Welcome back to school! We hope that each of you enjoyed a wonderful summer break with family and friends. Whether you visited exciting new or faraway places, took the opportunity to explore our local places of interest, or simply kicked back and relaxed, we can’t wait to hear all about it!

We are excited to welcome several new staff members! Mrs. Courtney Zimmerman who will be joining the 4th grade team. Most recently, she has been our long term sub teacher for Mrs. Cruz in first grade. Welcome to Mrs. Wendy Barnes who will be joining the first grade team. Welcome back Mrs. Cruz and Mrs. Sepulveda who were both out on maternity leave. Ms. Tania Nava will be joining Mrs. Rice in our counseling department. We are thrilled to have these individuals on our staff, please join me in making them feel welcome.

Class Assignments…are prepared with great care and collaboration in order to construct learning environments that are balanced and fair. There will be no class changes until after the first 5 days of school, provided there is room. The primary reason for this is that classes may change due to unexpected enrollment.

Important Upcoming Dates

**September**

- 6 Back to School
- 11 Count on Me - school assembly
- 13 Kindergarten Back To School Night
- 17 Volunteer Fair
- 24 Skechers Walk Kick-Off
- 27 Grs. 1-5 Back to School Night
- PTA Meeting
- Oct. 1 Library Opens
- 3 Room Rep Meeting

Flyers:

**Links**

- Hickory Website
- Raz-Kids Login
- ST Math Login
- Titan K-12 Lunch Account
- Torrance Unified School District
- California Department of Education
**PAW Patrol**
Calling all 3rd, 4th, and 5th Grade Hounds to come and join Hickory’s PAW Patrol! PAW Patrol, led by Ms. Sepulveda and Ms. Legaspi, is a group of peer mediators who are specially trained to help students talk about their conflicts and find peaceful solutions resolve them. This is an integral part of our implementation of Positive Behavioral Intervention Systems (PBIS). Our goal is to be a school where doing the right thing is the norm! Click here for an application. Applications are due Friday, October 5, 2018.

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**CLASS T-SHIRTS SHOW SCHOOL SPIRIT...**
Two years ago Hickory introduced class t-shirts and class colors. Kindergarten is turquoise, 1st- purple, 2nd-green, 3rd-royal blue, 4th-heather gray, and each year 5th is a surprise. The idea is to promote school spirit and class pride. Students wear their class colors on special days like Mondays, Field Trips, park days, PE days, or anyday. The t-shirts are an addition to our school spiritwear. You are going to want both! It is always great to wear our Hickory Hound Spiritwear! Look for the order form in this week’s Communicator and on our school website.

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**Emergency Kits...**
Again this year PTA will be sponsoring sale of a pre-assembled emergency kits. They are good for 5 years! Please see the flyer that was sent home in your “First Day Packet”. If you choose to assemble your own, they will be due October 1. Please pack the following (suggestions) in a 1 gallon ziplock bag with your child’s name and room number on the outside.

*index card with your name, phone #, and emergency #
*small hand towel
*small pack of kleenex, handi wipes
*sweater or sweatshirt, 1 pair underwear
*small pack of snacks, 2 boxes/cans of juice
*small writing pad, pencil, book to read, deck of cards
*small flashlight and separate batteries
*a family picture and a note from parents to your child
ATTENDANCE is IMPORTANT to ALL STUDENTS....

consistent school attendance is essential for your child’s success in school. At Hickory, our parents have proven that they put their child’s education at the top of their priority list! Hickory was recognized and awarded $1,340.00 recently for having 97.08% Average Daily Attendance! That is WONDERFUL! Congratulations and Keep up the good work! Illness should be the only reason to be out of school. You may request makeup work by calling the school office before 10:00 a.m. When your child returns to school after an absence, a note from you should be sent to the classroom teacher. We are required by the state to collect and keep all absence notes. Notes should include name, dates absent, and general reason.

If a circumstance should arise, and your child will be out of school for more than 5 days, contact your teacher and ask about a “Study Contract”.

The following steps will be taken to ensure that your child is at school the maximum number of days:
1. Teacher reports student absences. (10 absences in a year is considered excessive)
2. When there are excessive absences a letter is sent home to the parents.
3. A parent conference is scheduled to address concerns and problem solve.
4. The student’s excessive absences are reported to the School Attendance Review Board and a formal hearing is scheduled.

Playground Supervision
Hickory playground opens at 8:30 for students in grades 1-5. At this time we provide teacher supervision. Safety is always our priority and for that reason we ask you not to drop students off before 8:30 when the campus is closed and there is no supervision. Parents are always welcome at Hickory but it is very important that parents leave the campus when the 8:50 bell rings. **EVEN if you are a parent of a child in 1st-3rd grades whose bell does not ring until 8:59, we need your support in leaving campus at 8:50.** We have had trouble getting parents to comply with this request in the past and I am hopeful that this year we can count on you!

