



William Saroyan Elementary
5650 W. Escalon · Fresno, CA 93722
Phone: (559) 276-3131 · Fax: (559) 276-3135



Patricia McCurley, Principal
Erin Gunstream, GIA

December 29, 2017

Good afternoon! As the New Year approaches and we start a new semester, we want to remind everyone of our continuing Healthy Schools Program Success and policies for Saroyan Elementary.

As we have previously discussed in staff meetings, our health and wellness council meetings (9/8/17, 10/6/17, 1/2/18, 2/2/18, 3/2/18, 4/13/18, 5/4/18), weekly emails to our Saroyan families and staff, and schoolwide back to school night (August 17, 2017), our goal is to keep all students active and making healthy food choices before, during, and after school. We offer opportunities for students to take movement breaks during the day inside of their classrooms by utilizing programs like GoNoodle. We provide two daily recess breaks and at least 30 minutes of daily Physical Education for all grades. We will also be creating an interactive playground with the new blacktop stencils purchased by a grant from a \$4,500 grant Kaiser Permanente.

Also, to support our policy of not taking recess away as a punishment, our students who have "lost their recess" are now provided with an alternative recess where they will be monitored by a staff member during their grade level recess time and be provided time to be actively engaged in physical activity. The number of days away from their regular recess will be determined on a case by case basis, but will normally range from 1-3 days. We also continue to prohibit using physical activity as punishment and we also prohibit using food items as a reward or punishment at all times. These prohibitions are consistently followed.

In support of our Healthy Schools initiative, all behavior incentives, behavior reward days and class parties are not food focused- all reward days are activity and/or project based. Our class birthday party policy is still in place. Remember, no food items are allowed at any time. We encourage goodie bags with pencils, stickers, or erasers, or a book to be donated to the classroom or school library in honor of that student's birthday. For classroom celebrations (ex. Halloween, harvest and winter parties, etc.), all items must be smart snacks approved and healthy snack creativity is encouraged. Although we have no more than two exemptions per school year for this policy, we choose to strictly follow our policy and only provide National Smart Snacks approved items. We are also excited to have multiple water stations installed on campus during spring break thanks to the hard work of the Saroyan robotics team. As part of their hydrodynamics project, they wrote

District Administration

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Jack Kelejian, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources · Paul Birrell, Director, 7-12 and Adult Education
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and received a \$54,000 grant from Kaiser Permanente to provide this additional avenue of fresh, clean, safe water at all elementary school campuses in Central Unified!

Finally, all food sold and served during the school day and extended school day is Smart Snacks Approved. We also serve and offer fresh fruit options in our snack bar and before and after school that are smart snacks approved. California has zero exempt days for fundraising. Any and all fundraisers happen outside of regular and extended school day hours. No fundraising items are to be sold on campus at any time.

Our district wellness policy is able to be accessed on our district website (www.centralunified.org), as well as our school website (sa.centralunified.org). We also have posted tips for families to utilize from home on our website to provide ideas for healthy snacks, fun activities to do as a family, or healthy meal options.

Thank you to all of our staff, Saroyan families, and community members for supporting our Healthy Schools Program policies. Our kids are more active and healthier because of these policies, and we will keep striving for more in order to provide the best for all of our kids. We always welcome input and feedback, so please do not hesitate to contact us anytime.

Happy New Year and we will see you in 2018!

Mrs. McCurley and Mrs. Gunstream

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