

El Semanario

Edison Language Academy – Together Through Two Languages

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Books, Books, Books! – Keeping Children Reading during the Covid Shutdowns- While Edison students have access to reading materials on line, it's also important and a great break from the screen to have actual hard copy books. Although the Santa Monica Public Libraries (SMPL) are closed to the public because of COVID, it is possible to search the catalogue and check out materials on line. The Pico Branch and Main Library also have contactless curbside pickup from 10:00-4:00 M-F and on those hours on Saturday 11/17 and 12/5. All children who live OR go to school in Santa Monica can have a SMPL library card. Go to the library's website www.smpl.org to see how you can get a quick on-line library card and check out books and other materials on-line and do contact free pick up of materials for your children.

Sorry we missed you at Last Week's Workshop! -- Our presenter Gilda Panales is working on getting us the slide decks to share on the Edison website. Meanwhile, I want to call out a book that she used in her training that could be an excellent support to all parents -- "How to Talk So Kids Can Listen and How to Listen so Kids Will Talk" is available in both Spanish and English and is inexpensive and very accessible. Highly recommended!

Supporting the Santa Monica Education Foundation -- Our Education Foundation in Santa Monica supports our school in very important ways (Instructional Assistants in classrooms, Maestra Martha and PS Arts, Maestra Jacqueline and our Spanish music program, and extra personnel in the health office). Due to all the economic strains caused by Covid-19, donations are down by about \$300,000 as compared to last year. While only 15% of SMMUSD families overall have contributed, **27% of Edison families have made a contribution! THANK YOU!** If you haven't given yet, I want to encourage you to make your donation during Pledge Week (October 5-9) when there are a variety of matches promised that can increase the power of your donation. You can donate all at once, or spread your donation out monthly. Go to www.smedfoundation.org/donate and explore the options.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Thanks to all of you who completed the district's Distance Learning Survey last week. Right now we're moving forward on two parallel tracks – strengthening distance learning and preparing for an eventual return.

As long as we are using any form of Distance Learning, we're committed to making that delivery system as effective as possible. Next week we'll be reviewing survey data to see how we can use it to improve our distance learning program. And as a dual immersion program, I want to share with you that we've also been engaging in some consultation and professional development with leadership of the Association for Two-Way and Dual Language Education and participating in some seminars sponsored by the California Association for Bilingual Education. Many things work a little differently in Dual Language programs and we're dedicated to making sure we also learn from the experts in our field and other 90-10 programs so that our program delivery as a dual language program remains strong – whether in distance learning or hybrid format.

At the same time, looking carefully at countywide Covid-19 data and public health guidance, the District is preparing for a safe re-opening in stages -- whenever it is declared safe and we are prepared to do so. Last week SMMUSD received permission to open in-person assessment hubs. This is encouraging for all of our students with IEPs and those who have been waiting for assessment since last March! Special education staff have started to schedule testing sessions – outdoors, with masks and behind plexiglass and we're scheduling initial and triennial IEPs again!

It's so easy to feel impatient with all of this –the quarantine has been long and very hard on many families. But transitioning schools safely into a hybrid environment in the middle of a constantly-changing pandemic takes time, materials, training, and review. There are many district staff working diligently to get us ready for that time. But please be patient as it's imperative that we do this carefully and safely or we'll be like the many schools around the country that open for a few days, experience a spike in illnesses, and have to shut back down.

Meanwhile we're working to make sure that important learning and social emotional development goes on each day in our current distance learning setting. Thank you for supporting your child and staying in touch with the teacher. Remember, for students in Grades 1-5, the school day runs from 8:30 am to 3:00 pm – with 8:30 to 1:30 live on line and 1:30-3:00 pm asynchronous (with the exception of district music in grades 3-5). TK and K are done by 1:30 pm.

Wednesday, 10/7 at 4:00 pm
Edison Site Council

Wednesday, 10/14 at 4:00 pm –
ELAC – Election of Officers

