



Family Partnership Charter School

Bringing the Best Together For Student Success

December 2017/January 2018

Newsletter



At this time of the year many of us spend much time in shared celebration, embraced in the fellowship of family and friends. We often take time to contemplate the milestones, joys, challenges and events of the outgoing year while setting new goals and planning activities; looking forward with anticipation to the coming year. This time of year we esteem and celebrate the principles of kindness, generosity, hope, joy, love and faith.

Sometimes, after the New Year, as we get caught up in the day-to-day activities and the fast approaching culmination of the school year, we can lose sight of the principles we value so highly and know we should keep close in our minds and hearts.

Practicing "Mindfulness" – the act of focusing one's attention or being aware of our present thoughts, feelings and environment – is a process requiring one to be aware of how our behavior and thoughts influence our interactions with others as well as how we can consciously pay attention to our thoughts and feelings without judgement but "as a fly on the wall". Our thoughts tune into what we're sensing in the present moment rather than reliving the past or imagining the future. We can incorporate our values and principles into the practice of mindfulness and ask ourselves in the moment, "Do I understand this student's challenges and what influence can my words or actions have on his/her academic success?" Or, "If I decide not to complete my assignment, what will be the consequence – to myself and to others?"

In the coming months, we all will be learning more about how to apply strategic and systemic thinking skills to the practice of Mindfulness and Social and Emotional Learning (SEL). We hope to enhance our capacity to integrate our esteemed principles and "effectively apply the knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary to understand and manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships and make responsible decisions." Our goal is to nurture a learning community that is safe, supportive, positive and equitable established with our esteemed principles in mind.

Kathy Grbac, Interim Executive Director



SLO Student Artwork created under the guidance of art instructor - Tina Crozier

Upcoming Events/Calendar

Dec 12

Governance Council Meeting

Dec 21- Jan 5

Winter Break

Jan 15

Martin Luther King Holiday

Jan 19

1st Semester Ends

Jan 23

Governance Council Meeting

Feb 9

School Science Fair

FPCS teachers and support staff have completed three professional development sessions of Universal Design for Learning (UDL) – the core of our school's personalized learning designed to provide all students with equal opportunities to learn.



Student Debate – Halloween Costumes at School

Kari Montano's 2-3rd grade students

Pro –

There are many reasons why I think we should wear costumes at school.

A good reason is after school kids don't have to change. It is less work so we can go trick or treating faster.

Another reason to celebrate Halloween is because if we don't it will feel like a normal day. Some families don't celebrate Halloween because of their religion.

The last reason is that kids can wear costumes for fun. All the pretty costumes will look beautiful. Some costumes may look scary. Certainly, students should be allowed to wear costumes to school.

Con-

No, you shouldn't wear your costume to school. It could become inappropriate or ruined.

First, it could scare people and creep them out. It could give people nightmares forever and make it very realistic whenever they blink. It can be so scary that someone could faint on the playground.

Second, you can hurt someone if you were a mummy. You could fall on someone. You can also go on the play structure and hit yourself on the metal. Also, you can go on the conical bars and slip off and hit your head.

Last, it could be ruined and rip apart. Then you won't be able to wear it. It can also get stained and ruined. It can drag on the dirt and get dirty. Also, people can step on it when you take it off.

Obviously, these are my reasons why children shouldn't wear their costumes to school.

News From Our Learning Centers

Solvang –

High school seniors are working on their senior projects and presentations. Topics are as diverse as how the California State Government functions; the history and technology in making Stetson Hats; and a detailed presentation of Chumash life both past and present.



Morro Bay –

Science and Engineering day were held over 4 days and the young scientists worked in multi-age groups to explore magnets and windmills. Together they made and tested predictions, collected data and drew conclusions based on their results. It was a fun, informative, hands-on science day!



Scoop on Spring Summative Progress

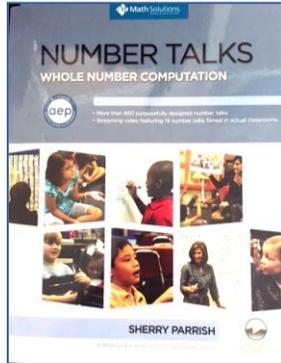
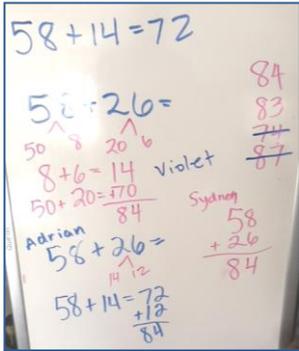
Family Partnership Charter School is committed to student excellence through partnering with families. As a publically funded school of choice, students attend any of our six learning centers free of charge.

FPCS understands the importance of statewide assessments each spring and looks to families for support by ensuring every student participates. The results of the testing are reported to the California Department of Education to establish participation and progress schoolwide and statewide.

Our school depends on your help to meet the goal of 100% participation this spring. If you have questions, we have answers. Call 805-348-3333 to start the conversation.

Santa Maria Montessori-

After attending a FactsWise Training, Mrs. Montano's class implemented strategies for sharing math ideas and engaging student in daily math talks. Here's a picture showing student thinking as they solve addition problems mentally.



BUSD –

Students at our BUSD center are compiling a yearbook featuring the fun learning activities and events in which their 6th-8th grade students take part.

Capture Your Memories in this Year's Family Partnership Charter School BUSD Yearbook!



Add Photos & Memories to Your 2 Free Custom Pages

- » Add photos from your computer, Facebook & Flickr.
- » Add memories & photos from throughout the year. Share them with your classmates to include in their personal pages.
- » Send and receive Bling and signatures. A great way to share expressions of friendship!

To Purchase & Customize Your Yearbook*:
*Must be a parent or student 13 years or older.

- 1 Go to www.TreeRing.com/validate
- 2 Enter our school's passcode:
1015048284062029

Yearbook Price: **\$16.88**

Deadline: **Apr 11**

TreeRing

Patent Pending © 2017 TreeRing Corporation

Orcutt High School –

Students are making college choices!

One student has been accepted to Boise State, Arizona State, and Portland State – decisions, decisions!

Senior projects will be presented on December 13 – everyone is invited to attend.

We have science labs! Students are working with microscopes under the guidance of FPCS science instructor, Tawny Amideneau.

It's pleasing to see students working diligently and accomplishing their weekly goals!

San Luis Obispo-

Recently held their annual "Character Day". Students and staff dressed in costume and presented reports on the character of their choice. Many diverse personalities were represented including – Iranian born lawyer and civil rights advocate – Shirin Ebadi, car designer – Ferruccio Lamborghini, barrel racer – Charmayne James and Walt Disney!





California Assessment of
Student Performance and Progress

Parent Guides to the Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments

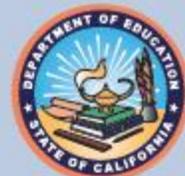
The California Department of Education (CDE) has updated three Parent Guides to the Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments.

The guides provide sample test items in English language arts/literacy and mathematics and explain how student achievement is reported to parents. In addition, they are grade-span specific, focusing on the concepts and skills to be mastered by students in:

- Grades 3–5,
- Grades 6–8, and
- Grade 11



All three Parent Guides are posted on the CDE CAASPP Parent Guides: Smarter Balanced Assessments Web page at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tq/ca/sbacparentguides.asp>.



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