

11.22.2020

One looks back with appreciation to the brilliant teachers, but with gratitude to those who touched our human feelings. The curriculum is so much necessary raw material, but warmth is the vital element for the growing plant and for the soul of the child.

Carl Jung

Dear Torrey Pines Families,

It's Thanksgiving Week and the perfect opportunity to express gratitude for all the staff at Torrey Pines who make our school a great place to learn and grow. In particular, I want to appreciate four incredible teachers who will be retiring on Friday, December 18. While we have lined up some phenomenal teachers to fill the vacancies (I will be introducing these teachers in the weeks to come), it won't be possible to replace the decades of investment and commitment these retiring teachers have shown toward our school.

Jana Keating, Cathy Isom, Dene Hilsen and Wendy Gillespie - you will be entirely missed.

Below please find a special message from each teacher to our TPES community:

Retiring Teacher Messages

Dear Torrey Pines Families,

It is with a heart full of bittersweet emotions that I announce my retirement. In this moment, I never realized how hard this would be. My entire 34 year teaching career has been at Torrey Pines Elementary. (I just found out that I am, officially, the longest-running teacher in the history of the school!) I started in 1987, fresh out of my credential program. I was a classroom teacher for 24 years, teaching First-Fifth grade. I have always LOVED Science! I have partnered with Cathy Isom, my dear friend and colleague, for 10 of my 34 years. I think my proudest legacy is Science Discovery Day. After learning about it at a Science conference, I presented the idea to a supportive principal, and off it went! I could not have imagined that it would become a 26-year beloved tradition, thanks to all the efforts of teachers, staff, families and community presenters! It took a village!

To ensure a smooth transition, I will be working closely with Rachel Jordan, the teacher who will replace me. I know your students will be in good hands!

One of the hardest aspects of retiring is having to say goodbye to my colleagues. I have worked beside them for decades, and we have shared so many life milestones together. They are truly the most hard-working, dedicated, and creative professionals one could ever hope to work with.

It is truly your sweet children that I will miss the most. Their insatiable curiosity, their honesty, their love of learning is what has challenged me to dig deep and be the best teacher I could be. I will miss them, and you, from the bottom of my heart! Thank you for all your support these many years.

*Warmest regards,
Jana Swanson Keating*

Hello again awesome TPES Families!

I'd like to share some parting thoughts as we begin our Thanksgiving break and my teaching career draws to a close at the end of December. I will forever be thankful for the remarkable years I've had teaching my favorite subject to so many receptive and enthusiastic students; students that never cease to amaze me! I believe we have all learned side-by-side thanks to the dynamic nature of science!! My life has forever been enriched and I will never forget the gift I was given to be a teacher at TPES.

I'd like to share a quote I recently heard from the inspirational astrophysicist, Neil deGrasse Tyson, that touched my heart and rang so true. "What is a scientist? A scientist is a kid that never lost its curiosity and wonder!" I wish you all the best and hope that you all will "keep on keeping curious"!

I will always treasure our shared experiences and memories.

xoxo -

Ms. Isom

TPES Families,

It has been a privilege to be part of a school that has grown so much over the past 30 years. It is hard to leave such a wonderful community of caring and dedicated teachers, colleagues and families who put such time and effort into making TPES such a special place. Most of all, I will miss teaching so many students over the years that made me smile each day. I will bring many happy memories into my retirement.

Sincerely,

Ms. Dene Hilsen

To My Torrey Pines Family,

You should know, I've thought about this note for some time now, not the least of which was how to address this! TPES has been a part of my life, and I've been a part of this special community for 30 years.

In 1990, as a young and new-ish teacher, I couldn't fathom how I'd been so fortunate to land a position at such a lovely place. A small school, tucked into a homey neighborhood and the bonus of a view of the ocean! At that time, the playground was where we park our cars today, and our beautiful grassy field in back was a huge lot of dusty, pebbly, dirt (my husband corrects me; decomposed granite). It seemed a looong walk from the office to the kindergarten area, as there wasn't a library, nor the classroom building of rooms 7, 8, 9 and 10 at that time!

During the years I've been a teacher at Torrey Pines, I became married and a mother of two, Matthew and Hannah, both of whom were students here. They are now 30 and 26 years old. I can tell you, it really was fun to be on both sides of the classroom!

A jumble of feelings and memories have been coursing through my mind, sometimes in a trickle, other moments in a torrent. So many lovely children, they take up the most room in my psyche. I'm so glad I have the class photos and yearbooks from years past, they come in very handy when a young person with a somewhat familiar face comes to visit after many years. I know them; I remember he wore a

bowtie for picture day, she was new to the school and shy and scared and loved to read...but sadly, names escape my memory after so much time has passed- thus, yay for yearbooks! I don't know if it's possible to express how it feels to have former students come back to say they remember how they felt as a student in my classroom. It's special and humbling, and makes the hard days absolutely worth it.

