



PTO PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear LJES Families,

I always like to remind and to be reminded that it takes a village to raise a child. And here, at La Jolla Elementary, we find the most amazing of the villages.

It is such a privilege to be part of a community that comes together to make sure our kids have beautiful and fun memories of their school years.

We are fortunate to be part of a school with a long tradition of greatness that must not be taken for granted, especially after what the COVID Pandemic has taught us.

After years of struggles, it was with the help of our volunteers that our PTO was able to bring back this year all of our favorite events that foster a sense of community, of belonging, bringing our village together.

Our most recent PTO event, the International Festival, for example, brought in more than 820 visitors. I literally had tears in my eyes as I walked around the black top area of our school to find grandparents, mothers, fathers, and friends, all coming together and dedicating to expose and connect our children to nothing less than the culture of 20 different countries from all over the world. Traditional games, decorations, homemade foods and treats were shared with our kids

and families in this awesome occasion. The experience was beyond culturally rich, and our kids are so lucky to be part of such a diverse environment.

I am always in awe of how dedicated, independent and selfless is our strong team of volunteers who chair events throughout the year.

From the initial kindergarten bbq where we welcomed the new families into our school, our glowing Back to School Picnic where the kids ran and danced around while parents got to meet the other families in their kids' classrooms, from our Family Wellness night when we worked out together and meditated to the sounds of healing bowls, to our cozy Family Movie Night, our Science Night launching rockets, our super fun Family Dance Night with a photo booth, and our extra magical Talent Show, there is always a team of parents who donate their time and effort to make these special moments happen.

LJES is so lucky to have so many teachers, staff and volunteers who always go above and beyond, who work tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure that our village school continues to excel.

As we approach the end of this school year, I want to use this space to express my gratitude in the name of our village and leave a huge THANK YOU to all of you who willingly gave your time to serve on the PTO Executive Board, and the 30+ Committee Chairs who independently and professionally orchestrate the events and productions we all

love and expect. Selfless people who share their talents such as graphic design, photography, law, science, literacy, art, music, wellness, athletics, finance and organization. Those who volunteer every Wednesday to ensure Pizza Wednesday is fun for everyone's children. Parents that design our school productions, communications, eBlasts and social media posts and those who make sure all our events are stacked with volunteers. Room Parents that keep the communication channels open between school and families, volunteers who support our teachers to make their work load a little lighter. You are the best people I know! Thank you for juggling your careers, your personal time, your families, while still finding the time to serve our community. You are what makes our school so special!

I encourage all who wish to see our LJES remain on par with surrounding private schools to consider serving our PTO board, our Friends foundation board, join the School Site Council or School Governance Team.

Please continue to donate your time and money as if your children's education depends upon it, because it does!

I wish you all a great summer and I cannot wait to see what the next year will bring us!

Carolina Kotzias Tiller

Mom of Sophia (4th Grade) and Giulia (2nd Grade) & President of LJES PTO



MESSAGE FROM STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT TIMOTHY WENG

As the academic year draws to a close, I am pleased to provide you with a final update on the recent activities of our student council.

For this year's Spring Safety Campaign, the student council has decided to focus on the topic of stress reduction. With this goal in mind, we created a special space in the library called the "Zen Den." The Zen Den was designed as a serene environment where students can find solace and relaxation, allowing them to alleviate the stress they may experience both within and outside of school. We set up a cozy tent adorned with candles, lights, and soothing music. Inside, we provided fidget toys and calming pillows to enhance the atmosphere. We received some thoughtful suggestions and keep improving the Zen Den to the best of our abilities. While the Zen Den is currently limited to 4th and 5th grade students due to space constraints, we aspire to open it to students of all grades in the next school year.



