

# The SMASHing Friday Letter



smash@smmusd.org

April 22 2016

Dear SMASHing Families,

I will be out of the country next week for a family event. If you need immediate assistance, please contact Janice and she will direct you to the people who are my designees for various responsibilities. Otherwise, I will be back and able to respond to you the week of May 2.

Every year we receive submissions from our SMASH alums now at Samohi seeking a scholarship for college. The alums write about how they were influenced by their time at SMASH. Henry graduated from SMASH and has been at Samohi four years where he has played trombone in concert band III for two years, concert band II for one year, outfielder for the baseball team for two years, and spent a semester abroad in Cahors France as an exchange student. Here is an excerpt from Henry's submission:

**“SMASH taught me that everything I am doing is part of learning.** I was reminded of this during my five months abroad. Supposedly, everyone who has ever studied abroad has had an ‘aha’ moment when they realize they are fluent in the native language. When I arrived in France I spoke French like a two year old. This made sense because I had only studied French for two and a half years. This made everything nearly impossible-especially communicating with my host parents. I couldn’t even ask simple questions such as, ‘How do I do the laundry?’ or ‘Where is the best place to get a haircut?’ without pantomiming. Things got better, but before I could communicate fluently I had to rely on sign language, luck, and the only English words my host parents know, ‘chicken’ and ‘bread.’

Communicating outside of my host family was even worse...I later visited a bakery with a friend who I asked in French, ‘Where are les pains au chocolat?’ to which he replied, ‘Right there, in this region they call them ‘chocolatines.’ Sadly, I thought, ‘How would I ever have my aha moment, if I couldn’t even find a chocolate croissant?’

Four months after the start of my program, with my toddler-esque French a distant memory, I felt long overdue for my moment. One day, exasperated from waiting for this special event, I had had enough and went right to bed. No alarm. The next morning I woke up late, really late. Frantically, I scrambled to find my things, put myself together, shower, apply deodorant, and brush my teeth. After finishing my shower, I struggled to find what I needed. ‘Ou est ma brosse a dents’, ou est le deodorant’, ou est le dentifrice?’ ‘C’est le moment!’ I proceeded to scream ‘AHA!’ but realized that I actually needed to get going or I would miss the bus (which I really didn’t want to do because missing the bus would mean no ‘chocolatine’).

Even though I ate too many chocolatines and didn’t quite have my ‘aha’ moment as early as I wanted, I realized that, in hindsight, I was learning the whole time.”

What might your children learn in their high school years and say in the future about the ways SMASH has shaped their lives?

Enthusiastically yours,  
Jessica

## DATES TO REMEMBER

### APRIL

Fri, Apr 29 - 4pm - Deadline for any California State testing Opt out letters (see details in Core 2, 3, 4 News)  
Fri-Sat, Apr 29-30 - SMASH family camping

### MAY

Mon, May 2 through Wed, May 11 - California State testing for grades 3-8.  
Wed, May 4 - 3:15pm - Site council mtg  
Fri, May 6 - Bike it - Walk it Day  
Wed, May 11 - 8:30am - PTSA mtg  
Wed, May 11 - 6:00-8:00pm - Race Conscious Parenting  
Sat, May 14 - SuperSMASH  
Tues, May 17 - 6-8pm - 4th/5th grade music concert  
Mon, May 23 - 6-7:30pm - SMASH open house  
Tues, May 24 - 5:00pm - PTSA meeting to vote on budget  
Tues, May 24 - 6-8pm - Middle School music concert  
Thurs, May 26 - 5-8pm - Middle School visual art show at Santa Monica Art Studio  
Mon, May 30 - Memorial Day - SCHOOL CLOSED  
Mon, May 31 - 6-7:30 SMASH Talent Show

Join us for the next **Race-Conscious Parenting** meeting  
May 11 - 6-8pm SMASH/MUIR Library  
For updates join our facebook group [Santa Monica Parents for Racial Justice](#)  
Childcare care provided

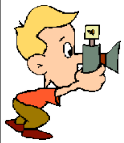
### SMASH BASH UPDATE

Don't miss out! There are still a few spots available for fun community building and the chance to support your PTSA.

