

February 21, 2021

Culturally Responsive Brain Rules

1. *The brain seeks to minimize social threats and maximize opportunities to connect with others in community.*
2. *Positive relationships keep our safety-threat detection system in check.*
3. *Culture guides how we process information.*
4. *Attention drives learning.*
5. *All new information must be coupled with existing funds of knowledge in order to be learned.*
6. *The brain physically grows through challenge and stretch, expanding its ability to do more complex thinking and learning. (p. 47)*

Zaretta Hammond, (2015, pp. 47 - 49)

Dear TPES Families,

I hope you enjoyed this great weekend! It's hard to believe that we are just four weeks away from our spring parent-teacher conferences. Thanks to the passionate instruction of our teachers and support staff - and the consistency and support of our families - TPES students continue to make great progress!

As teachers, we also continue to learn and grow. This week three TPES teachers and I had the good fortune to hear from Zaretta Hammond, author of *Culturally Responsive Teaching & The Brain* (<https://crtandthebrain.com/about/>), as she addressed our entire SDUSD team. Hammond tells us that our challenge as educators is one of turning "dependent learners" into "cognitively independent learners."

To do this, teachers must practice culturally responsive teaching, which is based on both neuroscientific principles and learning theory. She refers to these guidelines for such instruction as "Culturally Responsive Brain Rules," and I have included them above for reference. The teachers attending this lecture thought our entire staff should learn from Zaretta, so we are making time in March to ensure all TPES staff participate in the same experience. It's true that whether online or onsite, effective teaching is always built on trust and commitment, and Zaretta Hammond inspires us all to remember how fundamental these connections are.

It's wonderful to know that although many families' physical connections with the school are limited to Distribution Days once a month, we know we are not alone during this school year. And since this week is our last Distribution Day until April, I want you to know that I am especially looking forward to seeing you (as a laundry basket full of dirty clothes) here at TPES! I hope your children are doing extra household jobs to earn a coin or two for our Foundation's collection on Wednesday.

Sincerely,
Ms. Richard

What you need to know for the week ahead:

[CALIFORNIA LEGISLATIVE UPDATE - \(SB-86\) "SAFE AND OPEN OPEN SCHOOLS PLAN"](#)

- The State Legislature made significant progress last week in announcing a plan to safely reopen schools. Senate Bill 86 provides for additional funding to ensure a safe return to in-person learning, prioritizes the vaccination of school staff and sets some realistic goals and timetables. Simply put, it calls on schools to return to learning by mid-April, while recognizing that some schools are in communities with high COVID-19 transmission rates, and those may only be able to return in small cohorts of students who are in need of extra support.
 - If rates continue to decline back down to the red tier (less than 7 positive cases per 100,000), then the measure would allow schools to reopen gradually. To be very clear, this is only a proposal. There is a long way to go before the Legislature enacts SB86 and the Governor signs it into law.
 - However, San Diego Unified is expressing general support for the plan because we believe it is a safe and science-based approach to reopening. Other large urban districts joined with San Diego in issuing a statement of support.
 - In the coming days, SDUSD will continue meeting with the elected representatives of our employees, and we will continue seeking feedback from our own panel of scientific experts from the University of California at San Diego.
- The next detailed update on reopening will be at the Feb. 23 Board meeting.

Yearbook News

Buy your Yearbook by Feb 25

Last Chance to Guarantee a purchase!

Afterwards, Yearbooks will be sold on a First Come, First Serve basis

Torrey Pines Elementary School
2020-2021
Yearbook
Making History!

WEEKLY YEARBOOK TOPICS

Or go to:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TPES2021>

Submit Photos
Submit Comments
Buy a Yearbook (\$35)

25 FEB is the last chance to GUARANTEE a yearbook purchase. You can [purchase one here](#). After 25 Feb, Yearbooks will be available until *sold out*.

SCHOOL PORTRAITS. **Please upload a portrait of your child by 28 Feb** for their yearbook class page. See [SELFIE TIPS](#) and [SUBMIT PHOTOS HERE](#).

21-28 Feb WEEKLY YEARBOOK TOPICS (Last week of topics!)

[CLICK HERE](#) to Submit photos of:

1. Rotation Classes (Spanish, Coding, Music, Science, Art, PE)
2. Silly Photos!

3. Life in La Jolla (how you've spent time living in your home town)

Q: What do you want to be when you grow up?

THANK YOU to the families who have uploaded pictures! Even though we've been remote, there are lots of pics that kids will enjoy seeing in the yearbook. This has been a meaningful and historic year!

March will be Kindness Month at TPES!

TPES will once again participate in the *Great Kindness Challenge!* Please join the TPESF, Mrs. Riney, and the Student Council in practicing these [50 Kind Acts](#) together. How many can you do?

Each week in March, we will highlight 2 kind acts to practice together.

Each Friday in March, we will host kindness themed dress-up days. Let's have fun and spread kindness, happiness and joy to our school community, family and friends!

Message From Kirra Patel, Student Council President

Hello Torrey Pines Families!

This is Kirra Patel, the Student Council President here at school with an important announcement for everyone. As a student council, we were trying to think of how we can best support the school in this difficult environment of online learning, and we decided to help the Foundation raise a bit more funds to support all the great things that happen at our school. We then came up with a great plan, make Principal Richard dress up in a laundry basket! Who knew, right? So, on this Distribution Day coming on Wednesday the 24th, she will be out greeting everyone dressed up as a laundry basket and collecting any donations, cash, coins, or checks as you drive by. We thought it might be a good idea for kids at home to do a few extra chores to help out around the house to have them help raise a few dollars to contribute. So, it would be great if you could "pay" your kids for some helpful deeds they do in the form of a donation to the school. This can also connect with our kindness activities next month in March. Thank you for your support in this. Even just a little donation will help. See you all next Wednesday!