My talented, creative and hardworking colleagues- so many friends, I'll miss seeing you every day. I'm still inspired when I see you in your classrooms, so rich and full of your hard work and dedication to your students, to our school. Thank you all for your generosity of thoughts, ideas and extra-curricular collaboration. Most times work didn't seem like "work" because of your humor and genuine affection. I would be remiss if I didn't also thank those of you (you know who you are!) for letting me go in front of you at the copy machine at 8:27am more than a few times!

My heart and my thanks go out to The Torrey Pines Elementary School Foundation- the parents who give so much of their time and skill to our little school. Science Discovery day had happened only once before (maybe twice) when I first arrived. Now, SDD is something bigger and more exciting than the first volunteers could ever have imagined! The "Rotations" (distinct to TPES, because we did it first!) would never have happened or be able to continue without the incredible hard work and effort on the part of parents who've made the time to work on behalf of the entire school community a priority. They've given their energy and countless hours as volunteers, as well as money, to supplement the occasions and events that enhance the educational experience for all students, and not just their own children.

Thank you for the opportunity to teach your children, it has been my pleasure and privilege to be a part of this special school.

With love and gratitude,

Mrs. Gillespie

And Here is What Else You Need to Know

Report Card Access

Report Cards are available for parents through the PowerSchool Parent Portal. In order to access their child's student portal information, parents will need their child's Student ID and Password.

If a family needs assistance with their student's ID and Password, they can call the Family Technical Support Line Monday-Friday @ 619-732-1400 from 8:00am-5:00pm.

A short job-aid is available to share with families how to view grades/marks: [Viewing Grades in Powerschool](#)

Please see the [Parent and Student Portal Website Link](#) for additional information to assist with implementation and access (Handbook, Job Aids, Video Tutorials, Resources for Parents).

Progress Report Link

Want to know what the report cards look like at each grade level? Click the links to view what is expected at each grade level, TK-5.

https://www.sandiegounified.org/departments/leadership_and_learning/elementary_student_progress_reports

San Diego Unified School District Parent-Teacher Association Information

Please find survey results from the SD PTA Town Hall here:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1hdUzJy6IBCAEitffAPcU9JoejPUoReal?usp=sharing>

If you would like to provide feedback to the PTA regarding online learning, please use the survey link below. The deadline is 11/30/2020.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SDUPTA2020Survey>

iPads and Apple Pencils

They are here! Thanks to the funds procured from propositions S and Z, all teachers will be receiving an iPad and Apple Pencil to support online learning. We appreciate the resources these measures provide to our students and teachers.

Food Distribution Over Thanksgiving Break

Thanksgiving Week Meals will be available at 34 Curbside Grab n' Go Meal Locations on 11/23 & 11/24. Please see [this flyer](#) for more information. Any site not listed will be closed for the week of 11/23-11/27. All 81 meal pick-up locations will resume regular curbside service on Monday, November 30.

Mark Your Calendars for the Next Three Weeks to Get Involved!

English Language Advisory Committee

Monday, 11/30 @ 8:30-9:00 AM

Zoom Link: <https://sandiegounified.zoom.us/j/88383867575>

School Site Council *School Safety Plan to be shared and discussed here.

Wednesday, 12/2 @ 7:45-8:25 AM

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

4-U Squad Parent Meeting

Thursday, 12/3 @ 9:15-10:00 AM

<https://sandiegounified.zoom.us/j/84211323880>

School Safety Meeting *School Safety Plan to be shared and discussed here.

Friday, 12/4 @ 7:45-8:25 AM

Zoom Link: <https://sandiegounified.zoom.us/j/85913786587>

Principal-Foundation Chat

Friday, 12/4 @ 9:00-9:30 AM

Zoom Link: <https://sandiegounified.zoom.us/j/92277357059>

School Governance Team *School Safety Plan to be shared and discussed here.

Thursday, 12/10 @ 7:45-8:25 AM

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

Principal and Special Education Office Hours for Parents of Students with IEPs

Thursday, 12/10 @ 4:00-4:45 PM

[Please register here, and we will send you the Zoom link.](#)

La Jolla Cluster Meeting

Thursday, 12/17 @ 4:15-5:30 PM

Guest will be Nicole DeWitt, Instructional Support Officer, to discuss standards-based grading

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

Distribution Day is Friday, December 11

For those families wishing to make ONE trip to school, please come at your oldest student's grade level time. We will have any uncollected materials from earlier in the day available at the last tent. Please note the first tent is now the Foundation's tent.

