



# Torrance Unified School District

## TOWERS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

*A California Distinguished School*

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### PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

**Sandra Skora**  
Principal

**October 2018**  
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#### PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

We have had a great start of the year! Our library is all set up and is ready for books to be checked out. The teachers and Mrs. Sandra Moreno, Response to Intervention teacher, have collaborated to identify students who may need extra support in ELA. Mrs. Hultgren, our hourly intervention teacher will start this week meeting with individuals and small groups to support classroom instruction.

Back-To-School Night was very successful and we had a great turn out! The teachers made wonderful presentations, explaining their programs and expectations. If at any time you feel you need to connect with your classroom teacher, please feel free to e-mail or call them to set up an appointment time. Before school is not a good time to meet with teachers and I please ask that you allow the teachers to start instruction on time. Thank you for your help.

Now that school is completely underway, a friendly reminder to everyone using the roads: Please pay special attention when driving around school sites, especially during the morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up hours. Students will be walking to and from school and they are at times difficult to see in the sun glare. Also, please be mindful of speed zones around school and keep a close watch for pedestrians during these hours. Also, please do not park or block our neighbors' driveways and be sure to pull all the way forward when parking in the street. Please also be sure to pull all the way forward in the valet line. It would be appreciated if 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> grade parents not enter the valet line for pick up until 3:15 p.m. and after to allow the primary grade parents the opportunity to go through the valet line and pick up their students who get out of school at 3:00. Thank you for the shared concern for all of our students' safety. The back parking lot gate will be locked at 8:30 and open again at 9:00. It will be locked again at 2:30 and reopen at 3:30 p.m.

On Sunday, October 28<sup>th</sup>, at 8:00 a.m. the annual Skechers Pier to Pier Friendship Walk will take place at the Manhattan Beach Pier. Your support will benefit The Friendship Circle devoted to making a dramatic difference in the lives of children with special needs and their families and Education Foundations from all over the South Bay including Torrance Schools. The funds that you donate directly support Towers. Register to walk or be a virtual walker. The \$30 registration fee 100% returns to our school. For more information and to register, please visit [SkechersFriendshipWalk.com](http://SkechersFriendshipWalk.com).

It is our responsibility as a school community to ensure all students have sufficient textbooks and/or instructional materials that are aligned to the content standards in the areas of mathematics, science, history-social science, and English language arts. These textbooks and/or materials should be available for students to utilize when teachers assign class work, reading, and/or homework based upon information from the textbooks or instructional materials. If your child does not have the appropriate instructional materials for class, please contact your child's teacher so that he/she can remedy the situation. Thank you.

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

The staff and I would like to thank Olivia Gregory, Mia Leininger and their committee for providing the staff with a wonderful welcome back luncheon. We would also like to thank Deanna Gabauer, Christian Rasmussen, and Kevein Kimmel and their committee for their work on PTA Membership and direct donations. Thank you to all parents who have joined the PTA or have given a direct donation. Our campaign is in full swing. So don't forget to join the PTA. Our membership drive ends on **Friday, October 31st**. Thank you to all the families who donated copy paper to the school this past month. We appreciate you!! We would like to thank Mrs. Reyes-Thomas, Mrs. Muniz, and Mrs. Lowery for putting together the water and snacks to keep in the classrooms in case of an emergency. I would also like to personally thank Mrs. Kyla Adams for all her hard work leading our PTA and its many activities during the first month of school.

### **HARVEST FESTIVAL IS COMING!!!!**

Towers Harvest Festival is coming on Saturday, October 20th, from 11:00 to 4:00 p.m. There will be game booths, cake walk, marketplace, and silent auction activities to name just a few. This is a fundraiser that we hope to raise money to support the purchase of technology to be used in the classroom and school as a whole. Thank you for your support and hope to see all of you at this exciting event.

### **PRINCIPAL COFFEES ARE COMING SOON!!**

Here at Towers we would like to provide parents an opportunity to learn more about our school, programs, and areas of interest. In order to do that we are again offering Principal Coffees throughout the school year where parents can come and meet with the Principal and discuss topics of interest. Our first Principal Coffee will be offered on Friday, November 2nd at 9:15 a.m. in the cafeteria. The topic of interest will be on school safety. This topic will discuss Towers' safety plan, safety drills that will be taking place this year, and an opportunity for questions and answers. Please mark your calendar for **Friday, November 2nd, at 9:15 a.m.**

### **MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM CLOSURE DURING LUNCH**

Several times throughout the year it is necessary to close the multi-purpose room during student lunch time. This occurs when there is an evening event that needs time for preparation or when there are school events during the day that need the use of the room for students. At those times, students will be eating their lunch outside. Students have options of where to sit. Those options are tables/benches in the patio area outside the multi-purpose room, benches in the grass area as well as the grass itself, or an open classroom if needed when no other shaded area is available. Please speak to your child about these choices so they are prepared. You may check the calendar on the website to see when events are scheduled.

### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING ATTENDANCE**

The State of California provides TUSD with \$33.14 for each day every student is in school. This money helps run the day-to-day operation of the schools. If your child is absent from school for **any** reason (unless there is a prearranged contract with the school), the District is **not** paid by the State of California. Per the California Department of Education Code, absences can only be counted as excused if verified by medical personnel or our health office. Absences are also excused for medical appointments with a doctor's excusal note, quarantine, or to attend a funeral of a student's immediate family member. Even if the absence is excused, TUSD will not receive State monies. If your child is absent for vacation, etc., the absence will be recorded as unexcused unless an Independent Study is requested two weeks prior to the vacation through the classroom teacher. The independent study will only be approved for up to 10 school days. The TUSD considers more than 10 days of absences and/or tardies in a school year to be excessive (unless there is a doctor's note verifying an illness). If a student exceeds the above-mentioned absences and/or tardies, interventions will occur. The first one being a warning letter sent home. We appreciate your assistance in having your child/children in school every day that they are not ill and arriving on time. Thank you for your help as we continue our goal of providing the best education for your children. If you have any questions in regards to our attendance policy, please contact the office or e-mail me at [skora.sandy@tusd.org](mailto:skora.sandy@tusd.org).

### **HEALTHY CHOICES IN OUR CAFETERIAS!**

The school cafeterias are required to meet tough federal nutrition standards for school meals, ensuring that meals are healthy, well-balanced and provide students all the nutrition they need to succeed at school. In addition the regulations require that each lunch is served with ½ cup fruit or vegetables. School meals offer students milk, fruits and vegetables, proteins and grains, and must meet strict limits on saturated fat and portion size. We're always working to offer students healthier and tastier choices. School meals are a great value and a huge convenience for busy families too! We look forward to welcoming your children to the cafeteria. To find out more about the nutritional content of the meals served in your child's cafeteria, check out the Nutrition Service's Website at [TUSDFoodservice.org](http://TUSDFoodservice.org). If you have any questions, please feel free to call the nutrition services department. Thank you.

## **ADULTS ON CAMPUS**

We love our volunteers on campus; however, we always strive for safety for our students. Adults, other than certificated/credentialed employees or pre-approved volunteers for special events, are NOT allowed on the playground from 8:30 – 3:15 p.m. This is considered a safety issue not only for the students but the adults who could be injured during play on the playground. You are always welcome to meet or be with your child at the lunch benches or at the benches in the front of the school. **If you request to pick up your child during recess, we cannot guarantee that they will arrive to the office in a timely manner. Please request to have your child come to the office at the beginning of a recess or lunch.** If you would like to speak to your classroom teacher, please e-mail, call the teacher or front office and set up an appointment. Before school or on the playground is not a good time to speak to your teacher. Thank you very much for your cooperation. We also welcome parents to eat lunch with their child. Parents may eat with their child on the designated table outside of the cafeteria. Eating with other children may only be allowed by written parent permission. Lastly, we emphasize a positive environment for our students, staff, and parents. District has a civility policy that protects our staff and parents. Any incidents of inappropriate behavior among adults or adults towards students may be reported to the school Principal.

## **HALLOWEEN AT TOWERS**

In the spirit of the season, we will be holding our annual Halloween Parade on Wednesday, October 31<sup>st</sup> at 9:00 a.m. We hope that you can join us...and please do come in costume, it makes the day so much more fun for everyone! Students are encouraged to wear their costumes to school and change into school clothes after the parade. Costume accessories are not allowed on the playground during the school day, but may be worn with costumes for the parade except for any kind of item that may be considered a weapon or imitation weapon. The student's parade is by grade level. At the end of the parade we invite all of our guests to come out and parade for the students – so bring your little ones (of all ages) and enjoy the spirit of the season. If for any reason you do not want your child to participate in this activity, please be sure to let their classroom teacher know. **WE WILL HAVE A PARADE EVEN IF IT RAINS!**

## **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>