Dear Families,

The 2018-2019 year started off like every other year, with Ms. Tripi welcoming you as you stepped onto campus in August. Our TK and kindergarten students arrived eager to meet new friends and embark upon new adventures, and our fifth graders entered campus excited for another awesome year ahead with their friends and teachers. Classroom communities came together to learn and achieve, to discover and grow their passions, and to develop as citizens.

Then suddenly, the winds shifted and the tides turned when Ms. Tripi announced her departure for a new role as the Superintendent of the Rancho Santa Fe School District. As you bid farewell to the incredible leader who steered La Jolla Elementary to greatness during her 19 year tenure, the future seemed uncertain; you were worried that the journey you started might go off course. You didn’t know who would step in to orchestrate the many moving parts that had worked in unison to make La Jolla Elementary School such an amazing place for children.

As I drove into La Jolla and stepped back onto campus to take on the Interim Principal position in early January, I felt like I was coming home and that I was right where I belonged. However, Ms. Tripi left very large shoes, and I admittedly wasn’t certain if I’d be able to fill them. Thankfully, after Recognition and Pledge assemblies, Family Movie Night and the Talent Show, classroom visits, lunch and dismissal duty, meetings, and getting acquainted with the students, staff, and families, Ms. Tripi’s shoes started to fit a bit better. I knew that I was right where I needed to be.

I have absolutely loved jumping in, getting to know everyone, and continuing the amazing journey that Ms. Tripi started with all of you. I am truly honored to have been selected as the Principal of this amazing school. I’m thrilled to be closing the 2018-2019 school year with you, and I look forward to the 2019-2020 school year and many more years ahead!

As we go off to summer break, I want to remind you to spend some time nurturing the academic growth your children have made this year. If you don’t already have them, ask your child’s teacher for passwords to online programs, such as ST Math, Raz Kids, Learning Upgrade, typing.com, and Google Drive. Encourage your child to read books and texts they love. They can turn in their reading log when we return in August for a small treat (the La Jolla Riford Library has a summer program, which Dana Sanchez introduced at a recent Friday Pledge Assembly). Also, have your child do some writing. You can provide them with a special journal to record their summer activities, or they can keep an online journal in Google Docs, which they can share with others, including me - I’d love to read about their summer adventures! Finally, you can purchase workbooks for math and other content areas online or from brick and mortar stores.

It has been an absolute pleasure re-joining the La Jolla Elementary School community. I wish you a wonderful summer of fun, relaxation, and time with your family. I look forward to seeing you in August!

Warmly,

Stephanie Hasselbrink, Ed.D
Interim Principal
Students and families gathered to celebrate our 32nd Annual Amigos Fiesta on May 3rd. An amazing mariachi band, great food, and fun carnival games ensured that there was something for everyone to enjoy. Thank you to Amigos Fiesta Committee Chairs – Megan Demott, Jenna Wittkow, and Kat Peppers – and to all the parents and LJES alumni volunteers for coordinating such an incredible event.

Dear LJES Families and Friends,

I am honored to have served as your PTO President these past two years. I have learned so much from you all and have so much admiration for the parent volunteers who work so tirelessly to ensure our school is the best it can be. From counting laps at run club, to volunteering in the classroom, and to selling pizza, you have worked so hard to ensure our kids have the best elementary school experience possible, and for that I am forever grateful to have worked alongside all of you and humbled by your willingness to do this for “free” and on your spare time. I look forward to enjoying my “second” retirement and am open to what the universe holds for me, but I leave knowing you are in such competent and capable hands with Kat Peppers leading the PTO board as your new incoming President and to our new board members who bring new life and new blood and new amazing opportunities and experiences. Thank you all for your help and support these past two years. You have restored my faith in humanity and that the volunteers here at LJES are a force to reckon with. I toast you all to a bright and successful future, to infinity and beyond.

Mira Sanchez Costello
Former PTO President

Starting from back row, left: Kiyon Chung (VP Tidings), Angela Landen (VP Tidings), Erin Sullivan (Teacher rep), Jenn Foss (VP Room Parents), Sonia Teder-Moore (Library Chair), Katy Siddons (PTO/Friends Liaison), Julie Hom (VP Volunteers), Tricia Caviola (VP Communications), Ali Murphy (VP Room Parents), Dr. Hasselbrink (Principal), Mira Sanchez Costello (past PTO President), Jema Edwards (VP Communications), Yvonne Choi (Secretary), Kat Peppers (PTO President). Not in photo: Kendall Goldstein (Treasurer), Amanda Zilke (VP Volunteers).
PENCIL SKETCHES, BUTTER CHURNING, AND THE CREATIVE PROCESS: AUTHOR & ILLUSTRATOR OF ERNESTINE’S MILKY WAY VISIT LJES

In May, first and second graders were treated to a visit from the author and illustrator of Ernestine’s Milky Way. Filing into the LJES Library, students walked through a gallery of Emily Sutton’s beautiful pencil sketches and watercolors. They were pulled into the story as writer Kerry Madden-Lunsford read aloud. They watched, rapt, as the author’s husband, Kiffen, clog-danced and sang a song about whistle pigs (a/k/a groundhogs) while the family dog, Olive, howled along. Mr. Kiffen also demonstrated how to churn butter by shaking a mason jar filled with heavy cream. Afterwards, the students were full of questions. They learned how Ms. Kerry met the real-life Ernestine, how Ms. Emily drew places she had never visited, and how two people created a picture book without ever having met in person. Students also got advice about the creative process. Ms. Kerry described using her five senses (can you name them?) when writing, and Ms. Emily encouraged the students to “experiment with different ways of making marks.”

