

The SMASHing Friday Letter



smash@smmusd.org

December 7, 2018

Dear SMASHing Families,

**We are grateful to the talented and organized Comedy Night crew lead by Jake and Nina!
This Sunday, December 9 at Magicopolis will be a fun and memorable event.**

We are grateful to our alumni who continue to make a positive imprint in our world.
Please enjoy this alumni bio and essay:

Evan (Ari) B. SMASH Class of 2014

Ari is attending Cal Arts. His career plans are to be a musician, producer and venue owner. During high school, he was part of the Delian's Honor Society, the Solar Alliance Club, Natshuva Social Justice Committee, the crew for the Twilight Concert Series, and several other music related non-profit events.

Poem about SMASH

Oh man, my wonderful time
How it has gone by like a sweet lime
Began at the age of five
Since then I had learned to shine
Be different is what they told me
I also learned to just let it be
The whole nine years, not nine yards
Thankful SMASH is still near my backyard
It will always have a place in my heart
Thanks again for teaching me how to start

Being a lifer at SMASH taught me a lot about living a creative life and I am grateful for the experiences I had there. Coming out of SMASH gave me an alternative progressive education, which contributed greatly to my perspectives and passions for learning. It also taught me that it's ok to be different and take an approach that is not necessarily mainstream. I think when I got to high school I was able to embrace being an "outsider" at times and not strive to fit in. Rather than trying to be like everyone else, I have been able to explore and grow in ways that inspire me. I have focused more deeply on my passions in music, which has given me a lot of freedom of expression. In my band, I aspire to empower people to be themselves too. We primarily play experimental punk, and even though our lyrics may not directly discuss these themes, it's the undertone of our work. At the end of our shows, we hope to send people home feeling good about themselves and empowered to be true to who they are. Having this courage as a musician and individual is something I learned from my time at SMASH. I also have been open to different experiences and different people because of SMASH. I think a lot of time people get stressed out trying to live a life that is not authentic. SMASH helped me let go of trying to be something I am not, which has allowed me to avoid problems and inner conflicts others might have. SMASH also provided me with a supportive community and network of friends that I have to this day. Because of my SMASH connections, I started a band, got 2 intern opportunities and became more creative and motivated towards everything in general. I thank SMASH for my wonderful time and for the lessons I learned about being true to myself.

**Enthusiastically yours,
Jessica**

LAST INVITATION TO MAYBE OUR LAST ONE....

6th ANNUAL

SMASH COMEDY NIGHT BENEFIT

with Jake Johannsen and Friends

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9

at Magicopolis 1418 4th Street - 7:00pm

DOORS and BAR OPEN 6:15pm * Ages 21 and up please

Tickets on sale now until noon Sunday on Eventbrite:

<http://bit.ly/smash-comedy>

Tickets will also be available at the door!

Join us for this adult's only night of community and laughs.
If you need a babysitter, reach out to me personally
at nina@smdp.com for a list of SMASH Alums.

**Grab a bite before the show with Smash friends
at one of our supporting restaurants:**

The Curious Palate – (owned by a Smash Parent)

West 4th & Jane * Mercado * Massilia

RAFFLE INFO

Thanks to all of you who contributed to the raffle baskets! Great prizes include:

One Night Stay with Spa Treatment at Pasea Hotel & Spa – Huntington Beach

One Week of Sinjin Smith Volleyball Summer Camp

Gift Certificate to “Invite Only” LA FoodShop Pop-Up Dinners

Bicycle!! – Beach Cruiser from The Bike Shop Santa Monica on Main St.

One Day of Winter Camp at The Activity Center

KICHGO “Gym To Go”

Stand-Up Paddle Boarding from ProSUP

BeautyCounter Skincare and Sunscreen

One Month free music lessons at Green Broom Music Academy

Gift Cards to: Jack's Surfboards * Sur La Table * CPK * Trader Joe's

Wine * Skincare * Puzzles and Games * Jewelry

Please contact Nina Furukawa for more info - 310-922-2060, nina@smdp.com

CORE 1 NEWS

Graciela's Circle Group: The Salty Onions

The Salty Onions are enjoying getting to know each other in Morning Meeting. Our meeting consists of a song, a greeting, a share, and a fun activity. We have explored serious and silly greetings. We shared answers to the question *Why do people greet each other?* We paid attention to how we felt when others greeted us. One Salty Onions said that a greeting is a good wish that is short for "I wish you a good morning." Another Salty Onion said that hearing the words *Good morning* could change your day into a good morning by knowing that you are wished a good morning. We had great laughs playing silly games like Alibi, Uber Driver and Elf on a Shelf. The purpose of morning meeting is to create opportunities for children to feel significance, belonging and fun. Wouldn't it be great if everyone could begin their mornings like this?

