



LAURELWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

4280 Partridge Drive, San Jose, CA 95121 · 408-270-4983 · 408-270-6922 (Fax)

Principal - Mrs. Kameelah Green · Website - <http://laurelwood.cesd.org/>



July/August 2019

Dear Laurelwood Lion Families,

Just a short time ago, we promoted thirty-eight sensational kindergartners to first grade, and forty-six fabulous sixth graders to middle school. Our hearts pulsated with pride and hope as we reflected on their journeys and the year that seemed to have started and ended with the blink of an eye. Throughout the 2018-2019 school year, we were steadfast in our commitment to “engaging minds and celebrating creativity” through school-wide programs like the Spelling Bee, Science Fair, STEAM Workshops and Multicultural Music & Dance; through cost-free after-school enrichment programs like Garden Club, Coding, Art in the Afternoon & Spanish; and through innovative approaches to learning like the 4th grade Wax Museum and the 3rd Grade Vocabulary Parade. We worked hard to “inspire students to become well-rounded, lifelong learners, prepared to be future leaders” through monthly Lion Character and Habits of Minds lessons, Mix-it-Up lunches, Student Council, Project Cornerstone and community service projects. We dedicated ourselves to being “a partnership of families, staff and community” through events like Career Day, the Lunar New Year Extravaganza, the annual Harvest Festival and regular Family Nights. Down to the finest detail of everything planned was a desire to give every student a chance to shine. As we closed out the year with promotion ceremonies, a Recognition Assembly and a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new mural, it was evident that we accomplished just that. We will continue to “shine bright”.

Coupled with those fulfilling moments were also some somber “see you later” moments. We hugged, high-fived, and celebrated the priceless impact of our staff members who are moving on to new beginnings: Ms. Penny Brown (Special Day Class Teacher), Mr. Franklin Collazo (Kindergarten Teacher), Mrs. Anna Collazo (Noon Duty), Mrs. Suzanne Maxwell (First Grade Teacher), and Ms. Velma Gonzales (Kinder/SDC Aide, Noon Duty). They truly embody the spirit of the Laurelwood Lions and will carry it with them into the next phases of their journey.

With that, we welcome our new First Grade Teacher, Mrs. Suchita Gathoo (pronounced “Gah-two”). Mrs. Gathoo is an Evergreen resident with two daughters who have graduated from schools in our district. She recently earned her Multiple Subject Teaching Credential & Master’s Degree from San Jose State University, but also holds another Master’s Degree in Physics. Mrs. Gathoo speaks Hindi and Marathi and enjoys hiking and cooking. She is most looking forward to getting to know the Laurelwood families. We are very excited to embrace her as part of Laurelwood’s phenomenal teaching team!

An age old proverb states: “It takes a village to raise a child.” Our children greatly benefit from seeing their “village” actively involved in their success. There are a few important things that I need your help with as we embark upon another school year:

1. Make a commitment to consistent school attendance and timeliness. As parents and guardians, we send a strong message to our children about the importance and priority of education through this commitment.
2. Become a PTA Member. It’s an easy way to demonstrate your belief in everything we aim to accomplish.
3. Maintain an active PowerSchool account, including text messages. This is an essential component of our home to school communication.

Mark your calendar for the upcoming “meet and greet” opportunities:

- Welcome Back-to-School Ice-Cream Social – Monday, August 19th from 2:30 – 3:30pm
- Welcome Back-to-School Principal’s Coffee – Wednesday, August 21st at 8:30am in the Multi-Purpose Room

I hope you have a fantastic summer making memories with your children. As always, it’s a pleasure and an honor partnering with you for your child’s success.

All the best,

Mrs. Kameelah Green, Principal

(turn over --->)



- PREPARING FOR SUCCESS -

LAURELWOOD'S BACK-TO-SCHOOL REMINDERS

"Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today."

OFFICE HOURS

The school office will re-open on **Wednesday, August 14th** from 8:00am - 4:00pm. New registrations will be accepted at that time.

IMPORTANT DATES

Monday, August 19th from 2:30 - 3:30pm

Welcome Back-to-School Ice-Cream Social

Location: Multi-Purpose Room

Details: Kick off the school year by meeting the Laurelwood Staff and enjoying an ice-cream treat. Bring the whole family!

Tuesday, August 20th from 1:00 - 2:00pm

Kindergarten Orientation

Location: Kindergarten Pod

Details: Our fantastic Kindergarten Teachers are looking forward to meeting their new families. They will preview the upcoming school year and introduce classroom expectations. Please do not bring other children.

Wednesday, August 21st @ 8:15am

First Day of School

The campus will open at 8:00am. You are welcome to walk your child to their classroom & meet the teacher on the first day. Start the year off right by being on time and prepared to learn!

Wednesday, August 21st @ 8:30 - 9:00am

Welcome Back-to-School Principal's Coffee

Location: Multi-Purpose Room

Details: Join me for coffee and pastries immediately after dropping your child off at school. I'm looking forward to seeing our new and returning families and sharing our plans for the new school year.

Thursday, September 5th

Back-to-School Night

More details to come after summer break.

SCHEDULE & SUPERVISION

Laurelwood is a **closed campus**. All visitors and volunteers **must sign in at the office**. Classroom visits need to be pre-arranged with the teacher.

-KINDERGARTEN-

8:15am - 11:35am (no lunch) until September 6th

8:15am - 2:15pm beginning September 9th

8:15am - 12:30pm on Thursdays/Minimum Day

-GRADES 1 to 6-

8:15am - 2:30pm

8:15am - 12:45pm on Thursdays/Minimum Day

The first minimum day will be Thursday, August 29th

See website for a detailed breakdown of the daily schedule including recess and lunch.

Children are not allowed on campus without supervision. School supervision begins at 8:00am. It ends at 2:45pm on regular days and 1:00pm on minimum days.

The City of San Jose Parks, Recreation & Neighborhood Services will host an after-school program called **R.O.C.K** in our multi-purpose room until 6:00pm daily. Register at Evergreen Community Center or online at <http://www.sjregistration.com/>.

COMMUNICATION

Clear communication between home and school is a vital component of your child's success. To stay informed about school news and events, bookmark our website at <http://laurelwood.ecsd.org/>.

Class assignments, emergency notifications, our weekly newsletter and important reminders will all come through PowerSchool (<https://powerschool.ecsd.org/public/>). Take a moment to review and update your information - especially phone numbers and email addresses - prior to the start of school. To opt-in to text message alerts, send "Yes" to 67587. If you have not yet created an account, your personalized login was sent home with your child's report card. You can also call the school office for help setting up your account.

On **Friday, August 16th**, your child's classroom assignment will be posted in your PowerSchool account under the "My Schedule" icon in the left-hand navigation box. If your child is in a combination class, he or she has shown potential to meet grade-level standards with independence. For more information on combination classes, read "[Why Children Might Benefit from a Combination Classroom](#)"

SCHOOL LUNCH

Fill out your lunch application online at <https://heartlandapps.com>. A new application must be filled out every year by early October. **Prices:** \$3.50 full price, \$0.40 reduced price. **IMPORTANT:** Beginning August 21, 2019 your students will only be allowed two (2) charges, or to carry a negative balance of \$7.00, on their lunch account. You can add money to your child's lunch account two ways:

- Online via <https://www.myschoolbucks.com/>
- Cash or check sent to school office with your student's full name, classroom # and student ID # clearly marked on it

DREAM. BELIEVE. ACHIEVE.