Dear Parents,

We are in the second year of implementing the new California standards for science, known as the Next Generation K-12 Science Standards (NGSS). The NGSS were created by Nobel laureates and science educators with the goal of having students deepen their understanding of core ideas in science and engineering through active engagement with science and engineering practices and the application of cross cutting concepts. They describe what should be taught and how it should be taught.

The content of the standards are laid out in the areas of physical sciences; life sciences; earth and space sciences; and engineering, technology and applications of science. The seven cross cutting concepts are fundamental concepts that bridge all of the ideas, e.g. identifying patterns, and cause and effect relationships. The science and engineering practices identify how students should interact with science questions and engineering problems as follows:

- Asking questions for science and defining problems for engineering
- Developing and using models
- Analyzing and interpreting data
- Using mathematics and computational thinking
- Constructing explanations for science and designing solutions for engineering
- Engaging in argument from evidence
- Obtaining, evaluating and communicating information

Prior to this science implementation, we had not taught engineering within our science units. Now we are able to set up problems for students to solve, and guide them to design and test solutions. For example, Marisa Martin (Ms. Marisa) volunteered to be on the “early implementer” science team for the district. With her district Kindergarten team, she planned a series of lessons that would have her students create a “shelter” for “glow in the dark” dragonflies. This entailed setting up the problem – the dragon flies needed shelter from the sun -- and then studying the kinds of materials that could be used. They ultimately built a structure that would allow in the least amount of light.

In fourth grade, our science teachers Debbie Balmat and Michael Naylor did a series of lessons using hot wheels cars. Students had to use science concepts to design ramps that would enable cars to go the greatest distance, then at the greatest speed.

While teachers are working to incorporate more engineering into science units, we have also added an engineering unit at all grades this year using lego systems. Because we were fortunate enough to receive the Monsanto Grant for the last two years and to be able to supplement the grant through your generous support of our foundation, Friends of LJES, we were able to buy Simple Machines kits for grades K-2, Wedo kits for grade 3, and EV3 kits for grades 4 and 5. These kits give our students experience in engineering practices through setting up a problem, and designing, building, and programming machines and robotics to solve it.

Through both the science and engineering units, we are developing students who know how to work together toward a common goal – discovering scientific concepts or solving engineering problems. We are seeing that our students value the contributions of others on their team and know how to collaborate. The discussions in whole group as they share their findings are impressive. We feel that we are preparing them well for college and future careers.

Donna S. Tripi, Principal
Twirling, singing, cartwheels and skits were just some of the highlights from the 2018 LJES Talent Show. Students from Kindergarten to fifth grade showcased a wide variety of talents, from virtuosic piano playing and groovy salsa dancing to performances of top hit songs and the latest dance moves. The supportive audience cheered on as students took the stage to show off their creative sides and Principal Tripi provided memorable hosting. There were joke-tellers that made everyone giggle, singers that got people grooving in their seats, and a fifth grade group dance that featured actual bicycles on stage. Thank you to parents Alexa Scoma and Micaela Jeffery for putting together another unforgettable LJES Talent Show.
What are all these kids doing in the library at 7:30am every Wednesday? They’re at Math Club! We caught up with Casmir Wierzynski and Rafael Bejar, two dads who are running Math Club this year for 3rd-5th graders.

**What is the purpose of math club?**

The aim is to expose students to mathematical concepts in fun ways — games, puzzles, and hands-on activities. Math is taught in a very linear manner in school. However, there are many “advanced” concepts that are totally accessible to kids. They get to see math well beyond what they are learning in school without the pressure to master it. They simply get to explore each idea and play with it. Hopefully, the next time they encounter a topic like binary numbers or probability they will feel a spark of familiarity and fun and not a sense of trepidation.

We like doing it because thanks to the students, we get to re-experience how cool these ideas are, as if we’re seeing them for the first time. It’s fun watching these great student minds at work! !

**What kind of things do you learn in math club?**

As far as topics, depending on the week you will learn about number theory, abstract algebra, probability, topology, combinatorics, set theory, dynamical systems and chaos. But these topics are presented in ways that students can work on directly. We try to find topics that are fun and easy to get into but also provide a glimpse into deep concepts. We also share examples of where these concepts appear in daily life and professions. Math is about patterns, and patterns are everywhere.

**Anything else you want us to know?**

Please let us know if you’d be interested in helping out.

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**MEETING ROSE SCHINDLER**

Last month, LJES fifth graders shared an unforgettable experience when they welcomed Holocaust survivor Rose Schindler to tell her life story.

For nearly two hours, Rose recounted stories that kept the students riveted, inspired and moved beyond words.

After her camp’s liberation, Rose was taken into a refugee program in England, where she met her late husband, fellow Holocaust survivor, Max Schindler. Rose’s story began in pre-war Czechoslovakia. In 1944, when she was only 14-years-old, her family of 10 was transported to Auschwitz. When Rose’s family arrived at the camp, a fellow inmate told her to tell the guards that she was 18 and not 14. Convincing the Nazis that she was useful essentially saved her life.

The couple married in 1950 and emigrated to New York in 1951. Rose still lives in the Del Cerro home, where she and Max raised their four children.

