

Lion's Den Newsletter

April 2015

NORDSTROM ELEMENTARY 1425 E. DUNNE AVENUE 408-201-6440

Principal's Message

Helping Children to Understand Autism

Since about one in every 88 children is diagnosed with autism, your child is likely to encounter a few children with this disorder. How you respond to your child's questions significantly impacts your child's understanding of the complex disorder, as well as his or her acceptance of individuals with different abilities. Here are some suggestions to help your child understand autism.

Be honest. If you don't know a lot about autism, tell your child just that. Take advantage of your child's curiosity and seek resources to help. Spend time with your child researching the subject.

Know that every child is different. Autism is a spectrum disorder, so no two children with autism are alike. A child with autism might have areas of exceptional talent, as well as areas of deficit. Help your child understand that autism presents itself in many different ways

Put a positive spin on it. Be careful not to describe individuals with autism as lacking in some important way. Focus on the positive and describe what your child can do to help. For example, say, "Tony is an excellent artist. You can talk about his drawings with him by asking him specific questions." When relaying an area of challenge for the child with autism, help your child relate to the experience. You might say, for example: "Remember how it was hard to hear me at the airport over the background noise? Tony is hearing all of the background noises in the classroom and has difficulty paying attention to just your voice. Why don't you sit down and face him when you talk to him?"

Encourage interaction. If the child acts out or must leave an event early, reassure your child that this does not mean that he or she did anything wrong. Schedule future events and gatherings so that your child can see the positive effects of his or her interactions over time.

SBAC Testing April 27 through May 8

Our year-end assessment of common core standards for the year is just around the corner. All Nordstrom students in 3rd- 6th grade will take the 'SBAC Summative Assessments' at the end of April. These are similar to the old CST tests that we used to take each year. The student's results will be calculated and we will receive a score for each student, similar to the scores we used to get in August for the CST tests taken in spring. Parents will also be receiving the results of these tests, although we are not yet sure of how the results will be sent since this is the first year for reportable results.

It is very important that your child be present at school for the 2 weeks from Monday April 27 through Friday May 8. The tests must be taken in sequence so missing one day will throw your child into a testing cycle that will be very different than their peers. This will result in time pulled out of class for makeups, to ensure your child also takes their tests in the correct sequence.

On the nights before a test, make sure your child gets to bed early and gets a good night's sleep. On testing mornings, have them eat a nutritious breakfast and send a healthy snack to school for the brunch recess. These will help your child perform their best and allow him/her to demonstrate their academic strengths. Thank you for supporting your child every day at school.

April Events:

- 3-30 Principal's Meeting on CCSS Math - 6:00p.m.
- 4-2 Lion's Den - 7:45a.m.
HSC Meeting
- 4-3 No School -Start of Spring Break
- 4-13 First day back to school from break
- 4-20 ELAC Meeting - 6:00p.m.
- 4-22 Spring Pictures
- 4-27 SSC - 2:15p.m.

May Events:

- 5-1 HSC Meeting
- 5-8 Nordstrom Spring Auction
- 5-12 Spring Music Concert -6:00 -7:00p.m.
- 5-18 SSC - 2:15p.m.
- 5-18 - 5-22 Scholastic Book Fair
- 5-20 Open House - 6:30p.m. - 8:00p.m.
- 5-25 No School - Memorial Day
- 6-4 Last Day— "Minimum Day Schedule"

Bus Lane Closed on Morning of 4/22

On Wednesday April 22nd the internal bus lane will be closed to parents for morning drop-off. The transportation department will be conducting mandatory bus evacuation drills and will need the lane closed for student safety. Please plan accordingly that morning. Thank you.



Hope to see everyone at Spring Open House!