

May 2, 2021

"Everyone who remembers his own education remembers teachers, not methods and techniques. The teacher is the heart of the educational system."

Sidney Hook

Dear Families,

I want to thank all the students and parents who joined us for the TPESF gala Saturday evening. The talent and commitment at our school are incredible, and I appreciate the efforts of so many families who contributed to yesterday's event.

This week we will continue with celebration as we highlight the fantastic TPES teachers for Teacher Appreciation Week.

Here is a line-up of activities for the week aimed at recognizing our teachers:

Monday: Students can write their teacher a note to share what they have learned this year and how their teacher has helped them grow!

Tuesday: Students can bring some flowers or a succulent for their teachers. Upon arrival to school, children will drop off their flowers at the lunch area A (kinder students can drop these off at their lunch area), and adults will help sort the flowers/succulents into vases and pots that teachers can take to their classrooms.

Wednesday: Students are encouraged to bring a healthy snack for their teachers. Ask your teacher what his/her favorite treat is!

Thursday: Students are encouraged to wear their teacher's favorite color.

One final note: please remember that our gates will open later tomorrow, at 8:15 AM, to ensure all teachers receive COVID testing, beginning at 8:00 AM.

I hope both teachers and students will enjoy this special week!

Kindly,
Ms. Richard

Here's what you need to know for the week ahead:

Congratulations to Heather Chiaro, the TPES Teacher of the Year!

We know all our teachers are incredible, but last week, TPES teachers voted to honor Heather with this distinction.

Mrs. Heather Chiaro is a first-grade teacher who has the perfect combination of organizational skills, understanding of curriculum, temperance, creativity and flexibility. Students in Mrs. Chiaro's class know that she is patient, calm, encouraging, prepared, thoughtful and effective.

She is a rare educator who can brilliantly teach first-grade or fifth-grade. Mrs. Chiaro's peers always enjoy being on her grade level team, and she shares resources and ideas constantly. In addition, she has a positive outlook and does her best to adapt to meet the needs of all students, including both online and onsite learners and students at all levels of proficiency.

Congratulations to Heather Chiaro! Mrs. Chiaro will be recognized, along with all the other La Jolla Cluster teachers of the year, this week with a special gift basket delivery from our Area Superintendent, Mitzi Merino.

Student Council's Grade Level Reading Competition

In keeping with TPES tradition, Student Council is reviving the annual "Grade Level Reading Competition." Students must simply go to a Padlet and record what they read.

Here is the link:

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

Password:

TPES

When a child finishes a book(s), he/she/they just need to record it under the teacher's name with how many pages it was. Note: these are books they just started reading, not ones from the whole year. Student Council will tally the pages each week. It will be a four-week contest. The winning class at each grade level will receive an ice cream treat.

Standardized Testing

State testing (CAASPP) is currently on hold for our students in 3rd through 5th grade. It has not yet been officially canceled, but the District submitted a waiver and is awaiting a decision. If the waiver is approved, students will take alternate assessments to measure their progress in ELA and Math.

GATE Testing and Identification

For the upcoming year, San Diego Unified is maintaining the decision to pause testing until schools have fully reopened and all students have returned to onsite learning. The decision is centered around equity - providing our students with what they need to be successful with equal access. Our District is deeply committed to screening students universally, providing an opportunity for all students to be assessed without barriers, and providing students with the support that they need (some of which students can only get in a school setting). In addition, there is not a valid way to test students who have continued learning online, and only testing onsite learners - while limiting access to testing/identification for our online learners - would not be equitable.

Our District did not take this decision lightly. We know that *GATE* identification and ability to participate in *GATE* classes is important for many of our students and families. SDUSD leadership reached out to other school districts across the state, and they are proceeding the same way.

Here's what this means for our students:

2nd Grade

- There will not be an opportunity to take a *GATE* test
- No students will be identified for *GATE*/Seminar programs/classes
- There will not be *GATE*/Seminar classes in 3rd grade
- Class Placement - We will implement the process we always use to place students in classes, using their strengths, needs, peer dynamics, match to teacher, and other factors. We will create balanced classes in terms of abilities, gender, etc.