To see more of their creations, please visit kerrymadden.com and emillustrates.com.

TWO LJES STUDENTS SELECTED FOR HONOR BAND & ORCHESTRA

Congratulations to two young amazing musicians, Ryan Miller (5th grade, trumpet) and Anya Rastogi (4th grade, violin), for earning seats in SDUSD’s Honor Band and Orchestra, respectively. After being selected based on auditions, which required them to learn specific pieces of music and scales, they practiced six weeks to perform in an Honors Concert in late March.

PARENT WORKSHOP: HOW TO GROW A READER

Right now you are reading this Tidings article not for an assignment, but for your own curiosity and enjoyment. On May 1, parents gathered in the LJES Library to learn about the benefits of such “reading for pleasure” and how to inspire more of it.

Dana Sanchez, Youth Services Librarian at the La Jolla/Riford Branch Library, discussed why reading outside the classroom should be encouraged. She cited some eye-opening poll results: 50% of Americans are illiterate, meaning they can read but choose not to, and 1/3 of high school- and 42% of college graduates never read another book for the rest of their lives. The result is missed opportunities – e.g., to figure out what things mean, experience the world from other perspectives, and practice getting something done.

Library volunteer Sonia Teder-Moore shared tips for creating a culture of reading. Let kids make their own selections (e.g., graphic novels), visit libraries and bookstores, model reading by making time and space for it at home, read aloud to children of all ages, and create family traditions around reading. Stacey Haerr, Children’s Book Buyer for Warwick’s, fondly recalled “Abraham Lincoln” nights when her family would read by candlelight.

Ms. Stacey also recommended some of her favorite books (e.g., Stuart Little, the Magic Misfits series by Neil Patrick Harris, Pax). She mentioned the I Survived books as an interesting line of non-fiction books with a fiction-like format.

For more information, please ask Sonia Teder-Moore (tedermoore@gmail.com) for the “How to Grow a Reader” handout.
The LJES campus was transformed into a performance art venue for one magical afternoon by our Art Show Committee Chairs, Elizabeth Tobias, Rebecca Crampton, Carolina Vivas and Jill Novak Peters. In addition to the beautiful art gallery featuring all our student artists in the auditorium, there were performances featuring LJES Concert Choir, scenes from Hamilton, a drum circle, an installation by artist Maggie Shen and sidewalk chalk selfies, just to name a few. Thank you to art teacher Sonya Devine, choir director Julie Greathouse and theatre teacher Bryn Fillers for their tireless and passionate dedication to our students.
Dear La Jolla Elementary,

It has been my honor to be your Student Council president this school year. I would first like to thank all of the other council members for the work they contributed to our school. We enjoyed working together and voting on ideas to help make our school and community a better place. I also want to thank our principals, Ms. Tripi and Dr. Hasselbrink, as they gave us direction and supported our ideas. Also, a big thank you to our student council advisors, who volunteered to help guide us all year long.

I have learned many things about leadership and our great community, as our council took a look at the needs of others. We organized a toy drive to help homeless children during the holidays and had a successful Penny War to raise money for the Door of Hope. We promoted the safety of our student body with an educational assembly on bike and pedestrian safety. We also listened to suggestions from the student body and considered different ideas to help improve our school. La Jolla Elementary is one of the best places to learn and meet great friends and I will leave with so many wonderful memories. I believe this school will just keep getting better, good luck to all the future classes!

Sincerely,

Joshua Rock
LA JOLLA OPEN AIRE MARKET

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 1pm!

Summer break doesn’t mean a break from supporting our kids. Proceeds from the market provide our children with an enriched education. It’s an easy and fun way to contribute to the school. Hope to see you at the market this summer!

HELLO SUMMER
LA JOLLA OPEN AIRE MARKET

FOOD FUN & GIFTS
SUNDAYS 9AM - 1:00PM
CORNER OF GIRARD AVE. & GENTER ST.
LAJOLLAMARKET.COM
It’s been a fantastic year for Friends of La Jolla Elementary. Thanks to your generosity, fundraising has exceeded expectations. This year we were able to fund two 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, and theatre. Additionally, we added flexible seating options in all classrooms and painted buildings for a fresh look on campus.

This fall, the open air market celebrated 20 years! Many thanks to the market founder, Sherry Ahern, for starting this fundraising opportunity for our school. The market grows every year and is an integral part of the La Jolla community.

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, Julie Bubnack, Molly Gutierrez, Tami Spence, Melissa Miller, Sherry Ahern, Marcia Branstetter, Valerie Rock, Aimie Takata, Lisa Bregante, and Wendy Marchbanks for your contributions this year! This is a talented group who works tirelessly to ensure the success of our fundraising campaigns for the benefit of each and every student at LJES.

Funding alone does not make a great school. We are so fortunate to have such an incredible team of teachers and staff who support our children each and every day, as well as our amazing new principal, Dr. Stephanie Hasselbrink. Our school has been lucky to have a strong and active PTO, led by Mira Costello. Their events foster the feeling of community at LJES and provide our children with lasting memories.

Sadly, not only is my term as Friends president over but also my time as a parent at LJES. I’ve made wonderful friends and fond memories. It has been a pleasure and an honor to lead this group these past 2 years. Please join me in welcoming Micaela Jeffery as our new President of Friends. She’s a seasoned parent who knows our school well and will bring fresh ideas and enthusiasm to the job.

See you soon –
Angie Tetmeyer Yazici
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