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**Pomona Elementary School  
Newsletter - October 2017**

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**Important Dates**

- ☺ PAC Meeting - 3rd Wednesday of Every Month at 3:15 pm to 4:15 pm in the library
  - ☺ October 11th & 12th - Parent/Teacher Conferences
  - ☺ October 12th—Half Day, School Dismissed at 12:05 pm
    - ☺ October 13th, 16th, 17th—No School, Vacation
  - ☺ October 31st—Halloween Parade 2:00 pm to 2:30 pm



We love to see all the kids dressed in their costumes and enjoying the excitement. Before you go shopping for costumes there are some guidelines we follow at school. Students are not allowed to wear costumes that:

Are bloody or too scary.

No masks

No plastic weapons

Make-up is ok if the student can apply it themselves

No spray glitter or spray hair coloring

Must meet District policy for body coverage and appropriateness.

## Hi 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Families,

### SAVE THE DATES

October 11 and 12    Parent-Teacher Conferences  
October 12             $\frac{1}{2}$  Day for students  
October 13, 16, 17    NO SCHOOL  
October 31            Halloween - see school news regarding Halloween

Our core Reading program is *Good Habits, Great Readers*. We are focusing on making sense of what we read. To do this we will be focusing on making predictions, asking questions, self-monitoring, and summarizing what we read.

Our focus in Phonics has been short vowels, blending sounds, including consonant blends, and segmenting words. We have completed our review of kindergarten high frequency words and are focusing on 1<sup>st</sup> grade sight words.

Our new core Math program is *Bridges*. The focus for first graders includes Problems and Investigations, Work Places, and Assessments. Our focus has been understanding addition and subtraction of numbers within 20, counting by 2's, 5's, and 10's, and value of a Penny and Nickel. Students are learning about Ten-Frames, Number Lines, what a Decade is and investigation of math work places using pattern blocks, Unifix cubes, dominoes, and geoboards.

In Science and Social Studies, we are learning about our self, families, events using a calendar, and learning about team leaders. Our Second Step lessons help us develop skills for working with others at school.



## Second Grade

Fall is upon us and we continue to work hard.

We are beginning Unit 2 in Bridges In Mathematics. The skills in module two cover place value and focus on addition and subtraction skills. The reading skills for this month cover story elements and how to use them to understand the books they read better. For writing we will complete our mystery objects pieces, and move on to narrative writing. Later in the month we will begin our science unit on force and motion. In Social Studies we will be doing our unit on map skills and our personal place in the world.

We have begun spelling lists and homework. The reading log and homework allow your child to practice skills at home that your child is learning in school.

Later this year we will be doing a math module that requires paper towel and toilet paper rolls. Please send them in throughout the year since we will need around 300 per class.

Please read at home with your child; it will benefit them in all areas of the curriculum and help them go into third grade with continued strong skills. We also appreciate you taking the time to help/review the homework your child does. It is a great way to spend time with your child and to let them know how important learning is.

Thank you

The Second Grade Team

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade News

We are excited to be finishing up our 1<sup>st</sup> quarter already! We have completed our first unit in our math curriculum, which was mostly 2<sup>nd</sup> grade review of addition and subtraction. All 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students should be fluent in the addition and subtraction facts at this point. If they have trouble adding and subtracting single digit numbers quickly, please continue working on this with them. Unit 2 begins learning multiplication, and it is much more successful when all students know addition and subtraction.

We are working on personal narratives in our writing and are excited to be sharing those this month! We are also learning cursive and students are very excited about this, however, not encouraged to use it at all times. Practicing their names on their paper is a great beginning at this point.

We look forward to seeing you all at conferences! Let's have a great October!

3<sup>rd</sup> grade team  
Allison Wofford  
Lisa Franks

### **4<sup>th</sup> Grade News**

We are beginning Unit 2 of Bridges in Mathematics. This unit covers multi-digit multiplication and early division strategies. In Unit 1, students worked on modeling multiplication and developing a variety of strategies for single-digit and double-digit multiplication problems. The math facts fluency and strategies developed in Unit 1 are important to continue working on throughout the rest of the year. This foundation will help students moving forward into more challenging math work.

All 4<sup>th</sup> grade classes are beginning spelling lists. Spelling can be found in your learner's planner in the spelling words section. We appreciate family support in practicing these words and learning how to use them in daily life.

4<sup>th</sup> graders keep their reading logs in their planners. Students are expected to read for 20 minutes every night. This can be independent reading or reading out loud to someone. An adult at home can sign off on this reading nightly.

The Bird Banding Field Trip to Ridgway State Park was a great success. Students learned about migrating birds, bird health, habitat needs, and how scientists collect and record data in the field.

