



# TORRANCE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

## TOWERS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

*A California Distinguished School*

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**Sandy Skora**  
Principal

**November, 2018**  
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### **PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE**

Can you believe how quickly the weeks are flying by? We've had a lot of fun this fall, with more to come. Halloween was truly memorable. Our Halloween parade was very well attended and our students had so much fun showing off their costumes and celebrating throughout the day. Lastly, the Salvation Army really appreciates all that we do to help those less fortunate in our community. We are currently in the midst of collecting Halloween candy to donate to His House the Salvation Army Lunch Program. If you have extra candy you would like to donate, please feel free to drop it off in our front office.

Thanksgiving is just around the corner, and I'd like to send a special thank-you to everyone who work so hard to make Towers the very special school it is. It is a joy to be a part of a community that values education and supports their neighborhood school. Thank you to our wonderful staff. Not only are they highly qualified; they care so much about each of our children. Thank you to our parents who support our programs by volunteering and to those who teach their children to value their education by word and by deed. A special hug and thank you to our children who do their very best each and every day.

### **THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS AND DONORS**

Thank you to our PTA for a month full of wonderful activities: Kristine Holmes and her committee for a fabulous Red Ribbon Week, Amanda Stacho for her work with the Docents for the Adventures in Art program. Alexis Alipuria for organizing the STARS 5<sup>th</sup> grade program, Alma Reyes-Thomas and her library committee for getting our library up and running as well as a very successful fall book fair. Jay Turner and Dan Skora and their committee for a very successful Harvest Festival, and Shermay Wong and her work in getting the after school computer lab started. Thank you to all of you.

### **GATE Testing for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Permission to Test Forms are now being accepted for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students interested in participating in GATE testing. GATE tests will be administered during the month of January, but permission forms must be submitted by **Tuesday, November 13<sup>th</sup>** in order for your student to participate.

We will be offering GATE testing to 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students who:

1. Have never been GATE tested in TUSD
2. Have only taken the GATE test in TUSD once before

Students who have already been administered GATE testing through TUSD twice are not eligible for testing. If your child qualifies for 4-5<sup>th</sup> grade GATE testing and you would like your student to participate, please complete and return your signed permission slip to your student's teacher by November 13, 2018. Permission slips will be sent home with all 4-5<sup>th</sup> grade students, however students who are already identified GATE in TUSD do not need to retest. Unlike the process for universal 3<sup>rd</sup> grade GATE testing, 4-5<sup>th</sup> grade GATE testing requires parents to submit a signed permission slip by the deadline. Please note that TUSD GATE testing for identification purposes occurs only in grades 3-5.

## **SCHOOL SITE COUNCIL UPDATE**

School Site Council met on Wednesday, September 12 and October 10, 2018. We discussed the Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) and the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF). We reviewed our budgets and agreed to use our funds to support our intervention program for all students needing additional support. As well, to support our behavior plan and interventions being put in place to help all students be successful. These two items coupled together will provide the opportunities for all students to work in a safe and productive environment while receiving what they need to increase student achievement.

## **CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW STUDENT COUNCIL**

We had a wonderful election week. We had great candidates who were very creative in their posters and speeches. We are tremendously proud of each and every candidate who ran for Council Office. We are pleased to announce our new Student Council Officers for this school year:

<b>President:</b>	<b>Charlotte Kieft</b>
<b>Vice President:</b>	<b>Amber Brewer</b>
<b>Secretary:</b>	<b>Katelin Houck</b>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	<b>Benjamin Wong</b>
<b>Activities Director:</b>	<b>Dylan Gobe</b>
<b>Historian:</b>	<b>Benjamin Heinemann</b>

## **FIRST TRIMESTER REPORT CARDS**

The First Trimester ends on Tuesday, November 20th. Achievement Reports will go home on November 30th. Remember, achievement reports are a reflection of your child's progress over the entire school year. Please review them carefully with your child being sure to recognize their successes as well as offering support to help in areas in which they may need to improve. Emphasize with your student that achievement reports are personal and private. They are a communication between the school and the family, and do not need to be shared with friends. If your child is having difficulties in school it may be due to poor attendance.

**Help Your Child Succeed in School: Build the Habit of Good Attendance. It's common sense...students who attend school regularly do better in school.**

- Chronic Absence = 18 or more days
- Warning Signs = 10-17 days
- Good Attendance = 9 or fewer absences

Here are the facts:

- √ Too many absences cause children to fall behind in school, even as early as kindergarten
- √ Missing 18 or more days lowers achievement
- √ Missing a day or two periodically may lower achievement
- √ Tardiness is a predictor of poor attendance
- √ Poor attendance and habitual tardiness may cause a student to get out of the routine of going to school. We all know how difficult it is to get back in a routine! Please help your child to succeed by establishing routines that support school attendance and a good work ethic.

Those students who have perfect attendance for the entire year will be awarded with a certificate and spirit stick to honor their success.

## **PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES**

Parent Teacher Conferences will be held December 3rd-14th. This is a time to get together with your child's teacher to discuss your child's progress, share information, and plan together strategies to help them do their very best. Parents and teachers can be an exceptionally effective team if they communicate and work together to support student learning. Please make every effort to be on time to your scheduled conference time. We appreciate hearing from you if you have a change of plans or will be late. Remember, school is out one hour earlier for these days (1<sup>st</sup> -5<sup>th</sup> grades). Dismissal times will be Kindergarten at 1:50, 1<sup>st</sup> -3<sup>rd</sup> grades at 2:03, and 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grades at 2:12.

## **PRINCIPAL COFFEES FOR THE 2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR**

Our first Principal coffee was held last Friday, November 2nd. The topic was on Safety and all safety drills were reviewed with those that attended. If you would like to attend Principal coffees in the future, please mark on your calendars the following dates: 1/11/19; 3/1/19; 5/3/19 and 6/7/19. Topics will be announced as the date gets closer. The dates are all Fridays and the meetings will take place after flag assembly at 9:15 a.m. in the cafeteria.

## **AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES**

We offer several after school activities for our students. Be sure to check our website for information and registration forms for these extra class opportunities.

## **FAMILIES WHO ARE IN NEED**

Several times throughout the year, my office is contacted offering us help and support for needy families. We understand this may be a sensitive issue but would like to offer services for those in need. Examples of this are Operation Backpack, our police department's toy drive, and the Assistance League of San Pedro/South Bay and their Operation School Bell Program offering assistance with clothing, blankets, student supplies, etc. If you are in need for community support for your children, please call my office at (310) 533-4535, ext. 3880 or e-mail me at [skora.sandy@tusd.org](mailto:skora.sandy@tusd.org). This information will be kept strictly confidential.

## **EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS SUPPLIES**

Thank you very much to all parents who have turned in their child's emergency supplies in case of an earthquake and evacuation of buildings. These supplies are kept in an emergency bin and left in our emergency storage container in case of evacuation of classrooms. If you have not turned in your child's emergency supplies, please do so as soon as possible.

In addition, we also have shelter-in-place drills that prepare us for the possibility of sheltering-in-place (students in the classroom) for reasons of safety due to possible chemical spills, dangerous odors, or unsafe conditions surrounding our school. In these situations the emergency container is not available. All classrooms are provided water, fruit bars and other supplies for this type of emergency. PTA has generously provided these supplies for our students. Thank you.

## **Month at a Glance**

*Check the Towers website for our updated and current calendar of events. The link is <http://towers.tusd.org/Calendar/tabid/2556/Default.aspx>*