

LAWRENCE E. JONES MIDDLE SCHOOL

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May Newsletter: LJ Matters

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear LJMS Families,

This month, LJMS needs students to complete an online survey to help improve our school culture and climate. The survey is now available online at surveys.wested.org/chks/FP324NG. The purpose of this survey is to obtain information from the students about their knowledge, attitudes and behavior about things that affect learning. It deals with such issues as truancy, safety, harassment, substance use, school connectedness, and learning supports. Student participation is voluntary and anonymous. The results of the survey are for the use of the district. For more information about the survey, see the letter that was emailed home on April 27, 2020.

In other news, LJMS will be hosting a virtual talent show on May 23. If your child is interested in performing for the virtual talent show, please review and complete the LJMS Virtual Talent Show Submission Form at <https://bit.ly/2x6GIni>. Submissions are due by May 16, 2020.

Don't forget to purchase your yearbooks! They are selling fast! You can purchase them by going to the school website and clicking on the link or going to our yearbook coordinator's website: <https://techruiz.webs.com/>.

Lastly, we know that you are all anxious to know what to expect in the final few weeks of school. LJMS will be honoring 8th graders with a digital celebration video. Parents and guardians will need to provide permission for their child to appear in the video. Please use this link:

<https://tinyurl.com/LJMS-Digital-Promotion-2020>

The same link will be sent home to you in an email. A link for the promotion video will be sent out during the last week of school. We are also in the process of outlining a procedure and schedule for materials & technology drop-off and collection during the final week of school. As soon as the plan is solidified, parents will be sent a copy of the drop-off & collection schedule and procedures.

I'm looking forward to seeing all of the LJMS Jaguar talents! Have a great month and take good care of one another.

Sincerely,
Melissa Quinn

CONGRATS TO OUR TWO AMAZING RETIREES!

We would like to give a huge congratulations to our two retirees and wish them well as they close out their distinguished careers in education! It is with both sadness and honor that we say goodbye to them!

Mr. Ruiz is retiring after 31 years, He has taught history, yearbook, and computers at Mountain Shadows Middle School, Tech High School and finished his career at Lawrence Jones Middle School.

Ms. Henrich is retiring after 24 exciting years of teaching Science and Math. "I would like to wish all my current and former students the best of luck in everything! Also, best wishes to all the teachers and staff for next year. Thank you for all you do and for your support."

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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! Many students who already see a counselor regularly have emails from them in their school accounts. Please encourage your child to check this regularly.

Teresa_teich@crpusd.org
Jaime_myers@crpusd.org
Deborah_white@crpusd.org

Our district has collectively created a link for students to contact someone if they are seeking support. Please share the below link with your child and encourage them to reach out if they feel they need to speak with someone. All needs/questions welcome!

Warm Line Link:

<https://forms.gle/oDS3tFkdAR3fqdLM7>

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

Join us for our final Family Series on Thursday, May 14th at 6:30 via Zoom. Here is the link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81707562612>

We look forward to gathering and sharing some great summer tips and resources for our kids. This is sure to be a summer of firsts. Let's make it memorable! We'll have a prize drawing for a Pier 39 Fun Pack (to be used by 12/31/20) and includes 2 each Aquarium, Carousel ride, 7D experience, and Blue & Gold Fleet Bay Cruise Adventure tickets. We look forward to seeing you!

LJ'S 8TH ANNUAL WRITING CONTEST By Ms. Hawkins

*"What words, what phrases,
are at hand for our use!
Such a spectrum of feelings
can be freely let loose!"
--Paul Holmes*

The 2020 Poetry Writing Contest is now open! Our LJMS English Department in conjunction with the LJ Library will be holding a poetry contest during the first two weeks of May. All students are encouraged to submit up to three original poems of any type to the **LJMS Poetry Contest 2020** site on Google Classroom. Students will need to join the class by adding a class to Google Classroom and entering this code: **fhzttef**

Poems will be due by May 18th. A group of LJ staff members will evaluate the poems, and the winners will be announced by May 22nd. Students should receive further information from their English teachers. A flyer is also available on Facebook. Please email Kay_Hawkins@crpusd.org with any questions.

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LEADERSHIP UPDATE

By Ms. Lorenz

Hey there LJ! We had many applicants for leadership this year. We are finalizing up who will be in leadership in the next month or so. Parents please make sure to check your email regularly to see if your child is in leadership next year as more information regarding a leadership camp is shared!

