

# Past Principal Memos

If you're looking for something sent earlier in the year you can find it here.

If you click on "View" and "Show Document Outline" you can jump to a specific date/message.

## 6/9/21 - Final Reminders

Dear Arroyo Families,

**We're excited to be able to bring students together for our last day of school tomorrow.**

**Here are a few important reminders to help the day go smoothly:**

- Be sure to complete Fever Free by 8:00 am
- 4th graders will be on campus from 8:30-10:00 am. 5th graders will be on campus from 10:30 am - 12:00 pm. Students should not arrive more than 10 minutes early.
- 5th graders have a special Zoom session at 9:00 (using our regular assembly link)
- Students should bring a sweatshirt and water bottle and wear sunscreen as classes will be outside during their whole time on campus.
- Masks must be worn at all times except while eating or drinking (thanks to PTA for providing popsicles for all to enjoy!)
- Classes will be meeting in different locations outside (not in the classroom). Please be sure your student knows where to go to meet their teacher.
- All borrowed chromebooks (with chargers), hotspots, and headsets need to be returned to school. There will be a booth set up outside the office on Thursday to collect these items. If anything is wrong with the device, please let us know when you return it.
- If you know your child will not be attending for any reason, please be sure to let their teacher and Tracey Olazar ([tolazar@scsdk8.org](mailto:tolazar@scsdk8.org)) know.

**If your child has any medication in the office, please stop by at the end of the day tomorrow to pick it up.** All medication needs to be picked up by a parent.

**Report cards will be sent via email towards the middle of next week.** You should expect to receive two emails; one contains a password and the second one contains the actual report card. Please note that the links are time-sensitive so you will want to open and download your child's report card within 2 weeks of receiving it.

**Families often ask how to support student learning over the summer.** [This document contains resources](#) for upper elementary and early middle school students.

**Here are a few important dates to add to your calendar for the fall:**

- Wednesday, August 18 - First Day of School
- Wednesday, September 1 - Central Back to School Night

- Thursday, September 2 - Arroyo Back to School Night
- Friday, September 3 - Minimum Day for Arroyo & Central

Have a wonderful summer!

Warmly,  
Mindy Shelton  
Principal

## 6/6/21 - Eagle Eye

Dear Arroyo Families,

**It is hard to believe that this is our final newsletter of the year.** It has been both the fastest and slowest year ever! While I am definitely ready to say goodbye to the challenges of this year, I am not quite ready to say goodbye to our students and families. I could not be more proud of the resilience and perseverance we have all shown, not to mention the kindness I have seen our kids showing each other everyday. They are an exceptional group of students!

**I hope some of you were able to join your children in watching our talent show this year!**

As always, our students blew me away with their talent and confidence, but more than that, watching the messages pour into the chat warmed my heart. A couple of people confessed to me after that they were nervous that I was leaving the chat open, and I have to admit that I was as well, but I know how great our students are and I am so proud of the support and kindness they showed each other. In case you missed it, I wanted to share our [staff talent show act](#) with you. While talent might not be quite the right word for it, it was definitely heartfelt and says a lot about our Arroyo team.

**To our 5th grade families, I have been telling the students that I'm failing them all so they can stay at Arroyo another year.** I'm definitely not ready to say goodbye to this outstanding group of young people. Fortunately for me, most of them will be right across the campus and I look forward to seeing them out on the blacktop. I know they will do well in middle school and I can't wait to hear about the great things they accomplish.

**To our 4th grade families, I am beyond excited to be able to give our students a more normal Arroyo experience next year.** While we are still awaiting some guidance on the details, we know that students will be back on campus full time, with electives, PE, and all of the things that make Arroyo special. Speaking of electives, please remember to complete the [elective selection form](#) no later than Wednesday.

**Please be sure to return school materials by the end of the week.** Teachers are collecting classroom materials and we will have a chromebook, headset & hotspot station set up outside the office on Thursday morning. Please be sure to bring the chargers as well. If you'd like to return devices sooner you are welcome to bring them to the office. Also if your child has any medication in the office, please stop by to pick it up.

**We're in need of a few parent volunteers on June 10 to help with both device collection and drop-off and pick-up for each grade level.** Volunteers are most needed from 8:15-8:35, 9:55-10:15, 10:15-10:35, and 11:55-12:15. If you are able to help, please send me an email at [mshelton@scsdk8.org](mailto:mshelton@scsdk8.org).

**Please take a few minutes to read through our final [Eagle Times](#) edition of the year.** Our newspaper club worked hard on this under the guidance of Mrs. Sevilla.

**Don't forget our special schedule this week.** Thank you to our PTA for providing popsicles as a special last day of school treat!

- Monday, June 7 - regular A Cohort day
- Tuesday, June 8 - B Cohort Day
- Wednesday, June 9 - regular Zoom day
- Thursday, June 10 - Last Day Celebration
  - 4th Graders on campus from 8:30-10:00
  - 5th Graders on Zoom at 9:00 and campus from 10:30-12:00.

Again, I can't thank you enough for your support this year! I hope you have a wonderful summer!

Warmly,  
Mindy Shelton

## 5/30/21 - Eagle Eye

Dear Arroyo Families,

It's hard to believe that we are in our final weeks of the school year. The next couple of weeks will be busy ones! Please see below for a reminder of coming events (including a few new additions to the list)

**We are very excited to host one of our favorite events of the year this Friday at 1:00 - our 5th Annual Arroyo Student-led Talent Show.** This event is entirely run by a group of dedicated student leaders who have been hard at work putting together close to 40 student

acts. Zoom links will be shared directly with students but parents are welcome to sit alongside them to watch.

**Teachers have been (or will be) communicating about materials that need to be returned to school before the end of the year.** Please be sure to look around your house for any classroom library books your child may have borrowed this year, along with other materials that were sent home. If your child has a school chromebook, hotspot, or headset, we will need them to be returned by the end of the school year, but we understand that you will likely need them to complete final zoom sessions. We will have a chromebook collection area in front of the office on the last day of school, June 10. If you don't need devices to complete the last days of school you are welcome to return them to the office earlier. Whenever you are returning devices, please be sure to include any power cords, and let us know if there have been any issues with the device that will need to be looked at before returning them for classroom use in the fall.

**We're in need of a few parent volunteers on June 10.** We need a couple of volunteers available throughout the morning to help with device collection, and could also use a few more volunteers to help with drop off and pick up for each grade level. Volunteers are most needed from 8:15-8:35, 9:55-10:15, 10:15-10:35, and 11:55-12:15. If you are able to help, please send me an email at [mshelton@scsdk8.org](mailto:mshelton@scsdk8.org).

**Speaking of parent volunteers, I want to take some time to thank all of the parents again for your support this year.** We know you were asked to step up and be involved in your child's education in ways you have never had to before. Thank you for your partnership! In addition, we had many parents step up to help in other ways that benefit our entire school community. Thank you to our PTA volunteers and room parents for coordinating special events throughout the year to help maintain a sense of community even when we couldn't be together. Thank you to our yearbook team for helping to capture and memorialize this crazy year. Thank you to our SCEF Volunteers, Art in Action docents, Healthy Cities tutors, and drop off and pick up volunteers for all of the time and energy you devoted to supporting our students this year. Finally, a very special thanks to the parents who stepped up to serve as campus supervisors. They spent hours every day supervising recess and helping teachers with special projects. We would not have been able to reopen this spring without their support. We will need our campus supervisors even more next year so please consider signing up to join this important team. PTA is also recruiting for volunteers next year (please see PTA section below).

**I want to acknowledge our student leaders as well.** Our Eagle Council really highlights all that 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders are capable of and put together some great programs for Arroyo this year. Our Talent Show and Club Leaders also did an outstanding job this year and were able to creatively adapt to new ways of doing things. Finally, I want to acknowledge our Eagle Times journalism crew, who put out some fantastic newspapers this year under the guidance of Mrs. Sevilla. Working with all of these student leadership groups has definitely been a highlight of my year.

