

## PACIFIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, 3RD & 4TH grades, 2019-2020

Dear 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Parents,

Hello! I'm Ms. Hettenhausen...or Ms. Hett for short. This coming school year, 2019-2020, will be my fourth year teaching at Pacific Elementary School.

We have a rich curriculum that is rooted in our state standards and supported with several enrichment activities including Life Lab, reading buddies, music lessons, technology, and several local field trips. I use a combination of teaching strategies and projects to create an engaging learning environment. Instructional aides and interns are found frequently in our room to assist students in learning. In addition, family and community members are often invited to come and share their expertise in the classroom--this might be you! With all of these learning experiences, there is never a dull moment. Please help your child get to school on time each day and schedule all vacations during school vacations. This will help limit disruptions in the classroom while we get our work done.

One way to make learning relevant and engaging for students is by incorporating their strengths, interests, and passions. You can help me get a jump-start on getting to know your child by telling me some of the things that makes your child special. Feel free to include anything you would like me to know. This information can be shared via email or written note at your earliest convenience or you can tell me in person.

Bridging home and school activities is a great way to make a measurable impact on student learning. A homework/newsletter will go home weekly. The homework/newsletter aims at keeping your family in the loop about what our class is working on so you can enrich school learning at home.

You are invited for a **preview of the classroom Wednesday, August 21st, from 9-10am**. This is also a chance to be sure all your Registration paperwork is complete and turned in at the office. All registration forms that families need to complete are on the Pacific School website, [www.pacificesd.org](http://www.pacificesd.org). We hope that your child will partake in our wonderful school lunch program. If you know your child will eat lunch at school, please pre-pay for lunches before school starts. You may use your online banking to set up auto-pay for lunches and Rec starting Sept 1-April 1. (\$72 monthly for 20 *student* lunches; all other lunches are \$5.65.) However, if you are new to the school or your financial situation has changed, please apply for free or reduced price lunch. Both families and the school benefit when families qualify. Contact the school office or see the website for more information.

Want to know a little about me? I grew up in Santa Cruz but lived most of my adult life out of state. I returned to the area four summers ago--this time with two kids, dog, and husband in tow. During the twenty years in between, I lived in Massachusetts, Wyoming, Montana, and Texas as a student, teacher, and park ranger. I love being outside, gardening, playing games, and cooking. It feels great to get back to California where there is ample opportunity for all of these activities.

I am honored to be teaching at Pacific Elementary School and will take great care of your 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> grader. I look forward to seeing everyone on the **first day of school Thursday, August 22nd!**

Monica Hettenhausen, [mhettenhausen@pacificesd.org](mailto:mhettenhausen@pacificesd.org)

**PACIFIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, 3RD & 4TH grades, 2019-2020**

**While we will make sure all students will have the necessary supplies, donations are welcome!**

Each child will need:

- wire spiral notebook (blue **and** yellow)
- composition notebook (yellow, green, **and** blue)
- 2 pocket **plastic** folder **with prongs** (any color)
- folder with 2 pockets (any color)
- yellow highlighter
- headphones
- scissors
- glue sticks
- small pencil sharpener
- wide-ruled lined paper
- \$3 for a recorder

For the classroom:

- facial tissues
- pencils (Ticonderoga brand preferred)
- dry erase markers
- watercolor paper

*A reminder about our school hours for 2019-2020:*

Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri: First – Third Grades: 8:40 a.m. - 2:45 p.m.

Fourth – Sixth Grades: 8:40 a.m. - 3:10 p.m.

All Wednesdays and Last Day of School: First – Sixth grades: 8:40 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

**Finally, I look forward to seeing all families at  
Back-to-School Night, Wednesday, September 11**