

# The SMASHing Friday Letter



[smash@smmusd.org](mailto:smash@smmusd.org)

October 30, 2015

**Dear SMASH Parents,**

As part of the ongoing review and evaluation process for the Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP), districts are required to form a Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) through which the Superintendent will get feedback regarding the district's LCAP.

Members of this committee will:

- 1) Evaluate how well the district is meeting the goals set out in prior year's LCAP to increase achievement for all students
- 2) Review and provide feedback about the district's allocation of funding to improve achievement
- 3) Learn a significant amount about the overall direction of the school district

The legislation governing the LCAP specifies that PACs include "parents or legal guardians" of high-need students (low-income students, English learners, and foster youth) – so parents who fit one or more of these criteria are especially encouraged to volunteer to participate on this committee.

The first meeting is November 9 from 6 pm to 7:30 pm at the Professional Development Learning Center 2402 4<sup>th</sup> Street (across from the Growing Place). There will be two additional meetings on January 11 and February 8, also at 6 pm in the PDLC.

If you would like to participate, please email me at [jrishe@smmusd.org](mailto:jrishe@smmusd.org) so I can have Educational Services get in contact with you before the meeting.

**Enthusiastically yours,  
Jessica**

## DATES TO REMEMBER

### NOVEMBER

**Sun, Nov 1 - Daylight Savings begins at 2:00am - Set your clocks BACK one hour**



**Wed, Nov 4 - PUPIL FREE - Conferences**

**Thur, Nov 5 – Tues, Nov 10 - 1:30 dismissal - Conferences**

**Fri, Nov 6 - School photo retakes** - For retakes, bring back your entire packet (minus the class photo).

If you missed original picture day, Lifetouch forms are in the office or pay online at [mylifetouch.com](http://mylifetouch.com); picture day ID:PZ055616Y1 (that's PZzero55616Yone)

**Sun, Nov 8 - 7:00pm - Comedy Night - SOLD OUT - please note time**

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

**Wed, Nov 11 - SCHOOL CLOSED - Veteran's Day**

**Mon, Nov 16 - Restaurant night at Ashland Hill - see flyer in this week's Friday Letter**

**Tues, Nov 17 - 6pm - Core 4 Yosemite meeting**

**Wed, Nov 18 - 8:30am - PTSA mtg**

**Wed, Nov 18 - 3:15pm - Site Council mtg**

**Fri, Nov 20 - Spirit Day**

**Wed, Nov 25 - 1:30 dismissal**

**Thurs – Fri, Nov 26 & 27 - SCHOOL CLOSED - Thanksgiving holiday**

**Winter Break - Mon, Dec 21 through Tues, Jan 4. Students return on Tuesday, January 5**

## CORE 1 NEWS

### WILL "THE SWITCH WITCH" COME TO YOUR HOME THIS YEAR?

The beauty of the Switch Witch story is that it's not part of the traditional Halloween mythology, so you can adapt it to your family's needs: If you're concerned about your child's sugar intake—or your own—this makes it super easy to remove temptation in one fell swoop. If you'd like to instill the spirit of charity, you can embellish the tale with a redistribution theme. If your child struggles with self-control or responsibility, you can suggest that the Witch gives better prizes to kids who eat just a treat or two at a time. Ready to try it yourself? Here are some tips to get the ball rolling - er, the broomstick flying:

- Decide what you want the Switch Witch to achieve, and modify the story to fit. Plant the seed ahead of time; don't wait until your kid's putting on his costume to mention it.
- Prizes don't have to be big, expensive items, especially for the youngest trick-or-treaters. Consider how delighted your kid is to get a toy from the gumball machine at the supermarket! Consider stickers, crayons, shiny pennies, tchotchkes from the dollar store—as long as he'll find it roughly equivalent to the amount of candy traded, you can get away with spending very little.
- Have a plan for getting that candy out of the house, PDQ. Give it to the teenagers who trick-or-treat after the little ones have gone to bed. Donate it to a food pantry or a women's shelter. Drop it off at the dentist—many collect candy and send it to the troops overseas. Bring it to work and let your colleagues devour it. It's about helping kids to understand that fun doesn't have to mean food.