- Mom's Crafty\* Night In, Friday 4/22/16 at 5pm (**two left**)
- Scrabble Bash, May 7th 2pm (**4 left**)
- Parent and Me Minecraft Tutorial, May 22nd (**one pair left**)
- and don't forget to sign up for the last Bash of the year! All Core Summer Celebration BBQ June 11th at noon \$40 family. **Stop by the office or email [mmccarthy@healthebay.org](mailto:mmccarthy@healthebay.org)**

### Families of 3rd and 4th graders!

4th grade students can receive free passes to our national parks  
3rd grade students can apply for theirs on September 1  
<https://www.everykidinapark.gov/>



### WANTED! PHOTOS FOR THE SMASH YEARBOOK!

**Did you take pictures at any school events this year?**  
**Do you have any great photos to add to this year's YEARBOOK?!**  
**If so, please email them to Kelly Lance by April 30! [kebolance@gmail.com](mailto:kebolance@gmail.com)**

### Tickets Now on Sale for JAMS Theatre's INTO THE WOODS

**Come support JAMS and SMASH Middle School students and enjoy a fun show !**

JAMS Theatre Company proudly presents Stephen Sondheim's crazy fairytale-come-to-life, INTO THE WOODS on April 29, 30 and May 1. Featuring all of your favorite characters --Cinderella, Little Red Riding Hood, Jack (and his beanstalk) and the Witch -- this is a contemporary musical version of the classic Brothers Grimm fables. Tickets are \$10 General Admission, and are available online and at the box office 30 minutes before show time. Come support JAMS Middle School students and enjoy a fun show! All performances at Lincoln Middle School auditorium. Suitable for ages 3 and up. <http://jamstheatrecompany.brownpapertickets.com/>

## **Hello SMASH Community,**

The PTSA Nomination Committee is pleased to share the names of the people who expressed interest in running for SMASH PTSA Executive Board positions. The election will be held at the May 11, 2016 meeting at 8:30am (in the SMASH library).

President Sabine Werk

Executive Vice President Kyo Yamashiro

Fundraising Vice President Elise Toren

Membership Vice President Tina Richmond

Treasurer Snow Hansen

Financial Secretary Anna Vegezzi

Auditor Rachel Ginnerty

Historian Molly Lague

Secretary Nikol Lira

SMMEF Liaisons Nina Furukawa and Steven Nevius

Parliamentarian Lauren Collins

**Thanks for supporting your PTSA,  
The Nomination Committee**

## **SMASH SITE ADVISORY COUNCIL**

It's time again to select the parents to represent you at the SMASH Council for next year. This group of parent, staff and students meet 6 times a year. **We will be electing 1 parent to serve a two-year term. Statements of interest are below. Ballots will be in the April 29 Friday Letter**

### **Molly Lagüe**

Hello, my name is Molly Lagüe. I have three children (Quillen, Blythe & Lucienne Domingue). Starting this year they all attend SMASH now, each in a different core. I enjoy helping with the garden in the Core one yard, and served on PTSA. Because of my exposure and contact with so many parents and teachers on an everyday basis, I feel well equipped to serve on site council. I love our school and love to see it succeed and our children thrive. Thanks for considering me for Site Council.

**If you would like to opt your 3<sup>rd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade child out of the May 2 – May 11, 2016 state summative testing (CAASPP), you need to write a letter by Friday, April 29th at 4:00pm to Jessica Rishe.** As the parent or guardian, you have the option of excusing your child from any part of the CAASPP. If you would like to excuse your child from the test, you must submit your request in writing [Education Code 60615].

### **Here is what your letter needs to include:**

Date

Dear Jessica Rishe,

My child, (child's full name), date of birth (DOB), is in \_\_\_\_ grade. I want to opt my child out of the summative California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) for math and language arts for 2016.

[And if you have a 5<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grader and wish to opt your child out of science testing as well then include the next sentence.] I also want to opt my child out of the California Standards Test in Science.

