

# Sequoia Elementary School Community Newsletter: Aug. 22, 2016

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



## Two Week Calendar



### Wednesdays are minimum days

- Mon • Aug 22: **First Day of School For Students!**  
Mon • Aug 22: **First Day Welcome Tea, 8:30 - 9:30 a.m., Cafeteria**
- Tue • Aug 23: **Healthy Start Orientation for 1st-5th Grade Parents, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m., Cafeteria**
- Aug 24 - 26: **Minimum Days - 1:20 p.m. Dismissal**
- Wed • Aug 24: **Healthy Start After School Program for Grades 1-5 Begins**
- Thu • Aug 25: **Dads' Club Meeting, 7 - 8:30 p.m., Red Boy Pizza (1500 Leimert Boulevard)**
- Sat • Aug 27: **Welcome Back Picnic, sponsored by the Dads' Club, 11 a.m.- 2 p.m., Dimond Park**

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- Aug 29 - 31: **Minimum Days - 1:20 p.m. Dismissal**  
Mon • Aug 29: **Healthy Start After School Program for TK/Kindergarten Begins**  
Thu • Sep 1: **Room Parent Meeting, 7 - 8:30 p.m., Library**

## Minimum Days August 24-31



There will be a special schedule for the first two weeks of school. Monday, Aug. 22 and Tuesday, Aug. 23 will be regular school days, while Wednesday, Aug. 24 through Wednesday, Aug. 31 will be minimum days, with dismissal at 1:20 p.m.; Wednesdays are always minimum days. The last two days of the second week, Thursday, Sept. 1 and Friday, Sept. 2, are both regular days.

## 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. To submit news, updates, Shout Outs and more for the newsletter, website and Sequoia Facebook page, please use the form on the school website [sequoiaschool.net](http://sequoiaschool.net).

**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](mailto: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](http://sequoiaschool.net/parent-resources/newsletters-communities).

For questions about communications at Sequoia, contact Andrew Gordon at [agordon72@gmail.com](mailto:agordon72@gmail.com).

## Welcome Back Picnic This Saturday

Our annual Welcome Back Picnic is a Sequoia tradition that features family activities, sack races, water balloon toss and the epic kids vs. adults tug-of-war. The Sequoia Dads' Club hosts this not-to-be-missed event at Dimond Park.



All new and returning families are welcome, as we look forward to seeing old friends and making some new ones!

Please join us this Saturday, Aug. 27 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Redwood Grove in Dimond Park.

The Dads' Club is looking for volunteers to help with the event, and also encourages families to bring a salad or side dish to share with other Sequoia families.

To volunteer, contact Luke Milich at [elemetal2@gmail.com](mailto:elemetal2@gmail.com).

## First Dads' Club Meeting This Week

The first Dads' Club meeting of the new school year is this Thursday, Aug. 25. The Dads' Club organizes and funds many of the annual family and community events, school enrichment programs and communication services that support our students and teachers.



The Dads' Club provides many hands-on services — from hosting beloved and time-honored school events to devoting hours towards improving our school facility. Despite its name, the Dads' Club is open to all parents and guardians, men and women. The club organizes and funds annual events such as the Welcome Back Picnic (this Saturday!), school/garden work days, the fall fundraiser, the Variety Show and the pancake breakfast.

The Dads' Club also raises thousands of dollars each year to support Sequoia's enrichment programs and Sequoia's teachers.

So please join us this Thursday at 7 p.m. at Red Boy Pizza, 1500 Leimert Boulevard. For more information, please contact Luke Milich at [elemetal2@gmail.com](mailto:elemetal2@gmail.com).

## Sequoia's New 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Teacher

Sequoia welcomes its new second grade teacher Colleen Rau, who is excited to join her daughter Riley in second grade. Before Sequoia, Colleen taught first grade in Los Angeles and kindergarten and first grade in Oakland. She also learned a lot about how children learn to read during the seven years she worked as a reading specialist. Stop by Room 4 to say hi!

## 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.



Shout out to parent Caren Roddy and 2nd grade teacher Melissa Catalano for organizing and guiding the summer volunteers who decluttered many of the spaces at Sequoia. A huge thank you goes to Kirsten Dahl and Kristin Dwelley for hauling the final loads away last week. Additional thanks go to all the parents who helped tidy and purge over the summer: Kara deKernion, Kristin Dwelley (again!), Nicole O'Brien, Tishana Peebles, Stephanie Pepitone and Sarah Thompson. Finally, thank you to the staff members who provided so much help: secretary Angelina Bazan and her children Isamara and Marissa, custodian David Cruz and principal Donald Bertolo.

Thank you Melanie Kelsey, Tracey Kelp, and Michela Marini for setting up and hosting those awesome playdates for incoming families. Thanks also for organizing kindergarten orientation and last Friday's Meet and Treat for returning families. Because of you, Sequoia is a friendlier and more welcoming place!

Another shout out to Bobbie Bond, Kirsten Dahl and Laurie Beardsley for helping Colleen Rau (the new 2nd grade teacher) get her classroom ready for the first day of school.

