Dear Parents,

Traditionally, I have used the last Tidings of the year to offer a bit of a reflection on the school year. It certainly has been another eventful year! We won the 2018 California Distinguished Schools Award, continued to refine our work with curriculum and instructional practices to meet the very rigorous Common Core standards and needs of our students, and had amazing events, activities, and campus improvements provided by our parent groups.

This year we became a 2018 California Distinguished School. They determined eligibility to apply for the award through the state’s new “dashboard”. The dashboard is an accountability system that uses multiple measures, instead of the single measure used previously to determine our API (Academic Performance Index). The single measure for the API was student achievement and they looked solely at test scores. We were a 10/10 in that system, but we all know that a student is more than a test score and by extension, a school is more than a set of our students’ test scores. The dashboard measures several state priorities, only one of which is student achievement. The others are: absenteeism, parent involvement, suspension rate, progress of subgroup students, and school environment. We then chose a promising instructional practice to highlight in our written application, and received the award for our efforts. We, as a school community, strive to consistently provide a high quality educational experience for our students and the awards we have received at the state, national, and district level are recognition of that effort.

We always choose an area to work on in mathematics and language arts as a focus for the year. In mathematics, we focused on writing good mathematical explanations. As students solve problems, they are asked to visually represent the problem (including labels for what each number or part of the drawing represents), write an equation that matches the picture, and in upper grades (3-5) to write an explanation of how and why the student chose the numbers and the operation he/she chose to solve the problem.

In language arts, we did some additional work on the listening standards, emphasizing listening to each other’s ideas to grow new collective ideas. We also talked about the idea of asking clarifying questions of each other. Students need to think about what someone says and to ask questions if they don’t understand or want more information on a statement made.

Last year teachers worked on the physical science unit at their grade level based on the Next Generation Science and Engineering Standards. This year, the teachers worked on the last two units, earth and life science. They exposed students to phenomena scenarios that require explanation and generate curiosity and scientific inquiry. They asked students to generate the questions to be explored through investigation and research. We also expanded our work with engineering standards using robotics/machines at all grade
levels thanks to the Monsanto Grant and the generosity of our parents at last year’s gala. Our Kindergarten through second grade worked with Simple Machines legos, while grade 3 worked with Wedo robotics and grades 4 and 5 worked with EV3 robotics.

We are in year two of a new enrichment rotation. We rotated dance, theater, and yoga to complement the music, art, and technology already provided for students. We added mindfulness work to the yoga this year as well, kicking it off with an assembly for all students on mindfulness, taught by Dr. Eric Dinnenberg. We are in our second year of weekly Spanish in all grades K-5. Angie Stava, from the La Jolla Riford Library, worked with Sigurd Kallhovde several times this year in upper grades as part of the technology rotation to teach our students an enhanced level of research skills. This was a great addition to our work.

In addition to all of the academic work, it’s been a wonderful year of family events. All of our events were well done by their chairs and were enjoyed by our families. No wonder we look forward to these annual events year after year! Our students loved our Back to School Family Picnic, the Family Dance, the Family Movie Night, the Talent Show, Amigos Fiesta, and our Family Science Night. This year, we added an actual art installation to our Art Show in March with a gallery walk of fifth grade art modeled on the art of Keith Haring. We also added choral and theater performances to the show. It was a wonderful addition to the event and we will plan an evening celebration for future art shows.

We’ve had a wonderful year with our fund raising efforts as well. Our Open Aire Market (aka Farmer’s Market) is our largest fund raiser. This year we celebrated its nineteenth year of providing high quality food and merchandise to our community. We had three wonderful family events at the market that were well-attended by our families: the Harvest Festival, Winter Carnival complete with Santa Claus, and Spring Fling, with our annual egg hunt and visit by the Easter Bunny. Our Art and Wine Festival, in its ninth year, was as beautiful and exciting as ever. It continues to raise money for the three public elementary schools in La Jolla, as well as Muirlands Middle School. Our annual giving campaign made a large amount of money thanks to the generosity of our wonder-

ful parent community. And, finally, our gala was one of the most beautiful and successful events in our gala’s history. We enjoyed the lovely venue, fun and colorful theme, enticing auction items, and wonderful entertainment. Now we all know what bohemian chic looks like!

Our foundation did two campus improvement projects this year, adding turf to the lower campus and in the front of the fifth grade building on Girard Avenue. Our neighbors and market goers are especially excited to see the turf on Girard Avenue.

