



Report Card Reporter

Dear Parents and Families,

Spring is just around the corner – Daylight Savings Time has begun and our students have changed a lot since September! We have been very busy at Lincoln Middle School as you can tell by the amount of information in this Reporter. Read and enjoy!

Sincerely,

Suzanne Webb, Principal (swebb@smmusd.org)

Update on our California Distinguished School (CDS) validating visit

On Tuesday, March 3rd, we welcomed the validating team assigned to our school to determine whether or not we truly adhere to the professional practices we wrote about in our CDS application: grade level essential questions (What Makes a Good Student? - 6th grade, What Makes a Worthwhile Life? - 7th grade, What Makes a Good Citizen of the Community? - 8th grade) and English norming (a process in which our Humanities and English teachers engage where student work is graded as a team to ensure that all teachers are looking for and grading on the same requirements and then developing lesson plans to address areas of need.)

Our fabulous PTSA volunteers provided a light breakfast for our faculty “meet and greet” as well as a delicious lunch where our visiting team was able to mingle with community groups such as PTSA, school site council, and ELAC. Throughout the day the team visited classrooms, observed 8th grade community service presentations, and interviewed student and teacher groups regarding our professional practices. I am pleased to say that they were awestruck by the level of support from our parents, the dedication to improving professional practice by our teachers, and how articulate and well educated our students are. They unanimously are recommending

that we get this honor. We will get the confirmation phone call in April - I will definitely keep you posted.

Special thanks go to the following people who went out of their way to make this visit so successful:

Teachers/Staff

Sharon Hart, Bob Seymour, Stefanie Suffolk
(for being an integral part of the application writing process)

Ron Vieira, Beth Hoffman, Sara Utzinger
(6th grade teacher leader interview panel)

Sara Greenfield, Liz Hartson, Katie Jaroch
(7th grade teacher leader interview panel)

Chon Lee, Jeff Schwartz, Amanda Valenzuela
(8th grade teacher leader interview panel)

Cristina Villalobos, Eric Moe, Rose Supangan,
Sean Allstot, Sara Blitz, Obie,

(School Site Council members and teachers who gave up their lunch to mingle)

and all teachers who warmly welcomed our visiting team into their classrooms allowing them to observe.

Parents

PTSA President Lynn Leavitt, District PTSA President Rebecca Kennerly, Andrea Bjornlie, Liane Hall, Paula Goldman, Karen Gardner, Carol Golden, and Sara Meza.

Students – 6th grade panel

Adrian Cedron, Janet Coleman-Belin, Anya Crawford, Danielle Sim, Ella Sinfield

7th grade panel

Nistal Aguilar, Eliza Cohen, JJ Dunn, Curtis Henderson, Tommy Musca, Candice Soto

8th grade panel

Mackenna Dana, Kostas Garcia, Logan Henderson, Rene Hernandez, Hannah Kohanzadeh, David Mouton, Alex Sepulveda.

We also cannot forget last year’s administration, teachers, students and parents who are responsible for the increase in API (Annual Progress Index) of 880 which made us eligible to apply for this great honor!

Mark your Calendars!

MARCH

- March 17 Jog-a-thon
(6th grade = periods 1/2, 7th grade = periods 3/4, 8th grade = periods 5/6)
- March 19 3:30pm Peer Mediation graduation
Samohi counselors in 8th grade science classes
6:15pm Prop BB campus walk through
7pm PTSA Meeting (cafeteria) – Samohi Counselors
Drama Club Spring Musical – “Into the Woods”
- March 20, 21, 22 March 20 – 7pm, March 21 – 7pm, March 22 – 2pm
- March 25 3:20pm School Site Council (room 312)
7pm Lincoln panel to visit McKinley Elementary
- March 26 8:30am – Coffee with the Principal (Staff Cafeteria)
- March 26, 27 Stairway Concert at Santa Monica Civic Auditorium

APRIL

- April 2 5:30pm ELAC meeting
7pm Band Concert
- April 3 End 3rd Quarter
- April 6 – 17 Spring Break
- April 23 7pm PTSA Meeting
- April 24 7pm Orchestra Concert
- April 28 – May 8 State Testing Window
- April 29 3:20pm School Site Council (room 312)

MAY

- May 1 End of 6 week grading period
- May 7 5:30pm ELAC meeting
- May 12 Progress Reports go home

Lincoln in the News

Starting about 3 years ago, Jeffrey Schwartz (Copper Core history) formed a cancer support and advocacy group at Lincoln. As a five-year young adult cancer survivor Mr. Schwartz feels very strongly about cancer advocacy, education, and fundraising, so much so that he has created the The Kids LIVESTRONG club which has recently been supporting the "Friends of Scott" prom event – a fundraiser for young girls with cancer so that they can go to prom.

