

Sequoia Elementary School Community Newsletter: Mar. 18, 2019



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

SequoiaSchool.net and Facebook.com/groups/sequoiaelementary

Three-Week Calendar

Wednesdays are minimum days. Note that multiple events may happen on the same day.

- Tue • Mar 19: **Intelligent Lives Movie and Discussion**, 6–8 p.m., Auditorium
- Wed • Mar 20: **First Day of Spring/Spring Equinox**
Special Olympics
- Fri • Mar 22: **Second Trimester Report Cards Sent Home**

Mar 25–29: **Spring Recess: No School for Students**

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- Mon • Apr 1: **Cesar Chavez Day: No School for Students**
April Fools' Day
 - Tue • Apr 2: **School Resumes After Spring Recess**
 - Thu • Apr 4: **Dads' Club Meeting**, 7–8:30 p.m., Monaghan's (Mountain Blvd.)
 - Fri • Apr 5: **Readathon Begins**

Special Olympics Wednesday: Volunteers Needed

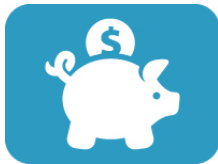


Sequoia will host its 3rd Annual Special Olympics event on March 20 from 9 to 11 a.m. The Special Olympics is a great event that teaches students about ability awareness, inclusiveness and empathy.

As in past years, the event at Sequoia will include drills, activities and stations from TK through second grade, while fifth grade students support and teach stations.

We need parent volunteers who can help support stations; email Erin Turner, Sequoia's inclusion teacher, at erin.turner@ousd.org. She is coordinating the event and communicating with volunteers. Thank you for your support of our inclusive practices at Sequoia!

Readathon in April: We Need You



The annual Sequoia Readathon is a wonderful, week-long celebration of reading that will run this year from Apr. 5 to 15. Kids tally their minutes read over 10 days. The Spring Book Fair happens that week. There's Family Reading Night (Apr. 11). And on D.E.A.R. Day (Apr. 12), kids come to school in pajamas or dressed as their favorite literary character, and guest readers come read books they love. (We also sell Peet's Coffee & La Farine pastries to grown-up Squirrels in the morning!) Everything culminates in the Readers' Tea potluck celebration for our top readers.

The Readathon is also the last big Sequoia fundraiser of the year, and this year it's crucial. SPTO would like to raise \$40,000—up from \$25,000 last year—in order to fill some holes left by the district's recent, severe cuts. Look for information coming as soon as Apr. 1 as to how to setup an account to crowdfund online for the cause.

We need volunteers. If you'd like to help with the Readathon or D.E.A.R. Day, please contact Angelee Strawder at angelee_cari@hotmail.com or (707) 592-4864 (cell). Questions? Email sequoiareadathon@gmail.com.

Variety Show Shout Outs

Huge thanks to all the people who worked so hard to put on our fabulous Sequoia Variety Show last Saturday! We appreciate everyone's dedication, generosity and passion for putting together this beloved event.



First of all, thank you to all of the performers, and to the families who got them to every rehearsal and workshop. There would be no show without the courageous and talented young Squirrels who delight us with their performances every year.

Thank you to our core team of volunteers: Kara deKiernon, Leonardo Deterer, Jason Gumataotao, Joe Hayes, Carlos La Roche, Kyra Lilien, Luke Milich, Damion Mosier-Tidd, Jess O'Brien, Keith Ogden, Josh Phillips and JD Sellman.

Many thanks to everyone who attended the performance and to all the volunteers who helped clean up the auditorium at the end of the show. Also thanks to Cesar Mercado, Alex Lilien, Nicole O'Brien and Mora Tulián for organizing, setting up and selling food during intermission. Thanks to all everyone who donated food for intermission. Thanks to Mr. B for working the front door and participating in the show.

Finally, thank you to our raffle sponsors: The Golden State Warriors and Verve Coffee Roasters.

We can't wait to do it all again next year!

Your Variety Show Co-Producers,
Heidi Aboites and Anna Keeffe

Important Parent Meeting Apr. 8

As he announced last week, Mr. Bertolo will be transitioning at the end of this school year. This will be a significant change for the Sequoia community, yet the successes we have built will have a lasting impact on the positive school culture and rigorous instructional program we have established together.



To identify and select the best candidates for our new principal, Sequoia will select members from the teachers, staff, parents and community to form a Principal Recommendation Committee (PRC). Please attend an important meeting on Monday, Apr. 8, from 5 to 6 p.m. in the school library, where the responsibilities of the PRC will be explained and community members selected for the committee.