Shout out to Emily Songster for the laborious summer work of coordinating the busy Sequoia calendar. Emily worked with numerous event leads to find dates for everything, she prepared the printed calendar that everyone received at registration, and she made sure that the calendar on our school website is up to date. If you see Emily around school, be sure to thank her.

## Learn About Being a Room Parent

Are you 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! Sequoia Volunteer Coordinator Marie Jones will hold a meeting for all who are interested on Thursday, Sept. 1 from 7-8:30 p.m. in the Sequoia library. Light refreshments will be served.

## Sequoia Monthly Meetings

- FOSS (Friends of Sequoia School), the Sequoia equivalent of a PTA, supports the school community by coordinating volunteers, organizing events, and fundraising for student enrichment. Meetings alternate between Tuesday evening and Saturday morning. The first meeting is Tuesday, Sept. 13 at 6 p.m. in the cafeteria; dinner and childcare are provided.
- Dads' Club meets on the first Thursday of each month. The first meeting is a week early, on August 25, at 7 p.m. at Red Boy Pizza at 1500 Leimert Boulevard. For more information, see Page 1.
- School Site Council (SSC) works with the principal to review and evaluate school programs and the school budget. SSC meets the first Tuesday of each month. The first meeting is Tuesday, Sept. 6 at 5 p.m. in the library.

## Three-day Holiday Weekend

Please note that school is closed Monday, Sept. 5 in observance of the Labor Day holiday. Enjoy the three-day weekend and we'll see you Tuesday, Sept. 6.



يرجى ملاحظة أنه سيكون هناك عدة أيام ذات دوام قصير خلال الأسبوعين الأولين من المدرسة. الاثنين 22 أغسطس والثلاثاء 23 أغسطس سيكون دوام عادي. من الأربعاء 24 أغسطس إلى الأربعاء 31 أغسطس سيكون الدوام قصير، وسيتم صرف الطلاب على 1:20 بعد الظهر. الخميس 1 سبتمبر والجمعة 2 سبتمبر سيكون دوام عادي.

Xin lưu ý rằng sẽ có một vài ngày học ngắn trong hai tuần đầu tiên khi trường khai giảng. Thứ 2 Ngày 22 Tháng 8 và Thứ 3 Ngày 23 Tháng 8 là ngày học bình thường. Thứ Tư Ngày 24 Tháng 8 đến Thứ Tư Ngày 31 Tháng 8 là ngày ngắn, sẽ tan trường lúc 1:20 pm. Thứ 5 Ngày 1 Tháng 9 và Thứ 6 Ngày 2 Tháng 9 là ngày thường, tan trường lúc 3:00pm.

Habrà varios días mínimo durante las dos primeras semanas de clases. Lunes por, 22 de agosto y Martes, 23 de agosto son días de clases regulares. Miércoles, 24 de agosto al miércoles, el 31 de agosto son días mínimos, con salida a las 13:20. Cerrado jueves, 1 de septiembre de y el viernes, de septiembre de 2 tienen días regulares.

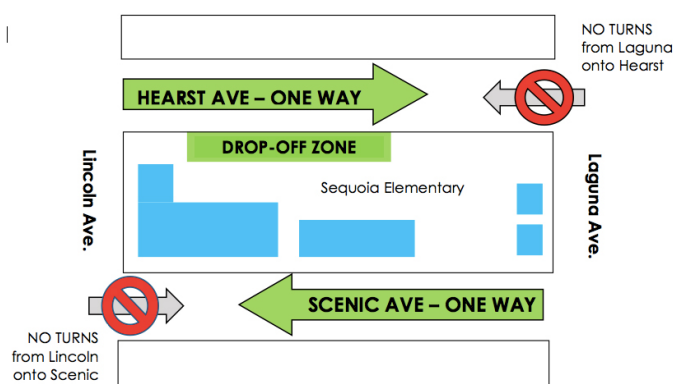
将有前两个星期学校期间最低数天。周一，8月22日周二，8月23日是正规的学校天。周三，8月24日周三，8月31日是最小的天，在解雇下午1:20。周四，9月1日和周五，9月2日都是正规天。

## Sequoia's Drop-Off Policy

For those who do not have time to park and must drop-off quickly, please follow the guidelines below so we can get our kids to school safely:

- Use the map below to determine your best route to the drop-off zone on Hearst Avenue.
- 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.
- Pull over completely at legal parking spots or drop-off zone, before letting children out.
- Slow down and watch for pedestrians, especially at crosswalks.
- Please note that there is no yard supervision until 8:20 a.m.
- If your child is in TK/kindergarten, you must stay with your child until the 8:45 a.m. bell.
- Be courteous and helpful to neighbors and other parents.

### SEQUOIA ELEMENTARY TRAFFIC SAFETY MAP



## Sequoia Recurring Events

- Sequoia Sings! student performances are the first Wednesday of the month. There is no performance in January.
- Unclaimed lost and found items are gathered and donated on the last school day of even-numbered months.
- Frozen fruit bar sales are every Friday from 3-3:20 p.m., beginning in September. Sales end the second to last week of school. Fruits bars are \$2 each, which supports the fifth grade science camp. Fruit bar sales are on Thursday when there is a Friday holiday.