



October 1, 2019

OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

Dear Laurel Families,

It is already October and we are well on our way toward making this another successful year. Thanks to all those who participated in one or more family involvement activity this past month, including Back-To-School Night, our first Parent Teacher Association (PTA) and School Site Council meeting. Thanks also to all the volunteers who have helped out on the yard, in the cafeteria and in the classroom this past month.

Please take a look at the attached calendar for more ways you can get involved. Parents and caregivers are invited to attend our school-wide **Morning Meeting** that happens every Monday at 8:30 (weather permitting). We assemble on the main yard to go over our school-wide focus for the week, celebrate students' successes and sing together one of our Laurel songs. Join us! **October 3rd is Picture Day**. Please remind student not to forget their smiles! On **October 17th and 31th**, all families are invited to participate in our **Meals for Minds** food distribution. Prepacked bags of pantry items will be available for pick up in the afternoon and the following morning. On **October 1st** we celebrate **National Hispanic Heritage** month by welcoming distinguished guests to read with our students. On **October 8th**, we host **Shoo the Flu**. Students with permission will receive a free flu vaccine. On **October 10th**, you are invited to **Coffee with the Principal**, an informal meeting with the principal to discuss whatever is going on a school. On October 11th, please plan on coming to Movie Night. The feature movie will be *The Secret Life of Pets 2*. Entrance is free and there will be snacks for sale. Students must be accompanied by an adult. On **October 17th** we have monthly **Parent Support Group**. The focus this month will how we can build out our network of parents and better support one another. On **October 17th**, Laurel will participate in **The Great California Shake Out** state-wide earthquake drill and will practice how to Drop, Cover and Hold on. On October 25th, we encourage all families to join us for this month's **School Site Council**. This meeting is open to all parents.

As is the Laurel tradition, this year on October 31st starting at 12:30 we will celebrate **Halloween** with a costume and a dance, or "flashmob", involving all students. To ensure our Halloween celebration is safe and fun for all, we ask that the following guidelines be followed:

- No fake blood or toy weapons, including swords and guns.
- No overly elaborate costumes or makeup that would require teacher assistance.
- No excessively grotesque costumes that would scare our younger students.
- No masks that would obscure vision and make it unsafe to parade.

Also note that costumes are not to be worn to school but brought in a bag or backpack. Students will be given time to change prior to the parade. **For families who do not celebrate Halloween, please DO NOT keep your child home that day. For any student who wishes, there will be the option of coming into the library for a fall inspired read-aloud and art activity.**

Important Safety Notice! Last month we had our second fire drill and our first **Lockdown Drill** of the year. An actual Lockdown is called when there is an intruder on school grounds that has created an unsafe situation for students and staff. When a lockdown is called, students are locked inside the classroom and all outside doors are secured. Parents should know that no one, including parents, will be allowed in or out of the building as long as the lockdown is in effect. In the event of a real lockdown, parents will be kept informed through our automated calling and text messaging system.

Please note that there will be no school on October 14th (in lieu of Lincoln's Birthday). If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me at John.Stangl@ousd.org

Have a wonderful month of October.