PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

By Donna S. Tripi, Principal

Dear Parents,

Technology is a focus of the Common Core State Standards across curricular areas. In the introduction to the standards it is stated that students should "use technology and digital media strategically and capably. Students employ technology thoughtfully to enhance their reading, writing, speaking, listening, and language use. They tailor their searches online to acquire useful information efficiently, and they integrate what they learn through technology with what they learn offline. They are familiar with the strengths and limitations of various technological tools and media and can select and use those best suited to their communication goals."

While this is a goal that we have for students by the end of their time in public education (K-12), the foundational skills necessary for students to achieve these standards happens at the elementary level. There is a lot of teaching and learning embedded in these statements. To begin with, students need to understand how to interact with and be a good citizen of the digital world. Our Technology Committee, comprised of a teacher from each grade level, and our Technology Director/Teacher, Sigurd Kallhovde (Mr. K), chose lessons from Common Sense Media on digital citizenship to teach our students. Classroom teachers and Mr. K teach digital citizenship lessons at the beginning of the school year and sprinkle them throughout the year as needed. Parents may access this website as well if they would like further assistance or choose to delve into any of the topics more fully with their children at home.

Additionally, we have decided to present internet safety to students in grades 4 and 5 twice in the year. Jon Moffat, internet safety consultant, presented to students and parents on November 1. We will have an additional presentation in the spring.

Day to day, technology is integrated fully into the curriculum very authentically. One of the essential areas to embed technology is in research. The grade level standards require students to gather information from multiple print and digital sources. Students are taught how to access relevant and reliable digital sources and to integrate the information with what they have learned in books and articles. In addition to websites, students use online media resources like film clips, speeches, news stories, etc. They use technology to take notes and to store their research.

Another example of the use of technology is in presentation. Students are taught to enhance their presentation of information with technology. This does not mean the standard PowerPoint. Students have the opportunity to create slide shows, videos, and presentations of their own creation that help them illustrate and present their work. They need to be thoughtful about their selections, ensuring that pictures, videos, etc. enhance their presentations by adding information, examples, etc. that illustrate their point(s). They also need to consider their purpose and audience. Students use technology daily in their writing. They generally do a thinking map to organize their ideas and then draft and revise their writing on their laptops. It is so much more efficient and palatable to students to edit well when they are not having to "copy over" their narratives.

The Smarter Balanced Assessments that the students in grades 3-5 take at the end of the school year require that students are adept at working with technology. They will be manipulating multiple screens, highlighting texts, typing responses, using drop down responses, and listening to text. We are giving them practice with all of these skills as we make them an authentic part of their day to day tasks in the classroom.

Additionally, in order for students to competently use technology, they need to have access to technology throughout the school day in their classrooms. To that end, the district has provided a one-to-one ratio of laptops to students in grades 3-5, and our foundation purchased the same laptops in order for our second graders to have a one-to-one ratio. In Kindergarten and first grade our students are using a combination of iPads and older laptops in literacy and math rotations. The district will be providing additional technology in these grades at the end of the school year.

Donna S. Tripi, Principal
Hello, my name is Laine Jeffery and I am so excited to be your new school President! First, I would like to congratulate everyone who ran for an office position. They put a lot of effort and heart into the process of running for office!

As the oldest of three (Cece in Ms. Skommesa’s third grade class and Milly who is four years old) I am very responsible and ready to take on challenges. I believe that kindness to others is a very important part of being a good person. I want to incorporate this strong concept throughout the school with kindness activities and I have some fun ideas for this. We had our first Student Council meeting and the Student Council and I can’t wait to get started on all of the great projects we have planned for this year.

As your President, I want to make sure your ideas are heard and would really like to see a lot of suggestions in the suggestion box this year. Maybe it will be your idea that will turn into something great for our school! I am excited to get started on all of the many fun ideas planned for our community and school. Don’t be afraid to show those random acts of kindness!

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LA JOLLA ELEMENTARY WELCOMED A NEW P.E. TEACHER AT THE START OF THE SCHOOL YEAR, HERE’S A LITTLE BIT MORE ABOUT “COACH K”:

Joseph Kastorff, or “Coach K” at school, is a rare San Diego native. He grew up in Bay Park, overlooking Mission Bay. He graduated from SDSU with a BA in English Literature and received his teaching credential there. He also holds a Master’s Degree in Educational Technology.

He taught 10th & 12th grade English at Mission Bay High before moving over to CPMA Middle School in Clairemont. After a few years of teaching English, he obtained a second teaching credential for Physical Education and in 2009, made the jump to the PE Department at CPMA to pursue his true teaching passion—sports and athletics. He has been teaching at the elementary school level for the past two years.

He’s excited to join the team at LJES in a community he knows well (Marine Street is one of his favorite beach breaks). He enjoys spending his free time at the beach, body surfing, riding his bike, hiking all over of the county, snowboarding at Mammoth, traveling constantly to exciting locales, and participating in obstacle course races (i.e. Spartans and Tough Mudders). He’s still heartbroken at the moving of our once-beloved Chargers to LA, but has since adopted the Packers.
Congratulations to LJES Robotics! Two of the six teams qualified for the First Lego League Championships in December.