Thanks to PTO funding for the project, I was able to work with Alicia Calhoon, designer and LJES parent, to renovate the administration building. We painted the workroom, health office, outer office, and my office. We changed the 1960’s Formica in the workroom and went with a lovely quartz product. It looks markedly different already and will continue to evolve as we add furnishings, hang pictures, etc.

As we know the students made great progress this year, I will close with some suggestions on how to help your child keep up his/her skills in the summer. We know children benefit from continued reinforcement of their skills over the summer, but another benefit is that they feel emotionally more confident coming into the new school year knowing their skills are strong.

Ideas for Summer Reinforcement:

- All grade levels will be sending home a list of suggested computer programs (ST Math, ST Math Fluency, Raz Kids, and Learning Upgrade) and the amount of time they should be used. Please set aside time for your children to use the programs suggested by his/her teacher each day.

- Encourage reading over the summer. Look for a reading incentive program or create your own. I always ask children to complete a summer reading log and return it the first week of school. They earn a small gift (bookmark, pencil) and an ice cream certificate. The public library also offers a summer incentive reading program. Your child can bring me his/her library log and it counts for my program. Angie Stava, the children’s librarian at the La Jolla Riford Library, launched the library’s summer reading program at our Friday Pledge Assembly on June 1st.

- Another important skill to work on is typing. We have students write on the computer often, especially with our new Writing Workshop units. When they get to middle school, every paper they turn in must be typed. Typing is also important to being able to “show what you know” on the new computer testing. Lack of typing skills really slows students down. Summer is a great time to carve out a bit of time each day to hone this skill and be ready for the new school year already proficient.

- Do some writing activities. An easy way to keep narrative writing going over the summer is to keep a journal of summer activities. Children can write about visits from friends and/or family, camps, classes, special trips, or just things they do each day. These ideas can be used in writing as we start the school year.

- If your child has been receiving speech and language services or occupational therapy services, find time to practice the skills the child has learned in the year so that they will be maintained.

Thank you again for another great year! Have a wonderful summer of rest, fun, and relaxation.

Donna S. Tripi, Principal

HOPE OF AMERICA AWARDS

Four students received Hope of America Awards from the Kiwanis Club. Each student was nominated by his/her fifth grade teacher for exemplary academic performance, citizenship, and leadership potential. Congratulations to Tommy Michael, Luke Fazio, Hope Roxworthy, and Olivia Smith! We look forward to hearing great things about you in the future!
Family Science Night is a very special evening at LJES that continues to exceed expectations each year. This year’s event, co-chaired by Marie Printz and Michael Campos featured 17 stations, staffed by over 80 volunteers. Students conducted experiments with strawberry DNA, reflected on how to sustain Mother Earth, made slime and got to interact with live animals including owls and snakes. It was especially wonderful to see so many LJES alums return to volunteer at various stations around campus. Science Night takes months in planning and the committee will be working extra hard to leave the void that Marie Printz (chair for past 4 years) leaves behind. Please contact Michael Campos if you're interested in joining the Science Night Committee.
**BOOK SWAP**

Friends pass on books they love to other friends! If you haven’t found it yet, the new LJES BookSwap cart is located in front of the LJES library. Find something new-to-you to take home. Or, donate a book you’ve already enjoyed and want to pass on for someone else to read. It’s a great way for our super LJES readers to discover new books or make some room on their bookshelves (all those scholastic book orders!) by sharing some of their old favorites!

Read it? Loved it? Pass it on!!

**SPRING HAS SPRUNG IN THE LIBRARY!**

We’ve plucked poems out of pockets, swapped stories with our buddies, and hosted amazing authors. LJES celebrates reading and writing every day in so many ways and your library is blooming with literary activity!

**Above:** Everyone knows Ms. Tripi LOVES poetry and always has the perfect poem for every occasion. April was National Poetry Month and the LJES library’s excellent poetry collection was flying off the shelves. The library’s Poetry Pockets bulletin board - inspired by Mr. Naylor’s class - gave students a chance to discover new poems or to share their own original poetry.

**Left:** Author Sally Pla signed students’ books in the LJES library in May after 4th graders enjoyed a presentation and discussion of her books, Someday Birds and Stanley Will Probably Be Fine. Students were especially eager to ask questions about newly released “Stanley” which is set in San Diego during Comic Con, and features a super-cool scavenger hunt all over downtown San Diego!

**Right:** Torin Young, holds a signed copy of author Jessie Janowitz’s, The Doughnut Fix. Janowitz, who lives in New York, visited with the 5th graders in the LJES library in May to share her new novel and an interactive presentation on writing strategies. Her inscribed advice to Young, who is writing his own cat spy novel, “Read! Write! Eat doughnuts!”