5th Grade

- There will not be an opportunity to take a *GATE* retest
- Additional students will not be identified for *GATE*/Seminar programs
- Class Placement - Muirlands is working on the process for student class placement with input from other Cluster principals, middle school principals, and District leadership - more information to come

New to the District

- There will not be an opportunity to take a *GATE* test
- No students will be identified for *GATE*/Seminar programs/classes
- Class Placement - We will implement the process we always use to place students in classes, using their strengths, needs, peer dynamics, match to teacher, and other factors. We will create balanced classes in terms of abilities, gender, etc.

I know that our community has been eager for information and was hoping to learn that *GATE* testing would resume during our Phase 2 reopening. The La Jolla Cluster principals and District leadership know that this is an important topic for our families, and we are collaborating with one another and with

principals from across the District. Our Cluster plans to offer a meeting next month in which we will share information and solicit your valuable input.

TPES COVID Testing

Remember that our gates will open later tomorrow morning, at 8:15 AM, to allow time for teachers to be tested first.

To register your child for a timeslot, click this link:

<https://covidtestscheduler.ucsd.edu/home/asym/SDUtorreypines>

No Place For Hate Designation: Two Years in a Row

Congratulations to TPES for earning the No Place for Hate® designation for the 2020-2021 school year! We are so proud of all of your hard work, especially during a global pandemic! Students and teachers continue to focus on creating safe spaces for all children to learn and thrive.

Parent Healthy Kids Survey

Please take this survey to provide feedback to our school regarding our campus climate. This information helps us better prepare to meet families' and students' needs. Thank you!

<https://wested.ugam-apps.com/wed/ts/qq6L>

Dismissal Reminders

Remember that older siblings who are picking up younger students are trusted with the responsibility of going straight to younger siblings' classrooms and then to their dismissal gate. Please remind children that there is no free-play on the blacktop while adults are waiting for children outside the gates! Thank you.

TPES Office Hours

Our office is open M-Th from 8:05 AM to 3:30 PM. We are also open on Fridays from 8:25 AM to 12:00 PM.

Repeated Information

Family Returning Survey

*Please complete as soon as possible so we can plan for your child's enrollment at TPES this fall. We are planning for next year! We would appreciate each returning family to complete this form so we have a clear picture of enrollment and staffing needs in preparation for 2021-2022. If your family is considering enrolling as an online learner for the fall, please complete the form and indicate this preference.

<https://forms.gle/1c2T1EAUixXL2Abs9>

Summer Learning Opportunities for Students

This year, summer opportunities will be available for all elementary students, and this is made possible via the support of many community partners. You can learn more from the Level Up San Diego Website: <https://levelupsandiego.org>.

Our District Office has provided this link for families to register so they will be contacted when enrollment opens. [SIGN UP](#)

The Summer Experience will be held for four weeks, from June 21-July 16, for four hours each morning. Torrey Pines will not be hosting any of these district summer programs on our campus. Parents will have the opportunity to share their preferences for the schools and programs their children will attend for summer school.

2021 Extended School Year (ESY) Parent/Guardian Question and Answer Sessions

The San Diego Unified School District will be holding a series of Special Education Extended School Year (ESY). ESY is designed for a small number of students with IEPs who require higher levels of support to mediate regression that would otherwise occur over the summer weeks. ESY will be held from June 21-July 16 Question and Answer (Q&A) Zoom meetings for parents leading up to the start of ESY for elementary students. The days and times for these meetings are as follows:

May 5th 5:00-6:00 pm

May 19th 12:00-1:00 pm

June 2nd 10:00-11:00 am

June 16th 5:30-6:30 pm

Join any of the above sessions using the following link:

<https://sandiegounified.zoom.us/j/89101402080>

Password: 437690

To submit questions in advance, please complete this form:

<https://forms.gle/NHfxA5ZKbWxV77SPA>

TPES Online Learners PE Sessions

On Mondays at 11:40 AM, Coach Sergio will teach a PE session for online students. We will record the session, and you can reach out to your child's teacher for the link. Online students can still participate with their classmates during their rotation PE, but they may also participate in this online session instead.

