

# Report Card Reporter

Dear Parents and Families,

I hope this newsletter finds you and your students excited as we approach winter break as well as the last six weeks of the first semester. We have a lot of change brewing in the air given our newly elected president. Change is scary but the times of change hold the most potential. Your students are changing everyday: physically, emotionally and intellectually. We have to remember that this is an exciting time for our students – we must encourage them in their learning and support them as they grow.

Speaking of encouraging and supporting our students, our sixth graders and families recently went through Student Led Conferences where students prepared a presentation for their parents explaining “What is a Good Student?” by sharing pieces of work as well as opinions about school. It was a pleasure to see students look so proud and serious as they presented their hard work. Showing an interest in your child’s learning intrinsically motivates him/her to want to do well.

Our eighth graders also participated in a similar event, the 8th grade Analytical Writing Night. Eighth graders shared their feelings, plans and current accomplishments related to analytical writing.

## Mark your Calendars!

### DECEMBER

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| December 2  | 3:30 – 5:30pm = Prop BB Meeting (TBD)   |
| December 4  | 5:30pm = ELAC meeting (staff cafeteria)<br>7pm = Band Concert (auditorium)      |
| December 9  | Progress Reports<br>(for second grading period) go home                         |
| December 11 | 8:30am = Coffee with the Principal (staff cafeteria)<br>7pm = Orchestra Concert |
| December 15 | 8th grade field trip to Magic Mountain  |
| December 16 | LMS Band tours elementary schools   |
| December 17 | 3:20pm = School Site Council (room 312)   |
| December 18 | 7pm = Science Club (cafeteria)  |
| December 19 | <b>NO AM classes</b>  |

December 22 – January 2 Winter vacation

### JANUARY

|            |  |
|------------|--|
| January 5  | Students return from winter vacation                               |
| January 8  | 5:30pm = ELAC meeting (staff cafeteria)                            |
| January 15 | 7pm = Choir Concert  |
| January 19 | <b>Holiday = No School</b>   |
| January 21 | 3:20pm = School Site Council (room 312)                            |
| January 22 | 7pm = PTA Meeting (cafeteria)                                      |
| January 23 | End of First Semester<br>6th grade field trip to Knotts Berry Farm |
| January 26 | Teacher Work Day = No School for Students                          |
| January 27 | Second Semester begins   |
| January 29 | 7pm = Science Club (cafeteria)                                     |

### FEBRUARY

|            |   |
|------------|---|
| February 3 | Report Cards will be sent home  |
| February 5 | 8:30am = Coffee with the Principal (staff cafeteria)<br>5:30pm = ELAC meeting (staff cafeteria) |

It was an eye opening experience for many parents as to how hard 8th grade can be! We are pushing students to master curriculum that was reserved for 10th grade (back when I was in school!) So, again, showing interest and supporting your child means everything in the world!

Our seventh graders continue to work on their Worthwhile Life projects as they explore the essential question “What is a Worthwhile Life?” They will delve into family trees and getting you and your families involved in some deep thinking. The seventh grade will soon be taking the District Writing Assessment (DWA) to help prepare for the State writing assessment in March. The DWA is given to all 7th graders in the school district and graded by other seventh grade teachers. It is a wonderful way for your students to get feedback from outside sources on their writing and teachers benefit by reading other students’ work.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Cristina Villalobos, our new Bilingual Community Liaison. Cristina is a graduate of Samohi where she was an AVID student and she most recently completed her degree in Sociology and minor in Chicano Studies from UCLA. Cristina’s enthusiasm is infectious and we are very lucky that she is now a part of our Lincoln family! Please feel free to stop in to room 109 on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays to introduce yourself to Ms. Villalobos.

As we enter the holidays, I would like to remind all of you to please keep your children in school until the district’s winter break which is December 22 through January 2. Our teachers must cover state standards in the amount of days that we have school; it is important for your child to personally experience the lessons to ensure mastery. Teachers try to be flexible in giving alternative assignments, but are not required to do so for unexcused absences. Please keep this in mind as you plan your holiday.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Webb, Principal (swebb@smmusd.org)