News just in: You can send a Venmo to Nona Richard using @TPESChores. All funds will be donated to the TPES Foundation.

Free Tutoring Available

UCSD is available to support our students' academics! They are offering **FREE tutoring for students K-12 on Tuesday & Friday from 5-7pm.** For more information, please click on [Tritons Tutor](#) and scroll down to the Parent/Student link (<https://hdhwellness.ucsd.edu/tritons-tutor/index.html>).

Breakfast and Books Diversity Focus

This week join Ms. Riney and the Allied Action Team members at Breakfast and Books! We will be talking about how we treat other



Nona Richard
@TPESChores



venmo

Scan QR code for payment

people and what we can do to make our world a safe place for all people, no matter how similar or different we seem for each one another.

Tuesday (Grades TK-2) and Thursday (Grades 3-5)
8:00-8:30 AM

<https://sandiegounified.zoom.us/j/91548369892>

Password: book

Distribution Day is Wednesday, February 24.

Everyone must wear a mask and must stay in cars. Please pop your trunk, and the teacher will place materials in the back of your car. To ensure safety, staff will not be able to engage in conversations with parents and students.

Grade	Time	Tent 1	Tent 2	Tent 3	Tent 4
TK/K	8:00-8:30	Gunn	Bustani	Huynh	Wintringer
1	8:30-9:00	Chiaro	Gonzales	Nguyen	
2	9:00-9:30	Gordon	Harp	Lee	
3	9:30-10:00	Bagaporo	Cohen/Jackson	Elliot	Serafin
4	10:00-10:30	Kluch/Jackson	Nieto	Saldivar	
5	10:30-11:00	DeVore	Ramirez	White	

For families with multiple siblings, you are welcome to attend at your oldest child's time and pick up younger students' materials at the end of the cul-de-sac.

PARENT EDUCATION WORKSHOP: VACCINE EDUCATION

- ❖ Consider attending a workshop for parents. Flyers: [English](#) / [Spanish](#)
 - Wednesday, February 24 @ 5:15 p.m.

Notes From 2/18/21 La Jolla Cluster Meeting

If you weren't able to attend our meeting last Thursday, please find notes from the discussion. Remember you can always view the La Jolla Cluster website for agendas, minutes and more information about our learning community.

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1lb2oGx7fafV6XaG5TBv2pQo3KvgTfvJah0_5rz1zrww/edit?usp=sharing

Food Services: Grab n' Go Meals

Grab n' Go meals are available for free to all children Monday - Friday from noon-2 p.m. at 77 locations! Families are encouraged to take advantage of this resource. [See this flyer for more information.](#) [Here are the Grab n' Go Meals locations for this week.](#)

Weekly District Notices and Agendas

Please see attached.

Information Worth Repeating:

Black History Month Events

- ❖ February is Black History Month. We have worked with community partners to provide a variety of activities that teachers, schools, families, and communities can engage in throughout the month.
 - All events can be accessed through [this link](#) on the district webpage.
- ❖ We encourage everyone to participate.

Emotional Support Available

- ❖ In partnership with Gov. Newsom, Parents Anonymous® Inc. launched the California [Parent & Youth Helpline and Online Parents Anonymous® Support Groups](#) in response to COVID-19 to provide free trauma-informed, evidence-based emotional support to parents, children, and youth in any language via calls, text, live chat, and email.
- ❖ Please find flyers with more information for our school community: [parent and youth helpline](#), parent support groups in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

Kids Body Connection *New Zoom Link as of January 2021

Please check out the new Kids Body Connection Zoom Link. Join Mrs. Juju every Tuesday and Thursday from 12:30-1:00 PM.

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/77376229089?pwd=cUdaZElydXF3cDdNZk14WWhVWWtjdz09>

Meeting ID: 773 7622 9089

Passcode: KBC

Distribution Days

Future Distribution Days to the end of the school year are tentatively scheduled for April 7 and May 5.

Student Council Playground

<https://padlet.com/Wordmaster/playground>

Use this link to find out all happenings kid-created, including our Diversity Quilt. Thank you to our student council for organizing this virtual space. Password: TPES

TPES New Telephone Number

With the upgrades in technology, our new phone number is 619 605 3700.

Our old phone number, 858 453 2323, will continue to forward to our new line until May 2020. Remember that at this time staff are working from home and are unable to answer the phone. Please continue to email office staff and teachers.

School Site Council and School Governance Team

The next SSC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 3 from 7:45 to 8:25 AM.

Zoom Link: <https://sandiegounified.zoom.us/j/82705330996>

The next SGT meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 11 from 7:15 to 8:00 AM.

Zoom Link: <https://sandiegounified.zoom.us/j/84187461959>

Technology Tips

Please check out the Parent Support Website <http://bit.ly/sdusditsupport> for any technology concerns.

La Jolla Cluster Meetings

Save the dates! These are a great way to hear more about issues that are affecting other SDUSD schools in our La Jolla community. The meeting dates for 2021 are scheduled for 3/18, 4/15, 5/20. All meetings run from 4:15-5:30 PM.

Cluster Meeting Zoom Link: <https://sandiegounified.zoom.us/j/82879953442>

Our success depends on you! Thank you for being a part of Torrey Pines Elementary School.