

Dear Las Lomitas Families,

This week's article is filled with tidbits of information. First of all, be sure that **Science Wonders** is on your calendar for March 19th. All students are encouraged to wonder and learn about something that interests them. This is one of my favorite events at Las Lomitas. It is a joy to see the students' displays and hear them talk about what they learned. If you have questions or need ideas, contact our wonderful PTA Coordinator, Diana Sunshine, at sunshine@onderdonk.net. Hope to see you there!

At last month's School Site Council meeting, I shared information about our district-wide effort to coordinate **emergency/disaster plans**. Parents wanted me to share some important points with the rest of you:

- We are working closely with Atherton police and County Safety coordinators to ensure that our plans are sound and we are prepared to respond to varying possible scenarios.
- If you arrive on campus and find no one in the halls and doors locked, please leave immediately and call the office to see if it is safe to enter. We may be running a drill, or we may actually be in a shelter-in-place or lockdown situation. We will not respond to knocks on doors if we are in a drill.
- If we should be in a situation where we need to release students (severe earthquake, etc.), the perimeter of the campus will be secured and all parents should enter from the Cano Hall gate area only. You should proceed to the blacktop where you will see our Student Release Area. Please be patient. I assure you that your children will be safe and that we will release them to you as quickly as we can.
- We will use Global Connect, our emergency communication system, to alert you when necessary. It is important that you keep cell phone numbers and emails current. Go to InfoSnap to update your information.

Las Lomitas has an exceptional **recycling and composting program**. When we started this program six years ago, we reduced trash from 7 large bags per day to one. Today, with the cooperation of Choice Lunch, we have reduced trash to less than one-third bag of trash per day! We couldn't do this without the support of our wonderful **Green Team** parent volunteers. These remarkable people help the students sort the trash. Although it is not very glamorous, it has a tremendous impact on our environment and the students' education about conservation. We currently are short on volunteers. If you have an hour per week to help out, come on by between 12:20 and 1:00. Please consider joining us in making a difference!

As you know, the **teachers are focused on learning** about the California Common Core Standards and starting to implement an enhanced writing program. All of this takes time for teachers to meet, discuss, learn and plan together. As a result, there will be days when the teachers are out of the classroom to focus on these important initiatives. Teachers make sure that the substitutes have clear plans to carry on instruction in the classroom. District staff has worked diligently this past year to recruit and interview substitutes in order to have quality education continue in the teacher's absence. Your children directly benefit from the time teachers spend collaborating together.

Finally, just a reminder that I will accept letters for consideration regarding **student placement** for the 2014-15 school year until May 2, 2014. If you have critical information about your student, please get your letter to the classroom teacher of me right away.

Until next time,
Sue Sartor