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Important contacts at Lincoln Middle School:</b>   |   |
| <b>Counseling Office:</b>   |   |
| <b>Aimee Stauffer</b>   | (6th grade) aimee.stauffer@smmusd.org   |
| <b>Jose Hernandez</b>   | (7th grade) hernandezj@smmusd.org   |
| <b>Jennifer Paddock</b>   | (8th grade) jennifer.paddock@smmusd.org   |
| <b>Jennifer Matthews</b>  | (intervention) jennifer.matthews@smmusd.org   |
| <b>Diane Nyden</b>  | (administrative support) nyden@smmusd.org   |
| <b>Administration:</b>  |   |
| <b>Miguel Marco</b>   | (6th grade, 8th grade Red Core, 1/2 of 8th grade Copper Core) miguel.marco@smmusd.org |
| <b>Carl Hobkirk</b>   | (7th grade, 8th grade Blue Core, 1/2 of 8th grade Copper Core) hobkirk@smmusd.org     |
| More contact information can be found on our website:<br>www.lincoln.smmusd.org; go to “staff” menu and choose “staff directory.” |   |

## ELAC English Language Advisory Committee

Now that we have our Bilingual Community Liaison, our ELAC meetings will be held regularly. Please contact Cristina Villalobos with any questions or special requests at ext. 109.

Our upcoming meetings will be at 5:30pm in the faculty cafeteria (near the student cafeteria) on the following dates: January 8th, February 5th, March 5th, April 2nd, May 7th, and June 4th.

## PROP BB School Renovation Funds

As many of you know, we will be under going construction in Spring 2009. Lincoln's plan is to begin with the library. The library will be moved to a portable classroom in June 2009. The current library will be divided into three classrooms, two of which will be science labs. All of the new classrooms will be upgraded to current technology standards. We have a demonstration technology classroom which is being used by Ms. Suffolk in room 120. Her classroom includes a mounted LCD projector, a document projector, a state of the art speaker system and ten laptops. This is a very exciting time while we morph into a school of the future! Please join our Lincoln List (available through our website – [www.lincoln.smmusd.org](http://www.lincoln.smmusd.org)) to get updates as to when we will be meeting. All are welcome to attend.

## Lincoln School Site Council (SSC) *formerly known as "Governance"*

Our SSC members this year include:

Winnie Wechsler  
*chair, Parent/Community member*  
Suzanne Webb  
*Principal*  
Sean Allstot  
*Teacher*  
Sarah Blitz  
*Teacher*  
Roe Johnston  
*Teacher*  
Eric Marcos  
*Teacher*  
Stefanie Suffolk  
*Teacher*  
Rose Supangan  
*Teacher*  
Cristina Villalobos  
*Staff Member*  
Tom Belin  
*Parent/Community*  
Fariba Eskandani  
*Parent/Community*  
Paula Goldman  
*Parent/Community*  
Gerry Haker  
*Parent/Community*  
Valetta Mendoza  
*Parent/Community*  
Denise Taylor  
*Parent/Community*  
Nancy Wang  
*Parent/Community*  
Lynn Leavitt  
*Parent/Community – Ex-Officio*  
Carl Hobkirk  
*Assistant Principal – Ex-Officio*  
Miguel Marco  
*Assistant Principal – Ex-Officio*

We are currently evaluating last year's Single Plan for Student Achievement (SPSA) and establishing new goals. The SPSA is a document that guides the professional development and policy making of our school. We develop a budget that supports our plan which helps the district allocate monies from the Equity Fund. Last year's goals focused on Parent Involvement, Math, Writing, and School Climate. All agendas, minutes and copies of the SPSA are available for view in the main office.

Our meeting dates will be held in room 312 at 3:20 p.m. on December 17, January 21, February 25, March 25, April 29, May 27, and June 17. All are welcome.

## 8th Grade Promotion Update

We will be doing something new this year for 8th grade promotion! Eighth graders will still have their 8th grade dance the Friday before the ceremony. They will also still have their rehearsal the Thursday before with awards ceremony with all three cores together.

However, in response to past years' difficulties and due to the fact that we will be unable to use our field in June of 2010, we have decided to divide up the 8th grade promotion ceremonies to take place by cores in the auditorium this year rather than on the field. Families will be able to comfortably fit in the shaded auditorium which provides a more intimate setting allowing for better picture taking, hearing and views. Every seat is a good seat in the auditorium and this will eliminate long lines and tickets.

This new arrangement allows us to save a great deal of money since we won't have to rent chairs, order outside programs, and the sound and stage set up is minimal. This means that the first ceremony will be at 8:30, the second at 10:10 and the third at 11:50am. We will keep you posted with more details as we get closer.

## Here's how to subscribe to the Lincoln List.

TO SUBSCRIBE to the Lincoln List please send an email to [Lincoln@smmusd.org](mailto: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.