

The SMASHing Friday Letter



smash@smmusd.org

September 21, 2018

Dear Parents,

If you attended our core forums, you heard our teachers and parents talk about how special SMASH is. Much of that is because of you and your support of our PTSA and the Santa Monica Ed Foundation. Your child's education would look vastly different without the support of both organizations, because they make it possible for our children to have field trips, assemblies, our amazing Nadja Kukor, weekly arts classes, additional music support, and so much more.

Remember that PTSA funds important STUFF and the Ed Foundation funds important STAFF. We ask you to support both the PTSA and Ed Foundation with a donation of ANY amount. SMASH has been a leader among Santa Monica schools with our family participation and we want to continue that. When you donate, you are helping your children at SMASH and our entire community, which is truly incredible.

Pledge Days start on Sunday, September 23. If you haven't already donated, please go online and donate to the [Ed Foundation](#) and [PTSA](#) during this important week of giving. Or, you can find parent volunteers at tables during drop-off next Monday, Wednesday and Friday – stop by, have a cup of coffee and support our students. Your donation to the Ed Foundation next week will be doubled, thanks to a **\$50,000 match from OneWest Bank and Santa Monica Place/Macerich!**

Thank you for your consideration.

Jessica

SMASH PICTURE DAY

Wednesday, October 3

Order forms are going home today

Please return the completed forms with your child if you are purchasing pictures.

Reminder: You can order pictures up to 48 hours after Picture Day online

Mylifetouch.com SMASH code is RO578083.YO

Call 866-955-8342 with any questions

CORE 1 NEWS

Partners

This week the Partners participated in a musical exploration with rhythm sticks. They practiced playing and not playing to a steady beat. The academic language we used included *fine, piano, and forte*. In Math Workshop we continued counting collections of interesting objects. Some collections were smaller (like 4 objects) and other collections were larger (like 136 objects). Our Mindfulness and Visual Arts lessons were very fun.

Bigs

The Bigs are getting stronger at their routines, which has allowed targeted reading instruction to begin. All students have been assessed on their reading and spelling levels. Math is gradually becoming more differentiated for each learner. Volunteers have begun to help out in the room, which is so valuable to our community. If you would like to participate in our classroom learning, we would be happy to have you. Please contact Chrysta for more information.

Mentors

The Mentors have been working diligently in launching Reader's Workshop and Writer's Workshop. The love of reading and writing shines through in their focus and stamina while reading and writing. We have also started Art with Julianna and Mindfulness with Candis. In Maths Workshop we have been counting collections to discover systems that help with counting larger quantities.

Upcoming Events:

October 3 2018-2019 School Picture Day

October 8 – 12 Walk it Bike it Week

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

Mindfulness began this week with **Candis Berens** (former Core 1 teacher) returning to Core 1! Candis will be spending time with each Workshop Group on Mondays to explore our bodies, breath, and minds through songs, games, and experiences. This week we learned that the way we move and breathe can help us feel more peaceful, calm, and happy. The students brought with them their own observations. "I notice my breath when I was crying," shared one Core 1 Partner.

Academic Curriculum Highlights:

In 3rd Grade Maths, the class is wrapping up a brief unit on subtraction using the open number line. This week students compared ages of classroom artifacts and items from nature. In this process they began to see the connections between addition and subtraction and how one can use addition to solve subtraction problems (For example, one could solve $276-45$ by starting at 245 and making leaps backwards on a number line that total 45 and arriving at an answer. Or, they could start at 45 and add up making leaps until they reach 276, looking for the distance between the two). Using a number line offers students a very tangible way of doing this work. Beginning next week, the Tribe will begin exploring multiplication! In this exploration, they will begin to make sense of multiplication using realistic contexts, mathematizing their lived worlds with grouping structures.

In 4th Grade Maths, the students are working on multiplication. They're using arrays to find factors and gain more fluency with multiplication combinations up to 12×12 . They're developing strategies for finding factors and multiples of 2- and 3- digit numbers. In addition, they are identifying the features of numbers, including prime, square, and composite numbers. During Ten-Minute Math, they're practicing computation skills, organizing and analyzing visual images, and skip counting. They'll wrap up this unit by co-creating games that demonstrate an understanding of the skills and strategies introduced in class.

Social and Emotional Curriculum Highlights:

- Ashley came in on Monday to launch our 10-weeks of Mindfulness. She talked about the importance of mindful bodies, played a fun game of catch, and invited us to start noting our breathing patterns.
- We introduced "Kind and Gentle Person" (aka KG&P). Each student is given the name of a classmate to care for during the week. S/he tries to (without giving away his/her identity) perform acts of kindness. On Fridays, the students share who and how they took care of their K&PGs.

