

# LAWRENCE E. JONES MIDDLE SCHOOL

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## April Newsletter: LJ Matters

### FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Hello LJ Jaguar Community,

I want to take a moment to introduce myself. My name is Melissa Quinn and I'm in my 6<sup>th</sup> year of serving as a school administrator for Cotati Rohnert Park Unified. I began working for the district in 2002, when I was hired as an education specialist at Rancho Cotate High School. For 13 years, I shared my passion for mathematics, science, the environment, and learning with my students. Prior to coming to LJMS as the Interim Principal, I spent the past 5+ years working as a Special Education Program Manager and an Assistant Principal at RCHS.

I am a Sonoma County native and grew up attending schools in CRPUSD. I received my Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies and Minor in Mathematics from Sonoma State University. I also hold an authorization in foundational science and am proficient in Spanish. I continued my post-graduate work with Sonoma State University and earned my Education Special Instruction Credential and my Administrative Services Credential.

As a child, Officer Lawrence Jones was my schools' resource officer. My friends and I fondly referred to him as "Officer Friendly" when he would visit with us on the blacktop. It is an honor for me to serve the school and community that has been named in his honor.

While LJMS is currently closed due to COVID-19, your child's teachers and the LJMS staff have been hard at work to provide them with a rich and engaging distance learning opportunity. We understand that this transition

has been very fast and that we are all in different places in this transition. Please be patient, do the best that you can, and do not hesitate to reach out to our teachers, counselors, and administrators if you have any questions or needs that we can address.

Please note that all previously scheduled group activities will be cancelled/postponed until the shelter in place mandate has been lifted and it has been determined safe to reconvene.

To keep students connected to the LJMS Jaguar community, we will be publicizing weekly video announcements and will continue to recognize exemplary students with JagPaws. Our PBIS team will also be virtually recognizing individual students for illustrating significant development in the LJMS Cornerstones. Last, but not least, LJMS student leadership is organizing a virtual spirit week for the month of April. We look forward to seeing all of your Jaguar spirit!

With Jaguar Pride,  
Melissa Quinn  
Interim Principal, LJMS

### GOING DIGITAL...

As our amazing staff continues to transition to distance learning, I want to acknowledge the entire LJ community: students, families, and staff for their incredible perseverance, flexibility and patience! We in the office have been working to support teachers in connecting each and every child to their Google Classrooms! We look forward to acknowledging great efforts in our weekly "video" bulletins! We have transitioned to digital JagPaws (with digital and tangible rewards), birthday shout outs, and so

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much more! This week our leadership classes have created a spirit week! Please feel free to photograph your child's participation and share on our Facebook Page! This is optional but a fun way to stay connected!

Spirit Week: April 6th-10th –

MONDAY: Pajama Day

TUESDAY: Hat Day

WEDNESDAY: Cartoon Day

THURSDAY: Sports Team Day

FRIDAY: Color Team Day

### COUNSELOR CORNER

During this difficult time our counselors want you to know that they are still here for our students and are eager to help! Please feel free to share their emails below with your child. Encourage them to reach out with questions, concerns, or just to share their thoughts!

[Teresa\\_teich@crpusd.org](mailto:Teresa_teich@crpusd.org)

[Jaime\\_myers@crpusd.org](mailto:Jaime_myers@crpusd.org)

[Deborah\\_white@crpusd.org](mailto:Deborah_white@crpusd.org)

[Julia\\_carey@crpusd.org](mailto:Julia_carey@crpusd.org)

We are currently working on creating an optional, school-wide, safe platform where students can connect to find resources and group chats as needed. In the meantime, please feel free to visit the following website for some information:

<https://www.common sense media.org/resources-for-families-during-the-coronavirus-pandemic>

The CRPUSD has also added some Mental health support resources and various crisis lines

to their distance learning webpage, just scroll to the bottom of the below website to view.

<https://crpusd.org/cms/One.aspx?portalId=485396&pageId=26343011>

### PTSA UPDATE

By Christal Barquero

Hello LJMS Families,

You are all superheroes in your kids' lives. It sure is easier with a village, but right now you are truly their everything. Setting them up for success while still maintaining your responsibilities is a lot.

Here are some great resources to help with your journey. The link below includes the following topics with great ideas and follow-up links:

- Social and Emotional Well-Being
- Learning at Home
- Healthy Habits.