[sign and print parent/guardian name]

Alternate classrooms are arranged for students not taking the test. For those students taking the test, this is the SMASH CST/CAASPP Testing Schedule for May 2 – May 11, 2016. If you elect to have your child take the test, make sure your child arrives to school on time and do NOT schedule doctor's appointments or other activities during testing windows. It creates an undue burden on the staff to create make-up testing sessions unless a child is out due to illness.



**School** with the highest percentage of participation wins their PTA \$250

National Bike to School Day:  
May 4, 2016



SMMUSD Schools observing Bike It! Walk It!  
throughout the week (May 2-6)

**Free One-Way Ticket**



VALID:  
**May**  
**2 - 6**

, 2016

SMMUSD STUDENTS ONLY



*Present this ticket or show it on your mobile device & ride any Big Blue Bus free.*

## CORE 1 NEWS

### NEW CIRCLE GROUPS

This week we moved into our Spring Circle Groups! Graciela's Circle Group is called the Fire Foxes. Chrysta's Circle Group is called the Swimming Chewies (as in Chewbacca) and Christian's Circle Group is called The Super Science Snails. We look forward to all our upcoming work in Projects and Magic Circle with our new groups this last season of the school year!

### THANK YOU PTSA

As many of you know, this year we have tried something new and asked families to donate to the PTSA (for classroom supplies, materials and furniture) rather than to the Core, directly. When the teachers buy anything from facial tissue to furniture for the classrooms, the PTSA very generously reimburses us. Core 1 students get to use lots (and lots and lots) of quality supplies in all areas of the curriculum, read and hear the best books, and get to work in beautiful non-traditional classroom environments that best support their learning...all because of YOUR donations. Please consider making a spring donation to the PTSA. Core 1 thanks you for it!!!

### DATES TO REMEMBER

Fri-Sat, Apr 29-30 - SMASH family camping trip

Sat, May 14 - SuperSMASH

Mon, May 23 - 6-7:30pm - SMASH open house

Mon, May 30 - Memorial Day - SCHOOL CLOSED

Tuesday, May 31 - 6-7:30pm - SMASH Talent Show

Have a Wonderful Weekend!

Graciela, Chrysta, Christian

Nadja & Alex

Graciela [gbarba-castro@smmusd.org](mailto:gbarba-castro@smmusd.org)

Chrysta [cpowell@smmusd.org](mailto:cpowell@smmusd.org)

Christian [ccarter@smmusd.org](mailto:ccarter@smmusd.org)

## CORE 2 NEWS

### INVENTOR/INNOVATOR PROJECT

By now all students have selected their inventor/innovator and are or should be well on their way in their process of putting together their projects. The project will include three parts:

1. A biography – Jayme has launched a Writer’s Workshop unit on biographies this week. This piece will be completed in class
2. 3 entries in a historical fiction journal – Your child will write at least three entries as their inventor/innovator. A unit of study during writer’s workshop will cover this piece after the biography unit
3. A 3-5min in character presentation – This part will be prepared as “home” “work.” **All costumes and props must be completed and at school by Friday, May 20<sup>th</sup>.** Students will present as the character of their choice. A costume and any props needed should be *home made. Please make sure that your child has begun this work as we are approaching the due date.*

Presentations will be scheduled on May 24-26, 2016. PLEASE TALK WITH YOUR CHILD ABOUT THEIR INVENTOR/INNOVATOR AND WHERE THEY ARE IN THEIR PROCESS. Remember that the props, speech and research, as needed, is HOME WORK.

