



Principal's Corner

The End of the Calendar Year is Upon Us!

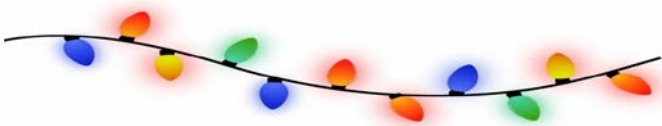
Gratitude. I am so appreciative of our huge numbers of volunteers that make BLE so special. The Scarecrows were amazing, the gardens are getting set up for winter and spring, the arboretum is transforming, Book in the Bag is rolling along, Friendship Week posters were joyous. None of this happens without the tireless work of PTA and school volunteers, thank you all for making Birch Lane "One Great Place to Learn!"

Safety. I want to thank the community for the support it showed on Nov. 17, our last day before break, when our district responded to a situation at Holmes Middle School. As a staff we review our safety procedures regularly and practice safety drills throughout the year.

Upcoming Drills

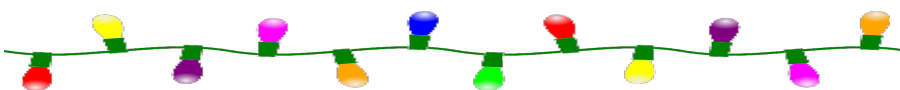
- o We will be holding a "Shelter in Place" drill on Dec. 14, 2017 at 1:30 PM. Shelter in place helps us practice clearing the campus and verifying all students are safe. This is a lower level drill and classes may continue instruction without having to lock doors and close blinds.
- o We will practice a "Lock down" drill on Jan. 23, 2017 at 9:30 AM. This is in preparation for an intruder alert, our severe safety emergency. During this drill we clear the campus, verify student safety, lock doors, close blinds, and students move to the floor to a safe place.
- o We realize that practicing these drills causes anxiety in some children and adults. We will continue to provide advance notice of safety drills so you can help alleviate anxiety with your child and be prepared in case of emergency. The safety of our children is our #1 priority and we appreciate your support in helping us remain a safe place for all. Feel free to contact me with questions or concerns.

Lastly, thank you to those who came to the "Coffee with the Principal" to discuss ideas for a potential replacement for our MPR. In the survey sent this week, I included ideas from that morning, and other conversations with staff and community members. The district has been holding community events on facilities planning and your thoughts on how to support our students are greatly appreciated. We will continue to send short surveys on climate, facilities, and other school needs throughout the year.



Holiday Wreath Sale

The Winter Wreath and Craft Fair is Dec 11-15. Order forms for hand-made wreaths are due Fri. Dec. 1! Wreaths are made to order on Dec. 3. Optional: Included in the wreath purchase is a free class to learn how to make and decorate wreaths on Sun. Dec. 10 at school. Holiday wreaths (and student made crafts) are a beloved Birch garden team tradition. For more info, contact Jenn Rogge at birchlanegardens@gmail.com.



CALENDAR



- ❖ Sun., 12/3. Garden Wreath-making Work Party 10-5. 1426 Nutmeg Ln.
- ❖ Sun., 12/10. PTA Garden Wreath-Making Party
- ❖ Mon., 12/11-Fri., 12/15. PTA Garden Wreath Sale
- ❖ Mon. 12/25- Fri. 1/5. Winter Break (no school). Note: Dec 22 is a full day (not early dismissal day). The first day back is Mon. 1/8.
- ❖ Wed., 1/10. PTA Meeting 7 PM.
- ❖ Mon., 1/15. Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday (no school)
- ❖ Wed., 1/24. Literacy Night (6:30-7:30 p.m.)**
- ❖ Mon., 1/29-Fri., 2/2. Outdoor Education, Sly Park (6th grade students)
- ❖ Tues., 2/6. Kindergarten Information Night (7-8 p.m.)
- ❖ Wed., 2/7. PTA Meeting
- ❖ Thurs., 2/8. Montessori Information Night
- ❖ Mon., 2/12. Lincoln's B-day (no school)
- ❖ Tues., 2/13. Math Night (6:30-7:30 p.m.)**

PTA calendar is online at birchlaneppta.org

** Event is volunteer-run and can't happen without your help! To volunteer, please email the PTA at birchlaneppta@gmail.com

Need End of Year Non-Profit Giving for Your Tax Returns?

Thank you to those who have already donated. But many people have not. Please bring a check to the office, or visit the PTA web page: <http://birchlaneppta.org/direct-donation-drive-2015/>.

