

The SMASHing Friday Letter



smash@smmusd.org

October 7, 2016

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12- SCHOOL CLOSED!!
DISTRICT-WIDE HOLIDAY**

SCHOOL PICTURES BY LIFETOUCH

Classroom and individual photos of students were taken today. All students present today had their photo taken. If you would like to purchase their photos go to: mylifetouch.com and use code PZ056616Y0 and follow the prompts.

If it asks for the student's teacher, please note that our students are listed by Core, not teacher.

Photo retakes are scheduled for Thursday, November 3

Dear SMASHing Families,

As I watched the first Presidential debate with Micah (11) and Eli (9) last week, I was once again struck by how important it is to talk about local and national issues with our children in age appropriate ways and model active participation in our democracy. Getting out to vote is one such action item. While it is not legal or appropriate for me to rebut or endorse candidates or ballot measures, it is appropriate for me to give information about a local Santa Monica measure and encourage our community to get out and vote.

Measures GS & GSH will appear on the November 8, 2016 ballot in the City of Santa Monica.

Measures GS & GS is a half-cent sales tax measure that will provide new revenues to the City of Santa Monica for our local public schools and affordable housing

Half of the new funding, estimated at \$8 million per year, will go to SMMUSD to: Provide ongoing maintenance and tech upgrades to our schools; support STEM programs; attract and retain high quality teachers; increase access to District preschools and provide additional resources to support at-risk students.

All of the new funds will be locally controlled and cannot be taken away by the State.

If you wish to read arguments and rebuttals about these measures go to: <http://www.smvote.org/BallotMeasures/detail.aspx?id=53687094541>

If you wish to read about who is donating to the campaign for these measures, who is endorsing them, and who is volunteering go to: <http://bettersantamonica.org/>

The deadline to request a vote by mail in this election is Tuesday, November 1.

To request a vote by mail ballot, visit

<http://www.lavote.net/home/voting-elections/voting-options/vote-by-mail/permanent-vote-by-mail>

Let's work together to inspire our kids to be knowledgeable active citizens by modeling civic participation ourselves.

Jessica

PLEASE - DO NOT PARK OR DOUBLE PARK AT ANY TIME

In the 5th Street STAFF PARKING LOT BEFORE 5PM

If a staff member's car blocks you in - you may have to wait until they are free to leave class to move their car.

If you are blocking a staff member's car - you can be towed.

**Do not drive through the parking lot in the morning or afternoon
to drop off or pick up your child.**

This is unsafe for everyone. Please use the drop off area on 5th or 6th Streets.

We also request that parents DO NOT PARK or WAIT in the drop off area or staff parking lot.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Find the year-long calendar of events at www.smash.smmusd.org "calendar"

OCTOBER

Mon, Oct 10 - 9:00-10:30am—SMASH school tour

Wed, Oct 12 - Local Holiday - SCHOOL CLOSED

Fri, Oct 14 - SMASH Spirit day

Wed, Oct 19 - 6:00pm - PTSA mtg

Thur, Oct 20 - 10:20am - The California Great ShakeOut

Sun, Oct 23 - 7:00pm - SMASH Comedy Night Benefit with Jake Johannsen and Friends

Fri, Oct 28 - 1:30-3:00pm - Halloween carnival

NOVEMBER

Wed, Nov 2 - 3:15pm - Site Council mtg

Thu, Nov 3 - 9:00am - school photo retakes - bring unwanted photos back in its envelope (keep the class photo)

Fri, Nov 4 - **NOT A PUPIL FREE DAY FOR SMASH** - (SMASH pupil free day is Monday, Jan 9, 2017)

M-W, Nov 7, 8, 9 - Core 3 to Catalina

Tue, Nov 8 - Election Day

Fri, Nov 11 - **VETERANS DAY - SCHOOL CLOSED**

Mon, Nov 14 - 9:00-10:30am - SMASH school tour

Wed, Nov 16 - 8:30am - PTSA Executive Board mtg

Wed, Nov 16 - SMASH Restaurant Night at Curious Palate

Wed, Nov 23 - **Early dismissal - 1:30pm**

Thu-Fri, Nov 23 & 25 - **THANKSGIVING - SCHOOL CLOSED**

Wed, Nov 30-Fri, Dec 2 - Core 4 to Hess-Kramer

Winter Break and 1 pupil-free day: Monday, Dec. 26 to Monday, Jan. 9. Return to school on Tuesday, Jan. 10.

