

Letter From The Principal

Dear Parents:

One fourth of the school year is now over! During these first three months of the new school year, we have had many exciting programs and changes at our school.

On September 8, we celebrated International Literacy Day at Alexandria! In each classroom, we had a "special guest" come to read a favorite book to the children. These "special guests" included administrators from the offices of the Los Angeles Unified School District, representatives from the Mayor's Office and parents from our school. The children enjoyed listening to these stories and interacting with the guest readers. It was such a success, that we plan to schedule another Literacy Day at our school and invite more parents to read to our students. We hope that you will also be available to come and join us on our next Literacy Day.

The State of California has now provided additional funding for us to reduce class size in third grade. A Capacity Committee, which included teachers and parents, met several times to discuss different options for class size reduction this current school year and for future school years. On September 4, the parents of third graders were invited to a meeting to discuss Alexandria's plan to reduce third grade classroom size to "twenty to one." Since that meeting, three new third grade teachers have started to work at our school: Ms. Carla McNellis, Ms. Ann Marie Rucker and Ms. Elisa Ou. We are very excited about the opportunity to offer your primary age children more individual assistance with their learning.



If you have not yet had the opportunity to visit our Parent Center, I encourage you to stop by Room 6 so that you can pick up a calendar of parent activities and classes for the month of October.

In September, there were parent classes on language development and literacy. There were also three cooking classes led by some of the parents of our school. For October, we will have training sessions provided by the representatives from the Children's Bureau and the Clinica de las Americas. We also plan to schedule a computer class for parents and another cooking class in October. Also, the third Thursday of every month is the regularly scheduled Parent Bilingual/Title I Advisory Council Meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for October 17 at 8:00 a.m. and all parents are invited to attend.

Parent/Teacher Conferences for Tracks B and C are scheduled for the week of October 13. Please be sure to attend these important meetings with your child's teacher.

Sincerely,

Carol A. Labrow

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BACK-TO-SCHOOL SAFETY TIPS

WALKING TO SCHOOL:

- Parents: Choose the best route to school and walk it with your children.
- Obey all traffic signals, signs and street markings (crosswalks).
- Look in all directions (left, right, left, forward and behind you) before crossing.
- Cross the street at a corner or crosswalk only. Do not cross mid-block.
- Stay alert at all times—especially in bad weather.

RIDING A BIKE TO SCHOOL:

- Bike helmet must be worn at all times when bicycling. It's school policy and California State Law.
- With your parents, choose the best cycling route.
- Obey all traffic signals, signs and street markings.
- When cycling in the street, ride on the right—with the flow of traffic.
- Children under the age of ten should always ride on the sidewalk in residential areas.
- Do not ride your bike on the sidewalk in business districts. It's against the law.
- When cycling on the sidewalk, cross the street by walking your bike.

RIDING A BUS TO SCHOOL:

- Stay out of the street and don't play around at the bus stop.
- Always wait for parents on the same side of the street as the school bus drop-off area.
- Follow the bus driver's instructions when crossing the street.
- Stay in your seat at all times and keep the aisle clear.
- Keep head, arms and hands inside the bus.

RIDING IN A CAR TO SCHOOL:

- Every person must wear a seat belt and remain belted until exiting the vehicle. It's the law.
- Children (under 40 pounds or under 4 years of age) must be in a child restraint seat when riding in a vehicle. It's the law.
- Children and infants in rear-facing child restraint seats should sit in the back seat when traveling in a vehicle with a passenger side air bag.
- Riding in the back of a pick-up truck without a camper shell is against the law.
- Children must cross only at the crosswalk—not mid-block.
- Make sure children enter and exit the vehicle on the passenger side—nearest to the sidewalk.

Red (B) & Green (C) Tracks Parent Conferences October 13-17, 1997

Before the week of October 13, you will receive an invitation for a Parent Conference from your child's teacher. During this conference, the teacher will discuss your child's progress during the first few months of school, review the report card grades and the test results from the Spring, 1997 APRENDA or Stanford Test. You will have an opportunity to discuss your questions and concerns during a private, one on one conference with the teacher. We hope that all parents with students on Tracks B & C have an opportunity to attend these very important parent conferences.

School Uniform Dress Code Policy

As of December 1, 1996, our school has implemented a mandatory school uniform dress code policy. All students are required to wear the school uniform or the school colors which are navy blue, white or yellow. Also, we ask that all students wear clothing that is appropriate for the size of the child. The school uniform may be purchased at several stores including Sears and Target. For your convenience, a school uniform vendor will come to our school once a month to sell uniforms. Please call the main office for the next date.

The following process will be followed if a student comes to school dressed in violation of the uniform dress code:

1. The classroom teacher will refer the student to the office.
2. Parents will be contacted and asked to come to school with a uniform or clothing with the school's colors.
3. If parents cannot be located, clothing will be loaned for the day. A note will be sent home notifying the parents of their child's violation of the uniform dress code.

If you have any questions regarding the school's uniform dress code policy, please contact our assistant principal, Dr. Terry Campa.

Loitering /Truancy Ordinance

The Los Angeles City Council and Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors have passed a Loitering/Truancy Ordinance. This Ordinance prohibits any person under the age of 18 and subject to compulsory school attendance, from loitering in or upon the public streets, highways, roads, alleys, parks, playgrounds or other public grounds between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. on days when the student's school is in session. The exceptions to this are as follows:

- a student is accompanied by a parent or guardian
- a student is on an emergency errand directed by a parent or guardian
- a student is going directly or coming directly from his/her place of gainful employment
- a student has permission to leave campus for lunch and has in his/her possession a school issued permit
- a student is going to or returning from a public meeting

If a student is found to be in violation of this Ordinance, he/she will be issued a citation. This will require the parent to appear in court with the youngster and may include a fine of \$250. The Ordinance will be enforced through the Los Angeles City Traffic Ordinance Citation Program and has become effective in the County on April 15, 1996.

How to Succeed in Kindergarten

An article in the Los Angeles Times, "How to Succeed in Kindergarten" (August 13, 1997) includes the results of a survey conducted by Lawrence Johnson, Associate Dean of the University of Cincinnati's College of Education. In this survey, 400 kindergarten teachers were polled and this is what the teachers said kindergartners should know when they begin school:

- How to go to the bathroom by themselves.
- How to work alone for at least ten minutes.
- How to express themselves clearly.
- How to operate a zipper and put on a coat.

The message to parents is to really try hard to help their children communicate clearly and be more independent. That translates into success in school!