Mr. Schwartz's club has collected over 140 dresses (about 100 of which are brand new and have been donated by local stores and manufacturers), over 50 pieces of jewelry (assorted necklaces, bracelets, and earrings, again, some of which are brand new), as well as several purses/clutches, a few wraps, and \$100 in Payless Shoe Source gift certificates. The support from students, faculty, and the local community has been terrific to say the least. Please visit www.kidslivestrong.org and click on the "What's New" link for details or visit www.friendsofscott.org.

See the SM Mirror article about Mr. Schwartz and his efforts at <http://www.smmirror.com/MainPages/DisplayArticleDetails.asp?eid=9713>.

Parent Resource Network

Lincoln Middle School has been chosen as one of four schools to pilot a new program for parents of Special Education and 504 students called the Parent Resource Network (PRN). We have two parents who will be serving as Lincoln's PRN volunteers. The purpose of our volunteers is to assist parents in any "how do I...?" or "who do I go for...?" type of questions in regards to their child's IEP or 504 Plan. This is in response to an effort to help build the bridge between our families with students who have special needs with our school and school district.

Our three PRN volunteers who are happy to speak with you and willing to assist you in any way that they can: Amy Brunell (abrunell@adelphia.net), Margaret Olivares (sasquaatch@juno.com).

Want to be in the know? Here's how to subscribe to the Lincoln List.

TO SUBSCRIBE to the Lincoln List please send an email to Lincoln@smmusd.org with JUST the word SUBSCRIBE in the subject line. That is all... If you have more than one email address, do this from each email address(es) to which you wish us to send the Lincoln List.

Emails to this address are NOT read. ONLY email addresses are collected through an automated program. If you wish to contact the school, please email the person directly using the faculty contact list on the school's website.



Congratulations to the following Lincoln choral students who made it to the SMMUSD middle school kiwanis vocal finals.

Bret Hart (8th),
Jaime Hom (8th),
Bunker King (6th),
Daniel Murokh (6th),
Nicole Rosenberg (7th),
Dawn Smith (8th),
Emily Stolorow (8th),
Nora Winner (8th).

Kids Teaching Kids

Eric Marcos, Bronze Core math, has adopted a "kids teaching kids" model which helps spark student interest and enthusiasm inside and outside math class. Mr. Marcos has had his middle school students create math video lessons and has collaborated via his class web sites, Mathtrain.com and Mathtrain.TV.

A Tablet PC is used as students write naturally as their voices are recorded simultaneously. The videos are used for the class iTunes podcast, archived and made freely available to other students, parents, teachers and a global audience for viewing or iPod downloads. Students access math resources, join together to discuss homework problems and interact through forums.

This "kids teaching kids" model, through mathcasts and online collaboration, has empowered students of all levels to engage in taking an active role in their own learning. Inspired to get more students involved, Mr. Marcos applied for a Best Buy grant to purchase three Tablet PCs. We are pleased to announce that not only has Mr. Marcos been awarded this grant, but that other teachers are taking his lead in getting their classes involved in this amazing, high-tech, innovative experience.

8th Grade Promotion Ceremony Parent Survey Results

The results are in from the online survey regarding the venue for the 8th grade promotion ceremony. The majority of the 181 survey takers chose to have this year's 8th grade promotion ceremony by core in the auditorium on Friday, June 19th. Conversations from the January 29th 8th Grade Parent meeting resulted in three different options: by core in the auditorium, as a grade level in an informal setting such as a picnic, or as a grade level off campus. An online survey was sent out to all 8th grade parents to vote on which of the three options seemed best. Thank you to everyone who participated in these conversations. We look forward to a fantastic celebration on June 19th.

Concerned? About your student's grades? Behavior? Something you heard from your student or the rumor mill? If you have any questions or concerns, please follow these steps to get your answers:

1. Encourage your student to try to go to his/her teacher first. Middle School is the time of learning self advocacy.
2. If you still have the same concern/question, then please contact your student's teacher. It is important that families and teachers are in communication to help clear up any misconceptions.
3. After contacting the teacher, then please be sure to contact your student's counselor –
6th grade, aimee.stauffer@smmusd.org
7th grade, hernandezj@smmusd.org,
8th grade, jennifer.paddock@smmusd.org
4. If you have been through steps 1-3 and still need more assistance, then contact your student's assistant principal – miguel.marco@smmusd.org (6th grade, 8th grade Red Core, 8th grade Copper Core homebase for Ms. Gies, Ms. O'Brien, Mr. Moe, Ms. Mayer and Ms. Pham) or chobkirk@smmusd.org (7th grade, 8th grade Blue Core, 8th grade Copper Core homebase for Mr. Stauffer, Mr. Montanez, Mr. Schwartz).