

Sequoia Elementary School Community Newsletter: Aug. 20, 2018



3730 Lincoln Avenue, Oakland, CA 94602, (510) 531-6696

SequoiaSchool.net and Facebook.com/groups/sequoiaelementary

Two-Week Calendar

Wednesdays are minimum days.

Please note that multiple events may happen on the same day.

Mon • Aug 20: **Healthy Start After School Program Begins TK-K**

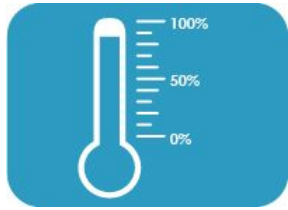
Thurs • Aug 23: **Room Parent Meeting, 6:30–7:30 p.m., Auditorium**

Sat • Aug 25: **Welcome Picnic, Sponsored by the Dads' Club, Dimond Park**

Wed • Aug 29: **Back to School Night, 6 p.m., Auditorium**

Support Sequoia Campaign Begins, runs through Thursday, Sept. 27

Support Sequoia Begins Aug. 29



We have many fundraisers at Sequoia, but the easiest and most fruitful is Support Sequoia. There is nothing for you to buy, sell or do except donate what you can. Watch for the Support Sequoia packet at the Welcome Back Night on Wednesday, Aug. 29. If you can't make it,

your student(s) will bring home the packet this week. Please sign and return the form and give if you can.

Support Sequoia is our biggest fundraiser of the year, with funds raised going directly to support Sequoia enrichment classes: art, science, music, physical education, gardening, and computer skills. Sequoia students are exposed to many cultures, music, art, and more every day through our community and enrichment classes. OUSD does not provide funding for the enrichment classes. The Sequoia community needs your support to make these classes happen.

As costs rise in the Bay Area, it is crucial that all of our enrichment teachers can afford to continue to be a part of the Sequoia community. We can directly aid their salaries through our donations to each of the school fundraisers. This year's fundraising goal has increased in order to meet these salary needs.

The programs that your donations support cost around \$400 per student per school year, so it is important to participate. Please help keep these classes going by donating what you can. Every donation, large or small, makes a difference as we work to raise \$80,000 over the next four weeks. Our goal is 100% participation. Every student who returns the Support Sequoia form, with or without a donation, receives this year's new glow-in-the-dark Sequoia wristband. In addition, if the class participation is 100%, the class will get an extra recess. If the whole school is at 100%, Mr. Bertolo will do something wacky. Feel free to suggest your crazy ideas to Mr. B. (Remember those water balloons last year?)

Donate online at <http://sequoiaschool.net/donate>. You can make a one-time donation, or you can spread your donation over the year by signing up for 12 automatic monthly payments. If you can, please consider increasing your donation to cover enrichment for another child in the Sequoia community. Please feel free to contact me with any questions: Arianne Wagner (Jax White, third grade), Ariannewagner@gmail.com.

Principal's Corner



Hello Squirrel Families!

The first week is done, and what an incredibly successful one it was for sure. Just a friendly reminder that there is no staff on site before 8 a.m. I know we had some excited children coming early, but it's dangerous for them to be around campus without any adults. If you need to drop off before 8 a.m., please consider using one of the many daycare providers near campus.

Also, please make sure you look at all the upcoming events. We don't want you to miss any of the exciting family events that are happening. Remember that Saturday, Aug. 25 is the Welcome Back Picnic, and Wednesday, Aug. 29 is Back to School Night. Both of these activities are a great way to get to know families and staff. In addition, we always need volunteers for the Sequoia Dads' Club and Sequoia Parent Teacher Organization (SPTO) events. I would love for you to consider serving on both organizations.

SPTO's fundraising allows us to do all of the great enrichment programs. At Back to School Night, we will be kicking off our big fundraising event, Support Sequoia, but many of our events require significant time organizing, preparing and setting up. Please consider volunteering any time you might have for those events. There is more information on the Welcome Back Picnic, Back to School Night and volunteering in this newsletter.

With Warmest Regards, Donald T. Bertolo

Annual Welcome Back Picnic



Sequoia's annual Welcome Back Picnic is this Saturday, Aug. 25, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Redwood Grove at Dimond Park. The Sequoia Dads' Club hosts the annual Welcome Back Picnic, and it is a Sequoia tradition that features family activities, sack races, water balloon toss and the epic kids vs. adults tug-of-war.

All new and returning families are welcome, as we look forward to seeing old friends and making new ones. The Dads' Club is looking for volunteers to help with the event, and also encourages families to bring a salad or side dish to share with other Sequoia families. To volunteer, contact Luke at elemetal2@gmail.com.

Calling All Sequoia Photographers



Our website needs your photos. We haven't updated the photos on our school website in some time, and to keep things fresh we need some new photos. If you have any great photos that could represent our school environment or events, please send them our way at <https://goo.gl/fLVU5U>. All photos will be considered and the best chosen for inclusion across the site. If you have any questions, please contact Doug Kearney at dougkearney@gmail.com.

Amazon Smile

Did you know that you can support the Sequoia Parent Teacher Organization (SPTO) every time you shop online at Amazon? Get the details and find the special shopping link here: <http://sequoiaschool.net/donate/shop-for-sequoia/>.