As we conclude this academic year, we look back with a sense of pride and fulfillment. Despite the challenges posed by ongoing construction, we have embarked on a remarkable journey and made significant progress. None of this would have been possible without your help and support. We would like to sincerely thank you for your suggestions and participation. It has been a great honor for me to serve as your student council president and I am grateful for the opportunity to have made a positive impact on our school community. As I pass the baton to the next student council from 4th grade, I extend my best wishes for their success. Lastly, I hope you all have an amazing summer break filled with joy, relaxation, and memorable experiences.



FAMILY DANCE

Families walked the red carpet, snapped photos in the photo booth, and danced the night away! Thank you to Stacy Heap and Dana Hourani and all of the volunteers that made this night a success.



K1 CELEBRATES MS. JESSICA

On the occasion of Ms. Jessica's birthday, her Kindergarten class made a donation of 26 new books to the LJES Library. To celebrate the day, the students dressed up as 50s kids and gathered at the library. A big thank you goes out to the K1 families for their generous contribution!



1ST GRADE VISITS THE FLOWER FIELDS

The first grade classes enjoyed a fun day in the sun at the Carlsbad flower fields, learning about what it takes to plant and nurture healthy flowers. Worms made an appearance too.



GOLD RUSH AT LJES!

By Ms. Balmat

49er Day is a 4th-grade favorite when our classroom study of the California Gold Rush Era comes to life! We travel back in time to the year 1849 when the Gold Rush was in full swing. The rest of the school is invited to join in the fun. All the classes are encouraged to dress in their Western wear and LJES is turned into a Boomtown. Classrooms are given new names like Hangtown Barbershop, Claim Jumpers Saloon, Hard Rock Miners Camp, and more. This exciting day is filled with fun and educational activities: solving riddles and following clues that lead the students all around the school in their quest for gold, playing gold rush games, excavating gold, making wanted posters, solving puzzles, and gambling too!

Leading up to this day, the fourth-graders participate in a month-long simulation of life in the gold fields. This interdisciplinary unit involves team building, learning about the gold rush, maintaining a mining log written in first-person from a miner's perspective in 1849, claim jumping, and even sewing pokes to hold their gold.



EXPERIMENTS, ROCKETS, AND REPTILES...OH MY!

What do giant bubbles, yellow pythons, and robots have in common? You'll find them all at Family Science Night. I think everyone would agree that the Science Night organizers, Samantha Oblander and Alan LaVerne, and all the volunteers knocked it out of the park with this event.



INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

This year had it all: DJ, Balloon Artist, over 20 countries represented by our fabulously diverse and terrific LJES community, food booths, carnival games, and prizes and pinatas in the all new International Marketplace.

Huge THANK YOU to the event chairs Kim Custard, Megan DeMott, Andrea Russell and all the Country Booth Representatives who worked hard to lovingly share their culture with our community. And also thanks to all the wonderful parent and LJES alumni volunteers who transformed the campus into the unforgettable experience that is the LJES International Festival!



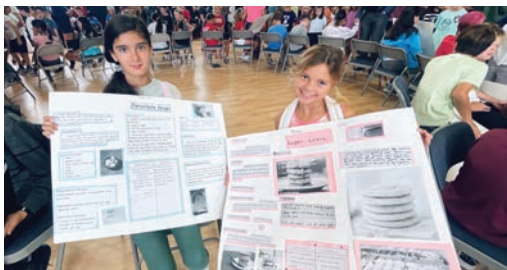
LJES REPRESENTS AT THE JUNIOR OLYMPICS

LJES showed up in force to the Kiwanis La Jolla Junior Olympics. Approximately 900 students from nine schools in La Jolla participated in the Junior Olympics this year including 185 athletes from LJES. Our students frequently were on the winners podium and could be heard cheering on our school and their friends from other local schools. Special thank you to Ulka Pandya, Susie Payne, Coach Blair, and Coach Stephanie for all your help!



CONGRATULATIONS FIFTH GRADERS!

What a year! Wishing all our graduating LJES students the very best!



Earlier this year, the fifth grade classes took a trip to Business Town, an experienced based program, sponsored by Junior Achievement. Students were assigned a job, and participated in a simulated community.