### CORE 1 MINDFULNESS

In Core 1 Mindfulness, we talked about the importance of our "attention muscles." We practiced sustaining focus over long periods of time, while ignoring outside distractions. (This mental discernment is an essential executive function!). We practiced a game called "Pass the Cup" where the children passed a cup of water around a circle - slowly and with intention - then closed their eyes and passed it again. The children's attention was unwavering, and not a drop of water was spilled! We also practiced a candle meditation (battery-powered!) as we noticed the connection between our bodies and minds:

"When your body is still, then your eyes can be still. When your eyes are still, then your mind is still."

Try at home: Try staring at snow globes, rocks, or glitter jars. Put on soft music and just relax! (computer meditations do not have the same effect - the blue light from screens is much too stimulating....)

THANK YOU to all of the Core 1 families who attended our Mindfulness Mondays and Parent Discussions. I look forward to continuing our conversations and supporting your Mindfulness practice at home. Please be in touch! - Candis

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**Wed, Nov 11 - Veteran's Day - School Closed**

**IF YOU HAVE NOT TURNED IN YOUR CONFERENCE SURVEY, PLEASE DO SO BY MONDAY.**

Have a fun weekend and enjoy your extra hour on Sunday.  
Graciela, Chrysta, Christian, Nadja & Alex

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

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

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

### CREST Kindergarten Superstars Basketball Mondays 1:40 - 2:40 p.m. \$125

Superstars Basketball Club for Kindergarten boys and girls is a novice sports program designed to introduce participants to the basic skills and rules of basketball with an emphasis on positions and terminology. No Games.

Class meets for one hour on Mondays, from 1:40 - 2:40 p.m.

Taught by CREST SPORTS 4205.400

**Superstars begin Monday, Dec 7 - Feb 29 REGISTRATION CLOSES WEDNESDAY, NOV 25**

*\* No classes held over winter break 12/21/15- 1/4/16; January 18 MLK Holiday and February 15 Presidents Day*

## CORE 2 NEWS

Hello SMASHing Core 2 Families,

Conferences are starting next week! Make sure that you've signed up in the office to meet with the Core 2 team for our 20-minute meeting to discuss your child's progress and goals in both academic and social areas. Don't miss out on the opportunity to meet with BOTH the Core 2 teachers! Remember- students are NOT going to attend the conferences this time around. Please be ready with your questions so that we can address your needs in our short meeting.

Our writers are busy working on their *Personal Narrative* stories and are getting ready to publish and share on **Friday, November 6** after our CORE 2 ASSEMBLY at **8:45am**. It will be a morning filled with stories and fun! Assemblies typically run from 8:45-9:15. Our Core 2 Publishing Celebration will begin at **9:30am** to allow us to calm down from the assembly and gather our writing pieces. Please join us for any and all of our exciting morning.

Remember writing those memories at the Core 2 Forum? We are using them to help our writers celebrate at our **Publishing Celebration Friday 11/6 at 9:30am**. The children will receive their memory after they've shared their own story. **If you did not get the chance to write a memory** about your child during that time, **please write one** and either return it to a Core 2 teacher or bring it with you to the celebration to give to your child at the end of the sharing.

Both the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade mathematicians have just completed a Data Collection and Analysis study. This weekend, as you survey all the treats, we challenge you to create a graph to represent your "sweet data." You can create a bar graph, line plot, or pictograph to show the types and amounts of the candy you receive. What did you get the most of? Which candy did you receive the least? What other conclusions can gather from your data? Bring in your data and graphs for us to compare next week!

### UPCOMING DATES

Wednesday, November 4

**Pupil Free Day**

Thursday, November 5

Core 2 Conferences begin

Friday, November 6

Core 2 Assembly 8:45am

Publishing Celebration 9:30am

Friday, November 6

Individual school photo retakes -

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Wednesday, November 11

NO SCHOOL-Veterans Day

Fri, November 13

Birthday Bash at 11:30am

Have a wonderful, safe Halloween and don't forget to turn your clocks back!

~Jayme, Alejandra, Malaika, and Alex

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

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

# Hand, Foot, and Mouth Notice

School: SMASH

Date: 10/27/2015

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) of CORE 2

The presence of Hand, Foot, and Mouth disease in our community is being observed in the schools. Since your child may be exposed to this viral disease, it is important you are aware of the symptoms, treatment procedures, and your role in the prevention and the spread of this contagious disease.

