

Sequoia Elementary School Community Newsletter: Oct. 9, 2017



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

SequoiaSchool.net and Facebook.com/groups/sequoiaelementary

Three-Week Calendar

Wednesdays are minimum days.

- Mon • Oct 9: **Columbus Day**
- Tue • Oct 10: **SSC Meeting**, 5–6 p.m., *Library*
- Thu • Oct 12: **Frozen Fruit Bar Sales on THURSDAY Due to Friday Holiday**, 3–3:30 pm, *School yard*
- Fri • Oct 13: **NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS**, Professional Development Day for Teachers

Oct 16–20: **Minimum Days, 1:20 p.m. Dismissal**

- Thu • Oct 26: **Dad's Club Meeting**, 7–8:30 p.m., *Red Boy Pizza (1500 Leimert Blvd.)*
- Thu • Oct 26: **"Lights On After School" Healthy Start Celebration**, *Cafeteria*
 - 3:30–6 p.m., Open House
 - 6–7 p.m., Potluck Dinner
- Sat • Oct 28: **Harvest Festival**, 11 a.m.–2 p.m., *Cafeteria and School Yard*

Support Sequoia and the Water Balloon Challenge

Over the last four weeks, over 400 students turned in their Support Sequoia forms and helped raise over \$65,000 for our enrichment programs at Sequoia. We did it!

Wow! Congratulations to everyone at Sequoia for an awesome job well done.

Most classes have already earned an extra recess by reaching 100% participation.

Because we are so close to our participation goal, we will count forms turned in this week toward Mr. Bertolo's water balloon challenge. That's right, if we can collect the last few outstanding forms from the 3rd through 5th graders, Principal Bertolo has promised that every child gets to throw a water balloon at him. Let's make it happen!

Every returned form and every donation was instrumental in the success of this fundraiser. Thank you to everyone who participated, and please tell your amazing kids that when they go to art, library, science, music, and garden classes this year, they can take pride in knowing that they helped make these programs possible.

It's still not too late to give! If you pledged to donate online and have not yet done so, go to <https://sequoiaschool.networkforgood.com> to add or complete your pledge. You can also drop off donations with your teacher or in the school office. Contact Arianne Wagner at ariannewagner@gmail.com or text/call 510-292-7596.

No School on Friday, October 13

There is no school for students on Friday, Oct. 13, so please plan accordingly. Friday is a professional development day for teachers.

Minimum Days October 16–20

For one week only, starting Monday, Oct. 16, all students will be on a Minimum Day schedule for parent/teacher conferences. Conferences will be held throughout the week. For more information or to find out the time and date of your student's conference, please talk with your teacher.

Principal's Corner

Hello, Squirrel Families!



I am reaching out to you about our first fundraiser: **Support Sequoia**. As our first official fundraiser of the year, Support Sequoia is the key to continuing our enrichment support. Through your generous donations we can provide our students with experiences unique to Sequoia. I just wanted to take a moment and highlight some of the long list of items your donations support.

Garden: Our garden program provides TK-2 students with an interdisciplinary connection to all content areas. As well as helping students develop a deep understanding of the Bay Area Watershed, conservation, and life cycles.

Science: Our classroom science instruction is enhanced with our science instructor providing a focus on hands-on experiences, as well as tying science into the non-fiction curriculum of reading and writing workshop.

Art: We are one of the few schools who are able to provide a weekly art experience for every student. The curriculum is standards driven, but focused on providing a rich diversity in a broad number of mediums and expression, as well as integrating it across content such as science, reading, writing and math.

Music: While the district provides us with a half-time music instructor, the other half is provided by your donations. Because of this, every student receives weekly music instruction. TK-2 students receive drumming and rhythm, while 3-5 receive more formalized instruction, with the introduction of music theory and instrumentation.

Additionally, your donations are also used for classroom materials, field trip opportunities, beautification, and a whole list of important and necessary items. I personally want to extend a huge thank you for everything you have done so far this year, and will continue to do for Sequoia. *Please note that we are extending the date to turn in envelopes through this week.* I am asking you to donate anything you can give, even if it's a dollar. Our goal is to receive 100% return on those envelopes, empty or not. When we reach our goal, we will have a water balloon event: Me vs. 437 students (except I won't have any balloons to throw). Please turn in those envelopes ASAP.

With Warmest Regards,
Donald T. Bertolo, Principal

Box Tops for Education

Sequoia participates in the Box Tops for Education program. When our school sends in the collected Box Tops, we earn 10 cents each to spend on anything our school needs. Squirrel families can help by clipping physical Box Tops from any of hundreds of purchased participating products (search here: www.boxtops4education.com/earn/participating-products), collecting them in a small sandwich bag labeled with the name of your child and her/his teacher, and delivering to the school office. Angelina is our coordinator, keeping track of which students in each class submit the most Box Tops.



