



October 2018 Issue

October 2018 Events

Week of 10/1	Gr. 6-12 Progress Reports Mailed Home
10/3	Schoolwide Assembly Student Leadership Speeches
10/8	NO SCHOOL- Staff Development Day
10/10	K-5 to Uesugi Farms PSAT Testing for HS students
10/15-10/19	Safety Week at Sierra School
10/16	Picture Day / SCPD visit
10/17	SCFD Visits
10/18	Great California Shakeout
10/19	K-5 Bike Day
10/26	End of First Quarter
10/31	K-5 Report Cards Mailed Home/ Halloween Parade and Special Assembly

Sierra School News



Welcome to Fall, Sierra Families!

From the Principal's Desk

The 2018-2019 school year is off and running at full speed! We had a great turnout for both our Welcome Back Ice Cream Social and our Back to School Event in September. Thank you all very much for your participation and attendance! Fall is officially here, though the weather may not always feel like autumn; October is filled with exciting events here at Sierra School.

The Great California Shakeout

On October 18th 2018 Sierra School will join the rest of California in the state's largest earthquake drill. The drill will take place at 10:18am.

It's always a great idea to have a plan and be prepared. The Great California Shakeout happens every October and is a perfect opportunity to talk about earthquake preparedness and how to stay safe during an earthquake.

Are you prepared? Check out www.shakeout.org for information and resources.



Fun to Run has Begun!

Every other Thursday – Sierra School

Sierra students will have the opportunity to participate in Fun to Run starting October 4th and continuing every other Thursday until the end of the school year. Fun to Run is an exciting program where students track their miles run to complete a task as a group. This year we will be “running to Yosemite and then hiking to the top of Half Dome and back to Sierra School.” This is a grand total of 282 miles!



Family Education Night

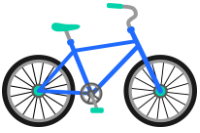
Mark your calendars! On Thursday, November 15th, you and your child have an opportunity to participate in a dynamic, interactive night of learning. From 5-6pm Susan Stone-Belton, a noted author, family coach, and speaker, has agreed to spend the evening with our parents and students engaging in an interactive conversation about “Positive Discipline.”

Mrs. Belton is the author of *Real Parents, Real Kids, Real Talk.* We welcome her back to Sierra for this special event.



K-5 Bike Day

Friday, October 19th is our annual K-5 bike day. We invite all K-5 students to bring their bikes (or scooters) to school for the day! Please remember that safety is first! We ask that all students have a properly fitted helmet with them on bike day. The students will not be permitted to ride their bike or scooter on campus without one. We are looking forward to a fun day on two wheels!



Say “Cheese!”

Picture Day- Tuesday October 16th

Lifetouch studios will be on campus the morning of Tuesday, October 16th to take student portraits. Please be sure your child is dressed appropriately and as always, is in

dress code. We ask that students refrain from wearing anything with large logos or graphics and that their hair is neatly combed.

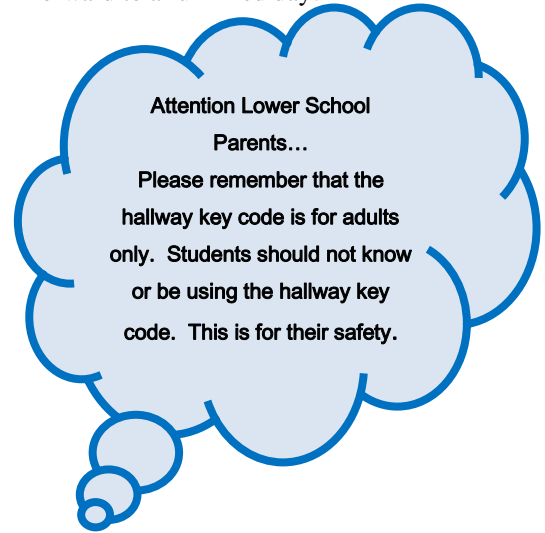
Proofs of all pictures will be sent home shortly after they are taken and instructions on how to order will be included.

Special note to seniors: Your senior portrait (in cap and gown) will be taken on picture day along with your normal student picture. Please be sure to dress appropriately. Boys will need to wear a collared shirt and tie. Girls should be in nice attire.

Halloween is near...

I’m sure everyone has already started talking about Halloween costumes. We are excited to see how creative everyone gets and can’t wait to see them! We do want to remind everyone that we don’t

allow costumes that include violence, gore or weapons. We also ask that all costumes are in good taste and within dress code regulations. Looking forward to a fun filled day!



Attention Lower School Parents...

Please remember that the hallway key code is for adults only. Students should not know or be using the hallway key code. This is for their safety.

Counselor’s Corner

Mrs. Michele Brister- Counselor

Hello Families,

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Michele Brister and I am the new School Counselor. I am so excited to be a part of the Sierra School family; already it is so apparent how close-knit and welcoming the Sierra community is. I feel so lucky to be a part of it.

My passion for school counseling began during my time as a student at San Jose State University where I received my double Bachelors of Arts degree in Sociology and Behavioral Science. I went on and completed my Masters of Arts degree in Counseling Education and Student Personnel with both a Pupil Personnel Services credential and Child Welfare and Attendance credential at San Jose State University.

As a school counselor, my primary responsibility is to promote academic, career, and social/emotional development of all students. I am so excited to work with your children!

The Importance of Words and the Power of Reading

Being able to read is one of the most important skills a child can have. Reading is the *gatekeeper* to success in school. If a child learns to read, they are much more likely to go to school, get educated and successfully create the kind of life they desire. For a child who can read, the possibilities are endless, however, reading can be difficult and many children struggle.

For these reasons, we decided to devote two full days this past August to provide our faculty with a professional development session called “The Essentials to Reading Instruction.” We invited two consultants whom specialize in literacy training to present the training session to our teachers. Our teachers studied, what the National Reading Panel identifies as, the five areas most important for students to become successful readers: Phonemic Awareness, Phonics, Fluency, Comprehension, and Vocabulary.

Vocabulary, building it, understanding it, and using it, is an important part of every student’s day here at Sierra. Part of the research Sally Shaywitz, M.D (2005) has studied, discusses the connection between reading and vocabulary. She highlights the importance of building working vocabulary. Dr. Shaywitz is the Audrey G. Ratner Professor of Pediatrics (Neurology): Co-Director, Yale Center for Dyslexia & Creativity.

She suggests that most Kindergartners come with 3000-4000 working vocabulary words. The average high school student who will pursue a college degree needs 60,000-90,000 working vocabulary words. Students then, over the course of their K-12 years, need to acquire 4000-5000 new vocabulary words per year. If a student reads 30 minutes a day they will be exposed to 1 million new words per year. 20% or 200,000 of those words will be remembered by the student but not part of their working vocabulary. From the 200,000 words about 2,000 will become part of their working vocabulary words per year. Reading gives more vocabulary than conversations. (Sally Shaywitz, 2005).

