

# The SMASHing Friday Letter



smash@smmusd.org

HAPPY NEW YEAR! WELCOME BACK!

January 18, 2019

Dear SMASHing Families,

Please join me next Thursday, January 24 4:00-6:30pm at the District Office 1651 Sixteenth Street for a special Board of Education meeting about current recommendations regarding Project Based Learning.

I am so pleased about our District and Board of Education leadership and commitment to project based learning (PBL) on all school sites. One aspect of SMMUSD PBL implementation I'm actively involved in is the creation of a personalized learning, project based high school pathway.

Parents, students and staff are invited by the Board of Education to come speak in support of the wonderful momentum towards having a personalized, project based 9<sup>th</sup> grade in 2019-20 that would serve 100 SMMUSD students.

There were ~75 supportive audience members at the December special Board of Education meeting about PBL; please put the word out to your interested friends from other sites and let's aim for 100 encouraging adults and students speaking and in the audience!

Enthusiastically yours,  
Jessica

## SMASH Site Council Agenda Wednesday, January 23, 2019 3:15 PM in Anne's Room

Adopt Agenda

Approve minutes of last meeting

Community participation

Reports and Announcements (regular agenda items)

Principal's Report:

Student Reports

Community Organization Reports (to include but not limited to the following):

PTSA

Student Council

Other

Old Business: none

New Business:

Review and approve the SMASH Safety Plan for 2018-19. Discuss the upcoming Lockdown Drill.

Discuss any feedback received about the current drop off/dismissal procedures.

Complete the first activity/lesson of the toolkit presented last month by Freda Rossi regarding the District's Family Engagement Framework. The goal is to have a SMASH Family Engagement plan written into the site plan for next fall.

Community participation (if applicable)

Adjourn

Next meeting dates for 2018-19: 2/27/19, 3/27/19—Site Council election results, 5/8/19

Thank you to all who participated virtually in the launch of the SMASH book group last Monday. If you missed the discussion of "Who You Know: Unlocking Innovations That Expand Students' Networks" by Julia Freeland Fisher, you can find the video at <https://www.facebook.com/pg/bigpicturelearning/videos/>. If you are interested in joining a conversation around how we each bring power and strength to our children via the networks we are continuously developing around them, please consider joining our reading in person or in spirit. One of the panelists described networking as "the great equity equalizer." Interested in how that concept can unfold in a school community? Join us! Our first in person meeting will take place on Friday, February 1 from 12:30 - 1:30 at SMASH in the Multipurpose room upstairs by the elevator. We will include a way for people to join the conversation virtually as well. If you have any questions or intend to participate, please give Andrea Purcell a heads up ([customized\\_ed@yahoo.com](mailto:customized_ed@yahoo.com)).

Andrea

Andrea Purcell, PhD  
Educational Consultant  
(310) 991-3486

Dear SMASHing Parents,

Join us on Wednesday, January 23rd at 8:30am for our January PTSA meeting. We will meet in the music room, just to the left of the cafeteria. Some topics will include fundraising updates, upcoming nominations and election discussion, and more! Do you have something you would like to add to the PTSA meeting? Please contact Kim at [kt04ever@gmail.com](mailto:kt04ever@gmail.com).

Hope to see you there!  
PTSA Executive Board

SMASH's arts classes are not funded by our state. They only exist because of donations to the Santa Monica Ed Foundation. Your donation will make a huge difference for SMASH students. **Just \$20 will fund a month of weekly art classes for one student!**

\$20 = Art for 1 student for a month!  
\$60 = Art for 3 students for a month!  
\$100 = Art for 5 students for a month!  
\$200 = Art for 10 students for a month!

**In February, SMMUSD's Board of Education will decide on funding for next year's staff and programs, based on how much is donated by January 31.** Please give at [smedfoundation.org/donate](http://smedfoundation.org/donate) today.