**I would also like to extend another huge thank you to our staff.** We've had to reinvent (multiple times!) everything we do to support and educate our students and through it all, our staff worked together to find creative ways to engage kids and keep learning happening. This spring we say goodbye to a couple of longtime and beloved staff members. Our mental health associates Teresa Wace and Sam Wickstrom will be moving on and we are grateful for the outstanding support they have provided our students. Kirsty Mooney, 4th grade teacher, and Heidi Geiges, 4th & 5th grade elective teacher will both be retiring this month. We wish them all the best in their retired life. They will be extremely missed and we will be forever grateful for all that they contributed during their time in SCSD, and especially at Arroyo.

**In addition to wrapping up this year, we are well into the process of preparing for next year.** Current 4th grade parents received an email on Friday about elective selection for next year. Current 5th graders will have a chance to select electives soon. This week, our 5th graders will have an opportunity to visit the CMS campus and meet a 6th grade teacher. We're also in the process of building classes for next year. You should have received an email from the school district regarding your Infosnap enrollment. This is the last step needed from you to complete your child's registration at Arroyo or CMS for the 2021-22 school year. Included in the Infosnap survey this year is an Intent to Attend question. Please make sure you fill this out, even if you are not planning on returning next year, as this will automatically update our system and help ensure we are working with accurate enrollment numbers for our fall planning. Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions to Tracey Olazar at [tolazar@scsdk8.org](mailto:tolazar@scsdk8.org).

**Please be sure to mark your calendars for our end of the year events (note a few additions from last week's list of dates):**

- Monday, May 31 - Memorial Day - no school
- Tuesday, June 1 - Forts & Flashlights Pajama Day for Cohort A. 5th Graders in Cohort A will have an opportunity to visit CMS & meet a 6th grade teacher
- Wednesday, June 2 - 5:30 pm - Parent Information session for current 4th grade parents about elective options for 5th grade
- Thursday, June 3 - 5th Graders in Cohort B will have an opportunity to visit CMS & meet a 6th grade teacher
- Friday, June 4 - Forts & Flashlights Pajama Day for Cohort B
- Friday, June 4 at 1:00 - Arroyo Student Led Talent Show (over Zoom)
- Monday, June 7 - regular A Cohort day
- Tuesday, June 8 - B Cohort Day
- Wednesday, June 9 - regular Zoom day
- Thursday, June 10 - Last Day Celebration
  - 4th Graders on campus from 8:30-10:00
  - 5th Graders on Zoom at 9:00 and campus from 10:30-12:00.

**As you prepare for the summer and think about activities your child may be participating in, I encourage you to [take a look at this article](#).** While it is geared for teens, most of it is very applicable for 4th and 5th graders and I strongly support the suggestions offered.

Warmly,  
Mindy Shelton  
Principal

## 5/28/21 - Elective Selection for Current 4th Grade

See information here - [4th Grade Elective Selection Email](#)

## 5/25/21 - Addressing Hate in Our Community

Dear Arroyo Families,

As I mentioned last month, we at Arroyo strive to uphold our community to be a safe place for all students and families. In light of the increase of anti-semitic attacks that have occurred over the past two weeks, it is important to reiterate that we condemn these acts of violence and will not tolerate it in our community. This stands true for any violence against our Palestinian neighbors as well. With the hope that the ceasefire in the Gaza strip can be maintained, I want to ensure that we are doing what we can to bring a sense of safety and security in our own community.

With so much of these conflicts arising from layers of history and complicated political relationships, I want to focus on what is tangible for our students. If we can model respectful and peaceful ways to express our differences, I believe we can, from the inside out, promote a culture of acceptance and inclusivity that can extend beyond our school walls.

As San Carlos School District moves forward with our work with Inclusion Counts, our Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion consultants, we are reviewing our policies and practices and providing resources for both teachers and families to address racism, bigotry and hate in our schools, community, and the world around us. We are in the process of developing [this website](#) and creating a mission, vision and goals around this work. If you or your child experience acts of hate or bias related to race, ethnicity, religion, gender or sexuality, please report this to me immediately so we can continue to educate and support all students in a safe, inclusive, and respectful environment.

Warmly,

Mindy Shelton  
Principal

## 5/23/21 - Eagle Eye

Dear Arroyo Families,

**We are happy to have wrapped up our state testing this week.** Our students did a phenomenal job and put forth great effort. I'm so proud of them for the perseverance and resilience they have shown, not only through testing but throughout this whole challenging year! Teachers will also be completing end of year benchmark assessments and writing report cards. Over the next couple of weeks they will be taking some asynchronous time on a Wednesday to enter their data and write report cards which will be sent home electronically no later than June 17.

**This Wednesday, 5th graders are invited to participate in the California Healthy Kids Survey.** Our Wellness Director Mindy Hill sent an email on Friday with additional information and a form to allow your child to participate in the survey. This is an important survey that will help promote better health and well-being among our youth, improve the school learning environment, and combat problems such as drug abuse and violence. The survey is optional but we encourage you to have your child participate. Mrs. Hill will host students taking the survey over Zoom at 9:30 on Wednesday, after students attend the school-wide assembly and their classroom morning check-in.

**Elective Selection for both 5th grade and 6th grade will be coming soon.** Thank you for your patience as we finalize our class offerings and hiring and expect to be able to start the elective selection process towards the end of the month.

**Please be sure to mark your calendars for our end of the year events:**

- Tuesday, June 1 - Forts & Flashlights Pajama Day for Cohort A
- Friday, June 4 - Forts & Flashlights Pajama Day for Cohort B
- Friday, June 4 at 1:00 - Arroyo Student Led Talent Show (over Zoom)
- Monday, June 7 - regular A Cohort day
- Tuesday, June 8 - B Cohort Day
- Wednesday, June 9 - regular Zoom day
- Thursday, June 10 - Last Day Celebration
  - 4th Graders on campus from 8:30-10:00
  - 5th Graders on Zoom at 9:00 and campus from 10:30-12:00.

**Both Arroyo and Central are looking for additional volunteers for next year.** Please see the PTA section below to sign-up. This is a great time to get involved and get to know families that your child may later become friends with while they are still happy to have you involved.

While you're looking in the PTA section below, please take a moment to help us prioritize programs by completing the PTA survey.

Warmly,  
Mindy Shelton  
Principal

## 5/16/21 - Eagle Eye

Dear Arroyo Families,

**Spring is always a busy time of year and this is one of the few ways in which this year is no different than any other.** State testing is well underway. 4th graders have wrapped up most of their testing and 5th graders will complete science and finish up math this week. Teachers are completing their own assessments and will begin working on report cards soon. Students are taking some time to reflect on their goals and progress. Classes are working on some fun projects to wrap up the school year.

**As you saw in my email on Friday, we are planning a special schedule for the last week of school so that students can celebrate and have some closure together.** Please be sure to mark your calendars for the change.

- Monday, June 7 - Regular day, Cohort A on campus
- Tuesday, June 8 - following our typical schedule but Cohort B will be on campus
- Wednesday, June 9 - Regular day, All students on Zoom
- Thursday, June 10 - we want to give all students a chance to celebrate the end of the year together as a class. We are planning special outdoor activities to allow both cohorts to interact together
  - 4th Graders on campus from 8:30-10:00
  - 5th Graders on campus from 10:30-12:00. We are also planning a special 5th grade assembly on Zoom that morning (time TBD but likely around 9:00) so that we can say goodbye to the class as a whole and wish them well on their way to middle school

**We will have a few fun activities the week before as well.** Our Arroyo Talent Show will take place over Zoom on Friday, June 4 at 1:00. We've got some amazingly talented students at Arroyo and this is always one of our favorite events of the year. Parents are invited to watch alongside their students. Our Forts and Flashlights Pajama Day in January was so popular that students asked to be able to do it again. This time we'll do it in the classroom on both Tuesday, June 1, and Friday, June 4 so both cohorts get a chance to participate. Students are invited to



wear pajamas and bring a blanket, flashlight, and a good book to snuggle in for part of the morning.

