

## PACIFIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, 1st & 2nd grades, 2018-2019

Dear Parents of 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> graders,

I am excited to introduce myself as your child's first and second grade teacher. This will be my fourth year at Pacific Elementary. I have been a teacher for sixteen years, ten of which have been at Good Shepherd School in Santa Cruz. I received my Bachelor of Arts degree in Interdisciplinary Studies which focused on Art, Botany, and Native American Studies, and my teaching credential from Humboldt State. My special skills involve teaching children's literature, developing students' love for reading, and teaching writing and art.

This year at Pacific we will be working on the Daily Five. The Daily Five involve children practicing their reading and writing skills every day, including listening to reading, reading aloud, working with words, and independently reading and writing. We will also be using the CAFÉ program, which helps readers build comprehension, accuracy when recognizing words, increases fluency and expands vocabularies. We will continue to use our English Language Arts and English Language Development materials from Benchmark.

Pacific Elementary School will continue to use Eureka math (which is Common Core aligned) and Triumph Math as a supplemental program. These programs will give the children real world applications of math skills, while ensuring children learn their math facts. Your children will receive specialty classes including Music, Life Lab, Library and Technology time.

During the first week of school, we will be learning our procedures and routines which will help ensure and enable us to have a peaceful learning environment. I am busy planning an exciting year which will include some local field trips. Please take a few minutes now to fill out the online *required* [Field Trip Driver Form](#) to simplify our field trip planning. You will need your driver's license, registration, and insurance information. I also will be looking for volunteers to help us during class time.

I strongly advise your child bring a backpack to school every day, as well as a packed lunch if not ordering school lunch. We will have homework packets but they will not start until after Labor Day. They will include a weekly note from me and be given out on a Monday and due on a Friday. The packets will have math and language arts practice pages and children will also be asked to read each evening for ten to twenty minutes. A sight word list will be sent home for memorization. We will have one at-home project per trimester; more details to come later.

Each day at recess, the children eat a uniform snack. Children will be assigned to bring the snack on a rotating basis. The snack should be healthy and low in fat and sugar, as required by our school Wellness Policy which you can find on our school website, [www.pacificesd.org](http://www.pacificesd.org). Please send in pre-portioned servings; that way we can serve the children quickly.

**School begins at the same time, 8:40am**, although the dismissal times have changed for this year. First and second grade will dismiss at 2:45 on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday; on Wednesdays, we will all dismiss at 1:00pm.

Finally, a reminder to **pay ahead for lunches, BEFORE SCHOOL STARTS**; you may use your online banking to set up auto-pay for lunches, September 1 – April 1 (as well as for preschool tuition, after care, and Rec bills.) \$72 monthly for 20 student lunches @ \$3.60 each, and \$5.65 for all other lunches (parents, guests, siblings). Please contact the school office for more information.

I look forward to seeing all of the students in my class and their parents. **On Tuesday, August 21st, from 9-10am**, you are welcome to come visit the classroom. This is also a chance to be sure all your Registration paperwork is complete and turned in at the office; forms are on our school website and the emailed *Back-to-School Registration Paperwork* memo. I will be able to give a more detailed description of our routines, procedures, and curriculum plans and answer any questions you may have at the **Back to School Night, Wednesday, September 12th**.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Tschirky