**Kindergarten** parents are asked to drop off their children beginning at 8:45. The kinder yard is open and supervised beginning at that time. You may walk your child to the gate but parents are not allowed on the kinder yard. Of course you are also welcome to use our Hickory Valet System beginning at 8:45, upper grade students will escort your child to the kinder yard.

It is also important to note that the HICKORY PARK GATE WILL BE LOCKED AT 8:50 A.M WHEN THE SCHOOL DAY BEGINS FOR THE UPPER GRADES. Please do not drop your child off at Hickory Park if it is close to or after 8:50....that gate will be locked.
**Parent Meeting...** Parent involvement at Hickory is second to none in the Torrance Unified School District! Your participation in your child’s education is important to your child and to us. Our mission has and continues to be to strive to maximize each child’s potential. Hickory will continue to be the outstanding school it is as long as parents continue to be actively involved, informed, and committed to supporting the programs and activities we offer your children. Our volunteer fair will take place on Sept. 17 at 9:00 in the cafeteria. The PTA and I would also like to invite each of you to the Association Meeting on September 27 at 6:15 p.m. in the school cafeteria. You will have the opportunity to find out more about our school community and ask any questions you may have. Please plan on joining us.

**Nutrition Services...** Children need healthy meals to learn and thrive. TUSD offers healthy meals every school day. Your children may qualify for free or reduced price meals. Reduced price is $0.40 for lunch. You will receive a packet of information and included is a bright orange flyer with information from Nutrition Services about applying for Free and Reduced Price Meals. Please take a look, you may qualify! We will continue using the debit method for cafeteria purchases. Each meal is $3.50, parents are asked to deposit money into their child’s account. No cash will be accepted in the cafeteria. Money can be deposited before school in the school office. Your child will then enter his/her account number (student ID) at the cashier stand and that amount will be deducted from your account. For any questions please contact the TUSD Nutrition Services office: (310)972-6530

**IMPORTANT DATES AND TIMES...**

**Back to School Nights**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kindergarten</td>
<td>September 13</td>
<td>6:00 p.m. in Cafeteria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st-3rd Grades</td>
<td>September 27</td>
<td>5:30-6:15 pm in Classrooms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th-5th Grades</td>
<td>September 27</td>
<td>6:45-7:30 pm in Classrooms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PTA Assoc Meeting</td>
<td>Sept. 27</td>
<td>6:15 pm</td>
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Hickory News 2018-2019 #1
Hickory School Hours:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kdg.</td>
<td>8:59-2:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st-3rd</td>
<td>8:59-3:12</td>
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<tr>
<td>4th-5th</td>
<td>8:50-3:12</td>
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Lunch:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Time</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kdg</td>
<td>11:30-12:15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st/2nd</td>
<td>12:00-12:45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>12:15-1:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th/5th</td>
<td>12:30-1:15</td>
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**SCHOOL SAFETY**

Students can be dropped off and picked up in front of the school, but **PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE YOUR CAR** at any time. Please use street parking in the surrounding neighborhood. Always use sidewalks and crosswalks! Remember our school day starts at 8:50 will the upper grade bell.

The park gate will continue to be locked at 8:50. **Please do not leave your child in or near the park if you are arriving after the 8:50 bell. Students and parents arriving after 8:50 will need to use the front entrances to the school.**

While Hickory Park is a nice meeting place for some families, please remember that there is no supervision in the park. It is not safe to simply let your children play for 30-45 minutes after school. Accidents do happen and the park is not supervised. If parents run late, students do not know what to do, this is an unsafe situation we do not want your child to be in. Please, if you use the park for pick up, go over a contingency plan just in case you are late.

Welcome Kinder Families! Kindergarten is a very exciting time for students, teachers, and parents. It can also be overwhelming. We will work with you to make the transition to school as pleasant as possible. If you have any concerns, please **jot down a note, email, or leave a message in the office** for your child’s teacher. Your teacher will not be able to conference with you in the morning because it is a very busy time and many students will need her attention. Your concern is important and we want to be able to address it with the attention it deserves for this reason we ask you to use these options.

**Monday Sept. 10** Regular Schedule for Kdg 8:59-2:00 p.m.**

Please see our Hickory Website for more school news and information... http://w1.hickory.tusd.org/

Looking forward to another fantastic Hickory Hound School Year!

Mrs. Schumacher and Mrs. Mabery

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