



December 2, 2019

**December Newsletter**

Dear Laurel Families,

**Thank you for making November another amazing month here at Laurel.** Thanks to all those who volunteered in the classroom, attended a Parent/Teacher Conference, participated in one of our family engagement activities and/or helped to ensure your child came to school on time and ready to learn. Laurel parents rock!

**Support the Laurel PTA!** December is the season of giving and a great way to give is to support the Laurel Parent Teacher Association. If you are not already a member, you can become one by visiting the Laurel website at **LaurelElementary.org**. On the website, in addition to becoming a member and seeing some great photos and videos of recent school events, you can also follow the link to sign up for the **Amazon Smile** program which will donate 0.5% of all your purchases to the Laurel PTA. Feel free to share the link and encourage friends and family to sign up as well so you can all then boast over the holidays that you support Laurel Elementary and help make field trips and free book giveaways possible.

**Spread the Word!** Laurel is always looking to welcome families and students seeking to be a part of a diverse school community where students can thrive academically and socially. If you know of such families please spread the word that Laurel has tours schedule every Friday during the month of December. There will also be an Informational Meeting on Thursday, December 12 at 6:00 for those who cannot make the tour.

**Please take a look at the calendar on the reverse for ways you can get involved in the month ahead.** On Thursday November 5<sup>th</sup> we have **Picture Make Up** for anyone who did not have their picture taken in November. Please do not forget your smile! On December 11<sup>th</sup>, our **Subcommittee for English Language Learners**, or SELL, meets. Our SELL team discusses everything that has to do with ensuring the success of our English Language Learners at Laurel. On December 12<sup>th</sup>, our **School Site Council**, or SSC, meets. The SSC creates the plan for the success of all of Laurel students and must approve the school's budget. At Thursday's meeting we will look at making possible changes to this year's plan and discuss how to best. On Thursday, **December 12<sup>th</sup>**, we have our monthly **Meals of Minds** food distribution. There will also be a special **Holiday Food Distribution** on Friday December 20<sup>th</sup>. Please contact the office for more info. Friday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, is a lucky day because not only do we have **Coffee with the Principal**. This event is immediately followed by our **Parent Support Group** meeting which provides an opportunity for parents to network with other parents. The focus of this meeting will be to understand the OUSD Options process, how to choose the right school for your student and how to prepare your child for the transition to middle school. Local middle schools including Bret Harte, Life Academy, Montera and others have been invited to participate.

**On November 22<sup>nd</sup>, Laurel kicked off our annual PTA sponsored Spell-A-Thon.** The Spell-A-Thon is a way to generate excitement around one of the most important skills that students can learn, how to spell. It is also a way to raise funds for the classroom. Packets have already been sent home with all the needed information, including the word lists and the pledge sheet. The test is on December 6<sup>th</sup> and all the pledge funds are due December 17<sup>th</sup>. Top prizes include a pizza party for the class that raised the most money and the student that raises the most gets to become Principal for the Day. How cool is that! Please help make this event a success.

**Laurel is Hiring!** Enjoy working with students and are available to work part time between the hours of 9:00 and 1:00? If so, please consider applying to work as an Academic Mentor. To learn more go to **ousd.org/careers** or stop by the front office.

**Our Lost and Found is overflowing!** If your child has an article of clothing, please stop by before the break to look through hundreds of coats and jackets that are in desperate need of their owner. All unclaimed clothing after December 20<sup>th</sup> will be donated to charity

**Please note our two-week long winter break begins December 23<sup>rd</sup>, We return to school on Tuesday, January 6<sup>th</sup>.** I hope you all have a wonderful December and enjoy the holidays and the winter break. You can always reach me at [John.Stangl@ousd.org](mailto:John.Stangl@ousd.org) with questions, comments, appreciations, or concerns.

Sincerely, John Stangl, Laurel Principal