

Sequoia Elementary School Community Newsletter: Dec. 7, 2015

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



Two Week Calendar



Wednesdays are minimum days

- Dec 7-11: **Minimum Days, students will be dismissed at 1:20 p.m. all week**
 - Mon Dec 7: **Options Enrollment Period Opens**
 - Mon Dec 7: **Window Opens for Prospective Sequoia Family Classroom Observations**
 - Tue Dec 8: **Prospective Sequoia Family Information Night, 7:15 p.m., Library**
 - Fri Dec 11: **First Trimester Report Cards Sent Home**
 - Sat Dec 12: **No FOSS Meeting in December**
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- Mon Dec 14: **Breakfast with Principal Bertolo, 8:30 – 9:30 a.m., Cafeteria**
 - Wed Dec 16: **Choir Performance, 12:40 p.m., Auditorium**
Evening Choir Performance, 7 p.m., Auditorium
 - Thu Dec 17: **Healthy Start Potluck & Showcase, 6 p.m., Auditorium**
 - Fri Dec 18: **Lost & Found Items Cleared and Donated**

SCC Meeting Cancelled

The originally scheduled meeting this week has been cancelled.

Auction Donations Needed

Our Second Annual Family Dance and (mostly) Silent Auction team is making great progress but we need you to help keep the momentum going. There are only a few weeks until winter break, and our deadline for receiving auction items is January 15; the event itself is February 6.

The process is painless! Donors can choose from four easy options:

- For donor-issued gift certificates, simply mail (or drop off) a gift certificate to the school, Attn: Silent Auction Team
- Register a donation using this simple form: <http://sequoiaschool.net/calendar-events/dance-auction/>
- Email the details to us at sequoiaauctionteam@gmail.com and we'll do the data entry for you
- If you donated last year and want to do the same thing this year, just let us know and we'll take it from there!

Do you or a family member have a particular skill or service we could auction? (Music teachers, electricians, landscapers, graphic designers, chefs, marketing whizzes, decorators—you name it, we need you!) Have a business relationship with a retail establishment or restaurant? Know the coaches at your kid's soccer class, gymnasium or baseball camp? Have a nice bottle of wine that you are willing to part with, or a connection who could donate a weekend at a vacation rental? Or maybe you work somewhere really neat and could arrange a tour? Help us make the auction a success by getting the word out to those you know and gaining donation commitments!

All proceeds will go toward Sequoia's enrichment programs such as science, library, art, garden and music. For more information please contact Lynn Lewis at lynn.f.lewis@pacbell.net.

Winter Break Dec. 21- Jan 1

Sequoia will be closed for the winter break from Monday, December 21 through Friday, January 1. School will resume on Monday, January 4.

Minimum Days All This Week



Every school day is a minimum day during the week of December 7; students will be dismissed at 1:20 p.m. This is to accommodate parent-teacher conferences during the week. Teachers will contact families to arrange the dates and times of the conferences.

Todos los días serán días mínimos durante la semana del 07 de diciembre. Los estudiantes saldrán a la 1:20 pm. Esto es para que se lleven a cabo las conferencias de padres y maestros durante la semana. Los maestros se comunicarán con las familias para organizar las fechas y horarios de las conferencias.

每天,12月7日至12月11日是放早學, 放學時間是下午一時二十分. 是學生-教師開會. 教師聯繫你們的時間. 多謝各位家長!

Mỗi ngày đi học trong tuần của ngày 07 tháng 12 là một ngày học ngắn; các học sinh sẽ được mảng trường lúc 1:20 trưa. Lý do là để tạo cơ hội cho các Giáo viên và các Phụ huynh được gặp mặt trong tuần này để bàn luận về con cháu của chúng ta. Giáo viên sẽ liên lạc với gia đình để sắp xếp ngày giờ của hội nghị.

كل أيام المدرسة خلال الأسبوع من 7 ديسمبر ستكون الحد الأدنى من الدوام، وسيتم صرف الطلاب في 1:20 وذلك تجهيزاً لإجتماعات الآباء والمعلمين خلال الأسبوع. وسوف يقوم المعلمين بالتواصل مع الأسر لترتيب تواريخ و أوقات الأحتتماعات.

Parental Involvement Survey Results

Last spring the Inclusive School Committee administered a survey of students' families about how involved they are and how included they feel as members of the Sequoia Elementary community. The results have been compiled and a summary is being sent home on a separate sheet with this week's newsletter.