## **IS YOUR CHILD GOING TO START AT SMASH NEXT SCHOOL YEAR?**

**ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED ONLINE ONLY**

**(NEW PROCESS THIS YEAR)**

### **PLEASE GO ONLINE TO:**

- [smash.smmusd.org](http://smash.smmusd.org)
- click on "About Us" banner
- go to drop down menu to "Admissions"
- scroll down to link "Access the online 2019-2020 SMASH Application"
- Complete the application and submit. A copy of your responses will be emailed to you
- **Application MUST be submitted before 3:00pm on March 15, 2019.** Application process will close at that time and no more applications will be accepted.

# It's Jog-a- Thon T-shirt Time!

(Yes...Already!)



*We Need Your Design!*

Submission deadline is *January 31st*

## Rules of Design:

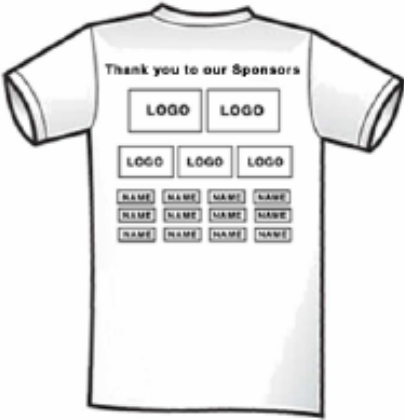
- must be done on white paper
- use only 3 colors (**Black** is a color!)
- Design cannot wrap around neck
- Design must be original (no trademarked or copy written characters)
- Please submit your original artwork to the office by end of school day on January 31st. please no emails, **no exceptions.**

Dear SMASHers,

We are looking for Corporate Sponsors for our Jog-a-thon shirts! If you are interested in sponsoring or know a company or business that might, please let us know!

SMASH family sponsorship is \$50 and include one free t-shirt. Names will appear under corporate sponsors

Catherine Aguilar -[catburch262@gmail.com](mailto:catburch262@gmail.com) or Elise Toren -[elisetoren@gmail.com](mailto:elisetoren@gmail.com)

Back of Shirt	Opportunities	Bonus
	<p><b>\$1000 level</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Headline logo on shirt and event banner</li><li>•Sponsor acknowledgment-email/social media</li></ul> <p><b>\$500 level</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Logo on shirt and company name on event banner</li><li>•Sponsor acknowledgment-email/social media</li></ul> <p><b>\$250 level</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Company name on shirt</li><li>•Sponsor acknowledgment-email/social media</li></ul>	<p>All levels receive one event t-shirt and opportunity to buy additional shirts at cost</p>

**Sponsor Levels:**

**4" Logo size \$1000**

**2.5" Logo size \$500**

**Company Name \$250**



## CORE 1 NEWS

### Drama

This week we welcomed Kristy Pace, our Dramatic Arts teacher. Kristy will lead theater lessons for 15 weeks in Core 1. Kristy leads the children in exploring real and imaginary stories through theatre technique exercises and theatre games. The children will study the story and characters in Dr. Seuss' The Lorax through acting, dance and set design/building. While working on the story students will be challenged to think beyond the story and explore their own voices, body language, imagination and reflect on their feelings about protecting the environment and portraying imaginary characters with emotions they may relate to. Kristy teaches at SMASH, Franklin and Webster in SMMUSD. She is a coach for the Federal TurnAround Arts Program coaching teachers throughout LA on how to use theatre in their own classrooms every day. She's the Director of Pocket Full of Tales Theatre Company, a children's theater in Boston that runs summer and vacation week production workshops and she performs with People's Playback, Gaia TO and does voiceovers here in LA. We appreciate the expertise Kristy brings to Core 1.

### Partners

This week was a productive week for Partners. Our shared reading focused on non-fiction text. We practiced reading to learn using text features like headings, captions, and diagrams to learn about force and motion. We learned that hot air rises and cool air sinks a hot air balloon. We also learned about the names of parts of a hot air balloon by reading a diagram. We will refer to this text when we write our own information books. In Math Workshop we practiced making a number line by printing numbers from top to bottom and from left to right. Our story problems this week asked children to join two quantities to find a result. We worked with small numbers (e.g. 4+4) and paid attention to representing and labeling the story.