**Our Eagle Council is holding its final donation drive of the year for Samaritan House.**

Please consider donating Protein Items to help people suffering from food insecurity. We will be collecting items such as peanut butter, almond butter, tuna, canned chicken, other canned meats, chili, other canned meals, pasta sauce. Food can be brought to the blue bin outside the office or to classrooms between now and May 20.

**Last week our PTA presented Honorary Service Awards to some of our amazing Arroyo and Central volunteers and staff.** Congratulations to Kirsten Kell, Michele Francesconi, Kirsty Mooney, Gigi Banfield, Marianne Jett, Erica Hayes, Jenny Goines, and our custodial team of Gustavo Romero, Javier Morales, Arnoldo Rodriguez. Thank you for ALL that you do for our students, families, and staff! Tom Domer and I were also honored with awards which are greatly appreciated after this incredibly challenging year. I am incredibly grateful to be a part of this community!

**I got to see an advanced preview copy of the Arroyo yearbook and it's fantastic.** Our team of parent volunteers did an outstanding job of documenting the year. Thank you to everyone who contributed photos, and especially to the parents who pulled it all together for us. I know our students will love it and look back on it for years to come as a great way to commemorate this unusual year.

**Speaking of volunteers, we're looking for parents to serve as various committee chairs for next year.** Please see the PTA section below for more details. Thank you to Alana Corso for stepping up to be our Arroyo PTA president next year. And a HUGE thank you to Kirsten Kell who has served in that role for the past two years and is moving on to be the PTA president for Central next year.

Warmly,  
Mindy Shelton  
Principal

## 5/14/21 - Last Week of School

Dear Arroyo Families,

It's hard to believe we're less than a month away from the end of the school year. Among the many things that happen at this time of the year, our staff has been hard at work planning some special ways to end the year. **We're making some changes to our schedule the week of June 7 to allow for everyone to get a chance to have some closure and celebrate**

**together.** We're still finalizing some of the details and will share more in the coming weeks but I wanted to give as much notice as possible on the schedule so families can plan accordingly.

- Monday, June 7 - Regular day, Cohort A on campus
- Tuesday, June 8 - following our typical schedule but Cohort B will be on campus
- Wednesday, June 9 - Regular day, All students on Zoom
- Thursday, June 10 - we want to give all students a chance to celebrate the end of the year together as a class. We are planning special outdoor activities to allow both cohorts to interact together
  - 4th Graders on campus from 8:30-10:00
  - 5th Graders on campus from 10:30-12:00. We are also planning a special 5th grade assembly on Zoom that morning (time TBD but likely around 9:00) so that we can say goodbye to the class as a whole and wish them well on their way to middle school

Warmly,  
Mindy Shelton & The Arroyo Staff

## 5/8/21 - Eagle Eye

Dear Arroyo Families,

**Happy Mother's Day to all of our Arroyo moms!** There is a great quote by Cardinal Mermillod that says "A Mother is she who can take the place of all others but whose place no one else can take." Never has that been more true than this year when mothers (alongside fathers and other guardians) have had to step in as teachers, playmates, and so much more! Thank you for all that you do, not only to support your own children, but for all that you do for our Arroyo Community!

**This week SCEF kicks off the 'Make it Happen in May' Campaign.** Thanks so much to all of you who contributed to the San Carlos Education Foundation's annual gala. Once again, this community rallied to support our students and helped the Foundation make progress toward this year's \$3 million goal. Founded in 1982, the Education Foundation and its board of parent volunteers work each year to raise funds to support key positions and programs not possible with state funding alone. SCEF's mission is to support equity across the district and benefit every child, every day in every classroom.

**Because not everyone is on campus at the same time, we are not holding a traditional SCEF Day.** Rather, we are using the week to kick off the 'Make it Happen in May' campaign. This is the final push toward the end of the school year deadline which allows SCEF to provide

the school board with the most up-to-date information as they finalize budgets for next school year. Since funds raised this year benefit students next year, your gift will help ensure a well-rounded student experience when school resumes in the fall. This week we will celebrate SCEF! To learn more about the San Carlos Education Foundation and make a donation please visit [www.scefkids.org](http://www.scefkids.org).

**Our Eagle Council is holding its final donation drive of the year for Samaritan House.**

Please consider donating Protein Items to help people suffering from food insecurity. We'll be collecting items such as peanut butter, almond butter, tuna, canned chicken, other canned meats, chili, other canned meals, pasta sauce. Food can be brought to the blue bin outside the office or to classrooms between now and May 20.

**Here are a few other important reminders.** For additional details, you can refer back to past principal messages which can be found [here](#).

- **It's not too late to sign up for the Arroyo Talent Show.** If your child would like to participate, a parent will need to [fill out this permission slip form](#). After you fill out the form we will send students information on how to submit their video. Videos will be due by May 14. We will have a zoom assembly where we watch the talent show together.
- **State testing continues this week with a focus on Math.** Students will be taking both performance tasks (PT) and computer adaptive tests (CAT) in math and language arts. 5th graders will also take the California Science Test (CAST). Each of these tests will be taken online in the classroom during students' on campus days. Please be sure students get a good night sleep and eat a healthy breakfast. Encourage students to do their best but not to worry if there are questions that feel too hard.
- **4th Grade parents, please refer to the email I sent on May 3 with the subject line "Important End of Year Information."** If you'd like to complete our [optional parent input form](#), please be sure to do so no later than May 14.
- **If your family will not be returning to SCSD next year, please notify Tracey Olazar ([tolazar@scsdk8.org](mailto:tolazar@scsdk8.org)) in our office as soon as possible.** It is important that we have accurate enrolment information as we plan for next year.

Warmly,  
Mindy Shelton  
Principal

## 5/2/21 - Eagle Eye

Dear Arroyo Families,

**This week is all about our teachers!** In honor of Teacher Appreciation Week, please help me show some love to our staff for the incredible work they have done this year. Through extreme

challenges, constant change, and supporting their own families through the pandemic, they have been unwavering in their support of our students and the time and effort they put into planning thoughtful curriculum. PTA will be providing some extra treats for our staff this week but please take a few minutes to share your family's appreciation for their work.

**This year, more than ever before, parents have also had to step into new roles in their child's education and we recognize and appreciate all that you as parents have done to help teach your child this year.** Your children probably aren't saying thank you but know that they see your effort and it will have a lasting impact on their lives.

**Our Arroyo students blow me away everyday in their kindness, in their thinking, and in their resilience.** Last week they surprised me with some amazing messages of appreciation in honor of National Principal's Day. I am always touched by the number of students who stop on their way into school to say good morning and ask how I'm doing. I love watching them interact with each other on the playground. While having to play with only their own cohorts is different than we're used to, watching students work together to agree on activities and make sure everyone feels included has been a wonderful silver lining. This week I also got to visit classrooms and talk to 4th graders about which supplies they would most need if they were gold miners or what punishments should be inflicted for miners not following the rules. 5th graders were having book club conversations and tackling some tough math tasks. This has been a challenging year but our kids are continuing to learn and do great work.

**May is Mental Health Awareness Month.** Mental Health has always been a focus of ours in SCSD but this year in particular it is something we're all keeping a close eye on. Our school counselors at Arroyo/CMS and Mariposa/TL have put together a great video podcast called "Ask Your Counselors" You can check it out, along with other videos from our Arroyo mental health team on the [Parent Education page of our Distance Learning website](#). If your family has a need for additional resources or mental health support, please reach out to me or Julie Jobak any time.

