



Torrance Unified School District

TOWERS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

A California Distinguished School

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PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

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Principal

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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the 2016-17 school year! I am thrilled to welcome back our returning families and likewise, it is with great enthusiasm that I wish to extend a warm welcome to our new Towers Families. We at Towers Elementary School are committed to making this school year another positive experience for you and your family. Your active support and cooperation, combined with our best professional efforts, will ensure academic success for your child.

It is critical at each juncture of a child's education that they be provided with the necessary skills to be successful in the future. The first step along the pathway to preparing our students for a bright future is at the elementary school level. Therefore, a focus on learning will continue to be our top priority, along with ensuring a safe and nurturing environment which all students can feel a part of and where everyone has access to high quality instruction. As a staff we will be continuing our professional journey into the Common Core State Standards.

Our Professional Learning Community time will continue to help in this commitment. This PLC time will provide the teachers weekly time to attend professional development, collaborate with colleagues, delve deep into data analysis of student work, and organize interventions. This will continue to occur every Wednesday. Kindergartners will be dismissed at 1:50 p.m. First through third grade will dismiss at 2:18 p.m. and fourth and fifth grade dismiss at 2:27 p.m.

I look forward to the coming year as an opportunity to continue to grow as a school community. Our PTA leadership has been working diligently to plan programs and events to support our students and their families under the leadership of Rosie Javaid, our PTA President. The PTA and staff will continue to place emphasis on providing meaningful parent education opportunities to support you and your child's success. I hope you make the commitment to work with us on behalf of our kids.

Our school calendar is available on our Towers website at towers.tusd.org. It includes all our school and PTA activities. This calendar is dynamic so check it often to find the latest changes and updates.

NEW FACES ON CAMPUS

We have a new face on campus this year. We have joining us a new upper grade special education teacher, Megan Gylfe. Megan has been in the district for three years working in special education at Launch. She attended school in Torrance Unified for grades K-12 and is now excited to work with upper grade students and join our special education team. We are so happy to have her join our team. Please help me give her a warm Towers welcome.

CLASS STARTS AT 8:50 AM SHARP

This is a reminder that we have two bells that ring in the morning. The first bell will ring at 8:45 AM. This bell will stop students from playing and be a warning bell to students to begin walking and lining up at their classrooms. The second bell will ring at 8:50 AM. This bell will signify that class has begun and students should be in their rooms getting seated and ready to learn. The back gate will lock promptly at 8:50 a.m and will not be opened for late students. If a student arrives later than 8:50 to their classroom, they will be considered late and must get a tardy slip from the office.

COPY PAPER DRIVE

Copy paper is one of the largest drains on our school budget. For those of you who would like to help, we will be having our annual fall copy paper drive beginning Monday, September 12th for two weeks! We will be happy to accept donations of copy paper any time during the school year, but during these two weeks there will be rewards for those who donate. Please see flyer on the website for more information and bring in your copy paper. Thank you very much.

LUNCH AT TOWERS

Our lunch schedule is as follows: K-2 have lunch from 12:00-12:45 and 3rd-5th have lunch from 12:30 – 1:15 p.m. except for Wednesdays. Parents who come to school to eat with their children during lunch will be directed to eat either in Room 1 or out in the grass area just South of the cafeteria. We will have a picnic table and benches available for that purpose. On days where our students are eating on the lawn, parents will be directed to eat with their children in Room 1.

We will be continuing a different schedule for lunch on Wednesdays. All students K-5 will be eating/playing during lunch from 12:00 – 12:45. Half of the students will play while the other half eat and then visa versa. Research has shown that students who play first, eat second will eat more of their lunch as well as be ready for class after the lunch period. We have found this to be very successful. Thank you for partnering with us in order to create a more conducive environment for student health and academic growth.

As a reminder, all 1st through 5th graders are using our automated lunch system where the students must have their ID# memorized. On October 1st our TK/Kindergarteners will also be using the automated lunch system. Thank you to all our parents for working with your children in memorizing their ID #'s.

ZUMBA CLASSES RESUME

Are you interested in getting fit? We have an opportunity for you right here on our Towers' campus. Our instructors for Zumba classes are Chihiro and Gayle. They will be holding Zumba classes on Mondays and Wednesdays from 6:15 – 7:15 in the Towers' cafeteria. Each class is \$5.00 and \$2.00 is donated to our school. So, come and join in the fun and get fit. We look forward to seeing you on Monday, September 12th in the cafeteria.