The link to the 11:40 AM Zoom is

<https://zoom.us/j/8584532323?pwd=NUd2UmJmbnVMdEpnTWVlM1dHcENpZz09>.

The password is the same.

Check out last week's recorded session here:

April 26:

https://zoom.us/rec/share/JsOhszejv5UdXnsifHmqIq0vEFN8oqqYaLJj5oha8_J_wMjgfFmIViFGNWzMxQ1.e_pO78aeeogaRkx4

School Meal Menus

- ❖ [Breakfast Menu](#) - included in the take home meal bag for breakfast the next day, occasionally may be offered as students enter school if requested and coordinated with school kitchen
- ❖ [Lunch Menu](#) - served hot for elementary students, included cold in take home meal bags for secondary students
- ❖ [Supper Menu](#) - included cold in the take home meal bag, only served hot for students participating in Primetime
- ❖ [Weekend Menu](#) - included cold in the take home meal bags
- ❖ [Weekly Lunch Menu & List of What is Included in Take Home Meal Bags Each Day](#)

Open Mind Film Screening Event: Thursday, May 6 at 5:00 PM

We are sharing this film screening event with our families who may have an interest in these important topics.

<https://www.friendsofsemelinstitute.org/calendar>

Please join The Friends of the Semel institute for Neuroscience and Human Behavior at UCLA and the Resnick Neuropsychiatric Hospital Board of Advisors for a screening and discussion of the new critically acclaimed MTV documentary film, *Each and Every Day*, about teen mental health and suicide prevention.

This groundbreaking film from Peabody® Award-winning filmmaker Alexandra Shiva, in partnership with The Jed Foundation, profiles nine young people who have attempted suicide or had suicidal ideations as they share their experiences and the ways they have sought help. The nine subjects, who span across race, ethnic, religious, socio-economic and regional background, share their personal stories in an intimate and engaging conversation that goes deep into the fastest-growing epidemic among teens and young adults today. Audiences not only hear their stories of depression, anxiety and other mental health concerns, but importantly see the uplifting message of hope, recovery and the importance of treatment and honest conversation.

A panel discussion will immediately follow the screening which has a run time of 60 minutes. Participants include:

Joan Asarnow, PhD,

Sheila Nevins, Executive Producer,

Alexandra Shiva, Director, award-winning filmmaker

Victor Schwartz, MD, Medical Advisor to EACH AND EVERY DAY

Weekly District Notices and Agendas

Please see attached.

School Site Council

The next SSC meeting is scheduled for Friday, May 7 from 7:45-8:30 AM.

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

TPES Principal/Foundation Chat

Friday, May 7 at 9:00-9:30 AM

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

School Governance Team

The next SGT meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 13 from 7:15 to 8:00 AM.

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

TPES New Family Session

Friday, May 14 9:00-9:40 AM with Q/A 9:40-10:00 AM

Zoom Link: <https://sandiegounified.zoom.us/j/82101707679>

Upcoming Dates

Memorial Day Holiday: Monday, 5/31

Last Day of School: Tuesday, 6/15

Certification of COVID Safe Site

TPES received the attached certification on April 8, 2021. Per the guidelines in the "Mitigation and Monitoring Certification Process," Torrey Pines ES was validated by a PPO Response Liaison, and was found to have the appropriate mitigation measures to welcome students and staff back to campus. This certificate informs our school community that our campus arrangements meet the healthy and safety guidelines set forth by the District.

If you or your child have questions about any COVID-related safety issue, please make sure to immediately reach out to your child's teacher. If the teacher cannot resolve the issue, parents and teachers should reach out to the school principal: nrichard@sandi.net.

We will continue to hold Monday all-school meetings at 8:45 AM to remind and reinforce COVID protocols.

Register for YMCA Character Builders

Character Builders offers A Great Place to Learn and Play Before and After School in La Jolla. The program serves students from Transitional Kindergarten (TK) to Grade 5 at Torrey Pines Elementary..

Character Builders is an affordable way to ensure your child is in a safe, fun, and caring environment before and/or after school.