### Bigs

Oh my goodness! We are seeing some real "winter magic" since coming back from break. The Bigs' bodies are more settled and ready for first time listening. We are also observing increased self-control and moving toward being Mentors. On Tuesday we celebrated "Half Way Day," and the 90<sup>th</sup> day of school! Can you believe we are half way through the school year?! Still so much fun and learning to be had, and our minds and bodies are ready for it!

### Mentors

The beginning of 2019 has been very exciting for the Mentors. We have launched a project to build a town. This project includes the integration of maths and writing. During the project we will study money, measurement, data analysis, addition, subtraction, area, perimeter, and more. We will also use thinking maps, write letters, historical pieces, and more. Please support our project by bringing in any boxes you may have around your home, left over packing tape or masking tape and tempera paint you may not need any more. Thank you!!!

### **Core 1 Team**

**Graciela, Nadja, Chrysta, Alex, Alejandra, Juana, Marcus, Coach Angel**

Graciela: [gbarba-castro@smmusd.org](mailto:gbarba-castro@smmusd.org)

Chrysta: [cpowell@smmusd.org](mailto:cpowell@smmusd.org)

Alejandra: [asantini@smmusd.org](mailto:asantini@smmusd.org)

### **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

January 21 - No School MLK Day

January 23 - PTSA 8:30am

January 23 -Site Council 3:15pm

January 29 - Multicultural Potluck 6-7:30pm

February 1 - Upper School Dance, 6-8pm

February 1 -Parent Book Club 12:30-1:30pm

February 8 - Family Dance, 6-8pm

February 18 - SCHOOL CLOSED for President's Day

## CORE 2 NEWS

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Before break, the Autry Museum Educators launched Part 2 of our Project-Based Learning investigation into the question “Why do people migrate?” by coming in to present their Tongva and Westward Ho! lessons.

This week, we took a field trip to the Autry so the students could be introduced to different migrant groups -African Americans, American Indians, Asians, Europeans, Mexican Americans, and Mormons - who moved West during the 1890’s and participate in the museum’s Gold Rush lesson. Through studying primary source documents and reading the biographies of different people who migrated/lived in the American West in the 1890’s, they learned about their struggles, jobs, interests, and communities. For example, they learned about individuals like Ellen Cook, an African American who was a midwife and helped her community by providing health care, and Matthew Wheelwright, a Mormon who traveled to Utah for religious freedom. Our upcoming field trip to JAMH on January 22nd will continue this work as we give them a chance to learn about the Japanese American migrant experience.

In class, we are going to be learning more about different communities who migrated West (both forced and by choice) in the 1800’s. After we, as teachers, take on identities and model how to develop questions, gather research (using primary and secondary sources), and conduct interviews with people who may have insights into the topics, we will ask our students to do the same. Through this work, we will be modeling how to look critically at data, consider multiple perspectives, and determine what is/is not important. In addition to revisiting the strategies and skills previously taught in Part 1, students will be asked to start noticing patterns between the historical and personal experiences presented in Part 1 & 2 and continue to build empathy.

When the students repeat this process, after selecting one of the chosen communities to study, they will take on the roles of members of different migrant communities. In the spring, the students will have a share their knowledge with other students on campus. This share will present historical fiction diary entries and suitcases.