Some of the most important and distinguished historical figures were on campus this month, bringing history to life. Strangely, the famous faces looked suspiciously like fifth graders.



PAINTING A BRIGHT FUTURE GALA

The LJES Community 'Painted the Town COLORFUL' on Saturday, April 15 at the stunning Museum of Contemporary Art in downtown La Jolla for this year's annual spring gala. LJES parents, teachers, and staff enjoyed an AMAZING night full of good vibes, bright art, fabulous auction items, spectacular views, gorgeous décor, and lots of dancing! It was not only fun but also successful - raising nearly \$230,000 for our children, thanks to the overwhelming support and generosity from our LJES community. Special thanks to the gala chair Andrea Russell, the terrific gala committee, and all who helped to **PAINT A BRIGHT FUTURE** for our LJES children!



FRIENDS OF LJES PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy Almost-Summer everyone!

My name is Katy Hall, and it has been such a joy and honor for me to serve as the President of Friends of La Jolla Elementary School this year! First, I want to thank each and every family at our school for your support and generous contributions to Friends this year. Thanks to the collective efforts of our parents and community members, we have made an incredibly positive impact on La Jolla Elementary School!

The most important goal of our fundraising is always to improve student-teacher ratios. I am thrilled to announce that, with your support, we were able to hire two full-time teachers this year, resulting in smaller class sizes and allowing for more individualized attention for our students. Furthermore, we have funded four support teachers who provide additional academic support to students who need extra attention. This investment in our teachers directly benefits our children's academic growth and fosters a supportive and nurturing learning environment.

In addition to these positions, your generous contributions have made it possible for us to hire a full-time enrichment teacher, Ms. Hannah. Ms. Hannah has been hard at work developing and implementing creative programs that broaden the horizons of our students. From art to music, our enrichment program exposes children to a wide range of stimulating experiences, igniting their curiosity and fostering a love for learning beyond the core curriculum.

Our fundraising efforts have also allowed us to organize field trips that offer hands-on learning experiences and create lasting memories for our children. From visits to local museums and cultural institutions to nature explorations in our beautiful surrounding areas, these field trips broaden our students' perspectives and help them achieve a well-rounded education.

Finally, we have been able to organize a series of enrichment workshops throughout the year. These workshops bring experts from various fields to our school, providing unique learning opportunities for our students. From yoga to coding to ballet to science, these workshops expose our children to a diverse array of role models and inspire them to explore new interests and passions.

None of these achievements would have been possible without your contributions to Friends and to the school! Our families' commitment to the success of La Jolla Elementary exemplifies the power of a community united in its pursuit of excellence in education.

As we reflect upon the remarkable accomplishments of the past year, it is important to remember that our work is far from over. Our commitment to providing the best possible education for our children remains steadfast, and we will continue to rely on your support to maintain and expand these vital programs in the years to come.

On behalf of the entire Friends Board, I want to send a HUGE thank you to each and every one of you! Your generosity has made a lasting impact on the lives of our students.

Together, we are building a bright future!

Katy Hall

Mom of Dylan (3rd grade) & President of Friends of La Jolla Elementary School, Inc.

LA JOLLA OPEN AIRE MARKET

School is out, summer is in. A break from school doesn't mean you need to take a break from supporting our kids. The market is open all summer long and features fresh produce from the best local farmers, unique items from amazing artisans, and a fantastic food court with the best breakfast, lunch, and brunch in La Jolla. Make us part of your summer routine every Sunday from 9am to 1pm.



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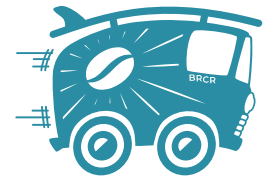
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KATHERINE A. WONG, DDS, M.S.
PAUL K. UPATHAM, DDS, M.S.
7575 Eads Ave Suite 101, La Jolla, CA 92037
P: 858.459.3353 • www.sandiegoorthodontist.com



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