

Letter From The Principal



Dear Parents and Guardians:

Happy New Year! It is now the beginning of 1998 and it is a great time for you and your children to make a fresh start. Why not make the second half of the school year better than the first? Here are some New Year's resolutions for parents determined to make 1998 a great year for their children. After you read them, write down a few of your own to help your children:

Start With Good Reading Habits

Read to your child every night at bedtime...even if it's only five minutes. Make a weekly trip to the Library to allow your children to choose their own books. Fathers, this includes you too!

Make School a Priority

On weekdays, homework must be done first...do not let television and video games take up so much of your children's time. Designate an area in the home which will become the place to complete homework. The kitchen table, the bed, the living room sofa, or a desk are all appropriate spots for completing homework as long as there are no interruptions or distractions.

Put Goals in Writing

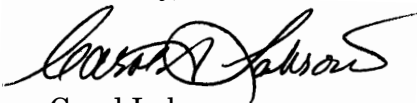
Sit down with your child and discuss your goals and promises for the new year. Put it in writing, like a contract between you and your child.

Show Them You Care

Talk to your children regarding their school days. Read the papers brought home and review the homework when it is complete. Stay in touch with the teacher and attend all of the scheduled school conferences and visitation days. Also, contact the teacher in person, by phone or by writing a note. You may schedule an appointment with the teacher any time during the school year.

We must work together as a team to provide the best educational program for each child. We look forward to continued academic success for all students in this new year.

Sincerely,



Carol Labrow
Principal

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Supervision of Students Afterschool

There are an increasing number of students remaining on the school campus after dismissal while waiting for someone to pick them up. These students use the office telephone, almost on a daily basis to call home, because they do not know who will come to get them or at what time they will be picked up. The families of these children have not established a consistent afterschool procedure for their children.

All students in grades 1-5 are dismissed through the Alexandria Avenue Gate. We ask that all the brothers and sisters in school meet at that gate rather than running to the different classrooms to find each other. Children may then walk home together or with the adult who has come to pick them up. If a child waits at the gate for an adult to pick them up and for some reason the adult does not arrive, your child may come into the office for assistance.

Students who remain for the afterschool playground program are supervised by the Coaches until 6:30 p.m. The playground staff asks you to please pick up your children by 6:15 p.m. so that they have time to clean up and lock up their equipment by 6:30 p.m. No playground staff will be on duty after 6:30 p.m.

All parents need to establish a consistent afterschool routine for their children. All children should know whether they are to walk alone, with their siblings, with an adult or remain on the playground. In the event of an emergency, the child may come to the office for assistance. We will refer to the emergency card to call the other adults listed if the parent is not located.

If a parent or adult cannot be found to pick up a student, the school administrators must then contact the Los Angeles Police Department to report that the child has been abandoned.

Morning Kindergarten Students: There is also an increasing number of morning kindergarten students who remain in the school's main office after dismissal. They are sometimes here as late as 2:00 p.m. These morning students eat their lunch at 11:31 a.m. and are then dismissed through the Oakwood Gate. If they are not picked up by 12:00 noon, they are then walked to the main office to sit. The secretaries will then refer to the emergency card to call the other adults listed if the parent is not located. If a parent or adult cannot be found to pick up a kindergarten student, the school administrators must contact the Los Angeles Police Department to report that the child has been abandoned.

Safe School Plan New School Bus Stop Law

Effective January 1, 1998, assembly Bill 1297 known as the Thomas Edward Lanni Act will become law in the State of California. The recently enacted Thomas Edward Lanni School bus Safety Act of 1997 will require the activation of the flashing red lights and stop signal arm at all loading and unloading points whether a student crossing is required or not. There are approximately 30,000 school bus stops required every school day on District routes. This law will especially impact those loading/unloading stops at school sites when parents are arriving to pick up or drop off students at the same time as the buses. This new law requires the activation of the school bus "flashing" red light system whenever there are students getting on or off a school bus. The activation of the "flashing" red lights requires motorists approaching the school bus from either direction to come to a full stop until all the students are on or off the bus and the red lights are turned off. The state law requires that the driver of a school bus turn on the flashing red signal lights, activate the stop signal arm and physically escort K-8 grade students across certain specified streets or private roads. When this occurs, all traffic going in either direction on that street must come to a complete stop. Cars and other vehicles that fail to stop in response to the red lights will be subject to citation and heavy fines by local police agencies since failure to stop is the same as running a red light.