**Here are a few other important reminders.** For additional details, you can refer back to past principal messages which can be found below.

- **It's not too late to sign up for the Arroyo Talent Show.** If your child would like to participate, a parent will need to [fill out this permission slip form](#). After you fill out the form we will send students information on how to submit their video. Videos will be due by May 14. We will have a zoom assembly where we watch the talent show together.
- **State testing will begin the week of May 3.** Students will be taking both performance tasks (PT) and computer adaptive tests (CAT) in math and language arts. 5th graders will also take the California Science Test (CAST). Each of these tests will be taken online in the classroom during students' on campus days. Please be sure students get a good night sleep and eat a healthy breakfast. Encourage students to do their best but not to worry if there are questions that feel too hard.

- **The Arroyo-Cedar intersection will be closed for construction this week.** Bicyclists and pedestrians will not be able to cross the intersection so there will be detours. The city provided [this document](#) for us to share with additional information. They will continue to update [their project page](#) identifying the status and schedule of the resurfacing. Please be sure to discuss this with your child if they walk/bike through this area and allow for a little extra time in the morning.

Have a wonderful week!

Warmly,

Mindy Shelton

Principal

## 4/30/21 - Final Yearbook Reminder

Today is the last day to order your Arroyo yearbook and edit your custom pages. The yearbook will be delivered to your classroom in early June. (Note: you can still order books anytime after that date, the yearbook will be shipped to your home instead, sometime after the end of the school year.)

The yearbook itself is coming along great! Parents, teachers, staff and students shared many wonderful photos and the yearbook committee is busy now building your class's montage page and various themed pages. Thank you all for your photo contributions!

**Please purchase your yearbook and finish your custom pages today!**

To purchase and customize your yearbook (must be a parent or student 13 years or older)

1. Go to [treering.com/validate](https://treering.com/validate)
2. Enter the Arroyo school password: 1014628525232886

TreeRing has a nice feature called Custom Pages. It's optional and you can find it under the Kid Yearbook or My Yearbook tab. Custom Pages are personalized by you and appear in your yearbook only! It's a nice way to include other friends and family in the yearbook. TreeRing gives you 2 custom pages for free, where you can add photos from your computer, Facebook, Instagram, Google Drive and more. You can also add more pages, each additional two pages is just \$0.99.

# 4/28/21 - CAASPP Testing at Arroyo

Dear Arroyo Families,

Each year, California students take several statewide tests as part of the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP). These tests provide families, teachers, and educators with information about how well students are learning and becoming college and career ready in English, mathematics and science. Our school will be taking the CAASPP tests during the weeks of **May 3rd-21st** in cohort groups. Please avoid any unnecessary absences during this testing window. The tests are untimed and all students are able to take breaks throughout the session as needed. Please take a moment to review the following information available on the [CAASPP website](#):

**Statewide Standardized Testing: It Is Going to Happen:** This spring, all eligible California students will take the year-end tests based on their current grade level. For our students, this includes the Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments (also known as CAASPP or California Standardized Testing and Reporting Program) in English language arts/literacy (ELA) and mathematics. Our fifth graders will also participate in the California Science Test (CAST).

**Learning Is Different, So Testing Is Different:** Learning has probably been different for your child this year. Whatever “different” means for your family, one thing remains true—students have worked very hard and this spring they will have a chance to show what they know and can do. Since learning has been different, testing will be different too:

- The computer adaptive portion of the Smarter Balanced tests will be shorter than in previous years.
- Testing may be done in person or remotely for Connections classes
- Teachers will be sharing their specific schedule

**Different But Just As Important As Ever:** The end-of-year tests will give you, your child, and your child’s teacher important information about this year’s learning. Use test results along with grades, classwork, homework, and teacher feedback to understand whether your child is on track to meet grade level standards, or needs additional support.

**Here’s How You Can Help Your Student:** You are an important part of your child’s education. Some things you can do to help your child prepare for testing are:

- Connect with your child’s teacher to understand expectations.
- Encourage your child to try their best on each question.

- Remind your child that it's OK not to know answers to some questions.
- Encourage your child to answer all questions by making an educated guess when they are not sure about what the correct answer is.
- Remind your child that the test results are only one way to show learning.

\*\*[Here is a link](#) to a flyer with this information summarized for your reference. Translated resources can be found [here](#).

The state of California has prepared a series of practice tests so that students can become familiar with test features and tools as well as the presentation of the assessment. If you would like to take a look at the practice tests or share them with your child, [here is a link](#) to access them. Students can take them as a guest user at home or log in at school. Teachers will be using this resource to prepare students for the experience of computer based assessment prior to the testing window of **May 3rd-21st**.

Thank you for your partnership,

Warmly,  
Mindy Shelton  
Principal

## 4/25 - Eagle Eye

Dear Arroyo Families,

**This is always a busy time of year! Not only are we settling into our Phase 4 of reopening, we are preparing for state testing, planning our end of year activities, and looking ahead to next year.** Last week, I had the chance to meet with 3rd grade parents to share all that lies ahead for them at Arroyo. Next week, 5th grade parents will have the opportunity to meet Mr. Domer and Mrs. Vizier from Central to hear all about middle school. District-wide, not only are we in the process of hiring a new superintendent, but we're also filling other positions across the district including a number of new teachers. In order to plan our staffing for next year, it's important that we have a clear sense of our enrollment numbers. If you are not planning to return to SCSD next year, please let us know as soon as possible. For those who are planning to return, please be on the lookout for an email from [noreplyregistration@powerschool.com](mailto:noreplyregistration@powerschool.com) in early May to complete the annual registration process.

**As you've heard from both my newsletters and messages from Dr. Harmeier, SCSD is expecting a full return to school in the fall.** Some of the details might look different than usual (staggered recess and lunch, safety protocols, etc.) we are committed to having students

back on campus 5 days a week. There is a great deal of work being done right now to prepare for that. As you likely know, the CDC currently requires 3 feet of distancing between students. With our current class size, staffing and facilities, we still cannot accommodate all students in the classroom this spring. We are already in the process of hiring staff, reducing class size, and purchasing new furniture that will allow for that to be possible in the fall.

**And now for the moment many of our students have been waiting for... It is time for our Arroyo Virtual Talent Show!** This is one of our favorite events of the year, run entirely by our students. Our Eagle Council has been hard at work planning the details. Here is a message from our Talent Show leaders about how to sign up:

Hello Arroyo Eagle Parents , If your kids are interested in participating in this year's virtual talent show, please [fill out this permission slip form](#). Since it's virtual we will be taking videos of their performances on Flipgrid. After you fill out the form we will send students information on how to submit their video. Videos will be due by May 14. We will have a zoom assembly where we watch the talent show together.

**State testing will begin the week of May 3.** Students will be taking both performance tasks (PT) and computer adaptive tests (CAT) in math and language arts. 5th graders will also take the California Science Test (CAST), as well as math placement tests (which will be given this week). Each of these tests will be taken online in the classroom during students' on campus days. Watch for more information coming soon.

**As you may already be aware, the City is currently constructing improvements at the Arroyo-Cedar intersection.** The Project also requires roadway resurfacing at the intersections to provide a safe path of travel for pedestrians between the curb ramps. In addition, bicyclists and pedestrians will not be able to cross the intersection so there will be detours for them as well. The detours will also be at the same locations as the vehicles. The street closures will begin on May 3 and are expected to last a week. The city provided [this document](#) for us to share with additional information. They will continue to update [their project page](#) identifying the status and schedule of the resurfacing. Please be sure to discuss this with your child if they walk/bike through this area and allow for a little extra time in the morning.