Parents can go to our website and fill out registration forms to submit online:

<https://www.ymcasd.org/programs/child-care/before-and-after-school/torrey-pines-elementary>

FOSTERING SAFE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

- ❖ The safety of our students, staff and families is our main priority.
- ❖ In a continuous effort to foster safe and inclusive school environments, we are providing the following information.
 - [Non-Discrimination Policy](#) for District Programs and Activities, inclusive of protections for Gender Identity and Gender Expression.
 - [Student Non-Discrimination and Prohibition of Sexual Harassment Policy](#), inclusive of reporting procedures; and
 - [Title IX](#) sexual harassment complaint procedures, including provisions for ensuring schools are free from sexual harassment, harassment, discrimination, intimidation and bullying.
- ❖ SDUSD Title IX Office information:
 - Title IX Office Coordinator: Lynn Ryan Phone: (619) 725-7225. Fax (619) 725-5529 Fax. Email: lryan@sandi.net. 4100 Normal St., Room 2129, San Diego, CA 92103
 - Important Prevention Hotlines:
 - 2-1-1. Community Resources
 - Child Abuse Hotline 1-858-560-2191
 - Suicide Prevention Hotline 1-800-273-8255
 - National Domestic Violence Hotline 1-800-799-7233
 - Mental Health and Substance Use Services 1-888-724-7240

[TPES Reopening FAQs](#)

Click the link above for TPES COVID and Phase Two Information.

District: COVID-19 Dashboard

<https://datastudio.google.com/u/0/reporting/18b89718-e1f9-4fa3-adff-9457e210131c/page/uUJkB>

Check out SDUSD's "[Reopening Updates](#)" on our website to share news and highlight our progress. Also, please check out this [Back to School Guide For Families](#).

Covid Testing For Students

A team from UCSD will be on our campus two additional times, May 3 and May 17, to administer COVID 19 testing for students and staff from 8:00-10:00 AM. UCSD is unable to begin testing staff any earlier than 8:00 AM, so on these dates, we will not be able to open our gates for students until 8:15 AM. I have shared with our Nursing and Wellness Department that last Monday some students who were registered

to be tested did not receive a test. Unfortunately, as principal I am not provided access to the list of students being tested. It's clear that UCSD and the Nursing and Wellness Department will need to continue to work together to better facilitate testing at all sites.

Testing has been moved to the auditorium at our school site.

Testing is completely free. Please note at this time we cannot test other family members or students who attend another school. All information for families can be found here: <https://bit.ly/3mQhez8>

Important Notes Include:

1. 24 Hours prior to the testing date, you will receive an email from UCSD to sign up for a MyChart account. This account is where you will go to be able to access your child's COVID-19 testing results.
2. Results will be available on your UCSD MyChart account in 2-5 days but are usually available in 24 hours. All positive test results are also called to the family by UCSD.

Spanish Class Information

First Grade Thursdays

May 6, 13, 20, 27

Jun 3, 2021

Meeting ID: 835 4302 1043

Passcode: 736939

TK & Kindergarten Fridays

May 7, 14, 21, 28

Jun 4

Meeting ID: 829 7275 9750

Passcode: 836906

Celebrating Birthdays

Please email your child's teacher far in advance if you would like to send any mementos to celebrate your child's birthday with his/her/their class. We discourage food celebrations for birthdays. Teachers are allowed just three food activities with their classes each year.

Bikes to School

Students may ride their bikes or scooters to school, as long as these guidelines are followed:

1. Students must wear a helmet at all times.
2. Students must walk their bike/scooter/skateboard on Cliffridge Avenue. No wheeled locomotion is permitted on the sidewalk or campus. (Remember this includes Zuca backpacks.)

3. Students must demonstrate appropriate and responsible behavior at all times during the school day.

Emergency Drills

Schools are required to practice a monthly emergency drill. This month, students will practice evacuating classrooms in the event of a fire or other emergency. Our next drill will be in May, as students and staff practice our procedures in the event of an earthquake. The teachers and I will be sharing with children what to expect during this drill in the days ahead of the event.

Technology Tips

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

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