

The SMASHing Friday Letter



smash@smmusd.org

September 14, 2018

SCHOOL CLOSED
WEDNESDAY, SEPT 19 - LOCAL HOLIDAYS

Dear SMASHing Families,

Every year we receive submissions from our SMASH alums now at Samohi seeking a scholarship for college. Last school year, seven alums wrote about how they were influenced by their time at SMASH. I will share excerpts from all seven over the next few Friday Letters.

Esme I. SMASH Class of 2014

Esme maintained a 4.0 unweighted high school GPA. She plans to attend a Fine Arts college. Esme held leadership positions with the Samohi orchestra as well as the visual arts department. She has been a ballet dancer since 2006 and volunteer at a variety of animal rescue events.

Here is her essay: “At age four, I entered an unconventional educational paradise: SMASH. As early as Core 1, we learned to greet each other every day in morning meetings. During “Star of the Week,” every student was celebrated for his or her uniqueness. We performed on stage with the support of the entire student body. We dove deep into group projects by combining disciplines like Art, English, and Science...

As I began to apply to colleges, I searched for schools that exemplify the qualities of SMASH: multi-disciplinary academics, project-driven collaboration, and an environment to learn in unexpected ways, without fear or judgment. But perhaps the most important skill that SMASH has gifted me is the ability to learn through curiosity.

When I was 13, I stumbled across a knitting blog called Purl Bee. One post spoke of a wintry New York City that somehow could be blanketed in comfort and warmth if only one followed the featured knitting pattern. The pattern was ambitious, but I dove headfirst into the challenge. I knit everywhere: the car, the lunch benches, the annex in Core 4. Knitting serendipitously shaped my understanding of numbers and equations as I started to perfect the intricacies of stitches and knots.

When I entered Samohi, knitting inspired and informed my learning in unexpected ways. I began to wonder how the strands of wool bonded together and came to see my projects as a demonstration of physics. I continually felt the pressure of grades and test scores, but I had a foundation in boundless curiosity that allowed me to thrive.

My openness to learning through doing is a direct result of my time at SMASH. I know that there is no other school where I could have spent my time investigating an interest that was not already ingrained in the curriculum. But SMASH welcomed my every inquiry.

So thank you, SMASH, for teaching me that there is no question too small or too silly. You have allowed me to see the world not as a series of tests but as one big adventure. I am endlessly grateful.”

What might your children say in the future about the ways SMASH has shaped their lives? Check out the upcoming SMASHing Friday Letters for more alumni scholarship essays.

**Enthusiastically yours,
Jessica**

CORE 1 NEWS

**THANK YOU TO ALL OF THE FAMILIES THAT JOINED US FOR FORUM THIS WEEK!
WE ENJOYED GETTING TO KNOW YOU AND SHARING ABOUT THE YEAR.**

For all of you who were unable to attend here is some important information:

Core 1 Birthday Bashes for 2018-19
Friday Mornings 9:45a.m.-10:15a.m.

9/21 August & September
10/19 October
11/30 November & December
1/18 January
2/15 February
3/29 March & April
5/10 May
5/24 June & July

Upcoming Events:

September 19: SCHOOL CLOSED local holiday

September 21: Birthday Bash for August and September

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

Thank you so much for attending Core 2's Forum. We hope you left feeling the same excitement that we do about the journey ahead. As promised, we're going to address some of your questions in Friday letters. Here we go . . .

Q: Do you guys still work with John Muir kids?

A: Yes. We haven't started yet because we've been focusing on our Core 2 community, but we have already connected with the third and fourth grade teachers. We hope to expand friendship groups, demystify some of the wonderings the students have about each other, and capitalize on this opportunity. Typically, we plan to meet once a month.

Q: Is this year set up like last year where one teacher focuses on Humanities and the other on STEAM?

A: Yes and no. Christian is teaching third grade math and Sarah is teaching the fourth grade math. Although there were many great things about the split structure, we realized that in order to truly and holistically understand, connect with, and meet the needs of our students at this age it makes more sense for us to use an advisory model for reading, writing, and project-based learning time. Some of the reasons why we believe this is valuable include the fact that the flow of the day is easier, there are fewer transitions, and we have a better sense of where the kids are (emotionally, socially, and academically). Furthermore, we believe that there is a huge advantage to having two educators collaborating, talking about, and co-creating the most potent, meaningful curriculum possible. Ultimately, we're taking two pre-existing structures (what Core 1 does and what Core 2 used to do, in terms of workshop) and melding them together. That said, we're still providing opportunities for different groupings throughout the week – Elders/Tribe, Elders or Tribe, Advisory – insuring that kids still have chances to work with teachers and students outside of their advisory.

Important Info.:

- **No school on 9/19.**

Please be on the lookout for and remember to return Friday Folders (clear plastic envelopes with important papers).

Warmly, Christian, Malaika, and Sarah

Christian: ccarter@smmusd.org

Malaika: mboyer@smmusd.org

Sarah: sdaunis@smmusd.org

CORE 3 NEWS

5th Grade Math

We are reviewing and learning multiplication strategies for two-digit by two-digit numbers. Most of us have at least one strategy, and we're all learning to strengthen our "math toolbox" by adding more. Three strategies we've learned about this week include, breaking apart one number, breaking apart both numbers, and rounding to friendlier numbers. When solving 35×28 , you could start with multiplying 35×20 , 30×20 , OR 35×30 . Ask your child what strategies they're using to solve the multiplication problems.

Your child is bringing math packets home. Please make sure they get returned to school the following day, as the packets are also our continuing classwork.