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OUSD School Year Changing in 2018

The first day of school for 2018-19 will be August 13. Further dates, including school breaks and the last day of the school year, have not been finalized. OUSD wants to hear from you! Please join us at upcoming community meetings on Oct. 10 or Oct. 17 and take our survey to share your thoughts. Survey, meeting details and more information can be found at www.ousd.org/newfirstday.

Año Escolar de OUSD Cambia en el 2018

El primer día de escuela para el año 2018-19 será el 13 de agosto. Otras fechas, incluyendo vacaciones y el último día del año escolar, no han sido finalizadas. OUSD quiere escucharlo! Únase a nosotros en las próximas reuniones de la comunidad el 10 de octubre ó el 17 de octubre y tome nuestra encuesta para compartir sus ideas. La encuesta, detalles de la reunión y más información se pueden encontrar en www.ousd.org/newfirstday.

Lịch của Năm học OUSD (vùng Oakland) Thay đổi bắt đầu năm 2018

Ngày đầu tiên của năm học 2018-19 sẽ là ngày 13 tháng 8. Các ngày khác, kể cả những ngày nghỉ học trong năm và ngày cuối cùng của năm học, vẫn chưa được quyết định. OUSD muốn nghe ý kiến của bạn! Hãy tham gia với chúng tôi tại các cuộc họp cộng đồng sắp tới vào ngày 10 tháng 10 hoặc ngày 17 tháng 10 và tham gia cuộc thảo luận của chúng tôi để chia sẻ những suy nghĩ của bạn. Khảo sát, chi tiết cuộc họp và những thông tin có thể được tìm thấy tại www.ousd.org/newfirstday.

2018 學年新的變化

2018-2019 學校將開始八月十三日。
學校的最後一天和其他學校的日期未知。

OUSD將會有一個會議10月10日或17日。
有關更多信息，您可以找到它：

www.ousd.org/newfirstday

أوسد ششول يار تشانجينغ إن 2018

سيكون اليوم الأول من المدرسة 2018-2019 هو 13 أغسطس. لم يتم الانتهاء من تواريخ أخرى، بما في ذلك فواصل المدرسة واليوم الأخير من العام الدراسي. أود تريد أن نسمع منك! يرجى الانضمام إلينا في اجتماعات المجتمع القادمة في 10 أكتوبر أو 17 أكتوبر واتخاذ استطلاع الرأي لدينا لتبادل الأفكار الخاصة بك. مسح، تفاصيل الاجتماع والمزيد من المعلومات يمكن العثور عليها في

www.ousd.org/newfirstday

Racial Justice Discussion Groups

Last year, the Sequoia Inclusive School Committee sponsored Dr. Allison Briscoe-Smith (drbriscoesmith.com) to lead Sequoia families and staff in discussions about race: from how we talk to our kids to how race and racism play out at Sequoia. This year, families have a chance to meet in affinity groups to share their personal experiences and give feedback for what is working well and not working well for their kids at Sequoia. Groups will meet in the school library from 6 to 7:30 p.m. and be facilitated by staff and family volunteers.

African-American families meet Tuesday, Oct. 10. Light refreshments will be provided. To RSVP and for more information on childcare, please contact Kristin Nelson at kristin7177@yahoo.com.

Get Ready for artSPARK 2017: CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE!

Calling all students and parent volunteers for Sequoia's annual art show, artSPARK, happening this year on Saturday, Dec. 2.

Parents: artSPARK is the sort of kid-centric, community-supported event that keeps Sequoia an extraordinary place for our kids. We need you to volunteer. Can you help share posters and postcards with the community? Are you a wiz with labels? Can you harness the stash of art supplies for the kids in the foyer? Will you lend a hand setting up the event? We need your talent for artSPARK. Please 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, gather materials, and start creating. Let's hang your art in the auditorium. This year's theme is CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE! Please contact Raylene Samson at sequoiaartspark@gmail.com or 415-509-5889 with any questions.

Sequoia Shout Outs

Send shout out to shoutouts@sequoiaschool.net.

Donations: Malaya, Kate, Justin, Bobby

Room Parents: Erika and Myisha

Motor Skills: David, Leslie, Sasha, Pam, Carolina, Heather, Kyra, Lara, Erik, Lynell, Annie, Daniel, Molly

Box Tops: Eliseo

Book Organizing and Classroom help: Sharon, David

Snack set-up: Pam, Arin, Tomoko, Sasha, Angela

Work Day help: Roger, Erik, Dad's Club

Lunch help: David, Sasha, Pam

Snack: Ruby, Audrey, Waylon, Kingston, Liliana, Jordan



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.