Box Tops for Education

Sequoia participates in the Box Tops for Education program. Box Tops come from hundreds of purchased participating products:



www.boxtops4education.com/earn/participating-products. Collect them in a small sandwich bag labeled with child and teacher name, and deliver to the school office. Angelina coordinates which students in each class submit the most Box Tops.



Book Fair April 8–12



The Spring Book Fair is coming soon, and we need volunteers. This fantastic event the week of Apr. 8–12 is run by Sequoia parents. Setup is Apr. 5 after school.

The Book Fair is a great additional resource for Sequoia, with 50–60% of what we sell coming back to Sequoia classrooms in the form of new books for students to read, take home and enjoy.

Below is a list of volunteer opportunities, dates and times:

- **April 3:** After school, helping to hang posters/signs.
- **April 5:** Setup Friday after school from 3 to 5 p.m.
- **April 8 and 9:** Classroom Preview 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.: open fair duties, handing out clipboards and paper and collecting teachers wish lists.
- **April 8–12:** (a) Opening the fair and pulling out the shelves and tables from 2:30 to 3 p.m. (except Wednesday, which is 4–4:30 p.m.), and (b) help running the fair, which includes cash register and pricing, and keeping an eye on things.
- **April 12:** Packing up all items into boxes from 4:30 to 6 p.m.

The Spring Book Fair hours are as follows:

- Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday after school from 3 to 4 p.m.
- Wednesday from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. (after choir rehearsal).

If you can help, please email Michelle at duffdiaz@gmail.com and you will receive a link to the sign-up sheet. Thank you!

Special Film Screening Tuesday: “Intelligent Lives”



The Sequoia community is invited to a special screening of “Intelligent Lives,” a film by Dan Habib, followed by discussion. The screening will be in the auditorium this Tuesday from 6 to 8 p.m.

“Intelligent Lives” stars three pioneering young American adults with intellectual disabilities—Micah, Naieer and Naomie—who challenge perceptions of intelligence as they navigate high school, college and the workforce. Learn more about the film at <https://intelligentlives.org>.

Sequoia families, friends, teachers and community members are welcome! RSVP to aruna70@gmail.com or erin.turner@ousd.org. Light refreshments will be provided; feel free to bring and eat your own dinner. Kids are welcome; however, this film is best for children 8 years and older.

Shout Outs

Thank you TK & K!

Donations: Zev, Bobbie, Pablo Jimenez, Grace, Tzionah, Nana Mary, Amy, Annie, Abilene

Green Bags: Amy

Box Tops: Lukas

Classroom help and support: Grandma Janet, Tzionah, Ashley, Emily, Adeline, Melinda

Motor Skills: Grandma Janet, Ms. J, Nate, Rachel, Tracey, Macy, Alice

Snack setup: Elaine, Bobby, Dan, Ashley, Adeline

Snack: Gwyneth, Ellie, Ezra, Grace, Henry



Family Computer Science Workshops

The Family Computer Science workshop series is sponsored by a grant from the National Center for Families Learning. The project is designed to bring families together across the district to engage in fun, hands-on workshops taught by Oakland Unified middle and high school computer science students.



There are three workshops offered during Spring 2019. You can attend one, two or all three:

- Wednesday, March 20, 2–3 p.m. at MLK Elementary
- Thursday, March 21, 2–3 p.m. at Futures Elementary
- Wednesday, April 17, 2–3 p.m. at Esperanza Elementary

Find directions, information and more at <https://sites.google.com/ousd.org/familycs>.

No School March 25–April 1

Spring break begins on Monday, March 25, and continues through Monday, April 1, Cesar Chavez Day. School resumes on Tuesday, April 2.



No hay clases del 25 de marzo al 1 de abril

Las vacaciones de primavera comienzan el lunes 25 de marzo y continúan hasta el lunes 1 de abril, Día de César Chávez. La escuela se reanuda el martes 2 de abril.

没有学校3月25日到4月1日

春假将于3月25日星期一开始，并持续到4月1日星期一，Cesar Chavez Day。学校于4月2日星期二恢复学习。

Không có trường ngày 25 tháng 3 đến ngày 1 tháng 4

Nghỉ xuân bắt đầu vào thứ Hai, ngày 25 tháng 3 và tiếp tục đến Thứ Hai, ngày 1 tháng Tư, Ngày Cesar Chavez. Trường sẽ tiếp tục vào thứ ba, ngày 2 tháng 4.

لا توجد مدرسة من 25 مارس وحتى 1 أبريل
يبدأ استراحة الربيع يوم الاثنين ، 25 مارس ، ويستمر حتى يوم الاثنين ، 1 أبريل ،
سيزار تشافيز داي. استئناف المدرسة يوم الثلاثاء 2 أبريل.