We will have two spirit weeks in May! The first one is May 4th - 8th and consists of the following:

Monday-Send a note to a teacher (through email)

-Sports Day: dress up as your favorite sports player, team, or wear your own sports gear!

Tuesday- Neon day

Wednesday-Send a virtual flower to a teacher as a thank you (through email)

-Crazy socks day

Thursday-Pajama day

Friday- Color team day

For the spirit weeks keep an eye on social media for the hashtags to tag your children in as they wear their spirit wear!

We are so excited for the incoming class of leadership students and what next year will bring!

HAPPY MAY FROM THE SCIENCE DEPT.

By Mr. Brown

It's that wonderful time of year again where the days are getting longer, and the end of the school

year is so close. As we transition from one season to another (and into our space unit), 8th grade students should be thinking about what causes day lengths to change between seasons, and how the length of days affects seasons. 7th grade students should be putting together everything we've learned all year about cells, molecules, DNA, and genetics to help them understand the concept of natural selection (the mechanism by which organisms change over long periods of time).

From all of your science teachers, we are so proud of each and every student. While this has certainly been a challenging time in all of our lives, watching students overcome the immense barrier that is isolation to continue their education has been an inspiration. We hope everyone has a fantastic summer and can't wait to see you all next year, either as middle school students or high school students coming by to visit.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION:

Here Comes the Sun!!!

By Ms. Siple

Jaguar Physical Education is on fire!!! ☺ Mr. Landgraf, Ms. Beiswanger, Ms. Gragg and Ms. Siple continue to be in awe of the dedication and hard work our students are putting in! They are creative, inspiring, and tenacious in our new-normal distance learning. Please continue to check in with them to see what they are up to! We know you'll be impressed! Even better...challenge them to some friendly competitions. We've seen push-up challenges, wall sit challenges, HIIT workouts, and timed run challenges with parents. How cool is that??? We love seeing you getting involved with their fitness journey! The weather is going to be gorgeous these next few days...Get

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outside and enjoy! (Safely, of course! ☺) We miss you all and, as always, wish you health and happiness. ☺

GREEN SNEAKER CHALLENGE

The Sonoma County Bike Coalition is offering a challenge for you and your child. Challenge your child or entire family to walk, bicycle, scooter, or skateboard in your home neighborhood for 30 days! Please maintain social distance with others; option to exercise indoors if necessary. Build knowledge about bicycle and/or pedestrian safety, health, the environment, and our community.

How to participate:

- Visit the Green Sneaker Challenge web page at www.sonomasaferroutes.org to download Tracking Logs and/or Activity Bingo sheets (in English and Spanish) Also attached to email.
- Track your daily walking and rolling on the Green Sneaker Challenge Walk/Roll Tracking Logs AND/OR
- Check off activities you accomplish on the Green Sneaker Challenge Activity "Bingo" Sheet
- Optional: "Like" the Sonoma County Safe Routes to School Facebook page for challenge updates and/or future events.
- Send Logs and/or Activity Sheets to the Safe Routes to School Program by emailing saferroutes@bikesonoma.org or mailing to attn: Green Sneaker Family Challenge, Sonoma County Bicycle Coalition, PO Box 3088, Santa Rosa, CA 95402-3088

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN MATH?

By Jim Gregoretti

Well, we are almost at the finish line for the 2019 - 2020 academic school year. I don't think that anyone would have expected the year to end the way it did. The threat of COVID19 has taken away so many things that we normally would be looking forward to in May; end of the year activities like the Color Run and field trips, signing yearbooks and a time to say goodbye for both teachers and students alike. But, as they say, "This too shall pass..." If I have one positive take away from this entire experience, it is becoming familiar with all of the different modalities distance learning has provided us. It has also given parents a peek at what life is like in the life of a teacher. While there is no substitution for the teaching and relationships that are built inside the classroom, we have learned that we can still teach and learn remotely. In our math department, we have been able to learn more about what GoMath and Khan Academy has to offer our students. We can create videos using ScreenCastify to explain assignments and we can still see each other remotely using tools like Google Meet and Zoom. These are all tools that we can use and incorporate in the future. My sincerest hope is that we will be all able to return to "normal" as soon as possible, that includes returning back to school in August. In the meantime, remember that math is everywhere around us. Going to the store, you can ask your students, "What is the better deal?" Or how much will you save off the retail price when it is marked 25% off? Have them use the calculator on their phone and take a break from social media and Tik Tok. If your student struggles with their multiplication tables, quiz them in the car on rides around town. Anytime is an opportunity to teach and

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learn. I leave you with an inspirational quote from Pete Carroll, Head Coach of the Seattle Seahawks, " Each person holds so much power within themselves that needs to be let out. Sometimes they just need a little nudge, a little direction, a little support, a little coaching and the greatest things can happen." Thank you for all you did in the face of remote learning, for being that "little nudge" that helped your student achieve great things. From the LJMS Math Department, we hope you all have a wonderful summer vacation, stay safe, and look forward to seeing you next fall...