- Northbound Cedar St will be redirected to Orange Ave via Brittan Ave and Hemlock St
- Southbound Cedar St will be redirected to Orange Ave via Hemlock St and Brittan Ave
- Eastbound Arroyo Ave will be redirected to Brittan Ave via Orange Ave and Woodland Ave
- Westbound Arroyo Ave will be redirected to Brittan Ave via Woodland Ave and Orange Ave

**When dropping off or picking up your child from Arroyo, we strongly ask that you please not park on the opposite side of Arroyo and have your child cross the street in front of the school.** Students must use the crosswalk at Woodland or Cedar in order to cross Arroyo.



Several years ago a student was hit by a car crossing in front of the school. Drivers are not expecting to see students crossing there and are often distracted by all of the activity around them. We repeatedly ask students to use crosswalks and it puts everyone in a difficult position if parents are asking students to ignore what they have been told by school staff. Thank you for your cooperation.

**This week we celebrated Administrative Assistant's Day and I want to extend a HUGE shout out and thank you to our phenomenal school secretary, Tracey Olazar!** Thank you Tracey for all that you do for our community!

**I hope to see many of you this afternoon at the [SCEF Virtual Gala](#) and don't forget to check out the [SCEF Virtual Silent Auction](#) for a chance for your child to spend some quality time with their teacher, or even take over as principal or secretary for the day!**

Warmly,  
Mindy Shelton  
Principal

## 4/21/21 - Statement on Yesterday's Verdict

Dear Arroyo Families,

At Arroyo and in San Carlos School district, we uphold our community to be a safe place for all students. We aim for each student to see their school as a welcoming and belonging environment. Schools shape the future, and nurture young minds to be positive and meaningful contributors to society; thus, we pride ourselves in cultivating a place that allows all students to process their learning, thoughts and emotions, including various forms of trauma.

Yesterday, former Minneapolis Police officer Derek Chauvin was convicted on all charges in the death of George Floyd. We want to acknowledge the impact this verdict will have on all of us and recognize the broader toll and trauma of white supremacy and imbalances of power and privilege that have been made abundantly clear by the death of George Floyd. It is estimated that Black Americans are three times more likely than white Americans to be killed by police, and research has demonstrated that racial bias can play a significant role in police violence. These occurrences are by no means limited to Minnesota or Illinois; they reflect long-standing and pervasive trends of social and economic injustice against Black people and other people of color.

In San Carlos School District, we are not insulated from these terrible events. We recognize that this is a deeply painful and traumatic time for many members of our community. And yet, accountability in this single case, for George Floyd and his family, does not bring justice. We must use this moment to critically examine the systems and structures in communities across this nation and in our own community, and challenge ourselves to address the longstanding inequities that together, form the public health crisis of racism and racial injustice.

As teachers and guardians, we must keep a watchful eye on our children and provide safe guidance as they process the events taking place in real-time. There is no manual for situations such as those we've been thrust into over the past year, but we know listening with an open mind and without judgment is critical. These issues are complex and for many, very personal. As educators, it is our job to support and empower students through these challenging times. We believe strongly in allowing our teachers to provide safe spaces for students to express their feelings and engage in important issues, including peacefully and respectfully making their voices heard.

As we emerge from the pandemic, and as we reflect on this single moment, we must commit ourselves again to creating new systems for our communities that are more fair, just and good. This nation won't forget George Floyd. His tragic death has sparked conversations that will need to continue about the wounds caused by institutional and systemic racism. We will never achieve racial justice by being silent. Our students learn by example. It is up to us to show them that violence and vitriol only create more pain in our lives, while respect and dignity are always the right choices. Please partner with us and encourage empathy among your students. The following resources can be helpful in those conversations.

- [Coping in Unsettling Times – Tips for Students](#)
- [Don't Say Nothing | Teaching Tolerance](#)
- [Parent Tips for Civil Unrest](#)
- [Promoting Peace](#)
- [Talking to Children about Violence](#)
- [Talking to Children About Violence \(Spanish version\)](#)
- Reactions you might see and how you can help in, [Helping Youth after Community Trauma: Tips for Educators](#), a guide from the National Child Traumatic Stress Network
- A quick guide to [Talking Race with Young Children](#) from National Public Radio (NPR)
- [Teaching About Race, Racism and Police Violence | Teaching](#)
- [Resources for Talking about Race, Racism and Racialized Violence with Kids \(Center for Racial Justice Education\)](#)
- [Age-related Reactions to a Traumatic Event](#)
- [Community Violence: Reactions and Actions in Dangerous Times](#)

- [Helping Youth After Community Trauma: Tips for Educators](#)

As always, we're here to support you, your child, and your family. Please don't hesitate to reach out if we can help you.

Warmly,  
Mindy Shelton  
Principal

## 4/20/21 - Parent Input Wanted

Thank you to those families who have already participated in our annual parent survey. Today is your last chance to fill it out and we'd love to hear from you!

**As we begin looking ahead to next year, we are drafting new goals for our Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP).** In order to be as thorough as possible, we need your feedback and input. Below is a link to a survey, please complete it by April 20th, so that we can include your thoughts into our planning. Please fill out one survey per child.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SCSDLCAP>

## 4/18/21 - Eagle Eye

Dear Arroyo Families,

**We had a successful start to Phase 4 and are excited to have students back on campus for more instructional time.** Thank you for remembering to do FeverFree screenings each morning by 8:00 am on days you are coming to campus and for contacting Tracey Olazar in our front office if your child needs to be out for any reason (travel, symptoms, exposure, etc.) We appreciate your understanding of our health & safety precautions that will hopefully allow us to stay open for the rest of the year.

**This week I want to highlight the important work of the San Carlos Education Foundation (SCEF).** We are so grateful for the support SCEF provides to our schools. Many of our best programs wouldn't be possible without SCEF support. This year, on top of funding important district-wide initiatives like professional development, mental health support, and music programs, SCEF has provided Arroyo with our 5th grade virtual Outdoor Ed program, 4th grade

virtual field trips, playground equipment for each class, and mirror cams that clip to chromebooks and laptops so that teachers could better see student work.

**Your donations to the San Carlos Education Foundation (SCEF) support key personnel and programs that allow us to provide a well-rounded education for all of our students.**

This weekend, SCEF is hosting an online auction, virtual live auction and Fund-The-Future campaign for science education. These efforts will support our return-to-school in the fall. Check out the online auction featuring several teacher and school items. You can learn more at [www.scefkids.org/events/](http://www.scefkids.org/events/). We are very grateful for your continued support of our San Carlos public schools.

Warmly,  
Mindy Shelton  
Principal

## 4/12/21 - Important Reminders

Dear Arroyo Families,

Our first day of Phase 4 got off to a great start. Thank you for following all of the protocols and making sure to have your Fever Free screening done by 8:00. We know there has been a lot of information and that it's hard to keep track of everything, especially with kids at multiple schools, so thank you for reading everything carefully and staying on top of it! I have a few important reminders to share with you today.

**If you're dropping off (or picking up) your child in our parking lot, please use the drop-off/pick-up zone along the orange cones.** We've had quite a few parents pulling further up to drop off closer to the gate but that blocks others from being able to exit. Please only stop in the area by the cones. Please pull to the front of the cone area so that other cars can pull in behind you. Students may exit (or enter) the vehicle anywhere in that area.

**We have quite a few new protocols with regards to attendance. If your child is going to be out for any reason, it is critical that you contact our school secretary, Tracey Olazar, and not just your child's teacher.** You can email Tracey at [tolazar@scsdk8.org](mailto:tolazar@scsdk8.org) or call the school office at 650-632-8300. We need to know the exact reason that your child is out and honesty is critically important for the sake of our entire community. If your child is exhibiting any symptoms at all, has been in contact with someone with Covid, or has travelled, Tracey can walk you through the protocols needed for quarantine and/or a safe return to school. If your child does need to quarantine, we have a quarantine teacher available for extra support. Again, we ask you to please notify Tracey in the office if your child needs to be out for any reason, and even if your child is exhibiting symptoms on a day they are not expected on campus.