2018-19 OUSD Calendar



Do you have questions about school holidays, teacher development days and winter/spring break dates? See the OUSD 2018–19 calendar: www.ousd.org/districtcalendar.

Calendario Escolar 2018-19

¿Tiene preguntas sobre las vacaciones escolares, los días de desarrollo de docentes y las fechas de invierno / primavera? Lea el calendario OUSD 2018-19: www.ousd.org/districtcalendar.

2018-19 OUSD 日历

您对学校假期，教师发展日和冬/春假期日期有疑问吗？阅读OUSD 2018-19日历：www.ousd.org/districtcalendar。

2018-19 Lịch OUSD

Bạn có câu hỏi về ngày nghỉ học, ngày phát triển giáo viên và ngày nghỉ xuân / xuân không? Xem lịch OUSD 2018–19:

www.ousd.org/districtcalendar.

OSUD تقويم 2018-19

هل لديك أسئلة حول العطل المدرسية وأيام تطوير المدرسين ومواعيد استراحة الربيع / الربيع؟ اطلع على تقويم

OUSD 2018-19:

www.ousd.org/districtcalendar

Volunteer With Sequoia

Volunteers help make Sequoia a great place, and we need your help. Volunteers are needed during school hours for the following roles:

- **Salad bar parent leader:** organize parent helpers and work with school lunch staff to get salad bar running again.
- **Salad bar helpers:** set up, run and take down salad bar, 11 a.m.–1:30 p.m. daily.
- **Safety patrol parent helpers:** work with our parent volunteer Dirk Williams to help supervise kids and manage traffic flow in the morning, 8–8:30 a.m. daily.
- **Reading helpers:** talk to your room parent or classroom teacher to find out more.

Not many parents have time during the school day to volunteer. If you do, even if only one day a week, we need you. Please contact Jenny Kimball at jennykimball@gmail.com.

Back to School Night



Sequoia's Back to School Night is from **6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 29**. We will start in the auditorium with a welcome from Principal Bertolo. This is an event for grownups only; please leave your little Squirrels at home.

Back to School Night is a great opportunity to meet your child's teacher and the other families in your child's class. Check Sequoia's Facebook page for more details about Back to School Night.

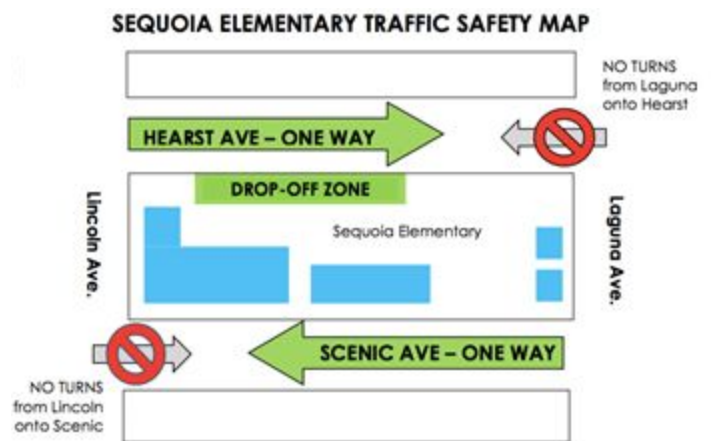
Learn About Being a Room Parent

Are you interested in helping in the classroom? Want to be an integral part of your child's experience at Sequoia? Wondering how to support teachers? Volunteer to be a Room Parent! Sequoia Volunteer Coordinator Jenny Kimball will hold a meeting for all who are interested on Thursday, Aug. 23, from 7 to 8 p.m. in the auditorium.

Sequoia Drop-Off Policy and Traffic Safety Map

For those who do not have time to park and must drop off quickly, please follow the guidelines below so we can get our kids to school safely. Use the map below to determine your best route to the drop-off zone on Hearst Avenue.

- Do not ever block driveways, double-park, or leave your car unattended in the drop-off zone.
- Do not make U-turns on any streets around the school.
- Pull over completely at legal parking spots or drop-off zone, before letting children out.
- Slow down and watch for pedestrians, especially at crosswalks.
- Please note that there is no yard supervision until 8 a.m.
- If your child is in TK/Kindergarten, you must stay with your child until the 8:45 a.m. bell.
- Be courteous and helpful to neighbors and other parents.



Shout Outs



Sequoia would not be the wonderful school it is without our parent volunteers! Thank you.

TK Room Parents: Sarah, Shabina

Donations: Izumi, Jules, Zane, Siena, Zev,

Nathan, Dahlia, Akim, Ellie, Gwyneth

Snack setup: Barbara, Ivy, Lalo, Ofer, Ms. Holmstedt

Snack: Charlie, Nathan, Lukas, Luca, Jules

Printed Newsletter Opt-Out



To help Sequoia save money, we offer families the option to opt out of receiving a printed copy of the newsletter (which is posted on the school website, the school's Facebook page and Yahoo community group). Complete the form on the website to opt out;

capitalize "Oakland" in the security question field (on a computer, not a mobile device):

<http://sequoiaschool.net/parent-resources/newsletters-communities/newsletter-opt-out/>.