Thank you to coaches Ms. Boyle and Mr. Breise for their hard work getting the kids ready for competition and keeping it fun.

Want an easy way to raise money for the PTO and our school? Start saving those box tops and help us reach our $2000 goal! All you need to do is cut them off, stick them in a baggie (with your child’s name and grade), and have your child “feed” the Box Top Bots located in the Kindergarten playground and front office area.

Box Tops can be found in many different products we buy every day. We want to thank our amazing PTO volunteer, Leyla Canive for chairing this committee and bringing the Bots to LJES.

https://www.boxtops4education.com/about

STUDENTS SPEAK: WHAT’S YOUR FAVORITE THING ABOUT THE HOLIDAYS?

We asked students what makes the holiday season so special, here’s what they had to say:

• "Eating pumpkin pie," Beatrice, Kindergarten

• "You don’t have school for a week, and you get to spend time with your family during that week," Karl, 2nd grade

• "You get to open gifts and be with your family," Marc-Antoine, 4th grade

• "Spending time with my family," Cristiana, 5th grade

LJES ROBOTICS

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HALLOWEEN PARADE!

The annual LJES Halloween Parade is a favorite school event because it allows the school to celebrate the holiday together, as a community.

The 2017 parade was held at the upper field and showcased a variety of creative costumes. We saw knights and princesses, superheroes and villains, doughnuts, popcorn and gumball machines, and lots more.
FAMILY DANCE

The Family Dance is always a special PTO event, and the unofficial start of holiday season at LJES. The auditorium transforms into an old-fashioned dance hall, with live jazz music playing standards and holiday favorites. Students and their parents show up in fancy outfits and spend the evening dancing with friends, drinking cups and cups of lemonade and eating cookies. Another big draw of the night is spending time at The book fair, which is open late and a great place to discover new authors and stories with friends.

ALICE IN WONDERLAND

Once again Ms Deirdre transported us to the wonderland of theater with her “Alice in Wonderland” production. Over 40 students from first to fifth grade took part in this year’s play featuring beloved characters old and new. Ms Deirdre wrote a special adaptation for this show and LJES was its first staging. And what an unforgettable performance it was. Standout performances by fifth graders Laine Jefferey and Eddie Wells as the two Alices, Katta Cox as Queen of Hearts, Charlotte Ward as Mathilda, Olivia Smith as Cheshire Cat and Luke Lansky as the especially hilarious Caterpillar drew thunderous applause and standing ovations. We are so very grateful to the countless volunteer parents and student stage crew for their tireless work. Bravo to all!
Meet Third Grader Muriel Bice-Branstetter, a young girl with a huge heart. Muriel donated 1/3 of her life savings ($8) to Friends’ annual giving campaign. Why? Because she loves LJES! Thank you Muriel for teaching all of us that it is the act of giving that matters, not the amount.

WANNA WIN AN ICE CREAM TRUCK PARTY?

Inspired by Muriel’s generous and heartfelt donation, Friends would like to challenge all LJES students and families to donate whatever they can to reach our goal of 100% participation in our annual giving campaign. We are more than halfway there! No dollar amount is too small. Every dollar counts. The grade with the highest percentage participation in our annual giving campaign will win an ice cream truck party!

How do you participate? It’s simple! Send in cash or check in an envelope marked “AGC.” Be sure to include your child or children’s name(s), teacher(s), and grade(s) on the envelope. Friends will be collecting donation envelopes from each classroom throughout the contest period, so please feel free to send in your donations through student backpacks. Donations can also be made online at www.friendsofljes.org/donate.

What is the minimum donation to participate? There is no minimum donation required to participate. Every single dollar counts. No donation is too small.

What if you already made a donation to the Annual Giving Campaign? There is no need to donate again! We have already included your donation in the contest.

When will the winning grade be announced? The deadline to participate is December 31, 2017. The winning grade(s) will be announced at Friday pledge on January 5, 2018.

CURRENT STANDINGS

First Grade is currently in the lead, but it is anyone’s game. 100% participation means an ice cream truck party for all!

Any questions? Please contact Annual Giving Campaign Co-Chairs Jenny Hochberg at jennyli100@yahoo.com or Aimie Takata at altakata@gmail.com.
LA JOLLA OPEN AIRE MARKET

Please join us on Sunday, December 10th for our Winter Carnival. This free family event includes a performance from the LJES Choir, holiday-inspired arts & crafts, games galore on the field, and of course a visit from Santa!

We hope you make us part of your Sunday routine this holiday season. Whether you need unique gifts from our amazing local artisans, flowers or succulents for your holiday table, farm-fresh produce for a festive meal, or a delicious lunch in our food court, the market is the place to be. As always, proceeds from the market support and enrich the education of our children at LJES.

Visit us at www.lajollamarket.com for more information.
A truly special teacher sees tomorrow in every child’s eyes.
Thank you, LJES!

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