

09.05.2020

Without ambition, one starts nothing. Without work, one finishes nothing. The prize will not be sent to you. You have to win it.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

No work is insignificant. All labor that uplifts humanity has dignity and importance and should be undertaken with painstaking excellence.

Martin Luther King, Jr.

Dear Torrey Pines Families,

I hope this email finds you well and enjoying family time over the Labor Day weekend. Labor Day, the first Monday in September, is a creation of the labor movement and is dedicated to the social and economic achievements of American workers. It constitutes a yearly national tribute to the contributions workers have made to the strength, prosperity, and well-being of our country.

It is a highly appropriate time, then, to recognize the combined efforts of Torrey Pines teachers, paraeducators, office staff and custodial team in launching our first week of school. We know the circumstances are not ideal, but we remain committed to doing everything in our control to provide a quality educational experience for our community. Likewise, I want to acknowledge and appreciate all the time parents have put into helping their children begin online learning successfully over the past five days. In addition, while observing our students Zoom classes this week, I saw engaged, responsible, attentive learners who were focused on learning, listening and engaging with new classmates and teachers. As always, I am so proud to be part of a learning team that is flexible and proactive. We are ready and eager to begin our full instruction this Tuesday.

There are so many updates to communicate with you this week! Most importantly, I want to invite all parents to attend a **Principal/Foundation Back to School Night (BTSN)** presentation on **Tuesday, September 8 at 6:00 PM** and/or **Friday, September 11 at 9:00 AM**. The purpose of the BTSN is to officially welcome you to our school, provide an overview of our programs and introduce you to our fantastic Foundation, a powerful force behind our excellence. The presentation will last 30 minutes and will be followed by a 10-minute question and answer session. To receive the Zoom link and password, you must register on this link:

Principal/Foundation BTSN Sign Up

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090e4baba82ea3f49-back>

Teacher Curriculum Nights

In addition to attending the Principal/Foundation BTSN, your child's classroom teacher will be hosting/has hosted an information session for parents. Traditionally, the principal/foundation and teacher presentations have occurred on the same evening, but this year, it is important that you schedule time for both. Please reach out to your child's teacher if you have not received information about this important Teacher Curriculum Night date/time.

Wednesday Principal's Corner and e-Twig

This year, I will be writing a short Principal's Corner section to the Foundation's weekly e-Twig. I hope to highlight some of the fantastic teaching and learning that is occurring at TPES so our families are aware of just how special a place Torrey Pines continues to be. Please make sure you have signed up with our Foundation

so you have access to this weekly communication. In addition, if your contact information has changed, please ensure you have updated your directory information with the Foundation. Here is the link to register:

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

If you missed this week's e-Twig, here is a link to all that was shared:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1YCrWUZfisOBeccoOXUNbadYLq-6KuZVp/view?usp=sharing>

We are excited to announce a special raffle for everyone who has registered before Tuesday's BTSN! Check out this page <https://www.tpesfoundation.org/9214348> and register to win a free dinner for your family just by joining our Foundation.

School Board Meetings and Agendas

So many of you have reached out to me for information related to the District's plans for return to onsite learning. I try my best to share information as it is given to me, but I encourage our community to attend our District's Board Meetings to hear information and updates first-hand. Attached are the Notices and Agendas links. The next meeting is Tuesday, September 8 at 5:00 PM.

La Jolla Cluster Meeting Thursday, September 17 (afternoon/evening)

Another way to stay informed with our community is to attend our monthly Cluster meetings. This month, hear from a phenomenal educator, Dr. Doug Fisher, who will share what the research shows about best instructional practices during online learning. Please look for more information to come to register for the event.

Some Notes From Our Amazing Teachers

We are so thankful for supportive families who have helped their children get acquainted with Zooming this week! Here are a few asks from our teachers to make online learning even better:

- The learning platform your child uses must be appropriate for his/her age level. Children in lower grades will be using SeeSaw. Children in upper grades will be using Google Classroom.
- Please remember last week was meant for orientation purposes only. Teachers were required by the District to participate in ten training sessions throughout the week. They could meet with children no longer than 60 minutes per day. Teachers should have shared schedules for this coming week when full instruction begins.
- We ask for grace while we work out the kinks. Our teachers want to give their best for you. The more thankful comments, appreciative notes and positive feedback, the better! We are doing hard work together. It will get easier, but right now most families and teachers feel overwhelmed! Please make sure you are giving yourself grace, too.
- Thank you to everyone who made sure students were dressed, out of bed and working from an appropriate learning space. We request that anyone in your child's Zoom background be fully clothed, too!

Distribution Days

Save these dates! More information to come, but we are tentatively holding space for 9/25, 10/30 and 12/4 as opportunities to "drive by" to say hello to teachers and pick up necessary materials for instruction.

Technology Support

I apologize for the inconvenience in advance, but we are no longer allowed to exchange non-working Chromebooks for working Chromebooks onsite. If your child has any technology issues, please see this Parent Support Website <http://bit.ly/sdusditsupport> for next steps.

Breakfast and Books

Join Ms. Richard on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7:45 - 8:15 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.

Click here for the link: <https://sandiegounified.zoom.us/j/91548369892>

The password is: **book**

For safety and security, these Zoom sessions will be authenticated meetings. Students must take additional steps to sign into authenticated meetings. Students should sign into sandiegounified.zoom.us prior to joining the zoom meeting. They can type this in the address bar or find the link in Clever. [Click here for job aid and video.](#)

Meeting for Parents of Students with IEPs

If your child has an IEP, please remember to register for the Thursday, September 10 meeting at 5:00 PM. Meet your child's case manager, our school psychologist, and Principal Richard, and learn more about special education services in online schooling. If your child has an IEP and you did not receive an invitation from his/her case manager, please email Nona Richard at nrichard@sandi.net.

**Note: If your child is new to our school, has a 504 plan and has not been contacted by our school counselor, Keri Riney, please reach out to Nona Richard at nrichard@sandi.net. We want to ensure we are meeting the needs of all students!*

Attendance During Online Learning

Teachers are responsible for taking attendance daily. If your child will be absent from school and not attend sessions, please make sure you have communicated with your child's teacher directly.

TPES Office

Many of you have communicated that when you call our office, the phone rings and no one answers. I apologize that you did not receive a voice message directing you to email our office staff. Our phone lines were interrupted during the Voice over Internet Protocol work that is taking place at our site. The away message has now been restored.

During online learning, the office is closed. The best way to communicate with our office team is by email. You can reach our Mrs. Jill in our office at jpallulat@sandi.net and/or the principal at nrichard@sandi.net.

Air Conditioning Update

We are excited to be reaching the end of the air conditioning construction. Rooms are being tested for balance this week, and next week we will be trained in how to use the system. Cool times are ahead at TPES!

Volunteers

The District has provided updates on volunteer protocol during online learning. They must still be cleared through the same process. Here is more information about volunteering at TPES. After I meet with our substitute ESA, I will provide a contact for you to work with should you wish to be a volunteer at our school. In the meantime, you can read about these District volunteer procedures:

<https://sandiegounified.org/cms/one.aspx?portalId=27732478&pageId=28189079>

Again, I send my heartfelt appreciation to everyone involved with Torrey Pines Elementary School. Together, we are traveling through these very difficult times. We are committed to our community! We care! And I am confident we are becoming more closely connected in the process.

In partnership,
Nona Richard