SMASH FAMILY MINDFULNESS With former Core 1 teacher Candis Berens

For ALL SMASH students and parents - Drop in - No sign ups required

Family Classes 8:00-8:25am (meditation, games, reflections)

Parent Discussion Groups 8:30-9:15am

Oct 10: Navigating Friendships and Social Intelligence - In Music Room

October 17 - From Meltdowns to Rigidity - Managing Emotions - In Library

October 24 - The Harmony of Integration - Sensory Regulation - In Library

SMASH COMEDY NIGHT BENEFIT - TICKETS ARE ALMOST GONE!!

Don't miss the 4th Annual SMASH Comedy Night Benefit with Jake Johannsen and Friends - Sunday, October 23rd, 7pm at Magicopolis. This hilarious night of comedy and community has proven to be one of SMASH's most popular and profitable fundraisers. Ticket and raffle sales total over \$10,000 on this night of "adults only" fun.

Purchase tickets now on Eventbrite at <http://bit.ly/SMASHCN2016>. Or search Eventbrite for Smash Comedy Night 2016. Tickets are \$40 plus a \$3.19 service charge for event management.

Get your tickets soon - this event WILL SELL-OUT!

Thank you to those in our community who donated raffle items - we have some fun prizes this year including (2) 90-minute massages from Marina Massage, a facial from Tranquility Spa, personal training in a private boxing gym, free music lessons from Green Brooms Music Academy, tickets to the Pantages, restaurant gift cards to The Curious Palate, The Lobster, West 4th & Jane, Mercado, Ashland Hill and more!!!

We do not have a restaurant "Give Back" on event night, but I encourage you to make plans to dine at with one of our raffle partners in the downtown area - The Curious Palate, West 4th & Jane, Mercado and The Lobster.

Thank you for supporting this event!

Nina Furukawa

SMASH Comedy Night Benefit Chair

nina@smdp.com

310-922-2060



CORE 1 NEWS

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12- SCHOOL CLOSED!! DISTRICT-WIDE HOLIDAY

As we continue to share information about the “developmentally continuum,” this week we bring you: The 6 Year Old. Again, the following is adapted from Yardsticks by Chip Wood.

Common Developmental Characteristics of Primary School Children: Six Year Olds

The bodies, minds, and social behavior of six-year-olds are changing dramatically. Sixes have lots of energy. Eagerness, curiosity, imagination, drive, openness and enthusiasm—are at their peak in the typical six year old.

Social (Age 5)

- Competitive; not always good sports; sometimes bossy or critical
- Either rush to be first or dawdle to be last
- Want to have friends; may have best friends
- Enjoy dressing up, putting on plays, etc., with other children
- Talkative and noisy
- Easily upset when criticized or discouraged
- Love encouragement, surprises, and treats
- Might test authority with tantrums, complaining or tattling

Physical (Age 6)

- Eyes are maturing, so reading is easier, but blackboard copying is still hard
- Often chew pencils, hair, or fingernails (may be due to the discomfort of new teeth growing in)
- Bodies growing rapidly
- Like lots of physical activity
- Tire easily and get sick often

Cognitive (Age 6)

- Beginning to understand past and present, and how and why things happen
- More able to see other view-points and understand reasons for rules
- Love new ideas and asking questions
- Learn well through games, poems, riddles and songs
- Very ambitious, often choosing projects that are too hard
- Learn well from field trips and hands-on projects
- Like doing lots of work; not that concerned with the quality of the work

October 11 Field Trip

On Tuesday, October 11 we will be taking a field trip to the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles and Butterfly Pavilion. IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT YOUR CHILD IS ON TIME ON THIS DAY. IF THEY ARRIVE LATE, THERE IS A CHANCE THEY COULD NEED TO SPEND THE DAY WITH ANOTHER CORE. Please make sure that your field trip form is filled out and returned by Monday.