Chrysta's Circle Group: The French Fries that Ran Away

Our Winter Circle Group name is "The French Fries that Ran Away." The French Fries for short. We are learning how to say French Fries in different languages, and are learning the similarities and differences of how the names look and sound. We have begun our Social Justice unit, and are learning more about Identity, Justice, Diversity, and Action. This week we are learning about Hanukkah, as discussed how it is not fair that our friends who celebrate it don't get off school like most schools are off for Christmas. Inequity is an easy topic for children of this age, and the children had a lot to say about it. Next week, we will begin to talk more about race and the children will mix paint to make their own "flesh" color. They will use this paint for an ongoing self-portrait project this season. Please feel free to share any books you love from home around the topics of: Religion & Religious Beliefs; Families are Different; Race & Identity; Girls' & Women's Rights; The Civil Rights Movement; Choosing Kindness; and/or Gender Identity.

Alejandra's Circle Group: The Hula-Dancing Puppies

The Hula Dancing Puppies are off to a great start! We are getting to know each other during morning meeting and growing new friendships. Over these two weeks we have experienced different artistic tools such as charcoal, soft pastels, and more. We enjoy read alouds that make us laugh and building with Legos, marble runs, magna tiles, and K'nex. The HDPs look forward to our time together.

Upcoming Events:

Friday, December 14: Author visit by Marla Frazee

Monday, December 17: Whole School Art and Drama Share Day, **Core 1 shares from 9:00-10:30**

Friday, December 21: Whole School Assembly led by Core 4 from 8:45-9:15 in cafeteria

Core 1 Team

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

Graciela: gbarba-castro@smmusd.org

Chrysta: cpowell@smmusd.org

Alejandra: asantini@smmusd.org

CORE 2 NEWS

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- The 4th grade Hawaiian Dance performance will take place in the cafetorium on December 11 at 8:40 a.m.
- The 4th grade Music Concert will take place in the students' music classrooms on December 11 at 1:15 p.m.
- Our Autry Share (Part 1) will take place in our classrooms on Wednesday, December 12, at 8:40 a.m.
- Author Marla Frazee will be presenting to students on Friday, December 14.
- Our Drama Share will take place in the classroom on Monday, December 17 from 2-3 p.m.

MATHS

Tribe: We are working on multi-step story problems, learning how to unpack and envision well before problem solving. We are going to launch a new unit next week.

Elders: The focus of our current unit is on the development of multiplication, including automatizing the facts, using the ratio table, and developing the distributive property with large numbers. In addition, we're exploring number strings and unpacking CGI word problems.

READING

We are working in book clubs! In addition to learning about how to be a good listener and speaker during a club discussion, we are thinking deeply and talking about the different parts of a story (the characters/setting, problem, rising action, solution, and new thinking/change).

PROJECT-BASED LEARNING

We spent the month of November bringing greater awareness to comfortable and uncomfortable feelings as they came up during Community Building. In an attempt to get to know ourselves even better, we noticed what was going right when we were experiencing comfortable feelings and how/if we self-soothed when dealing with uncomfortable feelings.

We are exploring wire - learning about the tools, different techniques, and creating our own sculptures. We started to reflect on all of the possibilities hidden within the various mediums we explored this fall (watercolor, pencil, clay, and wire) and are now creating art pieces for our Autry Share. We are excited to show them to you next Wednesday!

As we prepare for next Wednesday, where we will be sharing our new thinking about why people migrate, we are typing up our interviews, creating graphic organizers that identify the pushes and pulls our families faced, creating visual representations of our families' migration stories (literal or abstract and in a variety of medium), writing six word sentences that describe why people migrate/explain our families' migration stories. In addition, we might be working on artist statements, artifacts, and visual models of the pushes and pulls.