SYMPTOMS: Rash on hands and feet, which may spread to the mouth. The child may have fever and a general sense of not feeling good. There will be some discomfort from the rash.

TREATMENT: Control of the fever and comfort measures. The child should not be in school with a fever.

HOME HYGIENE: As the disease is spread directly by touch, fecal material, and respiratory oral to oral routes, general hygiene, including hand washing and avoidance of direct oral and airborne contact are suggested.

If your child does develop this type of rash, accompanied by a fever, please keep him/her home and check with your family physician.

Sincerely,

Sandy Cano RN

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School Nurse

(310) 399-7721  
Phone Number

## CORE 3 NEWS

### Literacy

Thank you to everyone who joined us this Friday for our Publishing Party! With rising action, suspense, and dialogue designed to move the story forward and “show, not tell.” In addition, in order to celebrate all of the work the students did to build their fluency skills in Reading Workshop, the students in Core 3 read aloud to students in Core 1. The scary story genre was exciting, new to me, and inherently tricky, but it was important to find a way to respond to the students’ authentic interest. I’m sure you’ll agree that it was evident in their written work that they worked hard to create stories.

### Social Studies

This week students began their decades research projects. Students brainstormed questions on Monday and Tuesday around different sub-headings of study. We will be looking at the decades through the lens of these twelve areas of society: gender, inter-nations, important people, entertainment, race/ethnicity, class differences, health/medicine, inventions, politics, economy, family/education, and food/fashion. Students will be taking notes on all areas but can also focus more on areas where their passions and interests take them. Next week will use these questions as we learn how to research responsibly on the internet.

### 5th Grade Math

After spending weeks working as a whole group and in partnerships on multiplication problems, we wrapped up the unit. The students were asked to individually share their newfound understanding of how solve multi-digit multiplication problems, keeping in mind the importance of holding onto all of the math, visually showing their math work, reflecting on their process, and problem-solving.

### 6th Grade Math

This week the sixth graders continued looking at fractions and decimals. We talked about place value and about different strategies for turning fractions to decimals and vice versa. Next week we will complete the "Comparing Bits and Pieces Unit." Students will bring home a practice assessment next Friday and the final unit assessment will be on Monday, November 9th.

### Art/Community Building

In Art, the students worked with wire! They sculpted 3D figures, keeping in mind the drawings they made last week and the class discussion about symmetry and proportion. This project created opportunities for problem-solving and building resilience, as they built with wires of different degrees of malleability. In Morning Meeting, the students continue to make connections by sharing their thinking, experiences, and playing games together.

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**Wed, Nov 11 - Veteran’s Day - School Closed**

**Erin: [ehaendel@smmusd.org](mailto:ehaendel@smmusd.org)**

**Sarah: [sdaunis@smmusd.org](mailto:sdaunis@smmusd.org)**

## CORE 4 NEWS

### Announcements

- Parent conferences begin on Wednesday, November 4. Please visit [www.padlet.com/smashcore4/information](http://www.padlet.com/smashcore4/information) for links on signing up for conferences or you can sign up directly at <http://tinyurl.com/c4conf2015>. **Both you and your child need to attend the conference.** We look forward to meeting with you!
- Next Friday (11/6) will be our last trip to the SMC pool. Please sign up at: <http://tinyurl.com/smashswim2015> if you can help. Thank you.
- **YOSEMITE UPDATE** Mark your calendars for Tuesday, November 17 at 6pm in Core 4 for the Yosemite parent information meeting. We strongly suggest you attend. This is a big trip and it is important that you know what to expect. This is a parent only meeting.
- **YOSEMITE paperwork will come home next Tuesday. Please ask your child for it. Thanks!**

### Math

Algebra: We learned about graphing by plotting, intersections of graphs, direct and inverse variation, and basic types of graphs.

Core 8: We are learning how to solve equations with variables on both sides of the equal sign.

Core 7: We wrapped up instruction on adding and subtracting rational numbers this week with a “partner quiz.” Next week we will move onto multiplying and dividing rational numbers.

**Science** - We continue with our close look at cells and how they work. Students learned about photosynthesis at the cellular level. We did a lab experience to recognize the products of photosynthesis when a green water plant is exposed to light. Students also started a “Photosynthesis and Respiration Vocabulary Contract” to become familiar with science terms related to cellular processes.

