



The Weekly Read-It

John Muir School PTA Newsletter

April 9, 2018

From the Principal

Welcome Back!

I hope everyone enjoyed a fun and relaxing Spring Break. It's hard to believe we only have 10 weeks of school remaining! As we race toward the end of the school year, please check in with your child's teacher (or myself) if you have any concerns about their academic progress. We are working hard to ensure that every student is at grade-level proficiency or higher by the end of the school year.

Please mark your calendars for two upcoming events this month:

- 1) Our annual **Science Night on April 20** from 5-8 pm in the Auditorium: Facilitated by the Lawrence Hall of Science, this popular event is designed to give students and adults a free-flowing, hands-on experience of being engineers and inventors
- 2) **Family Cooking and Nutrition Night on April 25** from 6-7:30 pm in the Cafeteria: Sponsored by the BUSD Gardening and Cooking program, this event will give students opportunities to show off their cooking skills.

Pennies for Patients

Thank you to everyone who dug under cushions, searched cars, and reached into pockets to donate coins and cash to our Pennies for Patients fundraiser! I am extremely proud to announce that our John Muir Community raised \$1,338.05 for the Lymphoma Leukemia Society!! Thank you all for your generous support of John Muir and for helping students battling cancer. We appreciate all of you!

– *Audrey Amos, Principal*

STUDENTS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Kindergarten: Yaretzi Albert, Niamh Kline

1st grade: Liam Musco-Huse, James Ingham

2nd grade: Ayalam Bell, Luliya Futur

3rd grade: Sahithi Yaramala, Abdulhakeen Alsaidi

4th grade: Morena Perez

5th grade: June Murray, Lena Mahon-Johnson

UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, April 13: Mobile Food Pantry This Friday

The families of John Muir students are invited to our mobile pantry stocked with bread and produce, free of charge. It's on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of every month, including this Friday, April 13, at the South Berkeley Senior Center, across Ashby from Malcolm X Elementary School, at 2939 Ellis St.

Please join us for a fun event where families in need will also be able to pick up dental kits and gently used books for their students. Any children who come to the mobile pantry will be able to work on a little art project while their parents shop.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

4/10 PTA Executive Board Meeting

4/17 SGC and PTA Meetings

4/20 Science Night, 5-8 pm

4/23 Earthquake Drill

4/25 Family Cooking and Nutrition Night, 6-7:30 pm

Please bring a shopping bag. We do not have enough bags for all shoppers. For more information, please contact Family Engagement & Equity Specialist Jocelyn Foreman at 510-684-4100.

Wednesday, April 25, 6-7:30 pm: Family Cooking and Nutrition Night

The BUSD Gardening and Cooking Program will be hosting a free night of cooking with instructors, family, and friends in the John Muir Cafeteria on Wednesday, April 25. Teachers will be demonstrating the recipes they make with kids in their after-school nutrition classes. The event is open to all John Muir families, but space is limited. Please confirm your family's attendance via Jezra Thompson at jezrathompson@berkeley.net.

Grizzly Arts Adventures for April 2018

Ideas for family outings, compiled by Valerie Gutwirth, John Muir Dance Teacher and Arts Coordinator

March 24 - August 12

RESPECT: Hip-Hop Style and Wisdom

Oakland Museum of California

FREE for children under 8, half-price admission Fridays 5-10 pm

<http://museumca.org/>

"Learn how early hip-hop street culture came to influence art, music, performance, and fashion—and how it continues to provide a platform for art, activism, and education across generations in communities around the world."

Bay Area Dance Week

April 27 – May 6

<http://bayareadance.org/>

A plethora of dance all over the Bay Area! More than 400 free events in one week. Check the website for a complete list.

Two family-and- kid special events—April 28-29: Oakland Dance Festival: A Two Day Event (Jack London Square); April 29: Soul Sanctuary Dance: Ashkenaz, Berkeley, 11 am-1 pm.

THANK YOU

A Big Thank You to G-R-R! Mobile Pantry Volunteers—We Need Summer Volunteers!

On the 2nd and 4th Fridays of every month, the G-R-R! team helps run a mobile pantry that serves John Muir and Malcolm X families, as well as the clients of the North and South Berkeley Senior Centers and neighbors and friends. The pantry is open 2-4 pm, with set-up 1-2 pm and clean-up 4-4:30 pm. Many of the volunteers who have been helping with the pantries will be busy or away through part of the summer, so we're going to need more volunteers. If you're interested in helping out in any way, please contact Kristin Weinberger at 510-981-9763 or kristin.e.weinberger@gmail.com.

John Muir's dedicated (and fun!) team includes Family Engagement and Equity Specialist Jocelyn Foreman, Sylvia Del Toro, Helen Reese, Sarah Wood, Miho Matsugu, Ros Harder, Danielle Perez, Nick Perez, Ann Saphir, and a hard-working team of John Muir alumnae; our partners at Malcolm X include Anna Brock, Heather Ball, Anna Fogelman, Celeste Stinson, and Karyn Newman; the South Berkeley Senior Center and Director Katherine Brown graciously host the pantry; the North and South Berkeley Senior Centers contribute volunteers; Berkeley Public Health Nurse Ana Weidenfeld has provided both help and supplies; and, it's all made possible by the support of the Alameda County Community Food Bank and the Berkeley Food Network and Executive Director Sara Webber, who provide all the support and access we need to make these mobile pantries possible.

Thanks to All for a Successful Spring Break Food Drive and Distribution!

Our many thanks go out to: everyone who donated to both the online and offline spring break food drives; our partner at Malcolm X, Anna Brock, and her amazing team of volunteers; our teachers and staff and Principal Amos; our schools' family engagement and equity specialist, Jocelyn Foreman; the PTA for its year-round

support of the Grizzlies Resource Room; and all of our volunteers, including Sylvia Del Toro, Helen Reese, and Sarah Wood and two new volunteers we were so excited to have as part of our team—Liz Green and Brooke Pilawa-Podgurski. Together, we helped feed 95 families over Spring Break. All the classrooms made their donation goals, but Ms. J's classroom went well beyond that and made a huge difference to the food drive with their incredible contributions. Thank you!

– Kristin Weinberger, G-R-R! Organizer

MORE JOHN MUIR NEWS

Berkeley Bowl Scrip Cards on Sale Tuesday and Friday

Peter Butler [*ed. note: me*] will be selling Berkeley Bowl scrip cards at morning dropoff on Tuesday and Friday, and at the School Assembly on Friday. Cards come in \$100 denominations and work like gift cards (or cash).

Use scrip cards to shop at Berkeley Bowl, and the John Muir PTA makes \$4 for every \$100 card purchased. It's quick and easy to earn the PTA \$\$\$ (or even just \$) at no cost to you. We have a limited number of scrip cards, and some are already reserved. If you would like to reserve any scrip cards in advance, please email Peter at thenwhat@gmail.com with the amount you would like to purchase.

Important New Bus Policy from BUSD Transportation Department

The BUSD Transportation Department has issued an important notice informing families that, beginning in the 2018-2019 school year, all parents are now required to request school bus transportation. Previously, the department automatically assigned all eligible students bus stops.

To check your eligibility and request school-bus transportation, please call the Transportation Department at 510-644-6182 or email the department at transportationdept@berkeley.net.