**Above:** Students from Ms. Butler’s 4th grade class share stories with their reading buddies from Ms. Sandoval’s K1 classroom.
Cool temperatures and light rain could not dampen the festive spirit at the final PTO family event of the 2017-2018 school year. Students enjoyed carnival games, authentic Mexican fare and live entertainment.

Thank you to Amigos Fiesta 2018 committee chairs Jenna Wittkow, Kat Peppers and Megan DeMott and all the wonderful parent and LJES alumni volunteers who transformed the campus into the unforgettable experience that is Amigos Fiesta!
Our LJES Robotics Program has had quite a year with multiple local wins by current teams as well as Team Water Works (now a middle school team that got its start at LJES) who recently went on to win 1st place on the Robot Board and 1st runners up overall at the World Robotics Competition. We asked Ms. Joan Boyle to reflect on what the Robotics Program teaches the students:

What I am particularly proud of is how all the teams respect and follow the Core Values of First Lego League, not just during TEAM, but also in their day to day lives. We may be a robotics team, but we are really teaching life skills that will guide these young engineers through life. This is why we are so successful in winning awards in the discipline of core values. However, it is not about what we win, but how we lose graciously and have a huge amount of fun doing it!

Here are our core values:
• We are a team.
• We do the work to find solutions with guidance from our coaches and mentors.
• We know our coaches and mentors don’t have all the answers; we learn together.
• We honor the spirit of friendly competition.
• What we discover is more important than what we win.
• We share our experiences with others
• We display Gracious Professionalism® and Coopertition® in everything we do.
• We have FUN!

Gracious Professionalism® means teams compete against challenges but appreciate and treat each other with respect. Gracious professionals lend a helping hand to an opponent when needed because they want everyone to have a chance to compete. Even when a team wins the competition, they avoid treating anyone like losers.

Coopertition® combines the concepts of cooperation and competition. Coopertition is founded on the philosophy that teams can (and should!) cooperate with each other even as they compete. Once you have mastered a skill, you teach it to someone else so that everyone can do better next time. You still do your best to win, just not at the other team’s expense.

Several students were recently honored for their exemplary writing in local contests.

Congratulations to fourth graders Kai Moore from Mrs. Balmat’s class, Harry Park from Mr. Naylor’s class, and Emery Hom from Mrs. Butler’s class for winning the library essay contest, which is jointly sponsored by the city libraries and San Diego Unified School District. Our three students’ essays were chosen from over one hundred submissions from the public and private schools in La Jolla.

Two LJES students took home 2 Grand Prizes at the San Diego Division of The 15th World Children’s Haiku Contest. Congratulations to fifth grader Audrey Lin and third grader Andrew Lee. The award winning poets will have their work published by the JAL Foundation along with other winners from all over the world.
There were cheers, there were bitter tears of disappointment, and there was plenty of jubilant ‘flossing’ on the podium. It was another grand day at the 28th annual La Jolla Junior Olympics.

Richard “Moon” Mullen started the La Jolla Junior Olympics in 1992 while he was serving as the president of La Jolla Kiwanis Club with 140 students participating in the inaugural event. The event has grown to now include nine public and private schools in La Jolla, with over 900 students participating.

This year’s event was staffed by over 100 volunteers including members of the La Jolla Kiwanis Club, UCSD Circle K Club, La Jolla High School Key Club, La Jolla YMCA and the US Marines. Our own Ms. Julie Greathouse led a choir of student representatives from all schools in a beautiful performance of the national anthem during the opening ceremony.

Our athletes represented our school with pride, with countless LJES medal sweeps on the podium that kept Ms. Tripi very busy. Congratulations to the boys’ relay team who earned silver medals and to Wyatt Olmert, silver medalist in the fastest boy race. They were both heartbreakingly close to gold by inches. Many parents lost their voices cheering their hearts out, but the most memorable moments came from the displays of sportsmanship between our young athletes, lending hugs for the disappointing losses, and celebrating each others’ victories.
THANK YOU LJES FOR ANOTHER GREAT YEAR!!

As the school year draws to a close, we can’t help but marvel at the wonderful memories of 2017-2018. LJES is so much more than a school, it is an entire community of students, teachers and families who come together to create a special place that fosters learning, creativity and lifelong friendships.

Each year, what seems like an irreplaceable void is left as our fifth grade families move on to middle school. And every year, that void is filled with another cadre of energetic parents who step up to tackle and conquer the projects on hand. We want to thank all the volunteers who have given countless hours over the past year and give special recognition to those who have stepped up to chair all the events and projects that will make 2018-2019 a year to remember. Each committee chair will be reaching out to the community for help and if you’re interested in becoming more involved, they are great resources to seek out.