The schedule is below with teachers' tents in order from # 1-4, east to west, after the Foundation tent, which is further east.

Grade TK/K: 8:00-9:00 (Gunn, Bustani, Huynh, Wintringer)
Grade 1: 9:00-10:00 (Chiaro, Gonzales, Nguyen)
Grade 2: 10:00-11:00 (Gordon, Harp, Lee)
Grade 3: 11:00-12:00 (Bagaporo, Gillespie/Jackson, Hilsen, Serafin)
Grade 4: 12:00-1:00 (Kluch/Jackson, Nieto, Saldivar)
Grade 5: 1:00-2:00 (DeVore, Ramirez, White)

Join Us for Music Class the Week of December 14-18

Plan to join Mrs. Slavik's music class for a special presentation during your child's music rotation this last week before the winter vacation.

Zoom Link: <https://sandiegounified.zoom.us/j/87394993197>

Password: Music

Music Class 4th Grade on Monday, 12/14

Nieto @ 12:30 P
Saldivar @ 1:20 P
Kluch/Jackson @ 2:10 P

Music Class 5th Grade and 3rd Grade on Tuesday, 12/15

DeVore @ 8:30 A
Ramirez @ 9:20 A
White @ 10:10 A
Gillespie/Jackson @ 11:40 A
Bagaporo @ 12:30 P
Serafin @ 1:20 P
Hilsen @ 2:10 P

Music Class 1st Grade and 2nd Grade Thursday, 12/17

Chiaro @ 8:30 A
Nguyen @ 9:20 A
Gonzales @ 10:10 A
Harp @ 12:30 P
Lee @ 1:20 P
Gordon @ 2:10 P

Music Class Friday, 12/18

Huynh @ 8:30
Bustani @ 9:20
Gunn @ 10:10
Wintringer @ 11:00

As you may know, Mrs. Slavik's husband passed away last week. Please feel free to send cards to the school address should you wish to extend condolences to Mrs. Slavik during this challenge time. We will make sure your cards get to her.

District Notices and Agendas

Please see attached.

Information Worth Repeating

Progress Toward Reopening

The County Office of Education has released a new [DASHBOARD](#) to share data on the progress all schools are making in reopening.

Shop at Ralphs? Please Register to Help Our School Earn Money (and tell your friends)

<https://www.ralphs.com/i/community/community-contribution-program>

Breakfast and Books

Join Ms. Richard on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:00 - 8:30 AM for a read aloud and short chat with students at breakfast time, before the school day begins. Tuesdays will be geared toward a TK-2 audience. Thursdays will be oriented toward grade 3-5 students. Each session has a social-emotional focus.

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

The password is: book

Kids Body Connection Available on Zoom Every Tuesday and Thursday from 12:30-1:00 PM

Looking to add some mindfulness and mid-day centering to your week? KBC is still going strong. Please join Ms. Juju. We think you will feel energized and motivated!

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/78838781992?pwd=ampkSIRBMm5oWDFHR01aSGtkTIB4Zz09>

Meeting ID: 788 3878 1992

Passcode: KBC

Nutcracker Virtual Performance

Consider registering for a virtual Nutcracker ballet this year: <https://www.powayonstage.org/event/SCB-Nutcracker/>

Mark Your Calendar! Upcoming November and December Dates

| | |
|---|---------------------------|
| Monday, November 30 | School Resumes |
| Friday, December 11 | Distribution Day |
| Monday, December 21 - Friday, January 1 | Winter Holiday, No School |
| Monday, January 4 | School Resumes |

Technology Tips

To avoid microphone issues, please ensure students are checking Chromebook volume before logging into Zoom. Also, students must login through the District's Clever app. Remember, if your student's device is not functioning, the learning of all children in the Zoom session is impacted. Please reach out to Technology Support for support to ensure high-quality learning for all. If your child has any technology issues, please see this Parent Support Website

<http://bit.ly/sdusditsupport> for next steps.

School Site Council and School Governance Team

**Agendas posted on our school website 72 hours in advance.*

**Please keep your video on and/or identify yourself by name on your Zoom square.*

The next SSC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 2 from 7:45 to 8:25 AM.

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

The next SGT meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 10 from 7:15 to 8:00 AM.

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

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 this year are scheduled for 12/17, 1/21, 2/18, 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>

TPES Foundation Page***Don't miss out on important information about TPES! Register on the Foundation page:

<https://www.tpesfoundation.org/register>

Thank you for being an important part of our school community!