#### LIST OF SELECTED INVENTORS/INNOVATORS for your reference

	<b>Jedi</b>			<b>Dorito Taquitos</b>	
1	Marianna	Isaac Newton	1	Mira	Henry Ford
2	Tia	Leonardo DaVinci	2	Carla	Jane Goodall
3	Nico	Galileo Galilei	3	Anton	Alexander Graham Bell
4	Ajax	Michelangelo	4	Jasper	Jack Cousteau
5	Teagan	Leonardo DaVinci	5	Ryan	Galileo Galilei
6	Jules	Daniel Peter	6	Daine	Thomas Alva Edison
7	Simone	(recently changed)	7	Livie	Sylvia Earle
8	Karamjeet	Albert Einstein	8	Abe	Steve Jobs
9	Maggie	Ole Kirk Christinsen	9	Eli	Ben Franklin
10	Rowan	Leonardo DaVinci	10	Avey	Mildred Didrikson Zaharias
11	Elena	Tachu Naito	11	Summer	Sojourner Truth
12	Lucia	Frida Kahlo	12	Maya	Thomas Alva Edison
13	Blythe	Ada Byron Lovelace	13	Kobi	Dr Seus
14	Stella	Albert Einstein	14	Lia	Sylvia Earle
15	Theo	Albert Einstein	15	Ella	Wright Brothers
16	Steele	Benjamin Franklin	16	Meghan	Jane Godall
17	Marco	Steve Jobs	17	Dash	Philo Fansworth
18	Ashton	Garret Morgan	18	Aliya	Wright Brothers
19	Marina	Alexander Graham Bell	19	Catherine	Roald Dahl
20	Nick	Nolan Bushnell	20	Juliette	Malala Yousafzai
21	Emi	Edgar Alan Poe	21	Phoenix	Johann Zahn
22	Lilja	Nikola Tesla	22	Gaby	Anne Frank
23	Sadie	Dimitri Mendeleev	23	Isla	Ada Byron Lovelace
24	Clint	Alexander Graham Bell	24	Emma	Leonardo DaVinci
25	Jade	Thomas Edison	25	Max	Nikola Tesla

#### IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

Friday, April 29 - May 1, 2016

SMASH Camping trip

Monday, May 2 - 11, 2016

State Testing begins

If you would like to opt your child out of the state summative testing (CAASPP),

you need to write a letter by Friday, April 29<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm to Jessica Rishe (see instructions in today’s Friday Letter)

Saturday, May 14, 2016

SUPER SMASH SATURDAY

Monday, May 23, 2016

Drama, Writing and STEAM Share

May 24-26, 2016

Inventor/Innovator Presentations

Friday, May 27, 2016

Core 2 Assembly

Jayme: [jwoldflorian@smmusd.org](mailto:jwoldflorian@smmusd.org)

Alejandra: [asantini@smmusd.org](mailto:asantini@smmusd.org)

## CORE 3 NEWS

### **Upcoming Dates**

Wednesday, April 27 - Field Trip - King Fahad Mosque in Culver City

Thursday, April 28 - Field Trip - walking trip to tour Google offices

Wednesday, May 11 - Field Trip - Islamic Center of Southern California

### **Balanced Literacy**

In Balanced Literacy, the students deepened their connection to poetry by “climbing inside.” For example, they were given opportunities to draw related images and engage in choral readings. They developed their understanding of the nuances of the genre by reading a number of poems by one poet. They strengthened their understanding of the genre by focusing in on craft features, including line breaks, stanzas, and sound. In addition, they continued with their book club work and were given opportunities for small group instruction, independent reading, and independent writing.

### **Social Studies**

This week students got into their "Muslims Around the World" project groups. We have students studying women in Islam, Islamic history, comparative religions, and Islam in various regions of the world including African, Europe, the Middle East, Asia, and the United States. This week students worked with their groups to talk about their strengths and weaknesses and things they have in common. They also began writing specific research questions that they can look into further. Next week we will visit the King Fahad Mosque in Culver City

### **Sixth Grade Math**

Sixth graders continued working on beginning algebra skills. We focused this week equations with two operations and expressions and order of operations. Students are continuing to learn how to make tables and graphs and look for patterns of change. Next week we will begin Investigation 4 which looks at expressions, equations, and inequalities.

### **Fifth Grade Math**

The students returned to fractions this week. They reviewed how to add and subtract fractions with different denominators. They extended their understand of the operation of multiplication to include fractions. They used representation and reasoning to multiply a whole number by a fraction or mixed number. They wrote and interpreted multiplication equations involving a fraction and a whole number. They strengthened their multiplication skills by spending some time working on Reflex Math and/or Khan Academy.

