



LAGUNITAS SCHOOL DISTRICT

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Lagunitas and San Geronimo Schools ~ August 2019
Serving Forest Knolls, Lagunitas, San Geronimo, and Woodacre, California

Quote of the Week: *“The principle goal of education in the schools should be creating men and women who are capable of doing new things, not simply repeating what other generations have done.”* (Jean Piaget, 1896 – 1980)

- August 20 - **First Day of School** for students (regular dismissal time)
- August 21 - **Back-to-School Night** for ALL programs 6 pm MPR (childcare provided)
Open Classroom parent meeting is part of Back-to-School Night
- August 27 - **Middle School parent meeting** 6:30 pm in Room 17
- September 2 - **Labor Day holiday** – no school
- September 3 - **Montessori PTO meeting** 6 pm Room 4
- September 8 - **LEAP give-back night** at *The Lodge* in Fairfax
- September 9 – 12 - **7th grade backpacking trip**
- September 18 – 20 - **Open Classroom family camping trip**
- September 19 - **Lagunitas School District board meeting** (all welcome) 6:30 pm in Room 20
- September 20 – 22 - **Montessori family camping trip**

News and Information

Welcome to the first Weekly Notice of the 2019-2020 school year. This newsletter is published each week. The newsletter is sent through our email distribution lists and posted on our Lagunitas.org website. Please contact the office if you need a paper copy. Along with important dates and a school update, this notice is available for sharing information regarding school events, program needs, and other relevant news. Please email items for publication to Laura Shain at Lshain@lagunitas.org.

We are excited to begin a new year at Lagunitas! Time off in the summer gives us a chance to reconnect with a slower pace, enjoy nature, catch up with friends and family, read, and do all those things that re-energize us. I’m also reminded by a break in how we have a responsibility and opportunity to create a school climate that is guided by an idealized vision of community. Our jewel of a school is supported by a philosophy that began years back when a new generation brought about cultural change that empowered a team effort in education – including teachers, staff, parents, students, and our Valley community to have a direct impact on the school experience we bring to our children. To me, this means we listen, we speak up, we try new things, and we hold on to the practices that create a joyful learning environment for our students.

Please join me in welcoming our new students in kindergarten and those joining us in the other grades. We also welcome our returning students, families, staff, school board, and local community members. We ended the last school year with some retirements of long-term employees (Victorio Centeno, Howie Cort, and Linda Craig), and others who made career changes (Sandra Fitting, Georgia Friedman, Aimee Logan, and Amy McConnell). We welcome our new teacher, Jill Conroy to the Montessori program, and new staff,

Gisela Alvarado Flores to our custodial staff, and Sammy Ethridge as one of our two counselors through the Seeds of Awareness organization, Melissa Ramirez our new (returning) occupational therapist, and Keeley White as our new special education assistant. We have several job openings that we are posting.

The packets of information that are sent home on the first day include emergency forms that need to be returned immediately. **Please turn in all paperwork, including the emergency forms, by Wednesday, August 21.** We appreciate receiving all signed forms as soon as possible so our office staff can organize the paperwork and move on to other tasks.

Please refer to our updated district-wide handbook on the Lagunitas.org website for comprehensive school information. Please feel free to contact me with any concerns, questions, or ideas to share. Call 488-4118 extension 202, or email Lshain@lagunitas.org to talk or make an appointment for a visit.

Please join us in creating a wonderful 2019-2020 school year!

*Laura Shain
Principal*

The **Middle School electives program** is looking for volunteers to teach small groups one day a week. Classes are held on Fridays from 2:10 – 3 pm in trimester blocks. We are open to creative ideas, so consider your talents and interests and let us know which of the two days you are available to lead the group. You do not need to have a current middle school student to volunteer. This is a wonderful way to get to know our middle school students in small groups while they have fun and learn new skills. Please email Laura if you are interested at Lshain@lagunitas.org. We plan on beginning elective classes the second full week of school.

Please join us once again in a district-wide effort to **arrive at school on time** this year. Tardy students miss the important start to the school day. Classrooms are disrupted and teachers need to repeat information and adjust attendance forms. Office staff spend time completing tardy slips and adjusting attendance records. And I spend considerable time following through on our tardy and truant policies with record-keeping, letters home, and phone calls. I am not exaggerating when I say that late arrivals create a troublesome burden for us all – from classmates to staff.

Each year we make a gallant effort to reduce the amount of clothing and belongings in our **lost and found** that are left on the playground each day. We request that you take some time with a permanent marker and put your child's name in all their jackets, sweaters, coats, and on their lunch gear. Unlabeled, abandoned clothing will be donated monthly to a local service organization.

Enjoy a “home-cooked” meal at Lagunitas each day! Student lunches are \$4. per day and include an entrée, salad, vegetable, and side options, and milk. The monthly menu is published online each month. New students can be added to the online payment account once school begins. Please contact the office for a student ID. Then go to **mymealtime.com** and follow the few prompts.