PTO Committee Chairs 2018-2019

- Amigos Fiesta: Kat Peppers, Jenna Wittkow, Megan Demott
- Art Show: Jill Peters
- Book Fair: Lindsey Smith, Julie Hom, Yvonne Choi, Karen Carlson
- Directory: Arlyn Lipsher
- Family Dance Night: Marianne Gary
- Family Movie Night: Elizabeth Tobias, Jean Kim
- Family Picnic Night: Mele Leaverton, Alisa Morrow
- Family Science Night: Vanessa Emmery, Michael Campos
- Gardening: Jenn Foss
- Handbook: Nicole Peck
- Health & Safety: Christina Tovar
- Hospitality: Chesi Schroeder, Ali Holten
- Logo Wear: Daphne Kula
- Kindergarten Liaison: Dana Turner, Jenn Foss, Jenny Lakisic
- Pizza Wednesday: Ben Grieve
- PTO Membership: Jill Ostrom
- School Supply Kits: Karen Lappas
- Student Council Coordinator: Tricia Dinenberg
- Talent Show: Colleen Royal, Micaela Jeffery
- Website: Nicole Peck
- Welcoming Committee: Jema Edwards
- Yearbook: Leyla Larijani Canive
- Yearbook Sales: Erin Harris
- Library Chair: Sonia Teder Moore
- Lost and Found: Arlyn Lipsher
- Run Club: Sonali Patel

I WANT YOU FOR LJES PTO!!

We will be looking for volunteers immediately when the new school year starts for:
- Pizza Wednesday
- Front Desk
- Girard Gate Duty
- Library
- Yearbook Photographers
- Run Club
- Family Science Night Planning Committee

It’s not too early to get involved for the 2018-2019 school year. Contact any of the PTO board members or committee chairs.

PTO Executive Board 2018-2019

- President: Mira Costello
- Secretary: Jaime Flynn
- Treasurer: Kendall Goldstein
- Auditor: Zhene Lejuwaan
- VP Programs: Kat Peppers
- VP Volunteers: Amanda Zilke
- VP Room Parents: Ali Murphy, Jenn Foss
- VP Communications: Megan Demott
- VP Tidings: Julie Hom, Kiyon Chung
- PTO/Friends Liaison: Katy Siddons
- Teacher Representative: Erin Sullivan
- Principal: Donna Tripi

SUMMER PLAYDATES FOR INCOMING KINDERGARTENERS

If you have an incoming Kindergartener for the 2018-2019 school year, mark your calendars for the following playdates for enrolled, incoming TK and Kindergarteners on the LJES Kindergarten play yard (siblings welcome):

- Sunday, July 1, 2018 12:30-2pm
- Sunday, July 22, 2018 12:30-2pm
- Thursday, August 9, 2018 from 3:30-5pm
- Sunday, August 19, 2018 from 12:30-2pm

These playdates are not mandatory but rather a fun way to meet incoming TK and Kindergarten families and get the children used to the Kindergarten area before the start of the school year. If you have any questions, feel free to contact one of us on the PTO Kindergarten Welcoming Committee (Dana Turner, Jen Foss, Jenny Lakisic).

BIKE TO WORK DAY

Every day is bike to work day for Mr. K but he had some company on the recent National Bike to Work Day 2018!
Musical Theatre Camp  |  Cost: $300  
Weeks of July 16-20, 23-27, and 30-Aug. 3rd  |  9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.  |  Grades 2 - 7 (current grades)

LJES Music Teacher, Ms. Julie Greathouse, will be offering a Musical Theatre experience. This will be a cabaret kind of format where you can perform your favorite music as a solo or with your friends in class, your choice. We will have a short showcase at the end of each week, so you can work on several songs or put choreography to your favorite song.

This class is open to LJES students and former students up through 7th grade! Spread the word to your friends!

Class size is limited to 25 students. A yummy and healthy snack will be provided each day. Please contact Julie Greathouse at: jjgreathousesuazo@sandi.net if you would like more information about Camp Cafe La Jolla.

Sign up at https://campscui.active.com/orgs/LJESPTOInc

First Session Café La Jolla Players  
July 16-July 20, 2018  
9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Second Session:  
July 23-July 27, 2018  
9:00 a.m.- 2:30 p.m.

Third Session:  
July 30-Aug. 3, 2018  
9:00 a.m.- 2:30 p.m.