SCHOOL SITE COUNCIL

This year's School Site Council will include: **Parents:** 2nd year: Annie Mori and Juni Song. 1st year: Sharon Witzansky, Brooke Mata, and Shermay Wong. Our parent alternate will be Mina Yang. **Staff:** Sandy Skora (Principal), Nancy Horvat, Kelly Schneider, Tricia Poffenbarger, and Tamara Sheue. Our first meeting is Wednesday, September 21st at 3:30 p.m. in Room 1. Our agenda will include a discussion about the LCAP and review of our school budget for the year. It's an open meeting and we welcome your participation.

JOIN US FOR BACK-TO-SCHOOL-NIGHT, Thursday, Sept. 22nd

Thursday, September 22nd, is our Back-To-School-Night. This is a time for parents and teachers to meet and discuss the coming school year. Teachers will go over their classroom expectations, grade level content, and any special plans they have for the year. This is not a good time to try to have a parent/teacher conference. If you have concerns relevant to your child only, let the teacher know that you'd like to set up a time to talk privately. This is an adults only evening. Please make arrangements for your children to be supervised off campus. The evening schedule is as follows:

5:45 – 6:30 3rd-5th classroom presentations
6:30 – 7:00 PTA meeting in cafeteria
7:00 – 7:45 K-2nd classroom presentations

Due to the evening program, **this is an early dismissal day for grades 1-5.** Kindergarten dismisses at 1:50. Grades 1-3 will be dismissed at 2:03 and grades 4-5 will be dismissed at 2:12.

ENGLISH LEARNERS MULTICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ELMAC) MEETS IN SEPTEMBER

Our first ELMAC meeting will be held on Friday, September 30th at 9:15 a.m. right after our flag assembly, in Room 5. We encourage parents of our English language learners to attend this meeting to learn more about the program we offer at Towers and how we can work together to help your children succeed in school. This will be a very important meeting where we will be discussing the LCAP and budget that support our English Learner programs. It's also a great time to meet other parents with similar challenges and make new friends. We hope to see you there.

FREE AND REDUCED LUNCH

As you may know, the federal government uses the data from our free and reduced lunch applications to determine funding for our Title 1 sites. Schools that have higher than a 25% poverty rate receive additional funding from the federal government to provide additional services for students that may need additional assistance in achieving the state standards.

What you may not know is that this same poverty rate is utilized to determine whether our school district may be eligible for certain financial grants. We want to make sure that we aren't eliminated from possible funding opportunities for our students. Please make sure you apply for free and reduced lunch on-line if you qualify. There is a link on our website, towers.tusd.org, in school information under "lunch menu."

ABSENCES AND REQUESTS FOR HOMEWORK

Please help us by calling the office to request homework for students who will be absent two or more days. We discourage you from requesting work for a single day because the student can easily make it up when they're back to school and feeling better. If you let the office know before 10:30 a.m. we will do our best to have the work on the counter by the end of the day. When parents go straight to the classroom and ask the teacher for assignments it interrupts their teaching and makes it difficult for them to do their job. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

If you know that your child will be out of school for five consecutive days or more, we can prepare an "independent study" packet for them to take with them. This allows students to keep up with their class work and allows the school to continue to receive ADA (\$) for them in their absence. Please request an independent study at least two weeks in advance.

TUSD ENFORCES STRICT DRESS CODE

In spring 2004 the TUSD Board of Education adopted the following dress code:

"In cooperation with teachers, students, and parents/guardians, the principal shall establish school rules governing dress and grooming which are consistent with law, Board policy and administrative regulations. Each school shall allow students to wear sun-protective clothing, including but not limited to hats, for outdoor use during the school day.

In addition, the following guidelines shall apply to all regular school activities;

- Shoes must be worn at all times. **Elementary students must wear flat, closed toe shoes.**
- Clothing, jewelry and personal items (backpacks, fanny packs, gym bags, water bottles, etc.) shall be free from writing, pictures or any other insignia, which are vulgar, profane, or which advocate racial, ethnic, sexual orientation, or religious prejudice.
- Sunglasses, hats, caps and other head coverings shall not be worn indoors. Only medically/religiously required headgear, approved by the principal may be worn indoors. Sun-protective clothing must comply with District and school site dress and grooming standards.
- **Clothes shall conceal underwear at all times.** See-through or fishnet fabrics, halter-tops, off-the-shoulder or low-cut tops, bare midriffs and skirts or shorts shorter than mid-thigh are prohibited.
- Swimwear, pajamas, nightgowns, and oversized clothing are not appropriate school wear.

Because we work hard to provide a focused learning environment, at Towers we discourage any style of dress, hairstyle and/or accessory that is hazardous or would be distracting to the student and/or other students. These issues will be handled on an individual basis. *We also request that all individuals volunteering on campus or visiting classrooms dress in a modest and appropriate fashion.*

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>