

**Lincoln Middle School  
Report Card Reporter  
October 2008**

Dear Parents and Families,

It's hard to believe that we have already completed our first grading period! I hope this newsletter finds you and your students in a comfortable routine for the school year. As you were able to see for yourself at Back to School Night, the school year has begun on a positive note. The positive energy can be felt inside classrooms, during passing periods, at lunch and nutrition. Sixth graders and new students are getting use to the swing of things and I certainly hope that the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders are adjusting well to the new principal!

To help promote a sense of school pride and ownership, we are implementing Lincoln Lottery tickets this year. Students can earn a Lincoln Lottery ticket for a genuine helpful act without being asked. Examples include but are not limited to: throwing away trash that isn't his/hers, helping someone pick up dropped items, and holding the door for someone else. The ticket consists of two parts. One part allows the student to get out of class two minutes early for lunch and the other part is put in a raffle drawing. Raffles will be held on the first Wednesday of each month for the previous month. Tickets can be given out by any adult on campus: teachers, administrators, custodians, security, aides, administrative assistants, cafeteria workers and more.

We have new additions to our faculty and staff this year: Alaina Lima (Purple Core humanities), Sandra Hopkinson (ELD), Mark Jeffries (Red Core math), Katrina Minck (Red Core science), Wynn Sherman (Special Education math and science), Heather Mayer (Special Day Class – Intensive Services), Erin Fujikawa (Instructional Assistant), Miss Angelita (Peer Mediation), Rachel Birdsall (Speech Pathologist) and I would also like to welcome back Bob Seymour (Emerald Core math and science) who is rejoining us after a year away. We are in the process of interviewing for our open Community Liaison position.

Enclosed you will find school updates, information about upcoming events as well as helpful hints about how to ensure a successful school year for your students. I hope you find this “reporter” useful.

Sincerely,  
**Suzanne Webb, Principal** ([swebb@smmusd.org](mailto:swebb@smmusd.org))

**Important contacts at Lincoln Middle School:**

Counseling Office:	<b>Aimee Stauffer</b> (6 <sup>th</sup> grade)	<a href="mailto:aimee.stauffer@smmusd.org">aimee.stauffer@smmusd.org</a>
	<b>Jose Hernandez</b> (7 <sup>th</sup> grade)	<a href="mailto:hernandezj@smmusd.org">hernandezj@smmusd.org</a>
	<b>Jennifer Paddock</b> (8 <sup>th</sup> grade)	<a href="mailto:jennifer.paddock@smmusd.org">jennifer.paddock@smmusd.org</a>
	Jennifer Matthews (intervention)	<a href="mailto:jennifer.matthews@smmusd.org">jennifer.matthews@smmusd.org</a>
	Diane Nyden (administrative support)	<a href="mailto:nyden@smmusd.org">nyden@smmusd.org</a>
Administration:	<b>Miguel Marco</b> (6 <sup>th</sup> grade, 8 <sup>th</sup> grade Red Core, half of 8 <sup>th</sup> grade Copper Core)	<a href="mailto:miguel.marco@smmusd.org">miguel.marco@smmusd.org</a>
	<b>Carl Hobkirk</b> (7 <sup>th</sup> grade, 8 <sup>th</sup> grade Blue Core, half of 8 <sup>th</sup> grade Copper Core)	<a href="mailto:hobkirk@smmusd.org">hobkirk@smmusd.org</a>

More contact information can be found on our website: [www.lincoln.smmusd.org](http://www.lincoln.smmusd.org); go to the “staff” menu and choose “staff directory.”

### **District Policy Update from Assistant Superintendent, Mike Matthews**

In June 2008, SMMUSD convened an AD Hoc Policy Committee composed of parents, teachers, district administrators and staff, PTA representatives and local law enforcement to review the district’s policies and procedures on reporting suspected child abuse. The committee revised the policies on *Reporting Child Abuse* and *Sexual Harassment of Students*. SMMUSD Board of Education approved both of the revised policies.

The revised *Reporting Child Abuse* policy requires all mandated reporters to file reports of suspected incidents of child abuse to both the Los Angeles County Child Abuse Hotline and to the local law enforcement authority. This enhances the mandated reporting required by the state. The policy also requires school principals to notify the Superintendent in writing if allegations of child abuse involve a district employee.

