

Sequoia Elementary School Community Newsletter: Nov. 2, 2015

3730 Lincoln Avenue Oakland, CA 94602 (510) 531-6696

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



Two Week Calendar



Every Wednesday is a minimum day

Nov 1-2:	Días de los Muertos
Wed Nov 4:	Sequoia Sings! Student Performance, 8:30 – 9 a.m., Auditorium
Thu Nov 5:	Dads' Club Meeting, 7-8:30 p.m., Red Boy Pizza (1500 Leimert Boulevard)
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Tue Nov 10:	FOSS Meeting, Dinner served at 6 p.m., meeting from 6:15 – 8 p.m., childcare provided, Auditorium
Wed Nov 11:	Veterans' Day Holiday – School Closed
Fri Nov 13:	Movie Night, 5-8 p.m., Auditorium

Donate Your Art Supplies to artSPARK!!



Are you grateful for the amazing art program at Sequoia? Do you marvel at the creativity of its students? Do you love being able to share that enormous talent with friends and families?

If you answered an enthusiastic YES to these questions, then you might be a perfect candidate to lead this year's artSPARK, scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 5. For questions and more info please contact erinjarrell@gmail.com or 510.531.0580.

Sequoia Goods are Here!



Water bottles, T-Shirts and hoodies have finally arrived. We are looking for volunteers to help us organize and distribute orders following drop off on November 3, Tuesday morning. If you can help, please join us in the cafeteria for any length time that you can spare. We hope to get all orders to teachers that morning, so be on the look out for your order when your students come home on Tuesday! If you have any questions, please email sequoiagoods@gmail.com.

Monthly FOSS Meeting Next Week

FOSS (Friends of Sequoia School) will be meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 10, 6-8 p.m. in the cafeteria. Help put all the hard raised money to work! Dinner and child care will be provided.

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.

Kids Night Out at Oakland YMCA

On the first third Friday of each month, bring your kids to participate in a fun, supervised program so you can enjoy a night out. Your child will enjoy games, sports, crafts, swimming and a meal. Movies are on the first Friday of the month (November 6) and swimming on the third Friday of the month (November 20). Kids between the ages of two months to 12 years old are welcome. Price ranges from \$30 - \$35. For more information and to register visit http://www.ymcaeastbay.org/Locations/Downtown_Oakland_YMCA/News_Events/Kids_Night_Out_-_Third_Friday.htm

Frozen Fruit Bars on Fridays

Please support 5th grade field trips by buying refreshing frozen fruit bars. Students sell frozen fruit bars next to the cafeteria on Fridays from 3 – 3:30 p.m. There are six delicious flavors – strawberry, banana, mango, coconut, strawberry cream and lime – and are only \$2 each.

Calling All Foodies, Chefs, Caterers and Snack Mavens!

artSPARK needs volunteers for the food portion of our school art event on December 5.

Can you provide an hors d'oeuvre? Manage the kitchen the day of the event? Prepare a healthy snack? Orchestrate the 4th and 5th grade volunteer servers?

We need support making artSPARK feel like an authentic gallery experience for our young artists. Please let us know how you can lend a hand! Reach out to us at SequoiaArtSpark@gmail.com

School Closed on November 11

Please note that Sequoia will be closed on Wednesday, Nov. 11 in observance of the Veterans Day holiday.

Tenga en cuenta que Sequoia se cerrará el miércoles 11 de noviembre en observancia del feriado del Día de los Veteranos.

請注意，紅杉將在週三，11月11日在紀念退伍軍人節假期關閉。

Xin lưu ý rằng Sequoia sẽ được đóng cửa vào ngày Thứ 4 Tháng 11 11 chấp hành các lễ Veterans Day.

يرجى ملاحظة أن سيكوييا ستكون مغلقة يوم الأربعاء 11 نوفمبر احتفالاً بمناسبة عيد المحاربين القدامى.

Traffic Safety Program Help Needed

We need an adult volunteer to support and assist with Traffic Safety Patrol Program. Fourth and 5th grade student volunteers will soon be trained to run a traffic safety plan during drop-off. They will monitor the drop-off zone so that parents can drop their children off and pull away safely and efficiently. This well-established program has done wonders at many other Oakland schools but Sequoia could use another adult to guide and support these students. The time commitment would be approximately a half hour daily in the mornings (8:10 - 8:40 a.m.) to be shared with another parent that has already stepped up (thank you Monique McGough!) and this adult coordinator can be a parent or other family member, community member, or teacher. Training will be provided and there is a \$500 stipend. If you or someone you know would be interested, please contact Principal Bertolo or send an email to aruna70@gmail.com.

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. Send your shout out to

shoutouts@sequoiaschool.net.

Thank you to the salad bar volunteers - Dirk Williams, Kirsten Dahl, Leslie Olsson, Nubia Benitez, Sarah Gumataotao, Kristen Escue, Heather King

Thank you from K and TK:

Donations: Taryn

Book Making: Alicia

Classroom Help: Kirsten, Nel, Sarah

Snack set-up: Hailey, Aruna, Elizabeth

Halloween help: Kirsten, Efuru, Ms. D, Ms. Brenda, Vicki

Harvest Festival: Nancy, Cali, Sarah

Motor Skills: Jeffrey, Keith, Stephen, Aruna, Nel, Chet, Mila, Carlos, Tiffany, Caren, Michael, Susannah, Jenes, Kathleen



Sequoia Silent Auction & Family Dance - Save the Date!



The Sequoia (mostly) Silent Auction & Family Dance was a big hit last school year, with more than 300 attendees of all ages enjoying the party and raising more than \$10,000 for Sequoia enrichment programs. We'll be doing it again the evening of Saturday, Feb. 6, so please mark your calendars!

The event team is seeking business sponsorship to defray the (modest) costs of the event. Last school year, Liz McGuire of McGuire Real Estate generously served as the event sponsor. However, we wanted to give first dibs on sponsorship to one or more members of the Sequoia community. Sponsors' businesses will be prominently featured on the auction website and at the event itself, and the goodwill generated within the school community is priceless!

Lots of details will follow in the coming weeks and months, including FAQs on auction item donation, fundraising goals, volunteer opportunities and more. For more information contact Lynn at lynn.f.lewis@pacbell.net or Jocelyn at Jocelyn.fabello@gmail.com.

Amazon Shopping Earns Money for Sequoia



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!

Dads' Club Meeting This Week

The Sequoia Dads' Club will have its first meeting of the new school year this Thursday, Nov. 5, 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. Visit sequoiaschool.net

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. You can find the link to the Facebook group at sequoiaschool.net.

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@yahoogroups.com.

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