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*Please be sure to have your kids hand in their field trip forms and donations for the JAMH trip as soon as possible. As always, we welcome any consumables you might have lying around ( wood, beads, cloth, wire).*

Warmly, Christian and Sarah

Christian: [ccarter@smmusd.org](mailto:ccarter@smmusd.org)

Sarah: [sdaunis@smmusd.org](mailto:sdaunis@smmusd.org)

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

January 21 - No School MLK Day

**January 22nd - \*\*C2 Field Trip to JAMH\*\***

January 23 - PTSA 8:30am

January 23 –Site Council 3:15pm

January 29 - Multicultural Potluck 6-7:30pm

February 1 –Parent Book Club 12:30-1:30pm

February 1 - Upper School Dance, 6-8pm

February 8 - Family Dance, 6-8pm

February 18 - SCHOOL CLOSED for President’s Day

## CORE 3 NEWS

### **Social Studies Ancient Civilizations Share!**

**We invite you to join us for our Core 3 ancient civilizations share on Friday, February 1st from 11:45 – 1:15. Students will be sharing their informational books and teaching you about the ancient civilizations they studied.**

Your student may mention to you that they want to create a poster board, make food, or need a tablecloth for their booth. These are all OPTIONAL. The only required work is the informational book being created in class in small groups. Students may choose to work on the book at home, but are asked to not change or edit their partners work without permission.

The printed book must be brought to school on Wednesday, January 30th so that I have time to get them bound and covered in time for the Friday share. Students are welcome to print on photo paper or card stock. If students do not have access to a color printer, or are otherwise unable to print at home, they need to tell me by Tuesday, January 29th so that I can print out their book in time,

IF students want to make or bring food representative of their ancient civilization, it is suggested they bring approximately 100 small servings to pass out. The emphasis is on authentic meal or snack food that would have been eaten in their civilization, not dessert or other treats.

### **Sixth Grade Math**

This week we worked on dividing decimals and calculating percents. Students will receive a practice assessment next Wednesday and will take the Decimal Ops unit assessment next Friday, January 25th.

### **Sixth Grade Family Math Problems**

Tuesday - Page 92, #29

Wednesday – Review practice assessment

Thursday – Review and study for assessment

**Jayne: [jwoldflorian@smmusd.org](mailto:jwoldflorian@smmusd.org)**

**Erin: [ehaendel@smmusd.org](mailto:ehaendel@smmusd.org)**

### **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

January 21 - No School MLK Day

January 23 - PTSA 8:30am

January 23 –Site Council 3:15pm

January 29 - Multicultural Potluck 6-7:30pm

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## CORE 4 NEWS

### Announcements

-New advisories will be announced 1/22!

-Any podcast experts among us? We are going to embark on some new projects and one is with NPR's student podcast challenge: <https://www.npr.org/2018/11/15/650500116/npr-student-podcast-challenge-home>

-Upper School Dance Friday 2/1. 6:00-8:00pm.

\$5 door donation helps to cover the DJ cost.

7G will have some items for sale for their Graduation Celebration fundraising.

### Math

Core 8/Algebra: Solving special systems by graphing, substitution and elimination.

Core 7: We worked on understanding how to solving equations and understanding all the parts of the equations and began thinking of the steps that can be taken to solve equations.

**Science** - We were given topics around Astronomy like nuclear fusion, The Hubble Telescope, inertia, etc. and chose a partner to create a project around our topic. They were due on Thurs.

**Humanities** - We had our Constitution multiple choice test on Thursday and turned in our partner *Chains* essay and our historical short story. On Tuesday we will start *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* as our next novel and learn the Socratic Seminar method as a format for discussion and furthering thinking. We will also start our next history unit on the Westward Expansion.

**Dramatic Arts with Kristy** - We started Drama! We will be studying musical theater and "Hamilton".

Darwin Mendinueto - [dmendinueto@smmusd.org](mailto:dmendinueto@smmusd.org)

Genie Hwang - [ghwang@smmusd.org](mailto:ghwang@smmusd.org)

### DATES TO REMEMBER:

Monday, January 21	SCHOOL CLOSED for MLK Day
Wednesday, January 23	PTSA 8:30am
Wednesday, January 23	Site Council 3:15pm
Tuesday, January 29	Multicultural Potluck 6-7:30pm
Friday, February 1	Parent Book Club 12:30-1:30pm
Friday, February 1	Upper School Dance, 6-8pm
Friday, February 8	Family Dance, 6-8pm
Monday, February 18	SCHOOL CLOSED for President's Day



# Spring SMASH Bash Hosts Wanted!

A great season of events starts with you. Help support our PTSA!