We received 145 survey responses, representing 174 Sequoia students in all grades. Respondents were 6% African American, 17% Asian/Pacific Islander, 12% Latino/a, 26% Multi-racial/ethnic, 39% White. While overall satisfaction was high in most areas, there were some differences that emerged when looking at responses by race/ethnicity. Some barriers to parental participation were reported and some ideas of where to focus future efforts were suggested.

You are invited to the January FOSS meeting (1/9/16, 10-noon at Dimond Rec) to join in further discussion about the results and possible next steps for us to take.

Thank you for your participation in the conversation about becoming a more inclusive community for all Sequoia students and families!

Prospective Parent Information Night



On Tuesday, Dec. 8, Sequoia will have a Parent Information Night. If you know families who are interested in attending Sequoia, please let them know about this information night. Also, any Sequoia parents who are interested in volunteering to be tour guides for this event, or help with the information night, please let us know right away. We will also be looking for tour guides to help with tours that will be held in December and January. The information meeting will be from 7:15 - 8:30 p.m. in the Library. Spanish-language interpretation and child care will be provided. If you have questions or want to assist, please contact the main office.

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.



Thank you from TK and K!

Donations: Allen, Jeffrey, Rory, Caleb, Tarin

Fabric: Elizabeth and Molly

artSPARK: Aruna

Box Tops: Benny, Pononui

Dictation: Hailey, Kirsten

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

Motor Skills: Jeffrey, Aruna, Vicki, Kirsten, Efuru, Mr. Banks, Sean, Michele, Nicole, Caren, Heather, Tracey

Garden Notes



Great news: Sequoia's Garden Program was recently awarded a generous grant from Middlebrook Center!

(<http://middlebrookcenter.com>)

Dedicated to improving infrastructure of school gardens among many other wonderful garden nutrition education programs, Middlebrook representatives visited Wednesday to take a look at our water catchment and irrigation system. My hope is a transferable irrigation system to make use of fresh rain water we collect that can be moved to the city water tap when our cisterns are depleted, saving a huge amount of water each year, and maybe a make over for the whole irrigation system.

Meanwhile students learned about, harvested and tasted various root vegetables last week. If yours came home with a red face it is because they learned that beets were often used as cheek and lip blush by many throughout history and students enjoyed painting their lips and cheeks with the ruby red beet juice. Root veggies sampled included: Dikon, black, scarlet globe, and watermelon radishes; carrots; celery root; and by far their favorite, sweet ruby red beets. It is wonderful to see K - 2nd graders being so excited to eat raw root veggies!

Students who planted seeds in clear containers two weeks ago were able to see the whole cotyledon in action, reviewing their plant's anatomy then successfully transplanted their seedlings into the garden.

Bret Harte Info Nights & Tour

Attention Prospective Middle School Parents: Visit Bret Harte Middle School! Come learn about all the great things that are happening at our amazing neighborhood middle school! Tours will take place on the following dates. (All tours begin at 9:30 am and meet in the office)

Wednesday, Dec. 9

Monday, Dec. 14

Friday, Jan. 8

Thursday, Jan. 14



Please call 531-6400 or email gayle.fake@ousd.k12.ca.us to reserve a spot.

Also, don't miss the prospective family information night: Wednesday, Dec. 16 at 5 p.m. (followed by our annual Winter Concert at 6 p.m.)

Sequoia Is On Schoola.com!

Here's how it works:

1. Bring your gently-used women's and children's clothing to Sequoia. We'll send them onto Schoola for you!

1. Visit schoola.com/schools/sequoia-elementary-oakland-ca to shop for adorable pre-loved clothes at dramatically reduced prices.

3. Forty percent of proceeds from each sale will go towards supporting Sequoia's awesome enrichment programs!

Questions? Please contact Angelina:

angelina.bazan@ousd.k12.ca.us.

Sequoia Choir Performs



Come enjoy the lovely harmonies of the Sequoia Choir on Wednesday,

December 16th! The evening concert

begins at 7:00pm and the daytime assembly takes place at 12:40pm, both in the auditorium. The evening performance will also include some holiday sing-alongs. We hope to see you there!

Six Flags Read to Succeed



When Sequoia students read for fun, they can earn a free ticket to Six Flags! The Six Flags Read to Succeed program encourages K-6th grade students to read six hours by February.

Here's how it works:

- Students read for fun (not homework or classwork). They read alone or with an adult.
- Families help students fill out a reading log, and sign off on children's reading.
- After students have read six hours, they turn in the reading log to their teacher.
- All reading logs must be turned in by February 12, 2016.
- In May, Six Flags will give out tickets to students who read/ logged six hours by the deadline.

Look in your child's backpack for a reading program packet. For more information please contact Jennifer Bowman at jennifer.bowman@ousd.org.