



# The Lion's Roar

(Lietz School Newsletter)  
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Larry Thomas, Principal  
Diane Nunes, Secretary

March 26, 2015

Dr. Jacqueline Horejs, Superintendent  
Jenny Torres, Health Clerk

## **Calendar**

- 3/19-27: Parent/Teacher Conferences. School dismissed everyday at 1:15pm
- 3/23-27: Spring Book Fair in the library
- 4/2: Family Math Night at 6pm
- 4/3: Staff Development Day – No School
- 4/6-10: Spring Break – No School

## **Important Information About State Testing**

The California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP), which has replaced the Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR Program), is the new state academic testing program. You may also hear CAASPP referred to as the Smarter Balanced Assessment. CAASPP is a system intended to provide information that can be used to monitor student progress and guide instruction. This year, CAASPP includes computer adaptive tests in English–language arts and mathematics for our students in grades 3-8 as well as paper-based test in science for students in grades 5 and 8.

Last year our district, along with the rest of California's school districts, field tested the new math and English-language arts assessment. The field test allowed students to experience computer-based testing and new types of questions. In addition, the field test also helped evaluate how well districts' technology systems could meet the demands of computer-based tests, and determine what resources teachers and schools would need to better prepare students for future assessments. Results were not reported but were used to make changes to this year's test.

Students in Union School District will be taking the CAASPP during the testing window of April 13-May 15. (Lietz will publish its detailed schedule once it is settled.) Unlike the field test, this year's test will be adaptive for each student. The district will also receive score reports that will be sent home once they are delivered to us. Score reports will include an overall score, a description of the student's achievement level for English–language arts and mathematics, and a Science score for 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders.

It is very important to remember that these scores cannot be compared to scores that your child previously received on the STAR Program tests because this test is based on the new Common Core State Standards, involves different types of test questions, and will not be reported using the STAR Program reporting categories. This test will be the basis for a new baseline that the state will use to determine our district's progress. A new statewide accountability system for California's schools will not be in place until the 2016-2017 school year at the earliest.

If you would like additional information about the CAASPP, please visit the Parent/Student tab of the CDE CAASPP Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/>.

To learn more about the types of questions on the computer-based test, you and your child can view the practice test online at California Department of Education Smarter Balanced Test Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sa/practicetest.asp>.

Sincerely,

Larry Thomas  
Lietz Elementary School