NEWS FROM THE ENRICHMENT DEPARTMENT By Ms. Zschach

Staying at home and staving off boredom can be difficult, especially when we work all day on our computers and the last thing we want to do in the evening is keep staring at a screen. We have heard from students who have discussed how much time they are now spending with their family, taking the dog for walks or playing board games. Hopefully, you and your children also have an opportunity to explore different creative outlets. The Enrichment department has designed lessons that can be shared with the entire family. Maybe some of you have eaten delicious baked treats, admired new artwork, watched a puppet show, or were entertained by a spontaneous concert. Remind your students how much we would love to see their other creative endeavors—please encourage them to share with us their art, their poetry, their digital creations, photos of their homemade cookies, whatever they enjoy—even if that isn't the focus of their Enrichment class. We just love hearing from our students and seeing how they are making the best of this situation.

APRIL LIBRARY NEWS

Happy May LJ readers!

The LJ Library has created three Google Classrooms to support our students through the remainder of the academic year.

Donaldson Library Tech Support will have a live Google meet every Friday 8:30am-10:30am. This is designed to help students navigate the online resources available through the Sonoma County Library website, as our library system through the school is unavailable at this time. On May 8th ,we will have Rachel Icaza, the Education Initiatives Librarian from Sonoma County Library, joining us on the Google Meet.

The class code for the Donaldson Library Tech Support is : **uxs5lnn**

LJ Title Talks will meet live every Friday from 11-11:45 am. Every week a Librarian will read an excerpt from a book that is new to the Donaldson Library collection and ask students about their reaction to the reading.

The class code for the LJ Title Talks is: **binx2p2**

Tea Time with the LJ Librarians meets live from 2-3pm every Friday. This is a relaxed social opportunity at the end of the week to check in with your Librarians and let us know what you are reading and how you are doing. Mrs. Rasmuson will drink hot tea and read a selection from her extensive picture book collection. Mrs. Frazer will most likely be drinking iced tea.

The class code for Tea Time with the LJ Librarians is: **ftow7qj**

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The hours are listed above for the live Google meets, but we will be available for classroom support through the Google Classroom stream during all of the school hours.

Your Librarians are looking forward to seeing you every Friday in one of our Google Meets!

Stay tuned for information about how and when to return your books to the Donaldson Library!

The LJ Library Crew

PARENT AND STUDENT EDUCATION: Teen Marijuana Use and What You Need to Know

At the beginning of this school year, the Sonoma County Dept. of Health Services began a series of adult/youth educational events on marijuana and vaping. Seven presentations were originally scheduled through the collaboration and with the support of schools/school districts around the county. However, only four were completed.

Since March, we have been working with our presenters, Drs. Sarah Cunningham and Richard Von Feldt from Panaptic (www.panaptic.com), to shift these presentations to an online, zoom format and we are excited to announce the availability of five additional presentations, beginning May 6 and running throughout the month of May.

These 1 ½ hour presentations are designed to be viewed by both youth and the adults in their lives. Valuable information regarding marijuana will be presented, including beliefs regarding marijuana and vaping; the impact of marijuana on the developing teen brain; marijuana potency

in concentrates (vaping), dabs and edibles; the impact of marijuana use on academic and athletic performance and emotional health, and much more. Plus there will be time for your questions!

Please take a moment to find a presentation that works for you and register using the link below.
<http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=awod9fdab&oeidk=a07eh26991y4c80e0b5>

DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP LINK

"Screen Time in the Age of Coronavirus"

https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.common sense media.org%2fblog%2fscreen-time-in-the-age-of-coronavirus%3futm_source%3d%255Btwitter%255D%26utm_medium%3dsocial%26utm_campaign%3d%26utm_term%3d%26utm_content%3d&c=E,1,3Pgo3SyBEqRpLI6x0m8iFjRZ4c28OIII7_zOwPaguC6Gu2whyWAJj3kNkAmQD_eLC7T12WWW_LCKS6ClW0koVA7pFHPOKghL2qM22EqOvw.,&typo=1

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.