

JOSEPH SIMS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Shelly Hughes, Principal
Chris Nugent, Vice Principal

August 2009

Principal's News

Welcome Back Sims Parents and Students!

We are off to a terrific start to the new school year thanks much to the support and commitment that you all have to your child's education.

I'd like to officially welcome some new members of the Joseph Sims faculty. Jessica Payne (4th C), Katie Feickert (5th C), Christina Harrison (3rd C), Charmaine Bray (3D & 6A) and Andrea Klinenberg (5th B) have come onboard in this new school year. We are lucky to have them as part of our family. So, when you see one of these new faces on campus, be sure to stop and give them a welcome to our school community.

If you have a 4th, 5th, or 6th grader you may have heard about the new Student Leadership Program we are starting up at Sims. I visited each intermediate classroom last week to promote the four different leadership teams we will be offering students as a means to become more involved at school while giving them an opportunity to enrich our school community. In brief, the four different teams will be called: Conflict Managers, School Spirit, Student Unity, and Community Service. Be sure to talk to your 4th-6th child to find out more or feel free to give me a call.

Speaking of phone calls...Mr. Nugent and I started a new Positive Phone Call program this year. Each week, different teachers have the opportunity to nominate a few students to receive a positive call home to sing their praises. So just remember, if we give you a call and introduce ourselves, don't panic...it just might be a good thing to be hearing from our office!!

I would like to congratulate Natalie MacNeill, Nicholas Forde, Shari Fedler, Livleen Parmar, Dennis Baylis, and alternate, Jennifer McClain, as a returning or newly elected School Site Council member. These folks will work with me this year to discuss our yearly budget among other important school "business". I'd like to personally thank and acknowledge their willingness to give of their time to share their insight, expertise, and knowledge to support our school.

Lastly, our first PTO meeting is fast approaching and so is our annual Ice Cream Social. I challenge you all to attend at least ONE PTO meeting this year. Our first meeting is scheduled for August 11th, at 7 pm in the school office. And, our Ice Cream Social is set for Friday, September 11th. Mr. Nugent will be auctioning off some "pulled pork and chicken." I will be auctioning off a Pizza Luncheon with the Principal for a student and 5 friends with me in my office, followed by some games and ice cream. As many of you already know, the Ice Cream Social is our school's largest fundraiser. So come on out and bring your friends and family.

I'd love to see you at our first Parent Coffee Chat of the new year, Wednesday, August 12th, following our Star Assemblies at 9:15 am. This is a great platform to learn more about me and share your insights, concerns, or suggestions in an informal setting.

Fondly,
Ms. Hughes

The V.P.'s Nuts and Bolts

We are off to an awesome new year and the staff and students are getting to know each other and settle into their daily routines. Each year brings a whole new set of new experiences and challenges to each student, teacher, parent, and administrator. I truly believe that by working together we can continue to provide an outstanding academic and character program.

Many of you may or may not have heard about our new "STAR CARD" program. This program is designed to allow our non-teaching or support staff the opportunity to recognize students demonstrating our character education trait of the month. This month's theme is "Tolerance". When a student is caught or observed demonstrating this character trait they receive a blue "STAR CARD".

During our monthly STAR STUDENT recognition assemblies, students will have the opportunity to deposit their STAR CARDS into a basket as they enter the assemblies. Throughout the "STAR STUDENT" assemblies we will draw "STAR CARDS" from the basket and recognize as many students as possible. These students will also be given the opportunity to select an age appropriate prize after being recognized in front of their peers.

A second program that has been around for a long time is the "Golden Lunch Box" award. This program helps us reinforce appropriate behaviors in the cafeteria and recognize classes on a weekly basis that have demonstrated outstanding behaviors. Students are able to monitor their classroom progress on a daily basis by looking at the "The Golden Lunch Box" progress charts on the cafeteria walls. Classrooms are monitored as they enter the cafeteria, "arrival column"; how they treat each other and the staff, "respect column"; and how they dismiss from the cafeteria, "dismissal column". At the end of the week if there are any ties, the supervising staff will make the final decision. The classes selected for "The Golden Lunch Box" awards are recognized at our Friday assembly and receive a small prize.