Mindfulness

Core 1 will be practicing a "breathing buddy" exercise. In this practice, a stuffed animal on top of the tummy helps to maintain awareness of the breath. We will also watch the video Just Breathe and discuss emotional awareness and strategies for regulation."Thank you! Deena

Core 1 Wish List Core 1 is in need of the following items to keep ourselves healthy: adhesive bandages, hand sanitizer and facial tissues. If you are able to contribute any, please give them to your child's workshop teacher.

Thank you! Have a wonderful weekend!

Sincerely,

Christian (ccarter@smmusd.org) Chrysta (cpowell@smmusd.org)

Graciela (gbarba-castro@smmusd.org/graciela.smash@gmail.com)

Nadja, Alex & Juana

CORE 2 NEWS

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12- SCHOOL CLOSED!!
DISTRICT-WIDE HOLIDAY**

Last Friday, Core 2 said good bye to Lilja who has moved to Mount Shasta. We wish her the best in her new adventures. Today, we are very excited to welcome Evan to Core 2. Please help us in welcoming him and his family as an Elder to our fabulous SMASH community.

This month, on Friday, October 14, Core 2 will be visiting Ocean View Farms. Our plan is to use public transportation to get there and for other future field trips. WE NEED YOUR HELP. Here are some ways you can help us:

- 1. Donate any tap cards that you do not need – our goal is to have a C2 set of tap cards to use with the Big Blue Bus and with the Metro. Do not worry about loading money we just need the card. We will load them. Please send them in to school as soon as possible and no later than Tuesday, October 11, 2016
- 2. Chaperone
- 3. Help us organize a field trip, plan a route, etc.

The plan for October 14th is to leave school no later than 9am. We will take the number 8 Big Blue Bus to Bundy and Ocean Park. Then we will walk from there to Ocean View Farms which is a walk straight down Bundy. We will be researchers for the day observing the “wild life” and its impact on the gardens. WE NEED 8 CHAPERONES. If you are available and would like to join us, please send us an email to let us know. If you have not returned the permission slip, please do so as soon as possible.

Our next fieldtrip will be on November 2. We will be going back to the Natural History Museum to visit the Spider Pavilion and the Nature Lab. As of now, our plan is to take the metro to NHM. We will need another 8 chaperones for the trip. Join us to visit the arachnids!

IMPORTANT DATES

Wednesday, October 12	Local Holiday SCHOOL CLOSED
Friday, October 14	Fieldtrip to Ocean View Farms
Friday, October 28	Halloween Carnival - 1:30pm-3:30pm Big Yard
Monday, October 31	Halloween – Please limit the candy ;)

Have a fabulous weekend!

Alejandra, Alex, and Sarah

Alejandra: asantini@smmusd.org Sarah: sdaunis@smmusd.org
Alex: arroyo@smmusd.org

CORE 3 NEWS

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12- SCHOOL CLOSED!! DISTRICT-WIDE HOLIDAY

Our **Core 3 Writers** have been busy finishing up and revising their Personal Narrative pieces. We are looking thoughtfully and carefully at our own writing and using Mentor texts to inspire revisions. This week, we used a checklist to categorize our own writing and see where we need to spend more time. Some of the items on the checklist can be seen below:

- “I wrote a story of an important moment. It reads like a story, even though it might be a true account.” We are making sure that we are “storytelling” rather than just “retelling” an event. We want our pieces to have all the “drama”, as Abe said it, that other stories have.
- “I used paragraphs to separate different parts or time of the story and to show when a new person is speaking.” We are really emphasizing that paragraphing adds to the understanding of the reader. Transitional phrases (early that morning, three hours later, etc.) are used to show the passage of time in a story, especially when the writer does not want to further develop the moments and events during that time.
- “I developed characters, setting, and plot throughout my story, especially the heart of the story. To do this, I used a blend of description, action, dialogue, and thinking.” We want our readers to feel as if they are right in the moment with us and sharing our experiences.

