



Pacific Elementary School

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Dear Pacific School Families,

August 2018

Welcome to the 2018-19 School Year! I am pleased to share with you that while the campus was relatively quiet during July, both June and August have been full of activity preparing the school for the start of the new year.

In terms of personnel, there have been some changes, as always. Kara Nickel will serve as the new K-2nd Independent Studies Teacher, replacing Jenny Cross who now teaches over the hill. Hillary Redding is the new Secretary, replacing Candace Tanner, who retired. There are a number of new Aides. Taylor Stophlet and Jamaris Latoni will split the Special Education Aide position that had been split by Natalie Bennet, who is now a full-time college student, and Lauren Cruz, who is now a full-time graduate student. Brenda Acosta and Chyna Darby will split the Special Education Aide position that had been split by Emma Burke and Sophia Wuest, who are now full-time graduate students. LaNette Maioriello will be the new Kindergarten Aide, replacing Michelle López, who moved to Aptos. Claire Wallace, who works in the same office as Morgan Demetras, will replace her colleague as the Speech and Language Pathologist. Chorus teacher Kristin Allen-Farmer will take over music instruction for preschool through 6th grade from Marla Lyons, who is seeking full-time employment. While this space is too small to share everyone's résumé, rest assured that our new staff is well qualified and excited to begin their work with our students.

When you step on campus, you will likely notice a few improvements. The roof was repaired (again) and hopefully we will greet the first rain with delight instead of trepidation. A large corps of volunteers beautified the campus grounds in many areas over the course of a weekend. In addition to general weeding, trimming, and sweeping, there was a major effort to fertilize and re-seed the grass area of the playground. Unfortunately, it will be roped off for a few weeks while the grass sprouts, but it will be worth the wait. We are in the process of removing the old ball shed and purchasing a new one to be placed against the MU wall instead of the middle of the field. Empty, dilapidated planter boxes were removed from the small triangle of land between the dining room and the grass. Dirt was dug out there to prevent flooding in the building. Thanks to Prop 39, an 84 panel, 19,800 KWp solar system was installed on the roof of the MU. It is already generating clean power and reducing our electrical bill. 21 items that needed to be fixed were repaired throughout the campus. The floors were waxed, the carpets shampooed, and generally the buildings were cleaned thoroughly. While there is always more to be done, the physical plant is in the best shape it has been in quite a few years.

This year, the faculty will be focusing their professional growth on science instruction. In conjunction with the other districts in the county, and BaySci from the Lawrence Hall of Science, our teachers will be exploring the Next Generation Science Standards, adopting science curriculum, and developing a scope and sequence for science instruction. Similarly, we are in the process of setting up collaboration with Bonny Doon Elementary and the County Office of Education for training in math instruction.

We anticipate an exciting and productive year in Davenport. Welcome back. We look forward to the best year yet!

Respectfully,
Eric Gross