

Sequoia Elementary School Community Newsletter: May 15, 2017

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

SequoiaSchool.net and Facebook.com/groups/sequoiaelementary



Two-Week Calendar



Wednesdays are minimum days

- Wed • May 17: **OUSD District-Wide Science Fair**, 5-8 p.m., *Chabot Space and Science Center*
- Sun • May 21: **Playdate for Incoming TK and Kindergartners**, 10 a.m.-12 p.m., *School yard by kindergarten play structure*
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- Mon • May 22: **Daytime Choir Spring Concert**, 1:30-2 p.m., *Auditorium*
- Tue • May 23: **Open House**, 6:30-8 p.m., *Classrooms*
- Wed • May 22: **Evening Choir Spring Concert**, 7-7:30 p.m., *Auditorium*
- Thu • May 25: **Frozen Fruit Bar Sales on Thursday Due to Friday Holiday**, 3-3:30 p.m., *School yard*
- Thu • May 25: **Healthy Start End-of-Year Potluck & Showcase**, 6-7 p.m., Potluck Dinner, 7-8 p.m., *Performances, Cafeteria and auditorium*
- Fri • May 26: **School Closed - In Lieu of Lincoln's Day Holiday**
- Mon • May 29: **School Closed - Memorial Day Holiday**

OUSD Blueprint for Quality Schools



This month, Oakland Unified School District is launching the Blueprint for Quality Schools, a long-term master plan that will combine our facilities investments with academic equity. The Blueprint is an important step towards improving access to quality school environments and academic results. OUSD will be collaborating with families, community members, and an experienced team of professionals to develop the plan. Please make sure your voice is heard!

Opportunities to participate in the process will begin on May 25 and continue throughout the fall. The Blueprint for Quality Schools kickoff is on Thursday, May 25. Together, we will:

- Provide participants with more details on the Blueprint for Quality Schools process.
- Survey community priorities and values to help shape future facilities investments.
- Share ways to stay involved in the process.

To RSVP and learn more about the process and the kickoff meetings, please go to www.ousd.org/blueprintforquality. Feel free to email blueprintforquality@ousd.org with questions. Thank you for your interest and engagement!

2017 Sequoia Science Fair Winners

Congratulations to the Sequoia elementary winners that will continue to the OUSD district fair at the Chabot Space & Science Center May 15!

TK/K : Clara Kimball (Ms. Love)

First grade: Ayana Sakamoto (Ms. Loeser)

Second grade: James Kimball (Ms. O'Toole)

Third grade: Ms. Rasler's Class

Fourth grade: Mr. J's Class

Fifth grade: Madeleine Gordon and Rachel Williams (Miss Ashunda)



Honorable Mentions:

Most Creative: Dante Santina (Miss N)

Most Novel: Room 18 (Mrs. Oby's Class)

Best Individual Project: Grace Johnson (Ms. Chiodo)

Best Whole Class Project: Ms. Rau

Super Fun (2): Zachary Molina (Ms. Rau) & Connor O'Toole (Miss N)

Best Presentation (2): Ms. Chiodo's Class & Vanderville Lewis (Ms. Poncho)

Special thank you to all volunteers:

Sequoia teachers, Leonore Reiser, Emily Songster, Nicole George-O'Brien, Nik Sokol, Marcela Gonzales, Jessica Swesey, Shizue Seo, the Neighborhood Appeal group, The Dads' Club, Stacie Chun, Adrian Goldstein, Bret Harte's Mr. Kealeys and his eighth graders, Cub Scout Pack 296, and the Community Resources for Science group for all the amazing volunteers. A huge thank you to all of the parents who help support science in our school. Thank you!

A BIG thank you to our judges Joshua Tworig, Brittany Daws, and Alyssa Bormann from UC Berkeley. The winning projects will be taken to the district science fair at Chabot Space & Science Center on May 15. Projects will be on display May 16 and 17. The public evening celebration will take place from 5-8 p.m. on May 17. In addition to the 250 science fair projects on display, the drop in event will feature special activities from partner organizations. Chabot exhibits and the planetarium will also be open. Food and drinks will be served. Students, families, staff, and the community are all invited to attend this public event. Admission is free.

Playdate for Incoming TK/K

A pre-Kindergarten playdate for children who will be entering TK or Kindergarten at Sequoia in the fall will be held this Sunday, May 21, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. on the Sequoia kindergarten playground. Come meet other families and make new friends before school starts in the fall. The playdate is organized by families with new kids entering Sequoia. Contact Marie Jones at marie.s.jones@gmail.com for more information.

Spring Choir Concerts



Come enjoy the lovely harmonies of the Sequoia Choir as we perform our Spring Concerts! The evening concert takes place in the auditorium from 7-7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 24. The daytime assembly will be on Monday, May 22, from 1:30-2 p.m.

Sequoia Open House May 23



Join us for the annual Open House at Sequoia from 6:30-8 p.m. on Tuesday, May 23. All the classrooms will be open so you can visit and see what your student has been working on all year.

This is also an opportunity to visit the classrooms of the grade your student will be entering next year.

Sequoia Year-End Potluck June 6

Please join the Sequoia Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) and the Dads' Club as we celebrate the end of the school year with a potluck for ALL Sequoia families. Our amazing Dads' Club will grill hot dogs and hamburgers; please bring a main dish, side dish, or dessert to share. Join us Tuesday, June 6 starting at 6:30 p.m. on the playground.