Important Info.:

- Please be on the lookout for and remember to return Friday Folders.
- Yearbook Photos – Oct. 3
- Field trip to Broad Stage – Oct. 4th Be on the lookout for the permission slips.
- Smash Bash sales– Oct. 5th

Warmly, Christian, Malaika, and Sarah

Christian: ccarter@smmusd.org

Malaika: mboyer@smmusd.org

Sarah: sdaunis@smmusd.org

CORE 3 NEWS

5th Grade

This week, we continue to review multiplication strategies and began to study the order of operations. We learned that we begin with grouping symbols (parentheses, brackets), go on to multiplication and division, and finally work on addition and subtraction. For example, when solving $4 + 3 \times 6$, you would first multiply 3×6 , which is 18, and then add 4, which would be 22. This is new material, so we're working hard on having a growth mindset and telling ourselves, "I don't know this yet, but I can keep trying." Please remind your child to return classwork packets to school after they've worked on them at home.

Literacy

This week, we've been planning our stories for our PERSONAL NARRATIVE piece. We made a story arc that listed the 5 events in our story, including the "outside", what we see happening, and the "inside", what we think and feel in the moment. We also worked on where to zoom in to the heart of our story and add sensory details. What is the moment that really matters most to your child?

Science

We began to learn about cell parts, which are called organelles. We're learning all the parts of a cell and what role they play in the cell's function. Some of the parts we learned about are cytoplasm, lysosomes, and the nucleus. As scientists, we've also been practicing clear and concise notations as we learn. Ask your child what organelle they remember the most and why.

Social Studies

This week we learned more information about the beginnings of civilization. Students took notes about Mesopotamia and all the different inventions of the Sumerians, Assyrians, Babylonians, and Akkadians. Next week we will touch briefly in Ancient Egypt and students will also begin writing a five paragraph essay about Early Human inventions. Next week they will begin the process by looking through their notes and brainstorming answers to the question, "What are the three most important discoveries/inventions of early Human civilizations?"

Sixth Grade Math

This week in sixth grade math students took their *Prime Time* unit assessment. Students had a chance to redo (with teacher and peer re-teaching) the problems they did not understand. Please look over the assessment with your child to get a better understanding of areas where they might be struggling. On Thursday we jumped into our new unit, Comparing Bits and Pieces. Students were introduced to ratios and learned about comparing fractions and ratios. We completed lessons 1.1 and 1.2. Next week we will work on equivalent fractions and the number line, unit rates, and rate tables.

Sixth Grade Family Math HW

Monday, 9/24—Page 30 #19

Tuesday, 9/25—Page 31, #23

Wednesday, 9/26—Page 50, #4

Thursday, 9/27—Page 52, #15

Jayne: jwoldflorian@smmusd.org

Erin: ehaendel@smmusd.org

Yoga and Mindfulness with Candis Berens returns to Core 3 this fall!

Every Monday, we will be practicing a more inward self-study through yoga, activities, and discussions. We plan to cultivate our self-awareness and self-confidence as we study our bodies, breath, and minds and how they work together. This week was an introduction to the practice, as we explored our breath with a "breathing ball," began learning "Sun Salutations," and then settled our minds with music and relaxation.

CORE 4 NEWS

Announcements

- **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. We are just missing a few.**

Math

Core 8/Algebra: We have completed two-thirds of our unit on Expressions and Equations. Topics include: Modeling general situations - writing expressions, evaluating expressions, simplifying expressions, properties of arithmetic, and binary operations.

Core 7: We took our first unit test and went over it. Next week we will start negative numbers. If your child finds negative numbers confusing, the more they practice the easier it becomes. It seems the adding/subtracting is harder than multiplying and dividing with negative numbers.

Science - We learned different science process skills such as: observing, questioning, hypothesizing, predicting, interpreting, and communicating.

Humanities - On Tues we have our open notes Native American Chapter test. There are about a dozen short answer questions--complete sentences matter. Eighth graders are encouraged to study and not use their notes. We've reviewed what's important to know and how to answer short answer questions so everyone can be successful on their first test.

Arts - Ospreys had double visual art and Peregrines will on Monday. We finished our paper weavings and began hammering nails into wood frames to make looms. We have art Mondays from 1:10-3:00 in the art bungalow. We welcome parent volunteers!

Darwin Mendinueto - dmendinueto@smmusd.org

Genie Hwang - ghwang@smmusd.org