

Sequoia Elementary School Community Newsletter: Jan. 8, 2018



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

SequoiaSchool.net and Facebook.com/groups/sequoiaelementary

Two-Week Calendar

Wednesdays are minimum days. Note that multiple events occur on the same days.

- Mon • Jan 8: **School Resumes After Winter Recess**
- Mon • Jan 8: **MLK Oratorical Practices Begin**, times TBA
- Tue • Jan 9: **SSC Meeting**, 5–6 p.m., *Library*
- Wed • Jan 10: **NO Sequoia Sings! Student Performance**
NO Breakfast With the Principal
- Thu • Jan 11: **Dads' Club Meeting**, 7–8:30 p.m.,
Red Boy Pizza (1500 Leimert Blvd.)
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- Mon • Jan 15: **Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday:**
No School for Students
- Fri • Jan 19: **MLK Oratorical Assembly, Auditorium**
9–10 a.m., Grades 3–5
10:30–11:30 a.m., Grades TK–2
MLK Oratorical Evening Performances,
7–8 p.m., *Auditorium*
- Sat • Jan 20: **SPTO Meeting**, childcare provided,
10 a.m.–12 p.m., *Dimond Rec Center*
Sequoia Family Workday, sponsored by the Dads' Club, 9 a.m.–1 p.m., *School yard*

School Closed Monday, Jan. 15 and Friday, Jan. 26

Sequoia will be closed Monday, Jan. 15 in observance of the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday and Friday, Jan. 26 for a professional development day for teachers and staff.



Sequoia estará cerrada el lunes, 15 de enero en conmemoración de las vacaciones de Martin Luther King, Jr. y el viernes 26 de enero para un día de desarrollo profesional para los maestros y el personal.

红杉将于1月15日星期一关闭马丁·路德·金假期和1月26日星期五关闭，为教师和职员进行专业培训。

Sequoia sẽ đóng cửa Thứ hai, ngày 15 tháng 1 để tôn vinh Martin Luther King, Jr. và Friday, 26 Tháng Một cho một ngày phát triển chuyên nghiệp cho giáo viên và nhân viên.

سيغلق سيكوييا يوم الاثنين 15 يناير احتفالاً بعطلة مارتن لوثر كينج الابن والجمعة يوم 26 يناير من أجل يوم تنمية مهنية للمعلمين والموظفين.

Join the Sequoia Choir

The Sequoia Choir has room for additional singers for the spring semester. Please contact Ms. Roth, choir director, in Room 5 (jacqueline.roth@ousd.org), if you are interested. Rehearsals are on Wednesdays, from 1:25 to 2:10 p.m., and will begin on Jan. 24. Tuition for the remainder of the year is \$50 and includes a choir shirt. Partial scholarships are available.

Principal's Corner

Hello Sequoia Family Partners!



I want to take the time to thank you for everything you have done and will continue to do to make Sequoia an amazing place. Change is hard, especially if the change is unexpected or drastic. This budget crisis has shown us that even in adverse conditions we are saved by our creativity and toughness. Through all of this, you have volunteered time, donated money, and continued to advocate not only for our children, but all the children of Oakland. I truly thank you for the commitment and continued support.

In December, I sent a letter detailing our mid-year budget reduction. As each site undergoes cuts, so does the central budget. These central cuts will also impact our site. One of those reductions is in food services. Right now, our cafeteria manager is here at 7:30 a.m. to have breakfast ready by 8 a.m. Starting on January 8, the cafeteria will open at 8 a.m. for milk, fruit and cereal. Any hot dishes will be served at 8:15 a.m.

This change should only minimally impact grades TK–3. The time to eat will be a little tighter, but it just means we need to make sure those students sit and eat. For the fourth and fifth graders who eat at school, it means they will have a Grab-and-Go breakfast if they want a hot dish. On average, it only impacts about 12 students a day, but we want to make sure those students still have a breakfast that is not any more rushed than necessary.

We will still have Ms. Nubia in the cafeteria to watch our TK-K students at 8 a.m., and Mr. S. will still be outside to monitor the yard. This change is another one of those hard moments, but I do believe this is the best solution to the problem. Once again, thank you for your advocacy, support and understanding in all of this. Also, thank you for your trust. I will always do whatever I can to campaign for Sequoia's students, and I appreciate your support whenever we need it.

No Sequoia Sings or Breakfast With the Principal in January

Sequoia Sings and Breakfast with the Principal will not be held in January. They will resume on Wednesday, Feb. 7, and Sequoia Sings will feature Sequoia's first grade students.

School Site Council Meeting, Jan. 9

The next Sequoia School Site Council (SSC) meeting will be held at 5 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 9, in the Sequoia library. Everyone is welcome! You do not need to be a voting member of the SSC to attend meetings. 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.