**PLTW** - We finished our task on designing, creating, and testing a pull toy. We had a pull toy parade in cores 1 & 2 to show off our creations.

**Humanities** - We are continuing our study of China by learning about China’s contact with the outside world and building our background knowledge about the Cultural Revolution.

**Geography** - The “One World” classroom share of student products began this week and will continue into next week. Concurrently, students should be working on the south Asia map.

**Last week in our Mindfulness session** we focused on connecting to the body and experienced how the body can be a barometer for how we are feeling (ex: when angry we can be feeling tight and tense). The more we are aware of what is going on in our bodies the more choice we can have over our actions and decisions.

This week we began exploring our thoughts, perceptions and assumptions. We learned that we have, on average, around 60,000 A DAY! Most importantly, we learned that just because we think something it doesn't always mean it is true. The more we can become aware of the lens through which we see the world the more we can become open to each other and the world.

**Save the Date:** 7th grade Hip Hop dance performance Monday, November 9 at 9:15am in the Cafeteria.

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

Pam Drescher - [pdrescher@smmusd.org](mailto:pdrescher@smmusd.org)



# Comedy Night

Sunday, November 8, 2015 7pm



Tushar  
Singh



Ricarlo  
Flanagan



Allan  
Havey



Karen  
Kilgariff



Greg  
Behrendt

Hosted by  
Jake Johannsen

Magicopolis Theater  
1418 4th Street, Santa Monica

Don't miss this  
\$4

**SOLD OUT! Thanks SMASH!!**



# SUSTENANCE



AH

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310.392.3300



SMASH.SMMUSD.ORG

Help us nourish the Santa Monica Alternative School House PTSA  
Join us at SMASH GIVE BACK NIGHT, Monday, Nov. 16, 5 - 10pm  
20% of ALL SALES will benefit SMASH - Our Neighborhood Public K-8 School!





SANTA MONICA - MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

**To:** Parents/Guardians of Students in the Santa Monica-Malibu School District

**From:** Superintendent, Sandra Lyon

**Subject:** California Law Regarding Safe Storage of Firearms

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The purpose of this memorandum is to inform/remind parents and legal guardians of all students in the Santa Monica-Malibu School District of their responsibilities for keeping guns out of the hands of children as required by California law. There have been many news reports of children bringing guns to school. Many times the child has obtained the weapon from his/her home. These incidents can be easily prevented by storing firearms in a safe and secure manner including keeping them locked up when not in use and storing them separately from ammunition.

To help everyone understand this responsibility, this memo spells out California law regarding the storage of firearms. Please take some time to review this memo and evaluate your own personal situation to assure that you are in compliance with California law.

- California makes someone criminally liable for keeping a loaded firearm where he or she knows or reasonably should know a child (a person under age 18) is likely to gain access if the child actually gains access to the firearm and either: (1) carries it to a public place, including to any preschool or school grades K-12 or to any school-sponsored event, activity, or performance, or (2) brandishes it, or (3) if the firearm injures someone. The penalty is greater if someone dies or suffers great bodily injury as a result of the child gaining access to the firearm.<sup>1</sup>
- As of 2014, California makes someone criminally liable if they negligently store or leave any loaded firearm on their premises where a child is likely to gain access to it – regardless of whether or not the child brings the gun to a public space.<sup>2</sup>
- A parent or guardian can also be civilly liable for damages resulting from the discharge of a firearm by that person's child or ward. These damages can be up to \$30,000 per victim, and \$60,000 total.<sup>3</sup>
- *Gun owners can avoid liability under these laws by keeping their firearm in a locked container or secured with a locking device when not in use.*<sup>4</sup>

Thank you for helping to keep our children safe at school. Remember that the easiest and safest way to comply with the law is to keep firearms in a locked container or secured with a locking device when not in use.

Sincerely,  
Sandra Lyon  
Superintendent

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<sup>1</sup> See Cal. Penal Code §§ 25100; 25200.

<sup>2</sup> See Cal. Penal Codes §§ 25100; 25110; 26835.

<sup>3</sup> See Cal. Civil Code § 1714.3.

<sup>4</sup> See Cal. Penal Code §§ 25105; 25205.