6th Grade Math

This week in math we learned about the distributive property, reviewed the order of operations, and thought about which operations we would use when encountering a word problem. Students will be bringing home the practice assessment today. They are encouraged to work on it over the weekend. On Monday we will review the practice assessment and answer any questions. Students will have their *Prime Time* unit assessment on Tuesday. Next Thursday we will begin our new unit, *Comparing Bits and Pieces*. This unit will delve into the idea of ratios.

Literacy

This week, we launched our read aloud of Wolf Hollow. We discussed character traits, author's intent, and inferences, which we will continue throughout the book. In writing, we continued to Brainstorm for our Personal Narrative stories by thinking of people, places, and objects that have significance to us. By Monday, each child should choose one of their ideas to commit to for our entire writing process.

Social Studies

This week we continued to learn about geography and early humans. Students worked through a geography scavenger hunt to further familiarize themselves with the atlas. They also finished their landform drawings. In our study of early humans, we covered the Paleolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Ages. Students learned about how early humans settled down and learned to farm after hunting and gathering. We talked about how humans slowly developed language, writing, governments, and social structures. Next week we will talk about the early cities of Mesopotamia.

Science

This week we did an introduction to cells and learned about their importance as building blocks and the scale of cells in our body. Ask your child about a fact that they found interesting and one question/wondering they have about cells. Next week, we will be learning about the parts and functions of organelles inside of an animal cell.

REMINDERS:

6th Grade Math Family Problems

Monday, 9/17 - Study practice assessment for tomorrow's assessment

Tuesday, 9/18 - No Homework - Holiday

Wednesday, 9/19 - NO SCHOOL

Thursday, 9/20 - Page 27, #1

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Erin: ehaendel@smmusd.org

CORE 4 NEWS

Announcements

- **Coastal Cleanup Day - September 15, 2018** Darwin will be at the Malibu Lagoon site from 9:00 - 12:00 helping coordinate the clean up. Please stop by would like to be part of Coastal Clean Up Day, or join any other site for doing Coastal Cleanup See the link below.
<https://healthebay.org/event/coastal-cleanup-day-2018/>
- **Heal the Bay Aquarium visit for 7th grade students on Friday, September 28.** Parent chaperones are not needed, but are welcomed
- **First Day Packets need to be turned in to the office, if you haven't yet.**
- **No School Wednesday**

Math

Core 8/Algebra: We are halfway through our unit on Expressions and Equations. Topics include: Modeling general situations - writing expressions, evaluating expressions, simplifying expressions, properties of arithmetic, and binary operations. We had a Chapter 2AB assessment today

Core 7: We finished our 2D Geometry unit and began to review the whole unit and will continue reviewing the beginning of next week. The unit test will be Thurs the 20th. Every day 30-45 min should be dedicated for homework to reviewing problems we have done, ACE problems to try new problems, or working in the practice test.

Science - We finished our science inquiry investigation on poppers. We are moving on to learning different science process skills such as: observing, questioning, hypothesizing, predicting, interpreting, and communicating.

Humanities - We are in our Native American Chapter in the History textbook and taking Cornell notes in our writing notebook. We are learning to synthesize information from the textbooks, maps, and videos that all share similar information. We are also learning how to manage our work time in class. We will learn next week how to write a short answer in preparation for the test, Tues 9/25/18.

Arts - We started our visual arts! We looked at simple weaving and the artwork of Michelle Grabner and then weaved with paper thinking about patterns.

Darwin Mendinueto - dmendinueto@smmusd.org

Genie Hwang - ghwang@smmusd.org

WELCOME TO SMASH BASH

Fall SMASH BASH - Hosts Wanted!

Dear SMASH Families,

SMASH BASH is one of our biggest community-building fundraisers supporting our PTSA and we need you!

WHAT: IS “SMASH BASH”?

A series of family-sponsored, parties and events throughout the school year. Every dollar collected from these events goes straight to SMASH.

WHAT KIND OF “BASHES” ARE WE TALKING ABOUT?

Anything goes! Some will be just for kids, others for families, and others just for us SMASHing grown-ups. Popular themes include: Backyard Movie Nights, Dinner Parties, Craft Parties at the Park, Baking Parties, Adult Beverage Tasting Parties, Game Parties, etc. Bottom line – SMASH BASH is about having fun with friends while raising \$\$ for our school.

WANT TO HOST A “SMASH BASH”?

We are setting the “SMASH BASH Fall/Winter” calendar in the next two weeks and would love to invite families (both new and old) to host an event. See the attached worksheet to help you plan. We can help you choose a theme, a date, how much to charge, how many guests, etc. All event costs are covered by the hosts, but are 100% tax deductible. You don't need a large home or backyard to host – you can host an event at a park, beach, or even a third-party venue (many of which will sponsor all or part of the cost). You can also co-host an event with another family OR with a local business. Have an idea but you aren't sure? Let's chat.

Signups begin October 5th. Contact “SMASH BASH” Chair Meredith at mmc-carthy314@gmail.com by September 30, if you are interested in hosting an event this fall or winter.

Thanks for supporting your PTSA!

Meredith McCarthy
SMASH Bash Chair
mmccarthy314@gmail.com

SMASH BASH HOST WORKSHEET

Host(s) Name:

Name of Party/Event:

Event location:

Phone Number (for me to contact, if needed):

Email (for participants to contact, if needed):

Date: Please check the school [calendar](#): Please avoid three day weekends.

option 1:

option 2:

Time (starting, and approx ending)

Please choose a category:

Kids Only_____

Core Specific (e.g., Core 4 Students Only)_____

Family: (adult beverages may not be served.)_____

Drop offs okay? Y or N

Adults Only_____

Recommended age" (if any)?

Can siblings attend/participate?

Brief description of party/event (A few enticing sentences for the catalog.)

Total number of "spots" we can sell to 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 Person," "Per Child" and/or "Per adult."

Minimum number of spots needed to be sold in order for event to take place:

Recommended price per attendee: