

Stone Lake Elementary A California Distinguished School Hawker's Herald



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Dear Stone Lake Families,

The 2017-2018 school year has started for the vast majority of our students, and it has been an Awesome start to the year. Students have been working hard to get back into the swing of things and learning the expectations of their new teachers.

For all of our new Stone Lake families, welcome! The Hawker's Herald is my monthly newsletter highlighting any number of topics. So it is always a good source to help you stay connected to our school.

With the opening of Zehnder Ranch, our school population is a little smaller this year, and the traffic around the school has been a little lighter. With that being said, we have added a new crossing guard for the Four Winds and Lakepoint intersection. We hope this added safety measure helps encourage our parents and students to make sure to use the crosswalks.

I encourage parents to stay connected to our school. These newsletters, our school website, subscribing to my blog, making sure that you opt-in to receive messages from our school, and NEW this year, following us on Facebook are all ways to stay connected. I also encourage **ALL** parents that are interested to attend our first PTO meeting on **August 8th**.

Lastly, Synergy will be a continued learning process for teachers and parents. Anytime a change this significant takes place, it requires a lot of relearning. The change will be good for everybody, but please be patient with our teachers as they learn the new system.

Happy 17-19!

Mr. Beard, Principal

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Important Dates



- 8/8 6:00-7:00 – PTO Meeting – Library
8/9 MINIMUM DAY/TRACK CHANGE SPIRIT THEME:
HAWAIIAN DAY
ALL KINDER EARLY 8:00-11:31
GRADES 1-6 8:10-12:25
8/10 Welcome Back, A Track!
Back To School Night
5:30-6:00 – Kindergarten Classroom Presentation
6:00-6:30 -4TH – 6TH grade Classroom Presentations
6:30-6:45- Teacher Introductions
6:45-7:15 -1ST – 3RD grade Classroom Presentations
8/16 6:00-7:30- 6th grade Alliance Trip Parent Meeting –
Room E-7
8/21-9/1 APEX FUN RUN – TRACKS C & D
8/22 A TRACK FALL PICTURE DAY
8/28 C & D TRACK PICTURE RETAKE DAY

Schoolwide Theme

SETTING GOALS



REACH FOR THE STARS!!!!

17-18 Stone Lake Administrative Effectiveness Survey

I ask parents at the end of each school year to fill out an online survey to rate the effectiveness of administration at Stone Lake. I truly appreciate the feedback of parents, both the good and the areas that some parents feel we need to improve in. This year we had close to 150 parents complete my survey, and a few parents asked for me to share results from that survey. Therefore, I will use the Hawker's Herald to share some of this feedback. I will do this by highlighting the weighted average of scores for some of our lowest score areas and some for our higher score areas. As a reminder, the survey was a five point scale from a 0=strongly disagree to a 5=strongly agree. So I always hope that weighted average scores for each question are as close to 5 as possible.

LOWER AREAS OF WEIGHTED AVERAGE SCORES

Administration collects and shares data from parents about the needs of Stone Lake: 4.26

- This will be an area of focus for me this year. The main avenue that I share data will be via email messages, The Hawker's Herald, but more importantly, monthly Coffee Klatches

Administration has shared with parents the mission of the school and areas of educational focus: 4.31

- Again, I will look to work harder to share this information with parents. In this edition of the HH, I have included our school-wide focus areas this year. The mission of the school is located on our school website, my blog, and our Facebook page.

Administration provides opportunities for parents to share their input on issues that affect SL: 4.42

- Parents are invited each month to our Coffee Klatches. These meetings alternate from mornings to evenings and are great forums where parents often share input on issues. In addition, our PTO meetings provide a forum to share input on issues that affect SL.

HIGHER AREAS OF WEIGHTED AVERAGE SCORES

Administration is a visible presence on the Stone Lake campus: 4.65

- Visible admin makes for a connected admin. We try hard in this area.

Administration takes an active role in celebrating the achievements of the students at SL: 4.61

- One of the best parts of the job for me

I want to again thank all of the parents that took the time to provide feedback. I truly reflected upon the feedback and will use it to try and improve. The feedback is also shared with district administration as part of their reflection on the work that is being done at Stone Lake. If you are interested in hearing more specifics about this survey, please come to our Coffee Klatches.

Stone Lake 2017-2018 Awards Schedule



One piece of feedback that I have received from parents in my parent survey is for us to make available the dates for our Stone Lake Awards Assemblies. So below are the dates for all of our assemblies for this school year.

Trimester Awards Assemblies
D Track - September 28
A & C Track - October 23
B Track - November 16
D Track - February 1
A Track - February 28
B & C Track - March 1
D Track - May 21
B Track - June 20
A & C Track - June 21

Coffee Klatch



Starting on August 14th, 2017, and every first Monday of the month (except Dec) for the rest of the school year, Stone Lake Administration will be holding meetings with parents to discuss what is happening at Stone Lake and provide all parents the opportunity to connect with the administrative team. This is a great forum for parents to ask questions and network with other parents. Below is the schedule for this year's Coffee Klatches. Please mark your calendars for the dates and times that work for you.