KLCS-Channel 58 Emergency Information

There may be occasions this year or during any school year when emergencies, hazardous weather conditions or other types of disasters may affect this school, other schools in our local community or many schools throughout the Los Angeles Unified School District. This fall and winter, for example, there is the potential for greater than normal rainfall from El Nino, a weather condition which may be felt in the United States and around the world.

During such conditions, it is important for you to know what steps are being taken to protect and supervise your children in a safe environment until they can walk home safely on their own or be returned to your home area by school bus. For example, in the event of a toxic cloud resulting from an industrial accident, you will need to know where your children are being taken if it becomes necessary to evacuate a school. When this kind of emergency occurs, it may be difficult to get through to the school via telephone.

The school district will now be able to give you such information during emergencies by using its educational television station, KLCS-TV. You can get KLCS on your home television set by turning to Channel 58 (UHF) or whatever channel number your local cable-TV service has assigned to KLCS-TV.

During hazardous weather or other emergencies, you should also continue to listen to regular radio stations or watch regular news stations for broadcasts of general importance to everyone in the community. The information on KLCS-TV will be of special interest to parents and employees of the district.

We will continue to keep your children safe during any emergency. If you have any questions about this notice or about our school's safety plan, please call the school at this number: (213) 660-1936.

Prohibition Against Knives and Other Weapons

The Education Code specifies that possession, sale or furnishing of any firearm, knife, explosive or other dangerous object is grounds for suspension or expulsion. On February 1, 1993, the Board of Education revised its policy for weapons possession. Students of any age or grade level who bring a gun of any kind to school is subject to arrest, suspension and/or expulsion from from the district. This applies to all types of guns, including air guns, stun guns and replica guns.

The Los Angeles Unified School District's Weapons Prevention Hotline has been successfully in place for several years. You may call this "hotline", (800) 954-HELP, to report possession of weapons at school sites. Spanish speaking operators are also available.

Student Absences

Parents, we need your help. Alexandria is having problems verifying student absences. For every unverified absence, Alexandria loses money. To help in the process of verifying student absences, attached to this newsletter are stickers with the school's telephone number and a reminder to call the school when your child is absent. Please paste the sticker on your telephone. We appreciate your assistance and support.

United States Department of Transportation Tips for Keeping Children Safe

The United States Department of Transportation offers its top ten travel safety tips for families on the go:

1. Whether traveling by automobile or airplane, remember that everyone—especially children—should be buckled up at all times.
2. When driving, properly secure children in the child safety seat appropriate for their age and size. Never place a rear-facing infant seat in front of an air bag. The back seat is the safest place for all children.
3. Before bicycling or skating—even if it is just around the corner—children should always wear properly fitted helmets and appropriate safety gear.
4. When walking, always stop at the curb. Look to the left, right and left again before crossing the road. At intersections, pay special attention to turning vehicles. Children younger than ten should cross with a grown-up or older child.
5. When children run outside and play, remind them never to play on or near railroad tracks.
6. While preparing for a boating excursion, remember that children should always wear life jackets on or around water.
7. Always wear bright colored clothing when walking or biking. At night, children should wear markers that reflect light.
8. When shopping for presents at the mall and riding on an escalator, children should stand facing forward, always hold the handrail, never touch the sides or sit on the stairs. Make sure all coats, buttons, shoes and hoods are properly fastened before boarding the escalator.
9. Remember that the bed of a pickup is for transporting holiday packages—never children.
10. Children should never play near railroad/subway tracks or by the curb at a bus stop.

The Museum of Contemporary Art FREE Sundays!

Drop in and share Sundays with your family at an artist-led, hands-on workshop for families with children ages 7-18. All workshops in this series feature work in the current exhibition entitled "Timepieces: Highlights from the Permanent Collection, 1945-1975". All workshops are scheduled from 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. No reservations are necessary:

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Topic</u>
January 18 & 25	The Power of Objects
February 8, 15 & 22	Secret Stories in Art
March 8, 15 & 22	Can You Think Like an Artist?

Plus, there are "Family Tours" every Saturday and Sunday at 1:00 and 3:00 p.m. starting January 17.

For more information, call the Education Department at (213) 633-5310. All programming offered in English and Spanish. Translation into other languages available upon request.

The Museum of Contemporary Art is located at:
MOCA at California Plaza
250 South Grand Avenue
Downtown Los Angeles
(213) 633-5310

Free Parking (with validation) is available at the California Plaza Parking Garage, Lower Grand Avenue. Call (1-800) COMMUTE for Metro bus and rail information.

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Parent Newsletter

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