Dads' Club Meeting, Jan. 11

The Dads' Club is having its monthly meeting this Thursday at Red Boy Pizza on Leimert from 7 to 8:30 p.m. All are welcome.

SPTO Meeting, Jan. 20

The first Sequoia PTO (Parent Teacher Organization) meeting of 2018 will be held Saturday, Jan. 20, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Dimond Rec Center (note the change in location). Coffee and childcare will be provided.

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2018 Family Dance & Silent Auction Feb. 10, 5–8 p.m.

Raise the Ruff

Everyone in the community is invited to join us for this family-friendly party. No stuffy black-tie event, the Fourth Annual Family Dance & Auction will feature:

- Kid-friendly tunes spun by Mr. D's Music Club
- A variety of yummy food trucks and a bake sale
- Mini photo sessions with acclaimed photographer Mitch Tobias (mitchtobias.com)
- An auction of many fantastic items and one-of-a-kind experiences



Give a Little and Get a Lot in Return

Did you get any awesome holiday gifts you probably aren't going to use? Or maybe you have passes or a gift certificate lying around that could be donated to the Fourth Annual Family Dance & (mostly) Silent Auction.

All proceeds from the auction support Sequoia's enrichment programs including science, library, computers, music, art and garden. With the recent OUSD budget cuts, Sequoia needs your donation more than ever! Before January 19, please donate an item or service online at bit.ly/sequoiaauction or via email at sequoiaauctionteam@gmail.com.

Bake Sale for Silent Auction: Bakers Needed

Our annual bake sale at the Family Dance & Silent Auction on Feb. 10 will raise money for the fourth and fifth grade classes to attend camp.

We need lots and lots of baked good to make this fundraiser a success! Cookies, cupcakes, cakes, pies, quick breads... We'll take it all! If you don't bake, you can still help by making a different type of dessert to donate (we've had chocolate pot de creme and banana pudding in the past). Contact your favorite bakery and ask them for a donation and/or buy something delicious to donate.

Please sign up at <https://goo.gl/forms/TWu9a33XbnHxh1ZB3>. Thanks for supporting our upper-graders' camp programs!

Printed Newsletter Opt-Out

To help Sequoia save money, we offer families the option to opt out of receiving a printed copy of the newsletter (which is posted on the school website, the school's Facebook page and Yahoo community group). Complete the form on the website to opt out; capitalize "Oakland" in the security question field (on a computer, not phone): <http://sequoiaschool.net/parent-resources/newsletters-communities/newsletter-opt-out/>.

Sequoia's Annual MLK Oratorical Assembly, Jan. 19

Sequoia's annual MLK Oratorical Assembly is scheduled for Friday, Jan. 19. Grades TK–2 will lead us off at 9 a.m., and grades 3–5 will transition into the performance at around 10:15 a.m. We are attempting to get a wider range of students to witness each other's presentations.



Students are invited to recite a poem/essay/speech relating to civil rights, freedom, justice and equality in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Some classes will be preparing their own group presentations, while other students are choosing to perform as an individual or as a small choral group (two or more students). All performances will be judged at the assemblies on Jan. 19, with top vote-getters going on to the Oakland Unified district competition. An evening encore performance will be held at 7 p.m.

Every year we get approximately 80–90 of your children to participate. The commitment requires some work and discipline from these brave students.

Each classroom should have a binder of oratorical material available for students to choose from. It's not too late to get started, however most of the students who will participate have begun working, so ask your student for a progress report. Jan. 19 is a week from Friday.

If you are a parent/caregiver looking for a wonderful volunteer opportunity, please consider being part of the MLK Oratorical Coaching Team. Your role would be to help build our students' confidence and coach them on delivery, articulation, pronunciation, gesturing and stage presence. No skills are necessary, just a love of helping kids reach their highest potential!

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, contact Damond at damondmoodie@comcast.net.

Shout Outs

Thank you TK and K!

Donations: Sam, Lucas, Ava, Siimi, Freja, Ruby

Motor Skills: Leslie, Pam, David, Jenes, Alicia, Lynell, Lara, Issabella, Annie, Daniel, Mariana

Stone Soup: Pam, David

Cookies: Sasha

Exploratorium Chaperones: Katie, Arin, Josh, Kenan, Erika, Melissa, Gami, Jinky, Erich, Amanda, Kate

Book Organizing and Classroom help: Sharon, Ms. A, Angela, David, Katie, Mike

Snack setup: Pam, Arin, Tomoko, Sasha, Angela

Lunch help: David, Pam

Snack: Eliseo, Zeke, Kate, Jack, Preston

