



Stagg School News

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Lisa Gaboudian, Principal
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Principal's Message

September/October
2006

The start of the new school year has once again brought the excitement of new learning, new hope and new aspirations for our school community. Whether you are new to our school or are returning, we are excited to have you and your child as a part of our "school family."

Many of you already know that Stagg has earned the wonderful reputation of a unique place, a high performing school where children learn with our caring and dedicated staff, with our emphasis on character education and a school wide discipline policy based on caring and kindness, we find our students happy and anxious to learn.

I am excited to be back again this year beginning my fourth year at Stagg, to lead this outstanding staff and be part of this supportive community.

We begin our year with a renewed dedication to make Stagg Street School the kind of school where every child experiences success.

Our staff will continue to strive to provide a challenging and stimulating learning environment for all our students, one that supports and extends their academic, physical and social growth.

We value a strong and meaningful partnership with parents. We look forward to your continued support and involvement .

We are a **TEAM**. **T**ogether **E**veryone **A**chieves **M**ore!

Calendar:

9/18 Parent Councils
Orientation Meeting
9/25 Parent Councils
Elections
9/26 Back-to School
Night
10/2 NO School
10/3 Monthly Citizenship
Assembly
10/3 Unsat .Notices
are

**College
starts at
Stagg
Elementary**

API Score of 852

We would like to congratulate our school community, our students, teachers, teacher assistants, office staff and all support personnel, for their hard work and high expectations and their firm belief that all children can learn and make progress. Our students outperformed themselves, scoring higher than students in similar schools throughout the District and the state of California. School wide, 58.9 % of our students scored Proficient and Advanced on the CST Language arts test, and 79.6 % Proficient and Advanced in Math. Over the last three years Stagg's API score has increased 122 points. We are very proud of our students. However, this success would have not come about if we didn't have the support of our wonderful parents. Our goal once again this year is to move a great number of students to a higher level or levels of performance. As such, all our resources will be directed towards accomplishing this goal.

Hard work pays off!

WELCOME TO STAGG

We are happy to welcome to Stagg, two wonderful educators who come to us with lots of experience. Mrs. Rania Shalaby, is our new math coach. She has been a math teacher in both elementary and middle schools, She has been coaching for the last few years. We will be sharing Mrs. Shalaby with Gault Elementary. Another addition to our staff is Ms. Lisa Kochakji. Ms. Kochakji has been teaching at Bassett Elementary for the last 7 years. At Stagg, she will be teaching a fourth grade class. We welcome them both.



Please plan to attend our annual Back to School/Curriculum Night scheduled for Tuesday, September, 26th, from 6:00-7:00PM. This is your chance to meet your child's teacher, to learn about the grade level standards and the curriculum, teacher and school expectations, homework policy, and rules and regulations.

There will be a general informational parent meeting in the auditorium that day at 5:30PM, prior to the start of the sessions in the classrooms.

Please make every effort to attend.



HOMEWORK

Your home has been a homework-free zone all summer and with the start of the new school year new challenges with homework begin. You can help you child develop good homework habits by:

- Choosing a pleasant, consistent place to work at home at a set time every day.
- Having your child learn to make checklists of what needs to be completed and by when.
- Creating incentives including pleasurable activities that can be enjoyed after homework is completed.
- Providing supervision. Check if the work is done, DO NOT do the homework for your child.

CAUTION! DROP OFF/PICK UP

All gates are open for morning drop-off. Parent volunteers implement the Safety Valet Program in the front of the school daily. Please be respectful of them and the traffic laws. All gates are locked at 8:00AM with the morning bell and again at 3:00PM after dismissal. Only one gate on Ostrom Street, in the faculty parking lot is open for pick-up after 3:00 PM. Please discuss with your children as to where they will meet you after school. Also, set your rules about your child walking home. For safety concerns, it is recommended that children walk in pairs or groups rather than by themselves.

BE PROACTIVE

Please take the time to mark your child's belongings with a permanent marker. Every year we have many pieces of clothing that remain unclaimed because they do not have a student name on them. All lunch boxes, folders, sweaters and any other personal item should be marked so they can be returned when found. Unclaimed items are donated to charity.



NUTRITION & EXERCISE

“Healthy Mind in a Healthy Body” is the motto we believe in at Stagg. As a Nutrition Network school we emphasize the importance of eating healthy meals every day, especially when it comes to snacks. Please work with us to teach your children to make good choices and to develop good eating habits. Weekly physical education classes will be supplemented by a 10 minute power walk with the principal every morning at 8:45. Children love to participate in this group activity and it energizes them for the day’s activities.



RANDI’S FITNESS

As you already know, we have two after school programs at Stagg. Youth Services, an open program for grades 2-5, where children do not need to sign up and L.A.’s Best for grades K-5, where parents need to register their children. Both of these programs are free of charge and they are run by the District. This year we are starting a new after school program by Randi’s Fitness. This is an enrichment program run by professionals offering many classes once a week for an eight week session. In the first session we will be offering gymnastics, tennis and movie making classes. The cost will be \$70.00. More information and brochures will be sent home the second week of school.

HOME SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

GOOD NEWS
from
STAGG STREET SCHOOL



Congratulations
To

Teacher _____ Date _____

Firmly believing in the importance of home-school communication, this year we have started another means of informing parents and guardians about their children’s successes at school. Look for little post cards mailed to you from your child’s teacher when your child is showing progress or doing outstanding work in school. This positive reinforcement should encourage children to do their best to be recognized by the school and the parents.

Please celebrate your children’s successes every time they receive a “Good News” note from school.

J O I N t h e P T A

We really appreciate the hard work of our parents on the PTA Board. Led by Mrs. Lisa Ramos last year the PTA raised over \$20,000 for the school programs, specifically for field trip transportation.

We wish them a lot of energy to continue their dedication to our school. They have already planned many exciting activities for the new school year. Look for the PTA quarterly newsletter that will inform you of the details.

The PTA Board members for this school year are:

Lisa Ramos

Veronica Rodriguez

Lorena Bell

Judy Ramirez

Katia Gonzales

Wanda Fletcher



How can parents get involved?

Mrs. Jeannine Santiago, our Parent Center director is always looking for parent volunteers who can help with the different programs at the school. We need parent volunteers in many of our classrooms. We need parents to run the Safety Valet program every morning. Parents can help with our 16 container gardens and watering the trees and the plants all around the school. Per LAUSD guidelines, all volunteers should have a TB test on file. In addition to the PTA, three parent councils (the Title I, Bilingual, and School Site) also provide opportunities for parents to get involved. The Meetings for these councils are conducted during the day, once a month. Interesting topics are presented to parents by our coordinator, Mrs. Crowley, or the math and the literacy coaches. Flyers are sent home for all these activities. Contact Mrs. Santiago by calling the school, if you are interested in volunteering.

MATH ON THE GO!

Grades 3-5

What you will need.

A grocery scale or your scale at home.

What you will do.

1. Help your child examine the scale in the grocery store or the one you have at home. Explain that pounds are divided into smaller parts called ounces and 16 ounces equal a pound.
2. Gather the produce you are purchasing, and estimate the weight of each item before weighing it.
3. Let your child hold an item in each hand and guess which item weighs more. Then use the scale to check.
4. Ask questions to encourage thinking about measurement and estimation. You might want to ask your child: How much do you think 6 apples will weigh? More than a pound, less than a pound, or equal to a pound? How much do the apples really weigh? Do they weigh more or less than you estimated? Will 6 potatoes weigh more or less than the apples? How much do potatoes cost per pound? If they cost 10 cents per pound, what is the total cost?

(Helping Your Child Learn Math, 1999)

