



## LAGUNITAS SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

**Lagunitas and San Geronimo Schools ~ January 14, 2020**  
*Serving Forest Knolls, Lagunitas, San Geronimo, and Woodacre, California*

**Quote of the Week:** “*The hope of a secure and livable world lies with disciplined nonconformists who are dedicated to justice, peace and brotherhood.*” (Martin Luther King, Jr. 1929 – 1968)

- January 15 - **Open Classroom parent meeting** 6:30 pm (potluck at 6 pm)
- January 20 - **Martin Luther King, Jr. Day** (no school)
- January 20 - **LEAP give-back at Arti Indian Café** in Lagunitas
- January 21 - **LEAP Board meeting** 7 pm in Room 20 (all welcome)
- January 22 – 30 - Early release days for **conferences and teacher work days**
- January 23 - **Lagunitas School Board meeting** 6:30 pm (all welcome) (new date)
- January 25 - **LEAP Valley Music Series – Valley Queen**
- January 28 - **Middle School parent meeting and *Being Adept* presentation** 6:30 pm
- February 4 - **Montessori PTO meeting** 6:30 pm

### News and Information

#### Incoming Student Tours

Our annual tour season begins at the end of January. We set aside four days to tour groups of incoming elementary students through our Montessori and Open Classroom programs. (In the spring we tour Middle School for parents and students.) Tours are greatly enriched by the participation of current program parents! Tour dates start at 9 am and end at 11:30 am. We spend an hour in each program and meet with the SGVCC staff who provide student services.

Parent tour guides will join me to add personal experience to the descriptions of the programs. Parents will just attend the hour that pertains to their own children’s program. Please let me know through email at [lshain@lagunitas.org](mailto:lshain@lagunitas.org) if you are interested in helping with tours. Exact dates are flexible.

#### Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday

As we approach the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday we have the benefit of many new curricular sources to help us take a deeper look at his advocacy. There are several resources that I trust to bring current viewpoints and factual information for teachers and schools. *Rethinking Schools*, the *Zinn Education Project*, and *Teaching Tolerance* are my first three go-tos.

An article in this month’s *Teaching Tolerance* addresses what the writer refers to as a *sanitized and sugarcoated* version of Martin Luther King, Jr.’s activism. Coshandra Dillard introduces the article with an acknowledgement of the importance of the message we have focused on with King’s nonviolent protests, then begins to describe his more radical approach to social and economic justice.

*King's constant critique of government and people who remained neutral during social justice campaigns allows students to see that the civil rights movement was a complicated and nonlinear journey. As with all history, it's vital that we teach youth to examine the fullness of his life's work.*

Check out the article for the “Three Radical Moments of Dr. King” here:

<https://www.tolerance.org/magazine/teaching-about-kings-radical-approach-to-social-justice>

### **January Conferences** (updated info)

January conferences/teacher work times are planned differently for each of the three programs. Open Classroom uses this time for planning and Montessori use this period to complete standards-based report cards for students, rather than hold individual conferences. Middle School schedules conferences as needed and are available for parents who request a conference. Email teachers directly or send an email to me for forwarding if you'd like to request a conference with Middle School teachers. Please note that conference week has early release days with a 2 pm dismissal on the lower campus, and a 2:10 dismissal on the upper campus.

### **LEAP Give-Back fundraisers in January**

Our local Arti's Café in Lagunitas is hosting three LEAP give-back fundraising days this month. The final day will be Monday, January 20. If you treat your family to a lunch or dinner there or take-out, Arti will donate a percentage back to LEAP for all Lagunitas. Here's the number to order take-out: 488-4700.

### **Student Cannabis and Vaping Abuse**

We held a well-attended parent roundtable discussion regarding student marijuana and vaping abuse last week with parents, the SGVCC, and Don Carney of the YMCA Youth Court program. We plan to hold a follow up meeting in February, and encourage parents to attend the *Being Adept* presentation on January 28 at the middle school. (*Being Adept* is the 8-week substance abuse prevention program presented to our sixth grade students each year.)

