



JOHN MUIR MIDDLE SCHOOL

OCTOBER 2008

SAFETY ISSUES

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK:



New Life in a New Year

After several years as track school, John Muir Middle School is happy to transform to a traditional year calendar. We have added fifteen rooms that were on the campus of Budlong Elementary School. The rooms look nice with new furniture. I hope that many of you can come to our elections for our English Learners Advisory Council, Compensatory Education Advisory Council, and School Site Council on Friday, October 17. Our school receives extra resources from the federal and state governments to help our students. We need parents to help us use those resources wisely. I am always grateful for the support of so many wonderful parents like Teresa Martinez and Michele Jackson, just to name two. I know that many parents are concerned about the uniform and school discipline. We also have a committee which makes policies regarding the following:

- Professional Development
Student Discipline and Code of Conduct
Schedule of Activities
Use of School Equipment
Instructional Matl. & State Textbook Funds

This committee is the Shared- Decision Making Committee. If you are interested in being on this committee, please contact Ms. Campos or Mrs. Bradley in the Parent Center at (323)565-2281.

A safe and disciplined learning environment is the first requirement of a good school. Therefore, at John Muir, in order to promote assurance of a secure atmosphere to our youngsters. We have implemented a Dress Code Policy. Students have to wear white, gray or marron collared shirt and black bottoms (pants/skirts/shorts) every day. NO JEANS. Please note that our youngsters are NOT ALLOWED to wear the following: red or orange colors; blue or black shirts; head wear (hats, bandannas, scarves, wave caps or doo rags); athletic jerseys (sports clothing); basketball shorts; pajamas. Shoes must have a back strap and toes must be covered, no house shoes. In order to maintain school safety, improve discipline and enhance the learning environment, all students must comply with the Dress Code established and parents must commit themselves to be vigilant that their children come to school dressed in the school uniform. In addition to the uniform policy, as a safety measure, the school is, on a daily basis, doing random weapon searches, monitoring graffiti and preventing students from wearing gang affiliated clothing.

PARENTS, YOUR SUPPORT IS VITAL!

PERSONALIZED LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

P.L.E.

WHAT IS IT? It is the restructuring of our school into smaller organization of students and teachers that works closely with parents to build effective and unique learning communities. PLEs will be configured into communities of 350-500 students. PLEs have unique qualities that create a supportive learning environment for our youngsters. Each PLE will promote unifying vision and theme, rigorous instruction and community/parent engagement. Los Angeles Unified School District is restructuring its middle schools into PLEs by the Fall of 2009. We took the initiative to develop ours this school year. Mr. Antonio Garcia is our coordinator/coach for the implementation of our PLEs. There will be a PLE Parent Event in November. In the meantime, please feel free to visit the LAUSD website regarding PLEs or contact us directly by calling the main office for appointment or emailing to Mr. Garcia at antoniogarcia@laep.org.

PARENT PARTICIPATION COORDINATOR

This new school year, John Muir will add a new position to our staff, the Parent Participation Coordinator, which was assigned to Ms. Diana Campos, our former Dean of track. Ms. Campos will hold her office in the Parent Center room, which will be easily accessible to our parents, as well as the rest of the John Muir stakeholders. This position was created as one of the components of our Single Plan approved by the School Leadership Council and ratified by the school teachers. The goal is to bring more involvement of parents in their children's education to improve their achievement as students and individuals. We wish to Ms. Campos a great success in this exciting new endeavor and hope all parents embrace this new opportunity to increase their involvement in their children's education.

FROM THE PARENT CENTER

This month, on September 18, we had our first "Coffee with the Principal" gathering in the Parent Center. Mr. Olivo introduced Ms. Diana Campos, the new Parent Involvement Coordinator, and the new Assistant Principals, Ms. B. Esquivel, who took the position of Mr. G. Kaloustian and Ms. Jordan, who took the Beyond the Bell, position left by Ms. Canales. Parents had the opportunity to ask the principal questions and to meet other parents. It was a warm way to greet the new school year. "Coffee with the Principal" will be every 3rd Thursday of the month. The next one will be October 16. The Parent Center will be open daily from 8:am to 3:30pm. Parents will be assisted by Ms. Campos, Ms. R. Bradley or Ms. M. Sanchez.



COMING EVENTS!!

- 10/15 Parent Institute for Quality Education
10/16 "Breakfast with the Principal" 8:30am
10/17 All Councils election 3:30pm.
10/20 Halloween Gram sales
10/22 Parent Institute for Quality Education.
10/31 Costume Dance 3:00-4:00pm.
11/06 PHBAO 3:30 - 5:30pm