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TK/K Motor Skills Help Needed

Hello TK and K families,
We're in the last days of school, but we still need motor skills help! If you're available on Wednesday mornings, please come help out if you can.

Here are the remaining days of Motor Skills classes:

May 10
May 17 TK ONLY (9 a.m.). No Kinder motor skills due to Crab Cove field trip.
May 24 and 31 (Last Motor Skills class of the year)

Wednesday Motor Skills Class Times:

9:10-9:50 a.m. Ms. Heather
9:55-10:35 a.m. Ms. N
10:40-11:20 a.m. Mr. Fleischman
12:00-12:45 p.m. Ms. Love

Lastly, Wednesday, June 7 is the Volunteer Appreciation Tea. This is Sequoia's chance to thank YOU for all of your help making Sequoia a great school, so please come! Thank you so much,
Ms. April (Motor Skills teacher)

Sequoia Closed May 26 and 29

Sequoia Elementary School will be closed Friday, May 26 (in lieu of the Lincoln's birthday holiday) and Monday, May 29 for the Memorial Day holiday.



La escuela primaria Sequoia estará cerrada el viernes 26 de Mayo (con motivo del nacimiento de Lincoln) y el lunes 29 de Mayo por el día de la recordación.

Trường Tiểu Học Sequoia sẽ đóng cửa Thứ Sáu, ngày 26 tháng 5 (để tưởng niệm ngày sinh nhật của Tổng Thống Lincoln) và thứ Hai, ngày 29 tháng 5 (để tưởng niệm Ngày Lễ Memorial Day).

學校會在五月二十六日和五月二十九日停課兩天，來興祝林肯總統生日和紀念假期。多謝各位家長！

سيتم إغلاق مدرسة سيكويا الابتدائية يوم الجمعة 26 مايو (بدلاً من عطلة عيد ميلاد لينكولن) ويوم الاثنين 29 مايو لقضاء عطلة عيد الميلاد.

Celebrate Carol Pancho

Please join us to celebrate Carol Pancho's retirement after nearly 40 years with Oakland Unified School District.

When: Thursday, June 1, 4-7 p.m.

Where: Sequoia Auditorium

Please RSVP and let us know if you can contribute a platter of finger foods by getting in touch with Sequoia grandma and volunteer Karen Boyden at kboyden@yahoo.com or 510-549-0478.

If you would like to contribute towards a group gift for Ms. Pancho, please contact Kara DeKernion at kara@sellman.net. Look forward to seeing you on June 1!

Thank You Amazing Neighbors!

Recently a neighborhood family reached out to the lower school teachers at Sequoia. Their daughter, Evelyn, was turning one and they wanted to give back to their neighborhood school. They created Amazon wish lists for those who responded and let us shop. Then they asked their guests to support our Sequoia classrooms in lieu of a birthday gift. What an amazing gift! Thank you to Nicole, Erik, and Evelyn Sattler for your incredibly generous gift. Welcome to the Sequoia family! Tontra Love, Heather Holland, Elena Njemanzie, and Karen Loeser

Shout Outs!

Thank you to Sequoia's communications team for doing such a great job keeping our community informed throughout the school year:

Marquee: Jesse Kelsey

Website: Stacey Gordon

Facebook: Vicki Moulton, Andrew Gordon

Newsletter: Jennifer Boyden, Signe Galvez, Vicki Moulton, Alex Regilio, Kathleen Hogan, Juliana Tringali Golden, Andrew Gordon

Translations: Huey Phan, Ivy Tom, Mora Tulian, Claudia Burgos

Wanted: Computer Skills Teacher

Sequoia's Computer Skills teacher, Ms. April, is going back to school next year, so we will have a part-time Computer Skills teacher position available next fall. Please see the position description below and reply to Principal Bertolo (donald.bertolojr@ousd.org) if you are interested in joining the Sequoia Squirrels team.



Computer Skills Teacher Job Description:

- Teach computer skills to Kindergarten to fifth grade students, using California technology standards to develop grade-appropriate activities.
- Support student use of online learning programs such as ST Math, Typing Club, Google Drive (Google Docs, Slides, Sheets, etc), and Google Classroom.
- Provide light technical assistance to support use of online learning programs, especially at the beginning of the school year.
- Salary and Schedule: \$20.00 per hour Mondays and Tuesdays 8 a.m. -3 p.m.; September 2017 - May 2018.
- Requirements: B.A. and CBEST www.ctcexams.nesinc.com/ and ability to pass background check and fingerprinting.
- Preferred: Be able to come to Sequoia for some orientation before the end of the school year.

OUSD Teacher Appreciation Month

May is Teacher Appreciation Month, and OUSD needs YOU to help make it a month of overflowing gratitude for our hard working educators!

Here's how you can help:

- Write an online thank you note to a special teacher.
- Sign up to provide teacher treats.
- Nominate your favorite teacher for the People's Choice Oakland Teacher Award (www.oaklandthanksteachers.org).
- Post a photo/message on social media thanking a teacher, tag OUSD @ousdnews and use the following hashtags: #TeachOUSD and #ThankATeacher. OUSD will retweet and reshare the most creative entries.