**Please use Fever Free to report any symptoms that your child has regardless of whether they are coming to school or not.** Tracey and our district nurses use that to track symptoms and follow up with parents. We've had a few instances where a child is feeling fine in the morning and starts to feel ill later in the day. Please resubmit another Fever Free screening that includes their symptoms.

Thank you for your support in these areas to ensure the safety of our entire community.

Warmly,  
Mindy Shelton  
Principal

## 4/11/21 - Eagle Eye

Dear Arroyo Families,

**We're looking forward to having students on campus for more academic time this week as we begin our [Phase 4 schedule](#).** This will be our schedule for the remainder of the school year and we anticipate a full return in the fall, although things will still likely look different than they used to. Many of the questions parents have about Phase 4 were addressed in our [FAQ document](#). One of the questions I still hear is about why our schedule is different from the AM/PM schedule of our lower elementary schools. This question was included in our initial FAQs but in case you missed it, here's the explanation:

- One of the benefits of our upper elementary school model is being able to really focus on the needs of our older elementary students. While lower grades primarily focus on reading, writing, and math, upper elementary students expand on that with more robust science and social studies curriculum, as well as elective opportunities that are not available in the lower grades. Our Phase 4 schedule allows for these opportunities that would not be possible with an AM/PM schedule.

**As we shift to our Phase 4 schedule, here are some important reminders for the week.**

- Please complete Fever Free by 8:00 am on the mornings your child will come to campus. Starting in the mornings gives us less time to follow up with families who forget so we're asking you to please complete this by 8:00 am. As a reminder, any student who arrives without Fever Free clearance will need to be picked up. We want to avoid this as much as possible.
- Students should not arrive more than 10 minutes before the start of school. Our gates will open at 8:50 am.

- On off-campus days, students need to be on Zoom at 8:30 for a check-in with their teacher for attendance and a review of their work for the day. All students will be on Zoom at 1:00 pm for academic instruction.
- Students will have independent work to complete on their off-campus days. Teachers will be teaching their on-campus cohorts during that time and will not be available to answer emails or questions from students. We encourage students to have a buddy or two in their cohort that they can contact for questions so they can continue their work throughout the morning.
- 5th graders will be shifting their elective & PE classes to their off-campus days. The new schedule and zoom links have been shared with students.
- Please take note of any materials that teachers are asking students to bring with them to school and be sure students are coming prepared.
- We will have a short snack time and a 20 minute recess (classes will be divided into assigned zones). Please send a small, healthy, easy to open and eat snack to school with your child each day, as well as a full water bottle.
- Our school-wide assemblies will shift to Wednesday mornings at 8:30 am. We'll use the same Zoom link. Please remind your child to join the assembly before going to their classroom Zoom. We have come to really love this whole-school check-in.

**I'd like to extend a big thank you to the parents who have stepped up as campus supervisors and drop-off/pick-up volunteers.** We have been able to fill almost all of our shifts and wouldn't be able to reopen without your support. As a reminder, we are unable to have any additional parent volunteers on campus at this time so activities like Art in Action, etc. will need to continue to be virtual.

**As we begin looking ahead to next year, we are drafting new goals for our Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP).** In order to be as thorough as possible, we need your feedback and input. Below is a link to a survey, please complete it by April 19th, so that we can include your thoughts into our planning. Please fill out one survey per child.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SCSDLCAP>

Warmly,  
Mindy Shelton  
Principal

### **Reminder, Math Pathways Meeting for 5th Grade Parents**

This is the time of the year we begin to plan for the following year. In the coming months we will be sharing information about the transition to middle school and orientation meetings that are planned for both parents and students. Part of the transition to middle school involves identifying the appropriate math pathway for each student. There will be a district-wide 5th grade parent information meeting on Wednesday April 14th at 8:30 a.m. to learn more about middle school math pathways. Please [RSVP here](#) and we will follow up with the Zoom link for

the meeting as it gets closer. The meeting will be recorded and posted for those not able to attend.

## 4/4/21 - Eagle Eye

Dear Arroyo Families,

**I hope you had a wonderful spring break.** It's hard to believe we're in the home stretch of the school year. We're excited to bring students back on campus for longer periods of time as we begin our Phase 4 schedule on April 12. Spring is always a busy time with state testing, activities like our student talent show, class projects, and transition activities for our 5th graders to learn more about middle school and for 3rd graders to learn about Arroyo. More information about all of these activities will be coming soon.

**Our focus this week will be on getting ready for Phase 4 which will begin on Monday, April 12.** In case you missed it, you can see our [Phase 4 schedule here](#) and our list of [FAQs and additional information here](#).

**We're in need of a few more volunteers to help with drop-off and pick-up as well as campus supervisors to help with recess supervision.** If you're available to help out once or twice a week for about 20 minutes we would love to have you. Drop-off volunteers are needed from 8:45-9:05 and pick-up is 11:55-12:15). We could use one or two more volunteers each day but especially need more help on Thursdays. Please send me an email at [mshelton@scsdk8.org](mailto:mshelton@scsdk8.org) if you're able to help out. If you have more than 20 minutes to give, we are also in need of a few more campus supervisors (again, especially on Thursdays). Email me if you're interested in more information.

**Here are a few additional reminders for the coming weeks.**

- Students should not arrive on campus more than 10 minutes ahead of their start time.
- If you travelled over the break, please follow our district protocols on quarantine. Dr. Harmeier sent a detailed email about this on March 22 and you can see the county guidelines on [travel quarantine here](#). If your child needs to quarantine or if you have any questions about this, please contact our school secretary Tracey Olazar ([tolazar@scsdk8.org](mailto:tolazar@scsdk8.org)). Please also let your child's teacher know if they will not be coming on campus for their class due to the need to quarantine.

- Yearbook photos are due this week. We'd love to make sure every student is represented so please be sure to submit a few photos. You can see [directions of how to do that here](#).
- PE classes will be asynchronous this week. Students can follow along with Legarza's two pre-recorded [video lessons here](#).
- 5th graders will have new elective & PE schedules beginning on April 12 so that both electives and PE happen on their off-campus days. We'll share details about that along with Zoom links later this week.

Happy Spring!

Warmly,  
Mindy Shelton  
Principal

## 3/26/21 - Yearbook Reminders

Dear Parents,

It's been a special year. And more special because we didn't have the usual school and field trip activities where we'd normally take many photos of your kids and their class for use in the yearbook.

As we've mentioned in the weekly Arroyo newsletter, besides the professional portraits, the rest of our yearbook's photos are compiled from photos our parents, teachers, and students share with us.

Spring break is a great time to take some photos of the kids at home, in your yard, around town, at the park, or on a trip you might take. Please take a few good ones and upload to your TreeRing account and our various shared folders for various events or themes.

**Detailed instructions can be found here:**

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1iYjr8PLjWYHIMw4xEuriavd3rL\\_FnrwgBnDwPumeE0w/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1iYjr8PLjWYHIMw4xEuriavd3rL_FnrwgBnDwPumeE0w/edit)

Also, please also encourage your child to take some photos of themselves to share with their class' gdrive. The yearbook volunteers will look through those to help assemble each class's montage page (the facing the Lifetouch portraits). They can find their class's gdrive folder in their google account at:



Shared with me > 2020-2021 Yearbook Photos > [Teacher] - [Room x] Yearbook Photos

**All photos deadline is Friday April 9.**

Big thank you to all the parents who have already uploaded many nice photos to TreeRing!

Let's all make the yearbook a special memory for this (hopefully) unique time.

Warmly,  
Mindy Shelton & The Arroyo Yearbook Team

## 3/23/21 - Upper Elementary Phase 4 Plans & FAQs

[Please see separate document here](#)

## 3/22/21 - Asynchronous PE

With schedules changing across the district over the next several weeks, Legarza coaches will not be able to teach their regular classes this week or the week of April 5. They have provided us with a [video lesson](#) that students can follow along with instead. Teachers will also share the link directly with students.