National Geographic Bee Finals – Thursday, December 20 at 12:30

Congratulations to our ten SMASH finalists:

Camila, Dash W., Claire, AJ, Sadie O., Quillen, Micah L. Eli, Ryan C., and Simone A.

We will hold the final competition on Thursday, December 20 at 12:30. Parents are invited to attend.

Warmly, Christian and Sarah

Christian: ccarter@smmusd.org

Sarah: sdaunis@smmusd.org



December 4, 2018,

Dear SMASH Elementary Parent/Guardian:

This is the third year that the Santa Monica College Dance Department will be providing World Dance for the SMMUSD Elementary Schools. The fourth graders at SMASH are learning a Hawaiian dance. The SMC Dance Academy is an instructional program taught during the school day. This program is a part of an Arts in Education course that will conclude with a Culminating Event.

This specialized college pathway program is designed to encourage students to think independently, to be able to work with others, to value creative thought and diversity, and to be responsible global citizens. Our faculty members instruct using both the California and LAUSD Standards in dance and are trained to offer instructions according to these standards.

The SMC Dance Academy's goal for delivering dance instruction to SMMUSD's students and is based on our mission to nurture the development of a skillset that students will use to build fulfilling lives for themselves and their community. According to the National Dance Education Organization (NDEO), dance is a powerful ally for developing every aspect of elementary age children. Dance helps children develop physically, emotionally, socially, and cognitively.

Please save the date to attend the Culminating Event to be held at **SMASH** on **Tuesday, December 11, 2018** at **8 :40 AM** in the Cafeteria.

- Please have your student come to school wearing their Hawaiian attire as they discussed in class.

This is a great opportunity for you to see what your child has learned and to celebrate their success.

Sincerely,



Caron Eule
SMC Dance Academy Liaison

Judith Douglas
SMC Dance Department Chair

CORE 3 NEWS

5th Grade Math

This week, we completed our Addition & Subtraction unit that focused on using various efficient strategies, including Adding Up, Subtracting by Place Value, Adjusting Numbers, and standard/modified algorithms. Our next unit is the first of our Fractions and Percents learning. In this unit, we will be working towards learning fraction-percent equivalents, ordering fractions with different denominators from lowest to highest, and adding/subtracting fractions.

6th Grade Math

This week we had our fourth unit assessment on two dimensional geometry. The students got the graded assessment back on Thursday. Please look over it with your child. On Thursday we also began our new unit on decimals. Students will be working on adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing decimals.

Family Math Problems

Monday – Page 14, #2

Tuesday - Page 14, #3

Wednesday - Page 17, #4

Thursday – Page 34, #5

Social Studies

Students continued taking note on their ancient civilization research projects. We will begin to put the book together next week.

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Literacy

We are hard at work on our Picture Book Writing Unit. We've completed our Brainstorm/Gathering Ideas and Planning our characters, setting, and storyline. Now, we're working on our **DRAFT**. We are focusing on writing using characteristics of picture books-simple, concise sentences and descriptions, exaggerated actions/emotions, use of repetition, and easy to understand language that clearly shows the author's message. Our drafts are **due** at the end of the day Friday, December 14. This will give us the following week to revise and make improvements before Winter Break. We've learned about *personification* in our animal characters (animals taking on human characteristics) and *alliteration* (using the same first letter, Milo Mouse for example) in many of our character names. Look for a share date for families after Winter Break!

Field Trip

On Tuesday, December 11, we will be taking a trip to **LACMA**. Please make sure you're at school **ON TIME** and that a disposable snack & lunch is packed. Backpacks and large lunch boxes are **NOT** allowed in the museum. Snack will be eaten on the trip and lunch eaten back at school after the trip. In order to attend, the museum requires that we have **3 parent chaperones** with us. Two are signed up and we need **ONE** more! Are you willing and able to join us from 9:15am-1:15pm on Tuesday, December 11? Please email Jayme (jwoldflorian@smmusd.org) ASAP!

5th Grade Body Talk with Nurse Sandy

It's time for Nurse Sandy to visit our 5th grade classroom to talk about changing bodies and puberty. Your child was given an information sheet this week to further explain the session.