All district employees received training on the revised policies and all new employees will be trained before they begin work in our schools. All staff will receive annual training to view these policies. School counselors and advisors had additional training on best practices for prevention and intervention in cases of child abuse. The district is reviewing all programs currently in place to support violence prevention and will provide parents with updated information on safety programs in our schools.

In July, the school board appointed Marolyn Freedman as Director of School Safety to oversee our district-wide comprehensive approach to student safety. Please contact Marolyn Freedman if you have any concerns about safety at your school site. She can be reached at 310.450.8338, extension 226.

The district appreciates the ongoing work of the AD Hoc committee and the partnership with staff, parents, and community to make SMUSD a place where our children continue to learn and thrive.

### **Guided Study Update:**

Guided Study is a successful program that Lincoln has had in place for over 15 years. Guided Study is assigned to students who are missing or have incomplete homework assignments. The purpose is to have students report to their teacher that same day to complete the missed assignment, receive help if needed and get credit. Guided Study has been successful for the majority of our students. We are focusing on how to make the program more successful for students who continually do not do homework. We will update parents and students as we come to a consensus how to make a good program even better!

### **How to Keep your Child Safe:**

Unfortunately, bullying is a common occurrence amongst middle school students. It is usually in the form of “playful” teasing that goes too far or horseplay gone “bad.” Most often it is between friends. At Lincoln, we encourage students to seek out an adult that they trust to go to for help. The most difficult part of bullying is that students do not want to tell because they fear that they will be ostracized for being a “tattle.” Parents also worry about this and won’t tell the school. Harassment or bullying of any kind is not tolerated at Lincoln Middle School. However we cannot do anything about it unless we know about it. YOU as parents/guardians can help!

Talk to your student every day, ask him/her what exactly happened at school. Do not accept grunts or one word answers. (Studies show that students retain information best when they verbalize what they have just learned!) If your child mentions feeling uncomfortable about how other students are treating him/her or if your child sees something suspicious, then encourage your child to speak with an adult on campus. If your child refuses, then please call your child's counselor or assistant principal and share the information. Please give us as much information and detail as possible (who, what, when, where, why and how) so that we can discretely follow up. If you are still uncomfortable, then please use one of our anonymous community WE TIP hotlines: 1-800-78-CRIME or 1-800-47-DRUGS.

It is best to call the school directly so we can investigate and stop it immediately. Thank you!

**Mark your calendars!**

TODAY	Don't forget to join PTSA, add your family to the online directory, and contribute to Direct Investment - the amount is not important but your participation is! You may access all of the above on our website: <a href="http://www.lincoln.smmusd.org">www.lincoln.smmusd.org</a> under the "Parents" menu.
October 28	3:30 – 5:30pm = Prop BB Meeting (Library)
October 30	8:30am = Coffee with the Principal (cafeteria)
October 31	Homebase/Lunch = Halloween costume contest (note: Student costumes must follow dress code. Students may not wear full headed masks or bring weapon-type props.)
November 4	VOTE!
November 5	Homeroom = Lincoln Lottery Raffle
November 6	5:30pm = ELAC meeting in cafeteria (focus will be 7 <sup>th</sup> grade writing) 7pm = PTSA meeting – 7 <sup>th</sup> grade writing night 5:30pm = Board of Education meeting in Malibu
November 7	End of First Quarter AVID applications are due (7 <sup>th</sup> grade only)
November 10	Second Quarter Begins (New Exploratory Classes begin)
November 11	HOLIDAY = no school
November 13	City wide earthquake drill
November 14, 15	Drama Production in auditorium
November 18	3:30 – 5:30pm = Prop BB Meeting (Library)
November 19	AVID interviews round #1 3:15pm = School Site Council (room 312)
November 20	5:30pm = Board of Education meeting at SM City Hall 7pm = PTSA Meeting (cafeteria) 7pm = Science Club (auditorium)
November 21	CJSF (California Junior Scholarship Federation) applications are due for 8 <sup>th</sup> graders only. See Counseling office for more information.
November 22	Campus Clean Up Day
November 26	2 <sup>nd</sup> Grading Period ends
November 27, 28	THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY = no school
December 2	3:30 – 5:30pm = Prop BB Meeting (TBD)
December 4	5:30pm = ELAC meeting (cafeteria) 7pm = Band Concert
December 9	Progress Reports (for second grading period) go home