<https://www.legarzaremotelarning.com/recorded-session>

## 3/21/21 - Eagle Eye

Dear Arroyo Families,

**The San Carlos School District (and Arroyo specifically) is a place that values diversity, equity, and inclusion.** This last week has brought out some very serious concerns about the safety of some members of our community. The racist attacks that were perpetrated in Atlanta and San Francisco this week highlight the continued need for our community to come together. The senseless violence contributes to an uncertainty for students, parents and surrounding family members. Arroyo is a community made up of a diverse group of families, and one that does not tolerate hate speech of any kind.

**We support our Asian American families and see the pain they've suffered over this last year.** As educators, we come from a place of education first, and through education, we can rally together to support all students in our community. Increasing our awareness of social and racial justice has been a focus of our school and as we look at the events that have occurred over the last year, we find it is imperative to teach about these events so students have tools to support each other. I want to share with you some resources that will help with discussing these events with your children. I have shared resources with teachers as well. Please reach out to me or your child's teacher if you feel your child needs some additional support.

[Parent Support - Addressing Hate Crimes](#)

[How to Talk to Kids about anti-Asian Racism](#)

**We have completed our first full week in our Phase 3 hybrid model. It has been such a joy to see your children's masked faces on our campus!** They have fallen into our routines quite well and are doing an outstanding job of being Responsible, Respectful & Safe! A few small reminders that will help drop-off and pick-up times go even more smoothly (especially in the rain!):

- **Students should not arrive on campus more than 10 minutes before the start of class.** We do not have supervision for them and we MUST follow protocols for COVID.
- Please move all the way forward at drop off and pick up in the car line. This helps things run smoothly and works to get everyone moving out as quickly as possible
- Ensure you have your child's [Name Placard](#) in the window of your car visible for us to see. This helps our volunteers and staff help connect students and cars safely.
- Students (and adults!) should not cross the street in the middle of the block on Arroyo Avenue. There used to be a crosswalk there but it has proven to be not a safe spot for crossing and the city covered over it a few years ago. That covering is wearing away so it looks like a crosswalk again. I'm working with the city to address that but ask for your help in encouraging students to cross at the corner of Arroyo and Woodland or Arroyo and Cedar.

**As you saw in Dr. Harmeier's email earlier this week, we anticipate moving to our Phase 4 hybrid schedule on April 12.** We are making some final tweaks to that schedule and I expect to be able to share it with you early next week. If you haven't read Dr. Harmeier's Superintendent's Update email from March 17, I encourage you to review our updated Illness protocols & quarantine guidelines.

**Our Eagle Council is collecting food for [Samaritan House](#).** Students can bring the items with them to class or drop them in the blue bin outside the office. We are collecting the following items as a part of their Project Wee Care from March 15-26.

- Condiments: Mayo, catsup, mustard, salad dressing, jam, jelly, honey, pickles, olives, relish, etc.
- Baking items: flour, masa flour, oil, sugar, brown sugar, etc.

**Next week is Spring Break and there will be no school from March 29 - April 2.** Enjoy the break and please continue to practice safe Covid protocols and avoid non-essential travel. If you do travel, please follow the [recommended quarantine protocols](#).

Warmly,  
Mindy Shelton  
Principal

## 3/14/21 - Eagle Eye

Dear Arroyo Families,

**What a great first week!!!** It has been so wonderful to see kids back on campus and hear the sounds of laughter and play all around campus. We spent our time getting familiar with the campus, the safety protocols, and each other and fit in some time for playing outside and some fun classroom activities too. I put together a little video slideshow with a few photos from our first days. Enjoy! - [First Days at Arroyo](#)

**I want to take a moment to extend some important thank yous!** Thank you all for reading through what I know felt like a massive amount of information. Our drop-off and pick-up times have been so smooth and we've had almost 100% of students completing Fever Free before coming on campus. Thank you also to our phenomenal team of volunteers who stepped up to help with drop-off and pick-up time. Thank you to everyone who participated in the "We love Arroyo" pennants hanging on our front office and to PTA who sponsored a great lunch for staff this week. Thank you to students who did an outstanding job of following protocols and bringing life back to our campus. Last but certainly not least, a huge thank you to our staff for the tremendous amount of work they have put into making everything come together. We can't wait to have more students on campus next week as we begin our more regular [Phase 3 schedule](#).

**In the coming weeks, we'll be working on and sharing our Phase 4 schedule that will allow even more time on campus.** We want to maximize time on campus but also balance out the amount of time that students have to work completely independently from home, as we know that is a challenge for many students.

**Next week our Eagle Council will be holding another collection drive for [Samaritan House](#).** Students can bring the items with them to class or drop them in the blue bin outside the

office. We'll be collecting the following items as a part of their Project Wee Care from March 15-26.

- Condiments: Mayo, catsup, mustard, salad dressing, jam, jelly, honey, pickles, olives, relish, etc.
- Baking items: flour, masa flour, oil, sugar, brown sugar, etc.

**We will also be hosting another school-wide assembly this Wednesday morning at 9:00.**

Our Side-by-Side Science assembly was such a hit that students and teachers alike have all asked for another one. This time our assembly will be with [ZunZun](#), focusing on water and environmental education. Students should log into their regular classroom Zoom on Wednesday at 8:40 and will join the assembly at 9:00.

**Report cards will be emailed home this week.** You will receive one email with your login information and another with the link. Please be sure to open and download the document within two days because the link will expire.

Have a great week! Don't forget to turn your clocks ahead for Daylight Savings.

Warmly,  
Mindy Shelton  
Principal

## 3/7/21 - Eagle Eye

Dear Arroyo Families,

**The time has finally come!!** Almost one year to the day we shut down for Covid we are ready to bring students back to campus and we couldn't be more excited about it. Of course like everything else this year, things don't always go as planned and we make adjustments along the way. Rain is forecasted for this week which doesn't change our plans but may make things a little extra challenging. It will take a little bit of time to get kids into classrooms so please send them with appropriate rain gear if they need to wait outside for a few minutes.

**Take a few minutes to watch the latest videos in our [Covid-19 Parenting Series](#) about preparing kids to come back to school.** This video series is made up of quick 5-8 minute videos from our Arroyo Mental Health Team with some timely tips and ideas to help you navigate parenting during a pandemic. I encourage you to check it out.

**If your child will be walking or biking to school, now is a great time to review safety protocols for that.** Mindy Hill sent an email with some [updates about the construction](#) on Arroyo & Cedar. Please take some time to talk that through or even do a practice run together.

Our crossing guards will not start until the week of March 15 but there will be a construction flagger on the corner of Arroyo & Cedar to assist and the city knows that our students will be starting. Here are some other important points to review.

- Maintain 6 feet of distance when walking with anyone from outside your household
- Wear your mask properly
- Use crosswalks when crossing the street. Students should NOT cross Arroyo Avenue (or other surrounding streets) in the middle of the block. Students needing to get to Burton Park or somewhere else on the other side of the street will not be permitted to cross in the middle of the street. Please remind them to go to the crosswalk on Arroyo & Woodland or Arroyo & Cedar.
- Students should wear a helmet at all times when on wheels. Once students arrive at school they must walk their wheels on campus
- Talk about the importance of making eye contact with drivers when crossing a street or even just a driveway.

**Thank you to the parents who have volunteered to help with pick-up and drop-off times.**

We could use one or two more volunteers on Thursdays. If you're able to help out please send me an email at [mshelton@scsdk8.org](mailto:mshelton@scsdk8.org). Thank you also to those who have applied to be campus supervisors. I needed to get our volunteers up and running first and will follow up with you early this week.

