



Two-Week Calendar



Wednesdays are minimum days

- Dec 5–9: **Minimum Week:** 1:20 p.m. dismissal all week
Dec 5–6: **artSPARK Submissions Accepted**, 8:15–9 a.m., Auditorium
- Tue • Dec 6: **SSC Meeting**, 5–6 p.m., Library
Tue • Dec 6: **How to Talk to Your Kids About Race and Racism-Part I**, 6–8 p.m., Auditorium, childcare and snacks provided
- Wed • Dec 7: **Sequoia Sings! Student Performance**, 8:30–9 a.m., Auditorium
Wed • Dec 7: **Breakfast with the Principal**, 9–9:30 a.m., Cafeteria
Wed • Dec 7: **Prospective Sequoia Family Tours**, Front Lobby, schedule with school secretary
Thu • Dec 8: **Daytime Choir Performance**, 10:30 a.m., Auditorium
Sat • Dec 10: **No FOSS Meeting in December**
Sat • Dec 10: **artSPARK**, 3:30–6 p.m., Auditorium
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- Mon • Dec 12: **Parent University, Theme: Reading**, 6–7:30 p.m., Auditorium
Wed • Dec 14: **Evening Choir Performance**, 7–7:30 p.m., Auditorium
Fri • Dec 16: **Lost & Found Items Cleared and Donated**

Talking About Race and Racism

Please join us for a two-part series of talks with Dr. Allison Briscoe-Smith, a Harvard and Berkeley trained child psychologist (and Oakland Public Schools parent) whose talks win raves at other schools.

How to Talk to Your Kids About Race and Racism

- Part 1: Tuesday, Dec. 6, 6–8 p.m.
- Part 2: Tuesday, Mar. 21, 6–8 p.m.
- Both meetings will be held in the school auditorium. Free childcare, Spanish translation and refreshments will be provided.

In Part 1, Dr. Briscoe-Smith will cover:

- How kids develop their perceptions of race
- What color blindness really is—and isn't
- Ways bias impacts kids
- How to have useful, age-appropriate discussions with your kids about what race means: at home, at school, in the community

This is a repeat of last spring's talk for new families or folks who missed the talk last time.

In Part 2, Dr. Briscoe-Smith will cover:

- Diving deeper into concepts and personal experiences
- More conversations among parents
- Next steps at Sequoia

Please mark your calendar. More information to come soon!

Winter Break Dec. 19—Jan. 2

Sequoia will be closed for Winter Recess from Monday, Dec. 19 through Monday, Jan. 2. School will resume on Tuesday, Jan. 3.



Minimum Days All Week

Each day this week – Monday, Dec. 5 through Friday, Dec. 9 – is a minimum day, with dismissal at 1:20 p.m. After school, teachers will have conferences with parents to discuss students' work and progress. Teachers will contact classroom families to schedule these meetings.



Get Ready for Upside Down & Inside Out: artSPARK 2016

Calling all students and parent volunteers for Sequoia's annual art show, artSPARK, happening Saturday, Dec. 10, 3–5:30 p.m. in the school auditorium. Parents, we need you to volunteer. Reach out and let us know how you might be a part of the show.



Students, be a part of art at Sequoia. Bust out your ideas, deconstruct, innovate, and get inspired to create! This year's theme is Upside Down & Inside Out. Grab art supplies in the donation boxes in the front lobby.

Monday, Dec. 5 and Tuesday, Dec. 6, bring your creations for artSPARK to the school auditorium from 8:15–9 a.m. to be entered. Please label your art project with your name, classroom number and grade.

For more information, call 415-509-5889 or email sequoiaartspark@gmail.com.

artSPARK Food Donations Needed

The artSPARK team transforms the auditorium into an art gallery showcasing art made by our own kids. To achieve that gallery feeling, fourth and fifth grade volunteers pass bite-sized morsels to the crowd of gallery goers. As always, we need food donations of any kind: cheese and crackers, sushi, deviled eggs, lumpia, samosas, etc. An online food sign-up form will soon be available. Thank you in advance for your support!

This year, we are expanding the culinary arts aspect of the show. We will be soliciting volunteers for servers *and* kitchen crew. Sean Weyhmilller will work with the kids to assemble canapés, spread dip on crackers, roll out puff pastry, and do other simple preparation. Sean is a professional chef who will soon offer cooking camps to older elementary aged kids. If you have a fourth or fifth grader who is interested in cooking, this is their chance to have some fun.

Contact Sarah Smith Gumataotao at 510-289-2628 or camillusoflellis@gmail.com to donate or volunteer.

Winter Choir Concerts

Come enjoy the lovely harmonies of the Sequoia Choir as we sing about peace, love, and spirit! The daytime assembly takes place on Thursday, Dec. 8, at 10:30 am. The evening concert happens on Wednesday, Dec. 14, at 7 p.m. The evening event will only last about 30 minutes, and will include some holiday sing-alongs, so bring the whole family!