<https://capta.org/news-publications/covid-19/covid-19-resources-for-parents-and-families/>

Families - Thank you all for being awesome role models for our kids 😊

Teachers - Thank you for your flexibility and willingness to learn a new way to effectively teach our kids! 😊 YOU ALL ROCK!!!

Sincerely,  
LJMS PTSA

*"Alone we can do so little; Together we can do so much." -Helen Keller*

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### **PENNIES FOR PATIENTS WAS HUGE SUCCESS!**

**By Ms. Hawkins**

Mark 2020 down as the year LJMS collected the most money in a single year in our Pennies for Patients campaign! Our current school total is: **\$4169.63** and there is still money being totaled! Yippee!!!!

This is due to every one of our students who participated. Some collected hundreds, some collected pennies. Whatever they brought in, we thank them from the bottom of our heart. Students (and teachers) in these 1<sup>st</sup> period classes went above and beyond:

Yanglin -- OVER \$900!!  
Hawkins -- \$519.74  
Ruiz -- \$480.96  
Lorenz -- \$266.73  
Ricossa -- \$204.47  
Teahan -- \$202.24  
Beiswanger -- \$180.21  
Nelson -- \$154.04  
Curry -- \$132.68  
Fogle -- \$107.35  
Coshow -- \$104.36

### **LEADERSHIP UPDATE**

**By Ms. Lorenz**

It is that time students think about applying to be a part of LJMS Leadership Next Year. Leadership is an amazing position. Leadership students forego the enrichment wheel to be a part of making our school a better place. They do this in a variety of ways from planning dances and rallies, to fundraisers, spirit weeks and events for people who win spirit points. If you think your child would be great in

leadership please have them fill out the application that was sent to them by Mrs. Whitestone. All applications are due by April 27<sup>th</sup>.

### **PHYSICAL EDUCATION: Jaguars Keeping it Moving!!!**

**By Ms. Siple**

Our P.E. students have been breaking a sweat! As we transition to distance learning, it has never been more important to stay healthy both physically and emotionally. We are so proud of our students for keeping up with the challenge. We are encouraging them to stay active for 20-40 minutes a day and then logging their activities in their Fitness Logs. By now your students should be logged in to their P.E. Google Classroom and submitted their Weekly Fitness Logs. Many have utilized YouTube workouts, Wii/Switch workouts, and their abundance of knowledge gained in their P.E. classes to create meaningful workouts. I love how many of our students have encouraged their parents and pets to get moving, too! We are so proud of you! Keep up the great work!

### **WHAT'S HAPPENING IN MATH?**

**By Jim Gregoretti**

To all of our LJMS students and families, all the members of our Math Department hope that you are well and continue to show the resilience that we have come to know as "Sonoma County Strong!" We would also like to thank you for stepping up and accepting the challenge of Remote Learning. In years past, we have faced our share of struggles, but nothing could prepare us for the COVID 19 pandemic. The LJ Math Department is trying to use a variety of modalities in order to better support your

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students. Whether it's GoMath Online, Khan Academy or some other form of math lessons, we will continue to try and provide the best possible instruction to your students. The best thing you can do is continue to keep your student on a regular schedule every day during the week. Set specific times for them to go and take breaks and get some exercise. Remember that there are many ways to assist your student in these times. Google the specific item that your student is struggling with and watch the video with them. Remember that instruction happens at home as well. I leave you with an inspirational quote by Vivienne Green, "Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass, it's about learning how to dance in the rain." We will make it through this together...

### CORREA'S COOKING

Mr. Correa's classes are going on a virtual field trip to a French Restaurant next week. Bistro 29 in Santa Rosa opened their doors and let LJMS come film their establishment, serving 500 gourmet take-out meals a week.

### HELLO FROM THE SCIENCE TEAM By Mr. Brown

For 7<sup>th</sup> grade, we are now exploring how there is evidence of how organisms have changed over time in the rock layers found all over the world. Students will be examining how rock layers form, and how we know which rock layers formed first. Students will also be examining the different ways that geologists look at the age of rocks (and the fossils found within). This unit will directly tie in to our next unit on natural selection, wherein students will be exploring how environmental changes can

lead to changes within a population of organisms over long periods of time.