Some of the other categories for revising our work include: elaboration, description, spelling, and punctuation.

NEW BOOKS have arrived in Core 3! **Thanks PTSA!** Jayme took a survey about which books we should add to our classroom library to give us more interest in choosing a Just Right Book. We now have about 55 new books, lots in series, and we’re thrilled to get reading! Remember that at home, your child should be reading for a **minimum of 30 minutes** per day.

5th Grade Math- We are just ending our Multiplication and Division unit. Your child will be bringing home a packet of unfinished work for them to work on at home as extra practice. This is for you to **work on at home and keep at home**. Your child does not need to bring it back to school. This packet also does not have a due date. It is intended to provide extra practice for those that didn’t finish their work in class. Some students will not have a packet because they have finished all assigned work during our class work sessions. Feel free to email Jayme if your child does not come home with a packet and you want to check if they’ve actually completed all the work.

Thanks again to our **Social Studies** presenters! We really appreciate the sharing of personal experiences and areas of expertise with our Core 3 learners.

Core 3 Mindfulness with Candis Noticing how the “outside world” affects our “inside world” was the theme in Core 3 Mindfulness this week. Our brains are naturally wired to react automatically to the world around us. When we hear a baby cry across the room, we react. When we hear sirens going off, we can observe thoughts and feelings instantly provoked inside of us. This week Core 3 practiced making these observations by listening to music and noticing our immediate reactions. Music can provoke all kinds of feelings, thoughts, movement, images... and we can be mindful about it by noticing these changes inside of us without judgment. What kind of music does your family like to listen to at home or in the car? Does it elicit any feelings or memories?

In the upcoming weeks: What do you do when you want to change your automatic reaction?

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, October 12

No School

Wednesday, October 26

Trip to Santa Monica Pier Aquarium
Chaperones welcome, please email!

Monday, November 7-8

Catalina Trip, paperwork and payments need to be completed and returned as soon as possible!

Have a great weekend!

Jayme: jwoldflorian@smmusd.org

Erin: ehaendel@smmusd.org

CORE 4 NEWS

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12- SCHOOL CLOSED!! DISTRICT-WIDE HOLIDAY

Announcements

HESS KRAMER \$350 donation payment by November! Please let Genie know if you made a PayPal payment. Thanks!

Please sign up for conferences. It is hard to schedule conferences outside the times listed on SignUpGenius so please look online for an open slot.

- **Please sign up for a Parent conference using the Sign-Up Genius Website.**
 - ◇ **7th Grade - www.SignUpGenius.com/go/30E0A4CAEAC2BA7F94-7thgrade**
 - ◇ **8th Grade - www.SignUpGenius.com/go/30E0A4CAEAC2BA7F94-8thgrade**

Core 4 General Info Site:

<https://padlet.com/smashcore4/information>

Math

Core 7: We reviewed and took the Unit test on negative numbers and order of operations. We reviewed the test and will come back to the important points of this unit. Our next unit is Stretching and Shrinking: Geometry looking at perimeter and area with scale and ratios.

Algebra: We finished our short unit on the Pythagorean Theorem. We are moving on to Graphing. This week we worked on translating graphs and working with absolute values.

Core 8: Students are finishing their review of rational numbers.

Science: We organized our field science data in google classroom and talked about collecting data during the course of the year. We finished our unit on the Nature of Science. "Aha Connections" were due this week. We will begin our work with Astronomy.

PLTW: The 7th graders continued to work with the Inventor program (our 3D modeling software) by designing a pegboard toy. They learned how to dimension their models and how to use the trim, revolve, arc, and plane functions in Inventor. The 8th graders finished their automation tasks.