Sequoia Elementary School Community Newsletter: Dec. 5, 2016

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

SequoiaSchool.net and Facebook.com/groups/sequoiaelementary



Bake Sale on Thursday, Dec. 15

Please support the third graders in their Bake Sale Fundraiser after school on Thursday, Dec. 15. We are raising money to attend the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in March. We will have delicious baked goods and snacks for sale near the cafeteria.

Sequoia Sings & Breakfast with the Principal December 7

Our next Sequoia Sings event of the school year is scheduled for 8:30 a.m., Wednesday, Dec. 7, in the auditorium.

Sequoia Sings is a monthly event where Sequoia students gather to sing together as a community, and families are invited to attend. Please join us as Mr. Bob leads the second grade students in song.

After Sequoia Sings that day, please join us for Breakfast with Principal Bertolo, from 9–9:30 a.m. in the cafeteria. Come learn about the latest news and activities at Sequoia.

School Site Council Meeting Dec. 6

The next School Site Council (SSC) meeting is Tuesday, Dec. 6 from 5–6 p.m. in the school library. SSC is a group of Sequoia teachers, parents and community members who work together with the principal to develop, review and implement an ongoing School Improvement Plan.

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!



Thanks from TK & Kindergarten:

Donations: Abilene; Box Tops: Adriana; Cookies: Annie, Andrea, Tracey, Tequila, Sasha, Marcy; Dimond Library and Park Chaperones: Andrea, Reka, Alex, Crystal, Amanda, Annie, Sidney; Story Cycle bags: Jenny (bags will resume in January); Birthday treats: Maribel; Snack set-up: Annie, Amanda, Tara, Reka; Motor Skills: Jenny, Annie, Reka, Thai-An, Juliana, Brady, Vicky, Melanie, Rob, Kristen; Lunch help: Annie, Jenny, Reka, Stacey; Snack: Ariana, Adriana, Anabel, Maribel, Iris; Donations: Remi; Healing gifts: Drew, Abilene, Kavya, Mariyah, Paxton; Meal delivery: Amanda, Stacey, Niran, Annie, Christina, Marcy, Andy

Come Out for Dimond Lights

Bring the family to the Dimond District on December 9 from 5–9 p.m. for Dimond Lights. The event will have an Artisans Bazaar, music and a kids crafts area. Bring along your lighted-up bikes, trikes, strollers and scooters and maybe win a prize! Olive and Oak Cafe (next to the post office) will have menu specials for the event. Running concurrently on Champion Street, there is an exhibit reception and community potluck at ArtVale Gallery; feel free to bring a potluck item to share.

Shop Amazon Smile 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:

<http://sequoiaschool.net/donate/shop-for-sequoia>. When you do this, Amazon gives us 6-8% 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!

Bring Archery to Sequoia

Please help P.E. teacher Mr. Inclan bring archery to Sequoia by donating to his DonorsChoose.org project. You can read all the specifics on his link: <https://www.donorschoose.org/Mr.Inclan> He is already halfway to his goal and need your help to get him to the finish line.

Sequoia Auction Donations Needed

We are seeking donations of all kinds for the Third Annual Sequoia Family Dance & (mostly) Silent Auction, to be held on Saturday, Feb. 11. All proceeds will go toward Sequoia's enrichment programs! To register a donation, go to the link below and complete the form:

<http://sequoiaschool.net/calendar-events/dance-auction>.

Sequoia tendrá días mínimos del lunes 5 de Diciembre al viernes 9 de diciembre con la salida a la 1:20 p.m. Después del horario de escuela, los maestros tendrán conferencias con los padres para discutir el trabajo y progreso de los estudiantes. Los maestros se pondrán en contacto con las familias para programar estas reuniones.

每天,12月5日至12月9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!

Sequoia sẽ được trên một lịch trình ngày tối thiểu Thứ 2 Tháng Mười Hai 5 đến Thứ 6 Tháng Mười Hai 9, với sa thải tại 13:20 tất cả các tuần. Sau giờ học, giáo viên sẽ có cuộc hội thảo với cha mẹ để thảo luận về công việc và tiến bộ của học sinh. Giáo viên sẽ liên lạc với gia đình lớp học để lên lịch các cuộc họp này.

سيكون سيكويا على جدول يوم الحد الأدنى الاثنين 5 ديسمبر إلى يوم الجمعة، 9 ديسمبر بالفصل في 13:20 كل أسبوع. بعد المدرسة، والمعلمين المؤتمرات مع الآباء والأمهات لمناقشة أعمال الطلبة والتقدم. سوف المعلمين بالاتصال بأسرهم الفصول الدراسية لتحديد موعد هذه الاجتماعات.

Arabic Translations Needed

The Communications Team is looking for a parent volunteer to assist with Arabic translations for the newsletter. Each week the newsletter features at least one article translated into several languages, thanks to the efforts of parent translators. If you are able to assist with Arabic translations, please contact Andrew Gordon at agordon72@gmail.com.