Regards,

Donald T. Bertolo

Welcome Back Picnic This Saturday

It's time for the annual Welcome Back Picnic at Dimond Park! Every year the Sequoia Dads' Club holds a picnic for families to get together and talk about the upcoming year as well as have fun.



The picnic is this Saturday, Aug. 29 from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the redwood grove in Dimond Park (right by the tennis courts). We will have a BBQ set up with burgers and hot dogs, salad and snacks; we will have vegetarian fare as well. After some food we can all challenge each other with some games: water balloon toss, 3-legged race and the parent/kid tug-of-war!

We hope to see you there. Please coordinate with the Dads' Club if you want to bring side dishes. For more information or to volunteer, contact Luke Milich at elemetal2@gmail.com.

Where's Sequoia's Library?

Sequoia's library has moved from the bottom floor of the main building to the portable closer to Hearst Avenue, near the lower grade playground. The library moved during the summer to accommodate Ms. Catalano's 2nd grade class.

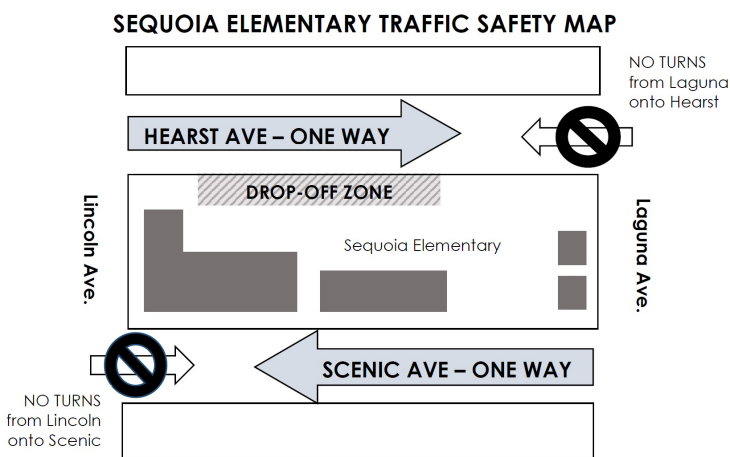
Dropping Off Students at Sequoia

Have you explored alternatives to driving to Sequoia daily? Research shows that kids who get moving on their way to school are able to concentrate better for a good part of the day - it can also be great quality time with your child!

Walk, ride bikes or scooters, or join a walking school bus. If you must drive, then try leaving a few minutes earlier so you can park a block or two away, meet up with a walking school bus, or find another parent to carpool. Fewer cars around the school means less traffic and a quicker "stop-drop--roll" for those who do need the door-to-door drop-off.

When driving, please use the traffic safety map to find your best route to Sequoia and remember - yard supervision only begins at 8:20 a.m. Follow the guidelines below to ensure a safe and smooth drop-off for all our children:

- Pull over completely at legal parking spots or drop-off zone, before letting children out.
- Do not ever block driveways, double-park, or leave your car unattended in drop-off zone.
- Do not make U-turns on any streets around the school.
- Slow down and watch for pedestrians, especially at crosswalks.
- If your child is in TK/Kindergarten, you must stay with your child until the 8:45 am bell.
- Be courteous and helpful to neighbors and other parents.



Girl Scouts Afterschool Program

The Girl Scouts of Northern California are offering an exciting 15-week STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) program for girls at Sequoia, grades 1-5, to encourage girls to seek careers in those fields and introduce them to scouting. The program is free, will be held on Wednesdays from 1:30 to 3:00 and is open to all Sequoia families, but there are only 20 slots available. The program would run from September 2nd-December 2nd. Please join us for a sign-up/kick-off/information night Thursday, August 27th at 5:30 pm in the Library.

RSVP to Amara Lisy at 510-482-7213 x.2101 or amara@ebac.org by Wednesday, Aug. 26.

Learn About Being a Room Parent

Interested in helping in the classroom? Want to be an integral part of your child's experience at Sequoia? Wondering how to support teachers? Volunteer to be a Room Parent! Room Parent coordinators Dana Lawton, Tara Leiker and Jenaver Goodman will hold a meeting for all who are interested on Thursday, Sept. 3 from 7-8:30 p.m. in the Sequoia Library. Light refreshments will be served.

For more information contact Dana at bludance@aol.com or 510-530-2327.

Dads' Club Meeting This Week

The Sequoia Dads' Club will have its first meeting of the new school year this Thursday, Aug. 27, at 7 p.m. at Red Boy Pizza (1500 Leimert Boulevard). It's a fun way to get involved in our school and participate in all the annual Dads' Club events.



The 80-year-old institution organizes and funds many of the annual family and community events (Welcome Back Picnic, Bike Day, Harvest Festival, Movie nights, Variety Show, Pancake Breakfast) and school enrichment programs that support our students and teachers. The group devotes many hours towards improving the school building and grounds, and raises thousands of dollars every year. The Dads' Club is open to all parents and guardians, men and women. For more information contact Luke Milich at elemetal2@gmail.com.

Stay Informed at Sequoia

Sequoia parents, teachers and staff have a number of ways to keep in touch about school, enrichment programs and volunteer activities. Be sure to read, subscribe to and join these resources to get all the latest news.

Newsletter – Each Monday, a group of parent volunteers – with the help of Sequoia staff and teachers – publishes and distributes a newsletter with announcements about upcoming events and happenings at Sequoia. A paper newsletter is distributed to individual students by each teacher, and an electronic version is distributed through the Sequoia Yahoo group and published to the website.

Website – The school's website has the latest news, updates and calendars, as well as general information about the school, resources for parents, volunteer opportunity information, event information and ways to donate.

Facebook - If you're a Facebook member, be sure to join the Sequoia Elementary Facebook Group to get timely updates and reminders in your feed. This group is meant to provide another way to get news and updates that also appear in the newsletter and on the website.

Yahoo Community Group – This group is for members of the Sequoia community to stay informed and communicate with one another. Members receive the weekly newsletter and have access to meeting minutes and other documents, plus can make announcements, ask questions, and share resources. To join, send an e-mail to sequoiacommunity-subscribe@yahogroups.com.

For more information about these resources, including how to submit items to the newsletter and website, visit sequoiaschool.net/parent-resources/newsletters-communities

Thanks to Orientation Volunteers

Thanks to all of our wonderful parent volunteers at the TK/K orientation – Charron, Donna, Jesse, Marie, Phoebe, Rebecca, Kim, Suzanne, Lynn, Thai-An and April! Thanks to Adrian for helping us in our inaugural year hosting this fun event; thanks to Luke from the Dads' Club for speaking; and thanks to Principal Bertolo, Angelina, Mr. Fleischman, Ms. N, Ms. Heather and Ms. Love for helping us execute a successful orientation.

First Sequoia Sings of the Year

Please join us for our first monthly Sequoia Sings assembly on Wednesday, Sept. 2, from 8:30–9 a.m. Music teacher Robert "Mr. Bob" Frazier will lead us in song on the playground. All are welcome!