Aug 14th: 8:30 A.M.

Sept 11th: 5:30 P.M.

Oct 2nd: 8:30 A.M.

Nov 6th: 8:30 A.M.

Jan 8th: 5:30 P.M.

Feb 5th: 8:30 A.M.

Mar 5th: 8:30 A.M.

Apr 2nd: 5:30 P.M.

May 7th: 8:30 A.M.

Jun 4th: 5:30 P.M.

Stone Lake Educational Goals for 2017-2018



At the start of each school year I present to the staff the, “Stone Lake Educational Focus”. These are the areas that we are going to focus on as a staff for the current year. I will highlight for you what I specifically shared with the staff:

1. **Writing**-Stone Lake will continue to make every effort possible to produce the best writers at each grade level. Writing skills depend on reading skills-they go hand-in-hand.
2. A focus on K-3 early literacy skills and intervening early with students that struggle, with the goal of having **EVERY** student reading at grade level.
3. Lesson Study in Math-This is going to be a collaborative process in math where grade level teams meet together, plan a lesson together, then observe each other teach. Teachers will then meet after the lesson to discuss the student learning that was observed.
4. Explicit learning objectives for students for each lesson.
5. SMART Goals in math.
6. Learn Synergy and how it can impact the teacher-student-parent relationship and provide our parent community a better connection to our school.

These areas of focus are definitely not an exhaustive list of things that we will work on, but it is definitely going to be a focus for our teachers.

2018-2019 Stone Lake Schedule

Contrary to what some parents have approached me and said, **WE HAVE NOT MADE ANY DECISION TO CHANGE SCHOOL SCHEDULES FOR 18-19.** At multiple Coffee Klatches and PTO meetings last year this issue was brought up, and at all of these meetings it was shared with our parents that **NO** decision has been made, and that a decision would have to be made early in the school year. As more information comes available, it will be shared with our parent community.

CA Assessment of Student Performance and Progress-Stone Lake Results 16-17

Preliminary results from our state testing system (CAASPP) for our 3rd through 6th grade students from 16-17 again show that Stone Lake is making strides in preparing college and career ready students. **Based on our ELA scores** and the amount of SL students that scored “met” or “exceeded” standards, Stone Lake ranked in the top three schools in the district. Again, this is based on preliminary results, but in my experience, the final results do not vary much.

In math, the amount of SL students that scored “met” or “exceeded” standards ranked our school in the top five in the district.

It is exciting to see the work that our students, teachers, and families are doing is paying off with our students showing what they know on a very rigorous CAASPP Test. Unless we have 100% of our 3rd-6th grade students meeting or exceeding standards, there is room for improvement everywhere.

I only share the above information to celebrate the work that is being done by our Stone Lake Community, but to also share that the work is **NEVER** done. Like I always tell our teachers and families, state testing is one measurement of student progress, and is by far not the only way we look at a student’s academic progress. However, it is the most public, and we always gain valuable information from this testing.

Individual student scores should have already arrived in your homes, or they should be coming soon. The below link provides a short video clip that aides in interpreting what these scores specifically mean.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pTEHryn4mPI>

2017-2018 School Site Council

For the 17-18 school year we are in need of three new school site council members. I put the call out to the community, and as usual, the community came through. We have five candidates that are interested, and the voting period for those candidates is open until **August 4th**. I will report the results of the vote in an email to the families next week. The voting link is below if you have not voted.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MBKZ3XL>

School Drees Code

As we start school, please remember the dress code that is stated below. The language below is coming directly from our 17-18 Parent and Student Handbook. Please pay close attention to the Safety Concerns:

Prohibited Clothing include the following: backless tops, spaghetti straps, halter tops, shirts that expose the midriffs, tube tops, see-through tops, clothing that depicts or refers to alcoholic beverages, drugs, nudity, or contains obscene or profane slogans, sagging pants and tank tops. Shorts that students wear must be at the fingertip length or longer. Visors, baseball caps, and beanies are ok during outside activities only. Bandanas and headbands are not allowed.

Safety Concerns: Shoes shall be worn at all times. Recess and P.E. happen each day at Stone Lake, and sandals and flip flops do not provide the protection needed to be safe on the playground. Light-up shoes and roller-shoes are also not allowed.

Basketball Coaches



If you are interested in helping to coach either our Boys or Girls basketball teams this year, please contact me and let me know. The league starts in December and runs through February. Parents that help will be required to be fingerprinted.

Opt-In!



Receiving text messages directly from the principal is a great way to stay connected to our school. These types of messages would be vital in case of emergency, but they are also a great way to stay connected to important happenings at school. **Send a text message to the number 67587 with the letter "Y" in the text box. This will opt you in to receive text messages directly from me.**