English: We committed to our character, setting and plot and began planning our our story using storyboards. We are researching as we develop our stories using the internet and trying to make meaning of some complex texts. We finished *Witch of Blackbird Pond* and will be taking the essay test on Thursday focusing on a character and how they changed throughout the book.

History: We have been working a lot on summarizing--how can you say the basics of a paragraph or an article in one sentence? We haven't had much time with notetaking this week but will continue as we learn the history of Colonial America and life in Colonial America which will set us up for the American Revolution and debates in the next month.

Genie: ghwang@smmusd.org

Darwin: dmendinueto@smmusd.org

Calling interested 4th - 8th graders to join the SMASH Elementary and Middle School Math Circles.

Does your child (or, better yet, your whole family) enjoy complicated math problems and puzzles? If so, here is a nice little puzzler:

Judy has two more sisters than she has brothers. Her brother, Mark, has twice as many sisters as he has brothers. How many children are in the family?

If your child enjoys figuring out this type of problem, he or she will probably enjoy attending SMASH Math Circles. The SMASH Math Circles are after-school clubs that will be held on Mondays 3:15-4:15pm for Middle schoolers and Tuesdays 3:15-4:15 for 4th and 5th graders. This is not a homework or tutoring club, the topics covered in a math circle are unusual, exciting and fun.

In math circles, students focus on the art of mathematical problem solving and the presentation of their solutions. Although each session is organized around a particular topic -- such as number theory or information theory -- the primary goal is to tackle complicated problems that require persistence, creativity, and, often, a lot of time to solve. There will be mathematical games and contests, and the students will participate in the Math Olympiad program which involves monthly timed assessments (challenging problem sets that kids work on individually) and a team contest in the spring. (Parents will need to chaperone their kids for this off-campus activity.)

SMASH parents Peter Kovac, Josh Freedman, and Snow Lam-Hansen will lead the groups. We are also looking for an interested 4th grade parent to help lead the Tuesday group. SMASH principal, Jessica Rishe will sponsor the middle-school group and SMASH teacher Nikki McCabe will sponsor the elementary group.

Participation in this club requires parent completion of the Playground Access form prior to the first day attending SMASH Math Circle. Copies of the Playground Access form are available in the front office. If you would like your child to participate, please contact Nina Freedman at nsfreedman@gmail.com

SMASH MATH CIRCLE CLUB SUMMARY INFORMATION

	Middle School Math Circle (6 th , 7 th , 8 th graders)	Elementary Math Circle (4 th , 5 th graders)
Day and Time (when school is in session)	Mondays 3:15 – 4:15pm	Tuesdays 3:15pm – 4:15pm
2016-17 Dates	October 10 – April 24	October 11– April 25
Faculty Sponsor	Jessica Rishe	Nikki McCabe
Where	Room 610 (across from the green lunch benches)	
Cost	Free! Materials paid for by PTSA	

SMMEF News

Thank you SMASH COMMUNITY! Keep Doing What You're Doing!!

I am thrilled to share that district-wide we raised a total of **\$362,875** during SMMEF Pledge Days last week! That amount includes the \$100,000 matching gift from the RGK Foundation. A total of 530 donors contributed during Pledge Days. A huge THANK YOU to those of you who helped out at the SMASH tables and especially to those of you who made donations.

Here are the latest fundraising stats from SMMEF:

TOTAL DOLLARS are UP!! - \$2,031,293 is the amount SMMEF has raised so far this year - a 55% increase over the amount this time last year.

FAMILY PARTICIPATION is UP! - by 27% over last year

SMASH ROCKS! - over 56% of our families have donated so far - up from this time last year.

We are leaders in the district in supporting all children who attend our schools. This year, please continue your support so that we keep the arts education, teaching assistants, library materials and stretch grants for Professional Development, STEAM projects and more that are funded by SMMEF. These programs cost far more than the per pupil state funds allocated to our district and would not be possible without your dollars donated to SMMEF.

