

El Semanario

Edison Language Academy – Together Through Two Languages

(310) 828-0335 www.edison.smmusd.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next Generation Science

Standards (NGSS) Professional Development -- Over the next few weeks, all SMMUSD elementary school teachers will be subbed out for professional development (PD) around the new NGSS standards. This multi-part PD program began last year, continued in summer and fall, and is wrapping up this winter. Teachers will be away from their classrooms as follows for this PD: 1/10 – TK and K; 1/17 – 2nd grade; 1/24 – 5th grade; 1/28 – 1st grade; 1/29 – 4th grade; and 2/21 – 3rd grade. We are excited that our teachers have this opportunity to work in grade level teams to design science instruction reflecting NGSS.

Winter Interim Assessments

-- January and February are also months where for teachers conduct mid-year assessments in reading, writing, and math. Some of these assessments are given in the classroom, but some require 1:1 administration, which is most quickly accomplished when a substitute teacher works with the class while the teacher pulls children aside for assessment. We arrange these days in advance to try to secure bilingual subs familiar with our program and to work around other school events. Your child's teacher can give you details about when assessments are taking place and please try to avoid absences during those days. We use mid-year data to provide you with a more complete report on your child's progress in the mid-year Progress Reports AND to determine how to adjust our instruction in the months ahead to meet all students' needs.

Mid-Year Progress Reports – will be sent home on Friday, February 9.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK: STANDING UP FOR KINDNESS AND JUSTICE

For more than 15 years, we've started the new year by participating in the Kindness and Justice Challenge. The Challenge was started In 1997, by Do Something! and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s children as a national education initiative that asked students in grades K-12 to perform acts of kindness (helping others) and acts of justice (standing up for what is right) in honor of Dr. King. The Challenge brackets the King National Holiday and this year our Challenge runs from January 8 to February 6. The Edison challenge includes three parts: 1) Learning what Dr. King and others did to advance justice and the gain greater understanding of the values that guided the movement; 2) Working to put these values into practice in their daily lives by performing positive acts at school, home, and in their communities; and 3) Creating a class Pathway to Change project to allow students to work together to stand up for Justice. This challenge reflects Dr. King's passionate belief in the power of young people to make a difference, and be visionaries and powerful agents of change.

During the Challenge students are asked to write their daily actions for Kindness or Justice on small strips of paper. Each classroom fastens these slips together as links in a chain. At the end of the challenge, we all bring our chains together to make one large chain that we display in a gallery in the cafeteria along with representations of our class Pathway to Change projects – showing how even small acts can be magnified when many people work together.

Over time, the daily virtues taught in the Challenge have become our school values: justice, compassion, inclusion, empowerment, vision, responsibility, tolerance, respect, perseverance, non-violence, moral courage, and reflection. We engage in this project both as part of our responsibility as a Dual Immersion Program to build our students' sociocultural competence and as part of the way we live into the Social Justice Standards adopted by our own SMMUSD Board of Education.

The Challenge is a process, not a magic bullet. We work on the Social Justice Standards of Identity, Diversity, Justice, and Action all year long across the curriculum. Like everything else we teach in elementary school, it takes knowledge, time, supported practice, and intentionality to develop both needed academic skills and social emotional behaviors.

You can support your students on this journey by reinforcing at home how important you believe it is to treat others with kindness and respect and to stand up for what is right. You can also ask your child to share with you what their goals are as an individual during the challenge and what their class Pathway to Change Project involves. And please come by the K&J Gallery on February 6 and celebrate the steps we've taken collectively to acting in more Kind and Just ways and celebrate the children's growth!

January 16 – 4:00-6:00 pm – **Edison Site Council** – Room 100

January 21
Martin Luther King, Jr.
holiday – SCHOOL
CLOSED

January 23 - PTA
Association Meeting -
Library

**This workshop
ENGLISH ONLY**



**FAMILY SERVICE
OF SANTA MONICA**
A SERVICE OF VISTA DEL MAR



Reflective Parenting Workshop

For parents of school aged children (5-11 years old)

offered at John Muir Elementary
beginning Thursday January 31, 2019 from 8:30 am to 10:00 am
(in the Faculty Lounge/Multi-Purpose Room – Room 254)

*Spanish translation will not be provided. Workshop for Spanish speakers will be held at Edison Language Academy beginning January 29, 2019.

This innovative 10 week workshop provides parents with a model, which views children's behavior as meaningful. The group will focus on specific topics such as temperament, discipline, and emotional regulation as well as developing an understanding of the thoughts and feelings that underlie your interactions with your child. This capacity, to reflect on your own and your child's experience, lies at the heart of effective parenting. Research has demonstrated that developing this capacity is a valuable way to help parents strengthen relationships with their children and support healthy cognitive and social-emotional development.

Goals of the workshop:

- **Increased confidence in parenting**
- **New ways to think about children's behavior**
- **Effective interventions for difficult behavior**

Beginning January 31, 2019 for 10 weeks
at

John Muir Elementary School
2526 6th St, Santa Monica, CA 90405

Fee: Free to McKinley, Edison and Muir parents

To register, or for more information please contact:

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