We will be going to Ouray on Thursday, October 19<sup>th</sup> for a field trip to Ouray Historical Museum and the Box Canyon. More information will be coming home soon.

Conferences are Wednesday, October 11<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, October 12<sup>th</sup>. 4<sup>th</sup> grade conferences will be student led, please plan on attending with your child.

Thank you,

Fourth Grade Team





# Intervention Central

This year, Pomona is fortunate to have both a Literacy and Math Interventionist. Each month, we will give you easy, fun activities you can do with your child to help their literacy and math development.

## Literacy Activity:

### Shopping your way with words

Use your weekly shopping trip as an opportunity to help your child develop reading and writing skills.

As you make out your grocery shopping list, give your child a sheet of paper and read the items to him or her. If the child asks for spelling help, write the words correctly for him or her to copy or spell the words aloud as your child writes them.

Ask your child to look through the newspaper ads to find the prices of as many items as possible. Your child can write these prices on the list and then look through your coupons to select the ones you can use. Take your child to the supermarket and ask him or her to read each item to you as you shop.

## Math Activity:

### Show them the Relevance -Keep math "real"

Kids are turned off when they don't see a purpose to what they're learning, so it's important to constantly show them how math is useful in real life.

Involve them in activities like cooking and baking, telling time, checking temperature and using money. Little ones can sort coins, older kids can help estimate the grocery bill while shopping. When they see that using Math is in their everyday life and it's important to their family, it will really spark their enthusiasm and interest in learning!

We all live busy lives! We have places to go, appointments to make and specific times to be there. Include your child in these moments. Ask questions like, "If we need to be at the dentist appointment by four and it takes us 15 minutes to get there, what time do we need to leave our house so that we're not arriving late?"

Enjoy these small learning moments that have such a lasting effect.

## Counselor's Corner

Last month, I was able to share in the excitement with the 5<sup>th</sup> graders at **Camp CBX**. I really enjoyed seeing students experience new challenges, overcoming fears, and forming new friendships.

This month, I will be starting **small group sessions** on coping with grief/loss, family change, friendship/social skills, school success, and stress relief. If you are interested in referring your child to group counseling, please give me a call at 249-2514 or let his/her teacher know. Groups meet weekly for 6-8 weeks for 30 minutes during the school day.

**Second Step:** The unit for October is **Skills for Learning**-listening, focusing attention, using self-talk and being assertive. The *Second Step* program increases kids' school success and decreases problem behaviors by teaching students the skills for learning as well as how to manage their emotions, solve problems, and make friends. If your child needs additional support in any of the above skills, I offer small groups sessions that reinforces the second step lessons they are learning in the classroom.

**What SEL Is**

**Social-emotional learning is:**

- ✓ Recognizing emotions in oneself and others
- ✓ Managing strong emotions
- ✓ Having empathy for others
- ✓ Controlling impulses
- ✓ Communicating clearly and assertively
- ✓ Maintaining cooperative relationships
- ✓ Making responsible decisions
- ✓ Solving problems effectively

**What SEL Isn't**

**Social-emotional learning is not:**

- ✓ Just a feel-good activity
- ✓ Educators parenting your kids for you
- ✓ Suggesting you're not doing a good enough job as a parent
- ✓ Suggesting that today's generation of kids is somehow broken
- ✓ Psychotherapy
- ✓ Taught at the expense of core academic subjects such as math, science, and literacy

The infographic features two sections. The top section, 'What SEL Is', has a green background and a pencil graphic. It lists eight characteristics of social-emotional learning, accompanied by a photo of two girls talking. The bottom section, 'What SEL Isn't', has a blue background and a pencil graphic. It lists six common misconceptions about SEL, accompanied by a photo of a teacher interacting with a group of students.

New to Pomona this year is **Playground Champions**, a peer support program where our 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> graders help our K- 1<sup>st</sup> graders out on the playground. The Champions will work in pairs to help younger students improve their problem-solving skills and gain an “I can do” attitude (Growth Mindset). I am excited that to be training over 60 interested students. After students complete their 8 training sessions, you will see them at lunch recess in the orange vest helping our younger students practice PAWS behavior and solving conflicts.

**Student Council:** Mrs. Busby and I were so proud of the 33 students who ran for student council. The voting process took place last month in all 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms. The purpose of student council is to provide all students a voice at Pomona while developing leadership skills for our student council members. This year's student council class representatives include: Ashlin, Katie, Yaretzi, Isabella, Christopher, Avila, and Christian. Alternates include: Arieon, Damien, Harry, Jaxson, and Angelique,

Sharon Brown  
Licensed School Counselor