Rose continues to share her story with the world, fulfilling a promise that she made to her father the last time she ever saw him in Auschwitz. He said, “Whatever you do, stay alive so you can tell the world what they are doing to us.”

Here is how some fifth graders recalled the presentation:

“I am forever changed and Mrs. Schindler’s story really moved me. I keep her autograph in my room.” Jet

“That was a life-changing experience for me. I got to touch a real Holocaust survivor!” Eddie

“Mrs. Schindler’s speech was very inspiring and interesting to learn about her life in the Holocaust.” Olivia

“It makes me feel lucky to live in a place where people aren’t treated like that. She is my hero and I am so glad to have met someone as brave as her.” Jackson

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**MATH CLUB**

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This is the first year that LJES has offered a class dedicated to transitional kindergarten students instead of mixing them into regular Kindergarten classes. We caught up with Ms. Jessica who is teaching TK this year.

**How do you think the experience has been?**
I think it is great for the TK students to have their own dedicated classroom. It has been wonderful to provide them with play based learning experiences in the afternoon when they are tired from their literacy and mathematics work in the morning. The TK’s need more time to accomplish their daily tasks, having a TK class allows me to give them the extra time they need to feel successful with their classroom assignments.

**You have taught kindergarten for 18 years. How have you adjusted the curriculum for this year?**
I have been focused on picking stories for read alouds that the K classes don’t use. During Dr. Seuss week, I had fun discovering new Dr. Seuss texts to read to my TK students. I have always had a poem a month for my K classes, I’ve had to simplify some of the poems for the TK students. The district has created a TK math curriculum, so that is great to have and use on a daily basis.

**What has been your favorite thing about this year?**
My favorite thing about every school year is getting to meet, teach and learn from 20+ wonderful little individuals. LJES is an amazing village and I am so grateful to be a part of it.

The kindergarten classes recently celebrated Dr. Seuss Day in honor of Dr Seuss’ birthday. Students enjoyed rotating thru a variety of activities including a rhyming station, counting fish, making green eggs and ham, and creating oobleck. Dr. Seuss wrote over 60 books during his lifetime, many of them inspired by the sights and sounds of La Jolla, where he and his wife lived for over 40 years.

**WHAT DID YOU LIKE BEST ABOUT DR. SEUSS DAY?**

**MAKENNA K4**
“Green eggs and ham because it tastes good!”

**MAX K3**
“Green eggs and ham because I get to eat it!”

**COLTEN K2**
“Making oobleck because it was gooey!”

The Student Council has made some amazing accomplishments this year and still have more in the making! We couldn’t have done it without LJES! The Cleanliness Campaign brought awareness to our school sanitation. I think everyone picked up some helpful tips from the campaign. Our Change War raised $582 for the Lymphoma and Leukemia society. All grades participated but first grade won. It has been very cool to see all the generosity in our school. The Student Council is really looking forward to our upcoming tour at La Jolla High to see how the ASB works. Thank you for supporting our school and community!
2018 ART SHOW SETS A NEW STANDARD

While the LJES Art Show has always been an event to look forward to, this year’s show set a new standard with a series of performances to celebrate opening night. Third grade choir opened the act followed by students singing exquisite renditions of favorites from the Hamilton musical. Fourth and fifth grade choir closed out the afternoon’s extravaganza. The event was catered by Meso Subi, featuring delicious Polynesian fusion cuisine.

The campus was transformed by a fifth grade art installation inspired by 1980’s pop artist Keith Haring and the auditorium displayed artwork from every LJES student throughout the following week. Special thanks to art teacher Sonia Devine, Elizabeth Tobias and the countless parent volunteers who made this year’s event so memorable. The arts are alive and thriving at LJES!!

STUDENT COUNCIL UPDATE

By Laine Jeffery

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The Open Aire Market was hoppin’ on Sunday, March 18th for our annual Spring Fling event. Many thanks to Ms. Julie Greathouse and the LJES choir for kicking off the festivities with some swinging favorites. It was wonderful to see all the families who joined us to craft, dance, and play. And special thanks to the Easter Bunny for leading the exciting egg hunts! All market proceeds provide funding that supports and enriches the education of the children at LJES. Make us part of your Sunday routine!
Check out a few of this year’s offerings:

- Adults Only, Weekend in Cabo at a 5-Star Hotel
- Kid Camps at G3, SD Surf Camp, Mission Bay Aquatics Center, and more.
- Adult Camps and Classes with Surf Divas, Paper Source and Piazza 1909
- Teacher Outings! Get your $1 opportunity tickets for your child’s chance to join their beloved teacher on an exciting outing on Wednesday, May 2 or they may even be principal for the day! Tickets will also be on sale at pizza Wednesday.
- LJES Socials! Secure your spot at an adults only throwback to high school party, a ladies’ night out glamping at One Door North, a hip-hop class, and more.
- And the class baskets are wild this year!

Shop early and shop often as new items are being added daily.

If you haven’t received a text with your personalized link to shop the auction and believe you have registered your mobile number at www.bidpal.net/LJESgala, please contact us at ljesauction@gmail.com or call 858-412-3772.

Whenever you go, go with all your heart.