



TORRANCE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
TOWERS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
A California Distinguished School
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Sandy Skora
Principal

February, 2019
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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Happy February! Lots of exciting activities are happening during this month. Be sure to check out our website and classroom calendars for more detailed information.

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS AND DONORS

Thank you to Kyla Adams and our PTA for all the great activities they planned this past month. Thank you to Amanda Stacho and all our Adventures in Art docents for all the great art our students are learning from them. Thank you to Oliva Gregory and all our Healthy Ever After docents for all the nutrition lessons our students are learning about in their classrooms. We also want to thank Annie Mori and Stephanie Knoblauch for running our Wolf Pack Run Club on Mondays and Wednesdays before school.

HONORARY SERVICE AWARDS

Please come to our Honorary Service Awards program on Thursday, February 21st at 6:30 p.m. where we will be honoring our Honorary Service Award recipients as well as our Reflections winners. Our 5th grade class will be performing that evening with delightful singing. We look forward to seeing all of you here as we spend some quality time together honoring a few of our incredible hard-working adults and creative students here at Towers.

TOWERS READING CHALLENGE AND BOOK FAIR

Towers Reading Challenge and Book Fair are coming the week of February 25th. On Thursday, February 28th we will have a family night at 5:00 p.m. Hope to see a lot of you there! On Friday, March 1st we will hold our annual reading time and family lunch on the lawn. The Book Fair will also be open during lunch on Friday. Be on the lookout for more information coming soon.

VARIETY SHOW

Our Variety show is coming on Friday, March 8, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. at the West High School Auditorium so mark your calendars. This event is always a special treat! A rehearsal schedule will be coming out soon.

CAREER DAY

Our annual career day is coming on Wednesday, March 6th. We are looking for individuals who are willing to come and speak to our students about their job and responsibilities in the workforce. If you are interested in participating in this fun event, please e-mail Debbie Lee at missdlee18@gmail.com. We hope to get a variety of careers so please contact us as soon as possible. Thank you.

OPEN ENROLLMENT

Open Enrollment is a policy that allows Parents/Guardians who live within the Torrance Unified School District boundaries to apply to have their children attend a school other than their neighborhood school. Once a year, during a specific period of time, applications are accepted for the following school year. Once the procedure is complete and the student has been accepted, the Open Enrollment school becomes the permanent home school for that student. For the 2019-20 school year, completed applications must be submitted between January 7, 2019 and February 28, 2019 to: the Family Welcome Enrollment Center (for elementary schools and middle schools) or the high school office (for the high school requested). No late applications will be accepted. Applications will be available online and on the District website at www.tusd.org, beginning January 7, 2019.

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. This information will be kept strictly confidential.

FIELD TRIPS

At Towers, we try to provide our students with rich learning experiences inside and outside the classroom. With the help from our wonderful PTA, we are able to provide at least one educational field trip a year per grade level to all of our students. Although the field trips may be filled with excitement and fun, the preparation that goes behind it is very labor intensive. Teachers often pre-teach concepts and vocabulary that students will encounter on their field trip. Teachers also discuss with students field trip and bus rules, as well as coordinate volunteers to chaperone the trip. Field trips are always exciting opportunities for students to extend what they learned in class and see it in a different context other than a textbook. Parents are always welcome to volunteer as chaperones for field trips. When serving as a volunteer or chaperone, we ask that you follow these school and district policies:

- Do not bring any siblings to the trip. This is a liability issue and can divert the volunteer's attention away from the students.
- If you have another child enrolled at Towers, do not pull him/her out of class to attend the trip. They will have the chance to go when it's their turn.
- Do not take your child home from the field trip location. The number of students leaving Towers should be the same as the number returning. If you need to leave early, make sure to sign your child out at the Towers School front office upon return from the trip.
- Above all, have fun as you learn alongside the students.

Thank you for your cooperation

Physical Fitness Test (5th grade only)

Each year, students in grades five, seven, and nine participate in the California Physical Fitness Test, also called the PFT. California has chosen the FITNESSGRAM® as the annual physical fitness test for students in California public schools. The PFT results provide one measure that students and their families can use, along with other information, to monitor overall fitness. Schools may also use these results for the purpose of evaluating their physical education program. This year, your child will take the Physical Fitness Test (FITNESSGRAM®).

The FITNESSGRAM® includes six test areas:

- Aerobic Capacity
- Body Composition
- Abdominal Strength and Endurance
- Trunk Extensor Strength and Flexibility
- Upper Body Strength and Endurance
- Flexibility

Most of the fitness areas of the FITNESSGRAM® have two or three test options so all students, including those with special needs, have the chance to participate. For each fitness area of the FITNESSGRAM®, students are scored as meeting the “Healthy Fitness Zone” or “Needs Improvement.”

You are an important part of your child’s education. To help your child get ready for the test, you can:

- Talk about the PFT with your child. Make sure your child is not anxious and is ready to do their very best.
- Tell your child that you and their teacher are both there to help, every step of the way, and want them to do their best to finish what they can.
- Help make sure your child engages in 60 minutes of activity every day.
- Make sure your child gets a good night’s sleep and a nutritious breakfast before testing.

To learn more about the PFT, go to the California Department of Education Parent Guides to Understanding Web page at:

<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/parentguidetounderstand.asp>.

Our students will start testing in February 2019.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS OR PHONE – LET THE OFFICE KNOW

Please be reminded that it is your responsibility to update your parent contacts if you have changes during the school year. If you move, please let us know immediately. If you move out of the area and wish to finish the year at Towers it may be possible to accommodate your request. If you move and don’t tell us, you jeopardize your right to have your child continue at Towers. Remember, we can help you in case of emergency or if your child is sick or hurt only if we have correct phone numbers. Please do not jeopardize your child’s health and safety; keep us up to date.

PARENT CONFERENCES COMING IN MARCH

March 13-15 is the dates for our second trimester Parent-Teacher Conferences. These are particularly important because it is the time to touch base and evaluate the success of our collaborative efforts and a chance to discuss any interventions that we might still try to help your child succeed during the final trimester. At this time we review our retention/promotion options and discuss available summer programs. You will only be scheduled a conference if your child is not making satisfactory progress. However, you may schedule a conference with your teacher at any time if you have any concerns. **On these dates dismissal times are: Kgn. – 1:50; 1st –3rd grades – 2:03 4th & 5th grades – 2:12.**

STEAM FAIR – April 4, 2019

Towers will be having its annual STEAM Fair on April 4, 2019 from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM. The STEAM Fair is a great opportunity for our students to engage in scientific inquiry and present their findings to the school community as well as researching a topic of their interest. It is a project in which we celebrate everyone's work and effort. The STEAM Fair is also a great time to instill in our students, the importance of science and the impact it can have on people, communities, and the world. Although this project may not be mandatory for all students, we're encouraging them to participate.

We have included many incentives and awards for students participating at all grade levels in the STEAM fair. All participants will be invited to a special science assembly as well as a lunch at Entradero Park. First through 3rd place winners will receive a ribbon for their hard work. Best In Show student will be awarded their name on a special trophy that is kept in our front office.

If you would like more information about the STEAM fair we will be having a **parent information meeting this Thursday at 8:00 a.m. in the cafeteria.**

STEAM Fair packets will be available on our website, from your teacher, or in the office, beginning this Thursday, February 7th. The application form is due on or before Friday, March 1st. Projects that earn top honors will be showcased and honored at our district STEAM fair at Torrance High School Library on April 18th from 5:30 PM to 8:00PM. We look forward to seeing you at the STEAM Fair!

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>