CHELSEA KING INVITATIONAL MILE

LJES students took home top prizes at the Chelsea King Invitational Mile. Congratulations to some very speedy LJES students!

Above: Fourth graders Chiara Daley (1st place) and Navah Lipskey (3rd place)
Top Center: Third grader Ruby Royal placed fifth
Top Right: Fifth grader Katie Murray placed fifth
Below: Fifth grader Trevor Kula (1st place)
LJES

WILD AT HEART SPRING GALA

We took a walk on the wild side Saturday, April 21 at Farmer & the Seahorse with LJES parents, teachers, and staff at this year’s annual spring gala. It was a beautiful evening full of good vibes with tarot card readers, amazing auction items, gorgeous décor, and lots of dancing! It was not only fun but also successful – raising nearly $150,000 for our children, thanks to the overwhelming support and generosity from our LJES community. Special thanks to the gala co-chairs Nicole Peck and Wendy Marchbanks, auction co-chairs Julie Bubnack and Molly Gutierrez, and all who helped to make it a festival to remember!

Wherever you go, go with all your heart.
School is out, summer is in. A break from school doesn’t mean you need to take a break from supporting our kids. The market is open all summer long and features fresh produce from the best local farmers, unique items from amazing artisans, and a fantastic food court with the best breakfast, lunch, and brunch in La Jolla. Make us part of your summer routine every Sunday from 9am to 1:30pm.

THANKS FOR ANOTHER GREAT YEAR!

By Angie Tetmeyer Yazici

It’s been a fantastic year for Friends of La Jolla Elementary. Thanks to your generosity, fundraising through the open aire market, the La Jolla Art & Wine Festival, business sponsorships, the Annual Giving Campaign, and most recently our annual spring gala has exceeded expectations. This year we were able to fund three additional classroom teachers to reduce class sizes, support teachers across all grade levels, educational tools and supplies for our teachers, and enrichment staff and supplies in art, music, technology, Spanish, dance, theatre, and yoga. Additionally, we added green spaces on campus and at the Girard gate making LJES beautiful inside and out.

This year’s success is due in large part to the hard-working individuals who serve on the Friends board. Thank you to Lisa Archbold, Tammy Piehl, Colleen Royal, Jenny Hochberg, Katy Siddons, Micaela Jeffery, Nicole Peck, Aimie Takata, Julie Bubnack, Tami Spence, Melissa Miller, Marcia Branstetter, Valerie Rock, and Sherry Ahern for your contributions this year – and for your willingness to return for more fun! And special thanks to Alexa Scoma and Marcy Holthus for their service on the board over the years, helping to make LJES what it is today.

Funding alone does not make a great school. We are so lucky to have such an incredible team of teachers and staff who support our children each and every day and an amazing principal whose dedication to our school and children is remarkable. They are the reason LJES continues to receive accolades, including the California Distinguished Schools Award this year.

Again, thank you to our generous families for supporting our students and school. Have a wonderful summer!
PLEASE SUPPORT OUR PEARL SPONSORS

Angela Nahl, MD
Medical Director
9834 Genesee Ave. #428
La Jolla, CA 92037
858.551.4100
appts@lajollalasik.com
www.lajollalasik.com/book-now/
A truly special teacher sees tomorrow in every child’s eyes.
Thank you, LJES!
Pearl Sponsor for 7 years!

WELLS FARGO HOME MORTGAGE
Dale R. Smith
Private Mortgage Banker
Phone 619.218.5757
Email: dale.r.smith@wellsfargo.com
www.wfhm.com/dale-smith

Jennifer D. Rens, DDS
J. Daniel Gibson, DDS
Comprehensive Dentistry
La Jolla Dental Office
(858) 459-3381
7334 Girard Ave., Ste. 104
La Jolla, California

KRISTIN SLAUGHTER
C: 858.395.1359
krisin@kristinslaughter.com
JODI MURRAY
C: 858.736.5617
jodi@jodi-murray.com
COLDWELL BANKER
930 Prospect Street
La Jolla, CA 92037
BRE 01239669/01949991

Serving LJ since 1985!
Custom Homes • Remodels • Development
858.454.4345
www.NauBuilders.com

INTERESTED IN BECOMING ONE OF OUR SPONSORS?
PLEASE CONTACT
KATY SIDDONS
KATYSIDDONS@GMAIL.COM

Tidings is a publication of the La Jolla Elementary PTO and Friends of La Jolla Elementary Inc, 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporations. As such, content for emails will be at the sole discretion of the PTO and Friends.