Donate today at smmef.org. SMMEF is asking for \$700 per child - that's \$70 a month for ten months - but any amount is appreciated and valued. We ask that you give at the capacity that works for your family. You can even set up an easy monthly payment for any amount.

Your donation to SMMEF pays for the following programs/staff at SMASH:

- 30 weeks of art instruction P.S. Arts
- recorders for 3rd graders
- ballroom dance for 5th graders
- our beloved Nadja Kukor in Core 1
- stretch grants that have funded Project Lead the Way in Core 4
- the middle school music and after-school theater program at JAMS (Smash students invited to participate)
- semi-private music lessons and instruments for qualifying students

These programs were decided upon with input from principals, teachers and parents - your feedback is always appreciated and important. Feel free to contact me, or someone at SMMEF, with your observations, concerns, and ideas for future added enrichment.

Donate today at smmef.org <<http://smmef.org>>. You may also donate by turning in the envelope from the first-day packet. Fill out the information and return it to the black mailbox in the office.

Thank you for supporting an excellent and unique SMASH education!

Our community believes that every child deserves an excellent education, and that's why last year over 80% of Smash families donated to the Santa Monica-Malibu Education Foundation. LET'S MAKE IT 100% THIS YEAR!

Nina Furukawa
SMMEF/SMASH Liaison

SMASH Site Council Minutes
Wednesday, October 5, 2016
3:15 PM

In attendance: Anne Serapiglia, Chrysta Powell, Graciela Barba-Castro, Alejandra Santini, Jessica Rishe, Sharon Gillerman, Molly Lague, Maya Gillerman, Rio Wagabaza, Ninia Furukawa.

Absent: Tali Chase, Janice Wold

Agenda Adopted. Motioned by Alejandra. Seconded by Anne.

Community participation: none

Reports and Announcements (regular agenda items)

Principal's Report: SMMUSD Budget Committee meets tonight to begin process of recommendations to new superintendent about potential \$4.5 million cuts this year.

Student Reports: 7th grade just finished negative numbers unit. Learning Inventor program in Project Lead the Way. Had a field science day. Core 3 is focusing in ocean literacy. In social studies, students are looking at race relations. There will be an end of unit assessment.

Community Organization Reports (to include but not limited to the following):

PTSA: Haunted Corridor is underway by 8th graders for 10/28 Muir-SMASH carnival.

Student Council: Planned first Community Group Morning Meeting and Spirit Day. Representatives have been elected. We are now looking at January 20 upper school dance and February 10 as the Family Dance.

Old Business: none

New Business:

Reviewed 2015-16 state testing results for Math and English Language Arts 3rd-8th grade (see summary).

Began drafting math goal for site plan (see draft).

Calendar adjustment: December 7 meeting changed to November 30

Community participation: none

Motioned by Rio. Seconded by Chrysta. Meeting Adjourned

Next meeting dates for 2016-17: 11/2/16, 11/30/16, 1/11/17, 3/1/17 and 5/3/17

WEST BASIN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT'S

Water Harvest Festival

CELEBRATING A WATER WISE LIFESTYLE

A FREE FAMILY EVENT!

GAMES • KID'S COSTUME CONTEST • STAGE SHOWS • WATER EDUCATION

**SATURDAY,
OCTOBER 22
FROM 10AM-2PM**

WATER RECYCLING TOURS
Tour the only water recycling facility in the world that produces five "designer" waters and see waste water purified into drinking water quality in 20 minutes. All tour participants must be at least 7 years old and wear closed-toe shoes.

EDWARD C. LITTLE WATER RECYCLING FACILITY
1935 S. Hughes Way, El Segundo, CA 90245
at Sepulveda Blvd. between Rosecrans and El Segundo Blvd.

Brought to you by the West Basin Board of Directors

Harold C. Williams	Division I
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Scott Houston	Division IV
Donald L. Dear	Division V

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For more information, please visit
WWW.WESTBASIN.ORG

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