

Lion's Den Newsletter

September 2014

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

Principal's Message

Welcome to all our returning students and new families. September is but a few days away, summer vacation is over and we are in full swing with a new school year. We hope that the transition from summer to your school routine has been easy.

If your child has been staying up late on weekends, have him or her try to stay closer to the school time schedule. Start the day off with a good breakfast and a quick check on the choice for school clothes. Determine a set location for backpacks or any school items that will be needed on school mornings. This way, no one has to be stressed in the morning about where homework or any other

needed items might have been misplaced. In no time your child will be back into the school routine, making new friends, and waking up refreshed for school.

Nordstrom's "Back To School Night" emphasizes the partnership between the home and the school and is a key factor in your child's educational success. We want to cordially invite all parents to Back To School Night on Wednesday, September 10th, at 6:30 pm. We will have an opening meeting conducted in Spanish at 6:00 pm. Come and hear about the changes in store for Nordstrom this year and attend sessions with your child's teacher regarding educational goals for the year. Please note

that this evening is for parents and guardians only, we ask that you leave children at home. We will gather in the cafeteria at 6:30 pm to introduce the faculty and parent leaders, and then proceed to classrooms for individual presentations.

As the year begins I want to thank our Home and School Club members and all our families for being such an important part of what makes Nordstrom a special place to grow and learn!

Sincerely,

Barbara Neal, Principal

Getting to School on Time

Even though slow traffic and a crowded parking lot can be daily challenges, getting to school on time is an important responsibility of parents and students. Teachers use the first minutes of every day to complete necessary routines: attendance, lunch count, homework collection, and announcements. From the minute our morning bell rings until the last bell of the day we are counting our instructional minutes.

The first bell of the day is at 7:42 which is our "line-up bell" signaling time for students to line up with their classmates. Instruction inside the classroom begins at 7:45. Students arriving late will be sent to the office to receive a tardy slip so that the office can override a child marked 'absent' by the classroom teacher's on-line attendance. Please help your children make it to school on time and ready to line up by 7:42. On behalf of all our teachers, thank you !

Our First Spirit Days

As we begin our regular Friday Lion's Den assemblies we want to remind everyone of our Spirit Days this year. The first two Spirit Days have been chosen by last year's Principals-for-the-Day.

- Sept. 5th is Julie and Lindsey Martin's "Disney Days"
- Oct. 3rd is Ben and Nolan Ledwith's "Career Days"

Come dressed as your favorite Disney character in September and as your favorite career person in October.

September Events:

9-1 Labor Day – no school
 9-5 HSC - 8:00 am
 9-10 Back-to-School Night - 6:30 pm
 Spanish Session - 6:00 pm
 9-12 Principal's Coffee (6th grade) - 7:50 am
 9-15 ELAC - 2:15 pm
 9-16 Fall Photo Day
 9-19 Family Fun Night BBQ
 9-26 Principal's Coffee (1st grade) - 7:50 am
 9-29 School Site Council - 2:15 pm

October Events:

10-3 HSC meeting - 8:00 am
 10-13 ELAC - 2:15 pm
 10-17 Principal's Coffee (2nd grade) - 7:50 am
 10-27 School Site Council - 2:15 pm
 10-28 Photo Make-up-day
 10-31 Pumpkin Run
 10-31 Halloween Parade - 1:00 pm

Parking Lot Issues

Please be respectful of parking spaces that are labeled "Staff parking". These spots are assigned to teachers, instructional aides, school nurses and other vital staff. In the moment, the space might be empty but may be assigned to a staff member who is coming from a district meeting and needs to be in class shortly after arriving. Thank you for respecting the staff that are working so closely with your children every day.

When dropping off in the mornings, please have your child's backpack inside the car so they can exit easily and quickly. This alleviates parents having to park and open the car trunk which blocks all other waiting cars. If student's supplies are accessible and morning hugs are taken care of at home, the traffic flow in the loop will be better.

To make the process more efficient, please read the following tips...

- In the morning please pull as far forward as possible before stopping to let your child out.
- The morning traffic back-up is a result of exiting the parking lot onto a very busy Dunne Ave. Please exit the ramp in single file, allowing every other car to enter the queue from either the bus lane or the parking lot side.
- For afterschool – please remind your children that they need to be in front of the school, watching for their ride and listening carefully for his/her name to be called while they are waiting.
- Once you have your children in your car, you may pull cautiously to the left of other cars and the white line and continue to exit out onto Dunne Ave.

Our goal is to ensure the safety of everyone in our parking lot. Thank you for helping as we make Nordstrom a safe school environment.

TO EVERY PARENT

There are little eyes upon you,
 And they are watching night and day;
 There are little ears that quickly take
 In every word you say;
 There are little hands all eager to do
 Everything you do,
 And a little child who's dreaming of
 The day he'll be like you.

Caught on the Web – web sites for learning and fun for kids and parents together. On this site you can unscramble the letters to spell grade-level words (all elementary grade levels)

Word Builder -

<http://www.harcourtschool.com/menus/auto/18/49.html>