For 8<sup>th</sup> grade, we are finishing up our study of chemistry. Students have been exploring the how and why of chemical reactions, and why some chemicals will react, but others won't. Students have also been studying how the rate at which chemicals react can be directly impacted by the amount of energy present in the reaction, as well as the role of "catalysts" in chemical reactions. Students have been examining how chemists classify different mixtures and combinations of chemicals.

### APRIL LIBRARY NEWS

Dear LJMS Students,

We are missing all the friendly faces we usually get to see in The Donaldson Library.

Since we won't see you for a while, our Library staff wanted to encourage you to use home computers and/or smart phones to take advantage of free books available through your regional library system.

If you have a Sonoma Library card, you can go to <https://sonomalibrary.org/eresources> and access some great online resources including e books, audio books, tutoring support, and historical research.

If you don't have a library card, if you click on the link: [https://find.sonomalibrary.org/client/en\\_US/default/search/registration/zNBC/HZWS/true](https://find.sonomalibrary.org/client/en_US/default/search/registration/zNBC/HZWS/true) and fill out the online registration form, your account will work for 120 days. The only services which are currently not available are

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hoopla, and Lynda.com. When our libraries reopen, you can take your account number into the Regional Library branch of your choice and get a physical card with either a photo ID, or a parent's permission.

[Sonoma County Library on Facebook](#) is also a great way to keep track of what new online resources are available and (707) 308-3262 is the number to call with all your Regional Library questions about your account.

Please keep the books you have checked out from the LJ Donaldson Library in a safe place that you will remember for when we all return to school!

We hope to see you soon,  
Mrs. Rasmuson and Mrs. Frazer

*"Reading is a discount ticket to everywhere."  
- Mary Schmich*

### **EXPEDITIONARY LEARNING-WHAT HAVE WE BEEN DOING? By Savannah Auble and Marlowe Rasmuson**

In the middle of this chaotic time we are faced with many challenges especially when it comes to distance learning. This presents many difficulties for students and our families during the threat of this global pandemic. We have had to adjust to make this distance learning work for our many schedules and daily lives. As two students in the Expeditionary Learning Program, we have been feeling like the workload has been taking up the majority of our time. It's hard to keep a daily schedule going and to be able to balance the importance of each assignment. Each class requires maximum

effort while completing work and being present for each Zoom class and Google Meet. Right now, the one good thing that has come out of this disaster is that we get to spend more time doing things we usually have no time to do. Such as spending quality time with family, reading for pleasure, drawing, playing games, and helping out around the house.

With everything that is going on it's been hard to stay occupied all the time. We miss our friends and have found ourselves missing the small pleasures we didn't appreciate before. Now anything that makes us happy is a blessing. Social distancing has proven to already be a challenge for everyone, and even with your own family in quarantine with you, it can still be lonely at times. We've never gone through something like this before, and it's crazy! We were very disappointed to hear that school was canceled for the rest of the year, and we can only hope that everything will go back to normal soon. Stay safe LJ families!

### **From Mr. Coshow:**

Getting up and going on Distance Learning has been a challenge. Throw out the old ways and many of the planned assignments. Recreate, reimagine, redesign. Present and attempt to inspire in new ways. As a teacher, one relies on community, a sense of working together. Suddenly we are set apart. How to keep our students learning when pajamas and Netflix beckon? It feels like a vacation for teachers and students, but we're supposed to be doing a full days work. And we end up working into the evening?

It's all so confusing. And difficult. All of us will have trouble adjusting. Please encourage



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students to stay focused. We miss them. It is amazing, in the midst of all of this, that most of our students still produce excellent work. With Distance Learning, some of them have already branched out, using technology to present their finished products in new and creative ways. They are inspiring!

We are going to miss some of our favorite expeditions this year. We will attempt to reschedule Chaw'se and China Camp for next year, but that doesn't help our 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Our main concern is how we can recreate Sugarloaf for them. We will update you as soon as we have a good plan. We want to thank our ExLPA Board and our many other parent and alumni volunteers for continuing to work hard and making our program succeed.

Email is still the best way to get in contact with us: [first\\_last@crpusd.org](mailto:first_last@crpusd.org).

### LIVE SCHOOL MERIT CHECK

Teachers will still be awarding merits during Distance Learning. We encourage you to check your child's LiveSchool account and recognize their great efforts. If you do not know how to check your child's account please email me at [Shawna\\_whitestine@crpusd.org](mailto:Shawna_whitestine@crpusd.org).