Have an idea, but need a co-host?

Happy to co-host but don't have a clue?

Have an idea but your apartment is too small?

Have an idea or a space but need some financial support?

I can help.

**Event details need to be submitted by January 21.**

**Bash Sale is January 25.**

Thank you to those hosts of season past. You put together some amazing events, built a stronger community and helped support our PTSA. We are so grateful!

If this is your **first time**, here are some questions to help you plan.

1. Name of Party/Event:
2. Event location and address:
3. Contact info
4. Date: *Please check the school [calendar](#). Please avoid three day weekends.*  
option 1: \_\_\_\_\_ option 2: \_\_\_\_\_
7. Time (starting, and approx ending)
8. Please choose a category:  
Kids Only \_\_\_\_\_ Core Specific (e.g., Core 4 Students Only) \_\_\_\_\_  
Drop offs okay? Y or N  
Family : *(alcohol may not be served.)* \_\_\_\_\_  
Adults Only \_\_\_\_\_
9. Recommended age (if any)?
10. Can younger siblings attend/participate?
11. Brief description of party/event *(a few enticing sentences, including what you will be serving for food and drink, if applicable).*
12. Total number of "spots" we can sell for this event? (TOTAL for Adults AND children – don't include your own family in this number. Make sure you leave out enough spots for them!). NOTE: Must be "Per Child, Per Family or Per adult."
13. Minimum number of spots needed to be sold in order for event to take place:
14. Recommended price per attendee:

Meredith McCarthy

[mmccarthy314@gmail.com](mailto:mmccarthy314@gmail.com)



Please join us for a free screening of the film

## “Angst: Raising Awareness Around Anxiety”

January 22, 2019 at 6:30pm

Barnum Hall at Santa Monica High School

This event is open to all SMMUSD families, but please keep in mind that this film is recommended for children 11 years and older. For more information about the film, go to <https://angstmovie.com/>

Following the film will be a panel discussion and audience Q and A moderated by Shuli Lotan, SMMUSD mental health coordinator, featuring Kate Sheehan from the UCLA CARES program, Dr. Ashley Perryman, School Psychologist at Samohi, and Peter Bippus, Samohi therapist from CLARE foundation.

Seats can be reserved at

<https://www.showclix.com/event/angst-santa-monica-malibu>

Brought to you by the Samohi PTSA and SMMUSD Council PTA

### **WE ARE LOOKING FOR A SMASH PARENT TO REPRESENT OUR SCHOOL IN THE FOLLOWING -**

PARENTS ADVOCATING HEALTHY FOOD (PAHF) IS A PARENT-LED ADVOCACY GROUP WITHIN THE SANTA MONICA AND MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL.

WE ADVOCATE TO PROVIDE FRESH, HEALTHY MEALS TO ALL STUDENTS DURING THE SCHOOL DAY.

**MISSION** - To bring healthy fresh cooked meals to our students at every school every day. We believe this will help to close the achievement gap, help concentration, increase attendance and build a stronger sense of community.

**AIM** - To advocate to the Board of Education that all children in the district require healthy fresh cooked meals to be cooked and served on site in our schools. We will support the work of the Food Services Director at the District in his vision to roll out scratch cooking throughout the entire district.

(more info: [pahfmovement.org](http://pahfmovement.org) & PAHF Facebook page)

PLEASE LET JESSICA KNOW IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN THIS ROLE AND WE WILL SEND YOU FURTHER INFORMATION.

MEETINGS ARE HELD ONCE A MONTH AND THERE ARE REPRESENTATIVES FROM EACH SCHOOL IN THE DISTRICT.

PAHF ARE MAKING AN IMPACT AND GROWING STRONG.