The end of 5th Grade Ballroom Dancing instruction was celebrated with a trip to SAMOHI to watch some of the classmates compete in the “Colors of the Rainbow” Semi-Finals. Every fifth grader did an amazing job with this twelve week instructional opportunity. It was a joy to watch them strengthen their skills as dancers and community members over the past couple of months.

### **Planned Parenthood**

This week students learned more about healthy relationships. They were given various scenarios and with their small groups had to decide whether these situations were healthy, unhealthy, or not sure. Next week we will learn more about puberty and anatomy.

### **Growth and Development**

On Tuesday, April 26, the fifth grade students will be studying growth and development with Sandy Cano, the school nurse. They will watch two videos together and then break into boy and girl groups for a discussion. If you do not want your child to attend, please notify your child's teacher in writing before April 26. Thank you!

Erin: ehaendel@smmusd.org

Sarah: sdaunis@smmusd.org

## CORE 4 NEWS

### Announcements

Please make sure all students have a book to read in their backpacks every day at school.

### **Math**

Algebra: We looked at the parts or the anatomy of polynomials and the standard or norm form of polynomials. It seems that the vocabulary and their meaning seems to get in the way of our math practice so something that could help your mathematician is discussing/quizzing them on the vocabulary. (commutative, associative and distributive properties; monomial; polynomial; term; coefficient; degree of a monomial; degree of a polynomial; annulus, greatest common factor, identity) The great thing with the internet and smartphone technology, you can easily look up the answers.

Core 8: We finished up functions and are beginning exponents.

Core 7: We are continuing our work on graphing and solving linear equations.

### **Science**

We introduced our earth science unit and looked at a 3D image of volcanoes. Do you know what the Lithosphere is? Well, that is what your child is learning. Ask them what it is. We also continued our work on birds.

### **PLTW**

We finished our automation tasks. We began looking at the 3D modeling program.

### **Humanities**

Writing Workshop: We drafted our election research essays. If your child has not finished their draft, they need to complete it for homework. Next week we will be revising and editing. The pieces are due 4/29.

Reading Workshop: We looked at our test answers from *The Alchemist* and learned that being restating the question, clear in our sentences, using examples and elaboration, and concluding our short answer are ways to make sure we communicate our thinking. Everyone revised their short answers and received feedback (their grade) on their answer in google classroom. We also began reading about the Italian Renaissance. If you have any knowledge on this topic, please email Genie.

Darwin Mendinueto - [dmendinueto@smmusd.org](mailto:dmendinueto@smmusd.org)

Genie Hwang - [ghwang@smmusd.org](mailto:ghwang@smmusd.org)



# JAMS THEATRE COMPANY 2016

PRESENTS

# INTO THE WOODS JR.

FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 7 P.M.  
SATURDAY, APRIL 30, 2 & 7 P.M.  
SUNDAY, MAY 1, 2 P.M.

LINCOLN MIDDLE SCHOOL AUDITORIUM  
1502 CALIFORNIA AVE, SANTA MONICA, CA 90403

TICKETS \$10 AT THE DOOR, OR ONLINE AT  
[WWW.JAMSTHEATRECOMPANY.COM/TICKETS](http://WWW.JAMSTHEATRECOMPANY.COM/TICKETS)

JAMS THEATRE COMPANY IS GRATEFUL FOR THE SUPPORT OF

**PTSA**

SANTA MONICA-MALIBU  
Education Foundation



# SUMMER SCIENCE ADVENTURES CAMP



June 27-July 1 (K-2)\*  
July 11-15 (K-2)  
July 18-22 (2-4)  
July 25-29 (2-4)  
Aug 1-5 (2-5)

**9AM-2PM**

\*GRADE ENTERING FALL 2016

[healthebay.org/camps](http://healthebay.org/camps)



**BEACH  
EXPLORATION**



**ANIMAL  
INTERACTIONS**



**HANDS-ON  
SCIENCE**

\$325/week  
\$300/week (members)

Questions?  
310-393-6149 x 106