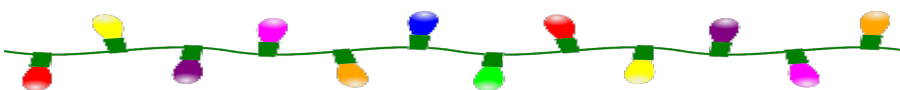
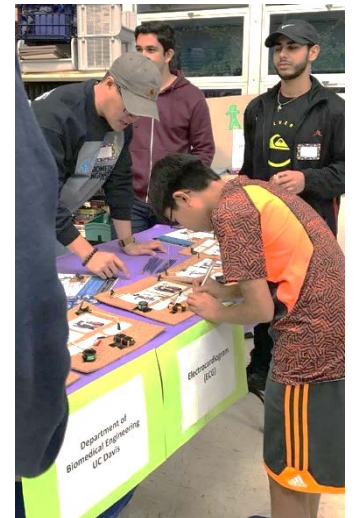


Science Night Was So Fun!

On November 2, Parent scientists rocked the MPRI! The place was packed with excited students (and their parents), who learned about anatomy, biomedical engineering, plant biology, forestry, chemistry, entomology, and health sciences. Organized and led by Leslie Umali, Science Night could not have happened without our parent scientist volunteers

Thank You Science Night Volunteers

- **Entomology:** Nazy Pakpour, Alexis Ackerman, Julie Cridland
- **Sea Otters:** Lizabeth Bowen and Shannon Waters
- **Health & Wellness:** Mary Jean Allarey, Ulfat Shaikh, and students from the UC Davis School of Medicine
- **Valley Oaks:** Jonathan Long
- **Comparative Anatomy:** Teresa Steele, Tim Weaver, and graduate students Nick Lashinsky, Mayowa Adegboyega, Natalie Swinford
- **Chemistry:** Phases of Matter: Adam Moule and graduate students from UC Davis Dept. of Chemical Engineering
- **Chemistry of Colors:** Davide Donadio, Morgan Mason, and Jackie Seibel
- **Plant Biology:** Patricia Mueller-Moule and Andrew McElrone
- **ECG:** Graduate students from the UC Davis Dept. of Biomedical Engineering



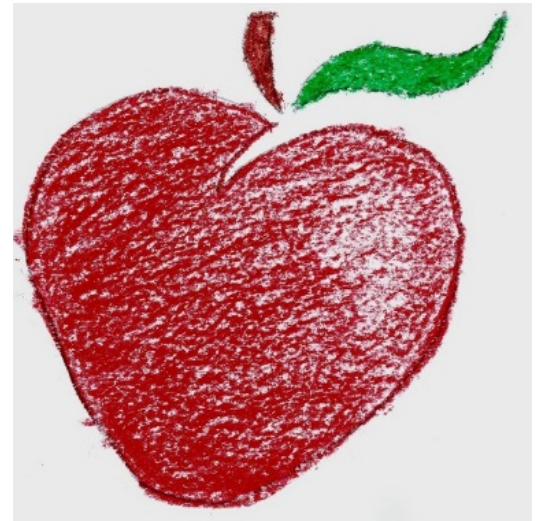


DJUSD Teacher Pay and Benefits Gap

You may not be aware that the state pays Davis schools less than surrounding districts (due to the Local Control Funding Formula). Even with the parcel tax, we are still just under an average funded district with a very expensive cost of living. Our Teachers are paid substantially less than surrounding districts. Recruiting and retaining teachers is becoming increasingly difficult. This impacts our kids in many ways and this problem will get worse as the teacher shortage worsens. See more info here: <http://www.djUSD.net/stratgoal5>

What can I do to help?

- Join this solutions oriented Facebook page and reach out to help increase awareness: Parents for Equity for Davis Teachers: <https://www.facebook.com/P4E4DT>
- Attend Board of Education meetings and show this is important to you
- Write a letter to the editor of The Davis Enterprise or The Davis Vanguard
- Talk with your friends at other schools about this
- Email the BOE trustees with feedback
- Submit questions or ideas at: Teamsolutions@djUSD.net
- Ideas submitted to date are tracked here: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1U--J_u_WnsCL-8yU6Vjm52tAl60nykyeBb0wzn5ZmJQ/edit



Student Council Election Results

Congratulations to our Student Leadership Team:

- Eric Kimball: President
- Vice President: Patrick De La Rosa
- Media Chair: Jimin Chang
- Secretary: Tyson Yamagishi-Kobayashi

Reminder! If you use Amazon Smile they will donate back to the school. It doesn't cost anything. Shop here: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/23-7400575>

Please also use your Nugget scrip cards!



Erik Kimball –Student Council President