Upcoming Dates

5 th Grade Ballroom Dance Share	Monday, December 10	2:15pm
LACMA Trip	Tuesday, December 11	9:30am-1:45pm
5 th Grade Music Concert	Thursday, December 13	2:05pm
Core 3 Drama Share	Monday, December 17	11:20am
6 th Grade Music Concert	Thursday, December 20	6:00pm
	Last day before Winter Break	Friday, December 21
	Return from Winter Break	TUESDAY, January 9

CORE 4 NEWS

Announcements

Fulcrum Permission Slips went out on Tuesday and were due today. If you did not complete please do so asap and return on Monday.

We are going to Fulcrum! Same Dates! Wed-Fri, December 12-14th. Fulcrum also uses facilities at Canyon Creek Camp and they have space for us. The camp is in Lake Hughes, CA. It will be a little colder in Lake Hughes than in Malibu but the camp has very nice facilities.

Thanks to the parents who have contacted us about trip donations to ensure we can make our final payment. Please contact irishe@smmusd.org or ghwang@smmusd.org if you have any questions about what the \$400/ student covers or how to make your donation for your child's trip.

Art Share is Monday 12/17. Core 4 will be sharing their Textile Art in Core 4 from 1:15-2:15.

Fulcrum Assembly is Fri 12/21 in the Cafeteria from 8:45-9:15. Afterwards, please stop by for a quick visit to see the Science Rovers that your child built from 9:15-9:30.

Math

Core 8/Algebra: We are writing equations of a line.

Core 7: We finished our 2nd unit on Ratios and Unit Rates. We spent the week reviewing and the test is on Monday.

Science - We are beginning our unit on Astronomy and Astronomical Objects.

Humanities - *Chains* has been a great read giving us the experience of life during the American Revolution from the protagonist perspective of Isabel, a teenage slave living in Manhattan. We also have been studying the importance of noting what the 'subject and predicate' is in each sentence. This helps us understand what is important in the sentence and also helps us as writers when we want to make our points in writing. We had our first debates on American Revolution topics. They went very smoothly because our 8th grade mentors were able to remember best practices to prepare and lead their teams. Table group notes are due and we had a check in quiz to see if we understood our group notes and the highlights of this time period. We are not having a formal Unit Test for this topic. We are moving to the Constitution for our next unit.

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Darwin Mendinueto - dmendinueto@smmusd.org

Genie Hwang - ghwang@smmusd.org

PTSA MEETING AGENDA

December 12, 2018

5:30pm Executive Board only

6:00-7:30pm General PTSA Meeting

WELCOME

APPROVAL OF MINUTES (November 2018)

PTSA Announcements

TREASURER REPORT (Rachel)

FUNDRAISING REPORTS

- PTSA Annual Classroom Fund (Patrick)
- Ed Foundation (Molly)
- Comedy Night (Nina)

PARENT ED UPDATE (Andrea)

MOCK TRIAL/PAHF UPDATE (Kirsten)

Nominating Committee/Upcoming Election

- VP Fundraising
- Secretary

PRINCIPAL REPORT

- IBL High School update

PRESIDENT REPORT

- Donations for the Fire Relief Fund to Malibu B&G Club

ANY NEW BUSINESS/COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

ADJOURN

SMASH & JOHN MUIR ELEMENTARY

Winter Concert



4th Grade

December 11 - 1:20pm

Music Classrooms

Choir - Justin - Library

Flutes/Trombones - Pawling - Bungalow B

Violas/Cellos - Bersch - Music Room

Violins - Garcia - Cafeteria

Clarinets/Trumpets - Okumura - Cafeteria

5th Grade

December 13 - 2:15pm

Orchestra, Choir, & Band - Cafeteria

We look forward to sharing these performances with you!

**Mrs. Bersch, Mrs. Garcia, Ms. Justin,
Mrs. Okumura, Mr. Pawling
Accompanist Maria Eugenia Leon**

SMASH

Middle School



Winter Concert



December 20, 2018

6:00 PM

Cafeteria

We look forward to sharing these performances with you!

Ms. Spike Gravelle, Mr. Kibler, Mr. Rowles, Mr. Mullen

Accompanist: Mary Harper