



The Weekly Read-It

John Muir School PTA Newsletter

September 11, 2017

From the Principal

The Importance of Attendance

Did you know that "chronically absent" is defined as being absent for at least 10 percent of the school year (18 days)? Did you know that being absent two days every month adds up to 20 days a year? Did you know that a student is considered truant if they are absent or tardy by more than 30 minutes without a valid excuse on three or more days in a school year? Did you know that only 17 percent of chronically absent kindergartners and 1st graders in California read proficiently by 3rd grade?

September is Attendance Awareness Month in BUSD. Remember: please ensure that your child is at school, on time, each day. Every day counts!

Monthly Toolbox Focus

Our Toolbox tool of the month for September is the Breathing Tool. Students (and parents too!) can use the Breathing Tool to calm themselves and to check in with how they are feeling. Simply place your right hand over your heart and your left hand over your belly and take three slow breaths. Practice using the Breathing Tool today!

— *Audrey Amos, Principal*

STUDENTS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Kindergarten: Aisulu Aldanfarova

1st grade: Lysandra Rauwolf, Dalilah Scott-Jones

2nd grade: Emmalyn (Emmy) Yan, A'Laya Williams, Filip Mitchell

3rd grade: Amani Ghanem

4th grade: Abdullah Saleh, Sachin Rozycki-Shah

5th grade: Tyler Harris

UPCOMING EVENTS

Cal Parking: Thank You to Weekend Volunteers; Next Event is Saturday, Sept. 16 @ 4:30 pm

The Cal Football home opener last Saturday was a win for both John Muir and Cal. We parked 18 cars and earned \$350! Many thanks to Gabe, Hannah, Danielle (5), and Lucia (2); Sevgi, Kate, and Eleanor (2); Amanda, Maya (1), and Shira; Sara, Yuval (2), and Ayelet; Jessica, Jeff, Josie (4), and Nellie (2); and Gino.

Sad you missed out on the fun? The next Cal Parking is this Saturday (9/16) starting at 4:30 pm. You can advertise the parking on Ashby and Claremont Ave., direct cars on the blacktop, or supervise the play areas. Come for an hour, or stay for the whole thing, and kids are welcome. Contact jburtonevans@gmail.com to volunteer or to learn more, and please save these dates for our remaining Cal football parking events:

DATES TO REMEMBER:

9/16 Cal Football Parking (Ole Miss), 4:30 pm

9/23 Cal Football Parking (USC)

9/29 School Assembly

10/2 IntraMUIRals Begin

10/6 School Picture Day

10/9 Staff Development Day
(No School)

- Saturday, September 16: Ole Miss (Kickoff @ 7:30pm; Parking starts @ 4:30pm)
- Saturday, September 23: USC
- Friday, Oct 13: Washington State
- Saturday, October 21: Arizona
- Saturday, November 4: Oregon State

Want to help but can't make the dates? Please invite your football-loving friends to come park with us!

MORE JOHN MUIR NEWS

John Muir Students Need (Computer) Mice!

The 3rd-5th graders at John Muir are learning to use Google Chromebooks to write and share documents, research subjects online, and acquire basic computer programming skills. However, Chromebook touchpads make dragging and dropping difficult for small fingers.

Many important and educational programming tools—such as Scratch, Tynker, and Google Blockly—as well as the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) tests that all John Muir 3rd-5th graders take in the spring use drag-and-drop interfaces. Giving our students traditional computer mice to use would significantly improve their performance on the Chromebooks.

Fourth grade teacher Mr. Gordon has created a DonorsChoose project for raising the money to buy the mice. If you would like to contribute, please visit: https://www.donorschoose.org/project/we-need-mice-to-drag-and-drop/2782308/?rf=page-siteshare-2017-09-ifproject-teacher_185080&challengeid=40015

Support the PTA When You Shop at Berkeley Bowl

Do you shop at the Berkeley Bowl? Use scrip gift cards and 4 percent of every dollar you spend goes directly to the John Muir PTA! Home delivery is available, or pickup in the school office can be arranged. To purchase scrip gift cards or learn more, contact Larry Snyder at larry1901@sbcglobal.net or 510-549-1703.

Raise Money for John Muir with Amazon Smile

The next time you shop at Amazon.com, why not support the John Muir PTA at the same time? Log in via <https://smile.amazon.com> and a link at the top of the page will let you set a charity. Search for and select "John Muir Elementary PTA" (the one in Berkeley). Then shop like you normally do and we'll receive a percentage of your eligible purchases.

Visit the John Muir PTA Website to Learn More Ways to Donate

Aside from Amazon Smile and Berkeley Bowl scrip, there are several other low-impact ways you can donate to John Muir. Visit our PTA Website at <http://johnmuirschool.org/donate/> to learn more.

THANK YOU

Back to School Night Was a Great Community Event

Thank you to everyone who came to Back to School Night to enjoy dinner, socialize, and meet with teachers. It was a relaxed and fun evening. Thank you to local business Lanesplitter Pizza for making over 130 pizzas for our community and for offering us a big discount. And, thank you to every person who helped set up, serve, or clean up. Here's to a great year ahead at Muir!