Finally, I want to thank all the parents and guardians that drop-off and pick-up their children in our main parking lot. Your patience and willingness to work with us (staff and students) allows for a safe and quick transition between your vehicle and the school. Over the last two weeks, we have had many students ask if they could participate in this parking lot program. This program will be available for any sixth grade student that is interested. Parents, important information will be coming home this week for your review. If you would like your child to participate, please read, sign, and have your student return the signature page to the "Parking Lot" basket in the front office by next Tuesday, August 11, 2009.

Thank you for helping make Joseph Sims Elementary an outstanding place for students to learn and grow.

Chris Nugent
Vice Principal



Rainy Day Games Donation !!

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One of the most difficult times that we have a Joseph Sims is during rainy day recess and lunch. It does not rain much around here but when it does, it pours. In anticipation for rainy days, if you have a complete set of cards, chess, checkers, UNO, fish and/or other common card or board games please consider donating these to our school. These games will be organized and maintained so that students will have activities to participate in during adverse weather.

Please send any games that you would like to donate with your child to school. Please mark them as "Rainy Day Game" and they leave them in the office on their way to class. I will have a team of student organize and prep them for rainy day use.

Thank you,
Chris Nugent

Kindergarten Registration for the 2010-2011 School Year

The Elk Grove Unified School District begins kindergarten registration for the 2010/2011 school year on December 3, 2009. Parents with children turning 5-years-old by December 2, 2010 can register for kindergarten starting at 7:30 a.m. on December 3, 2009, at all elementary schools.

Parents with students already attending Elk Grove Unified elementary schools receive sibling priority registration for track schedules at the elementary school, so long as the packet is returned by the first Monday in February. Of the district's 39 elementary schools, eight are on a traditional schedule. Thirty one are on a year-round four-track schedule.

Kindergarten families registering their first child will have equal access based on date and time of registration. Most families, who turn in their registration materials by the first Monday in February, are likely to get into their home school.

Registration packets can be picked up on December 3, 2009 at all elementary sites. Numbers for parents first in line will NOT be handed out at any of the district's schools.

Upcoming Events

- 8/11
 - PTO Meeting @ 7:00 PM
- 8/12
 - 1-2 Star Assembly 8:15
 - 3-4 Star Assembly 8:40
 - Coffee Chat 9:15 in Staff Lounge
 - K AM Star Assembly @ 11:15 in K2
 - K PM Star Assembly @ 2:05 in K2
- 8/14
 - Track Change Day Minimum Day "Wear Your Shades"
- 8/17
 - First Day of School for A Track
 - Back to School A Track Principal' Welcome 6:00 – 6:30
 - A track 1st Grade Back to School 6:30 – 7:30
- 8/18
 - A track 2nd Grade Back to School 5:30 – 6:30
 - A track 3rd Grade Back to School 6:30 – 7:30
- 8/19
 - A track 4th Grade Back to School 5:30 – 6:30
 - A track 5th Grade Back to School 6:30 – 7:30
- 8/20
 - D Track Mission Springs Parent Meeting MP @ 6:00
 - A track 6th Grade Back to School 6:30 – 7:30
- 8/21
 - MOVIE NIGHT "Hannah Montana: The Movie" (Rated G) @ 6:00 – 8:00 in the MP
- 8/26
 - Track A & C Fundraiser Kick-off
- 8/27
 - Fall Pictures for A & C
 - PTO Kick-Off meeting in MP @ 7:00 (Prizes)

Reminders

Emergency Contact Information

- If you have moved, changed telephone or cell phone numbers or use a new email address, please make sure that your school has the correct emergency contact information. Emergency contact information allows schools to contact you in an emergency or when your child is not at school. It is important that the school has the most current information. If you need to change this information or add an email address of phone number, please contact your school.

Character Counts

- **BE TOLERANT** July 20 – August 14 - How good is your child at forgiveness? Are they willing to accept the differences of others? Teach them that cooperation has many benefits like being included themselves.
- **BE A GOAL SETTER** August 17 – September 11 - We will be talking about how to set a goal, what are the necessary steps of setting a goal and then following thru for a successful outcome. Things to talk about at home might be thinking about something your child might want to achieve and then helping him or her come up with the plan to achieve it.