I invited our School Resource Officer (SRO), Josie Sanguinetti, to talk with our 8<sup>th</sup> grade students this week. Josie delivers information with the energy, wit, humor, and a seriousness that grabs middle school students' attention. In fact, mine too. She's a true gem and our students were lucky to have this opportunity to hear from her and ask her questions. In fact, I think I'll invite her to the next parent roundtable meeting.

Josie talked to the students about the legal consequences of possessing up to an ounce of marijuana (at least 40 hours of community service) and school consequences if on campus. She talked with them mostly about the health risks of too much THC, the effect of vaping on lungs, alcohol poisoning, the dangers of a variety of substances including mixing drugs or drugs and alcohol, and how everybody's body reacts differently to drugs and alcohol.

Josie was not overly alarmist but talked about some bad situations she's seen – such as an early roommate having ongoing heart problems after using cocaine. She mentioned the impact of teen drug use on certain future careers. She gave useful information about helping friends who have overdosed or are having a health issue while under the influence – they will not be in trouble nor will the person they are helping if they call 9-1-1 for a medical emergency. Students asked Josie questions about how she got into law enforcement, what some of her most difficult or scary experiences have been, and about the equipment she carries.

*Laura Shain  
Principal*

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Please remember to pledge to **LEAP**!



Thank you to all the LEAP pledgers, give-back-night diners, scrip card users, and Farm Fresh subscribers! Your donations bring our wonderful art, music, Spanish, and elective programs. They fund some of our classroom assistant time and some of our middle school PE. Our students LOVE these programs, and our teachers APPRECIATE the support so much.

All are welcome to attend the LEAP board meeting Tuesday, January 21 at 7 pm in Room 20.

<https://leap4education.org/ways-to-give/>

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The Lagunitas School **yearbook** staff is well underway designing the yearbook for 2019/2020. We are currently looking for photo submissions related to all school events, including field trips, special events, middle school sports events, and any fun classroom activities or candid.

Please email your photos in 300 dpi jpeg format to: [lagunitasyearbook@gmail.com](mailto:lagunitasyearbook@gmail.com).

We will be accepting photo submissions until Friday, March 6. The yearbooks will be distributed on the last day of school, Thursday, June 11. Deadline for ordering and payment of yearbooks to be announced.

The 8th graders will be designing their half pages this trimester, and we will be putting together the “then and now” pages and baby photo pages. Please email half page photos, baby photos and early childhood photos (with classmates too) to: [lagunitasyearbook@gmail.com](mailto:lagunitasyearbook@gmail.com). The photos must be in 300 dpi jpeg format.

The final deadline is Friday, February 14. But why wait? The sooner we receive your photos the sooner we can design the pages!

Please direct any questions to: Kristy Arroyo at: [lagunitasyearbook@gmail.com](mailto:lagunitasyearbook@gmail.com).

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The Community Center is offering a trip for Middle School Students to the **Marin County Youth Court** on the following Thursdays: January 16, February 13, March 19, April 16, May 21. We will witness the county’s restorative justice program in action, hosted by Don Carney and the Marin YMCA.

**Who:** This trip is for students in 6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

**Date:** Thursdays: January 16, February 13, March 19, April 16, and May 21.

**Time:** 3:50 – 7:00 pm

**Transportation:** Meet at **3:50 pm** at Gym front steps. We’ll carpool in the SGVCC 15-passenger van.

**RSVP:** Reserve your space. Limited to 13 participants, maximum.

**Contact:** Julie Young [jyoung@sgvcc.org](mailto:jyoung@sgvcc.org)

**Important:** Please submit the Participation & Liability Waiver that was emailed to the Lagunitas School or Community Center front offices.

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8<sup>th</sup> grade students went on a Drake High School tour!