**I want to remind you of our cell phone policy at Arroyo.** Students are not allowed to use a cell phone on campus. We understand that some parents feel a sense of security that kids have phones when walking or biking independently, but at school it must be powered down and kept in their backpack. If students need to call home during school hours they may come to the office. If students have a smartwatch, please be sure they keep it on silent during school.

**Thank you for participating in our FeverFree trial on Friday.** It was really helpful to run through that in advance. Remember that FeverFree must be completed by 8:30 am on any days your child will be coming to school. Anyone who arrives at school without clearance from FeverFree will be sent home and we want to avoid that as much as possible.

**Please take a few minutes to review our [reopening plans & protocols](#) one more time.**

Make sure you know which gates your child should use to enter & exit the school and remember that only students and staff will be allowed through the gates. We reviewed the protocols with students this week and will go over them again during orientations.

**In addition, we look forward to celebrating Ability Awareness Week this week.** I sent an email on Friday with more details but here is a reminder of our Spirit Days. We would love all students to participate.

- **Monday:** Hats on for Inclusion. Wear a hat to school or on your zoom.
- **Tuesday:** Be comfortable, be you! Wear pajamas to school and zoom.

- **Wednesday:** Be a hero for Inclusion! Dress as a superhero or a personal hero.
- **Thursday:** Be unique! Wear mismatched, funky, or your favorite colors.
- **Friday:** It's Kaleidoscope Day! Wear tie dye or bright colors. Visualize a kaleidoscope reflecting the idea of different colors, patterns, and shapes working together to make a beautiful picture.

It's going to be a great week!

Warmly,  
Mindy Shelton  
Principal

## 3/5/21 - Ability Awareness Week

Dear Arroyo Families,

Get excited!!! Ability Awareness Week starts next Monday, March 8th and goes through the week.

### **What is Ability Awareness week:**

Ability Awareness week (AAW) promotes understanding, acceptance, and appreciation of differences in individual learning and ability. During the week fun, experiential activities and events are held throughout the San Carlos School District, in partnership with District staff and the Special Education District Advisory Council (SEDAC). AAW strives to educate and focus on what a person IS, not what a person HAS. The emphasis is on abilities not limitations.

### **Spirit Activities:**

- **Monday:** Hats on for Inclusion. Wear a hat to school or on your zoom.
- **Tuesday:** Be comfortable, be you! Wear pajamas to school and zoom.
- **Wednesday:** Be a hero for Inclusion! Dress as a superhero or a personal hero.
- **Thursday:** Be unique! Wear mismatched, funky, or your favorite colors.
- **Friday:** It's Kaleidoscope Day! Wear tie dye or bright colors. Visualize a kaleidoscope reflecting the idea of different colors, patterns, and shapes working together to make a beautiful picture.

### **Ability Awareness Events**

- SEDAC sponsored Parent Education night. Two of our wonderful Speech Pathologists will be speaking on various topics related to speech. Look for the Flyer.

- San Carlos Children's Theatre skit on inclusion. We are happy to partner with the San Carlos Theatre staff who will be recording a skit based on inclusion for us to share with our students during AAW. Principals will share the link with staff.
- PE/Legarza  
For Middle School students;  
Scott Green (APE) will be putting together a recording for teachers to share with students on competition, inclusivity, and appreciation of ability.  
For Elementary School students;  
Legarza will have two of their most experienced coaches lead PE activities during this week. They will have special activities focusing on all abilities.

### **Word Cloud**

As part of AAW, students will be given a list of age-appropriate movies, show, activities, and books to watch and read where there is a storyline or a character who has different Abilities. At the end of the week, students will be asked to share a few words describing what they have learned. These words will be put into a word cloud that can be shared at each school

### **Movie Suggestions for AAW:**

**Elementary:** Dolphin Tale and Finding Nemo

**Upper Elementary:** Anything is Possible

**Middle School:** The Theory of Everything

## **3/3/21 - Mid-Week Announcements & Reminders**

Dear Arroyo Families,

With so much happening I wanted to send a few important announcements and reminders.

### **Fever Free Trial Run**

As you know, students will be required to complete the Fever Free health screening before coming on campus next week. Fever Free is fairly simple to use but a little practice is always good. We would love for everyone to try it out before next week to get comfortable with it. This Friday will be Fever Free trial day. Please plan to complete the screening by 8:30 am. This is a habit we need to begin to build.

If you have any trouble with Fever Free, please reach out to [support@feverfree.ai](mailto:support@feverfree.ai).

### **Parent Volunteers**

Thank you to those parents who have volunteered to help during our drop-off and pick-up times. We'll be reaching out soon with details about the schedule and responsibilities. We're in need of a few more people. If you're able to help one or two days a week from 1:00-1:35 or 2:40-3:15, please email me at [mshelton@scsdk8.org](mailto:mshelton@scsdk8.org).

### **4th Grade Exploratory Wheel Rotation**

This Friday marks the end of our second trimester. On Monday our 4th graders will rotate their exploratory wheel class. Your child's teacher will share the details about which class your child is rotating too and the zoom links they will need. As a reminder, our exploratory wheel classes this year are Music, Art, and Tinkering & Tech.

### **Superintendent Search Input**

Parents, guardians and community members are invited to share input on the SCSD Superintendent Search. The Arroyo community is invited to share their input this Thursday, March 4 from 7:00-8:00.

Here's the Zoom information to join?

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85656948549?pwd=QSsvS2U5cU5RaStUOG1kUDEweXFUdz09>

Meeting ID: 856 5694 8549 - Passcode: 459336

If you're not able to make that but would like to share input, you can also complete the [survey found here](#).

### **Family Art Night - Friday at 7:00 pm**

Join us Friday evening at 7:00 for Family Art Night led by Nathalie Fabri Artist (see her work at [www.fabrikations.com](http://www.fabrikations.com)). The whole family is invited to create Op Art- Optical illusion art. There will be a simpler project for kids and something slightly more involved for adults, if you wish... You can choose your difficulty level.. Or do more than one! Once you've completed your art there will be the opportunity to participate in small break out rooms to chat and share your creations. **Supplies needed: white paper, pencil, ruler and black marker or sharpie.**

Here's the Zoom information to join:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82811227617?pwd=M0hacjJtRzBrSjV3MU9iblo1RnFrUT09>

Meeting ID: 828 1122 7617 - Passcode: 766736

Warmly,  
Mindy Shelton  
Principal



## 2/28/21 - Eagle Eye

Dear Arroyo Families,

**It's hard to believe we are reaching the end of our second trimester this Friday.** Students will spend some time revisiting their goals and setting new ones. Teachers will be taking a bit of asynchronous time to allow them to write report cards which will be emailed to parents no later than March 19. Please be sure to open these emails when you receive them as the links will expire within a couple of days. Take some time to review the report card with your child so they can see their progress and identify strengths and areas for growth. You may want to review the [message I sent about report cards](#) back in November for some tips on how to have those conversations and additional details about our report cards.

**Thank you for your diligence in reading through all of the information that has been shared recently about our return to school plans.** I know it's a lot to process and appreciate those of you who are taking the time to work through it all and ask any lingering questions. If you missed our orientation last week, I encourage you to join me on Tuesday morning at 8:30 ([Zoom link here](#)) to hear it all one more time and ask any questions you may still have. Teachers will also be sharing information this week specific to their class including which day your child should come for orientation and any materials they should plan to bring.

**Our staff is in the process of receiving their vaccinations.** Many of us have recently had or have appointments this week for our first dose and will have our second in the coming weeks. In some cases appointments may fall during school time or teachers may need to take some time off due to side effects of the vaccine. In most cases teachers will provide asynchronous work during that time. In the event that it impacts time when students are on campus we will do our best to provide a substitute teacher, but if that's not possible we will have to cancel the in-person instruction for the day. We hope this won't happen but I do want to prepare you for the possibility and appreciate your understanding as we work through some short term challenges for big long term benefits.

**March 8-12 is Ability Awareness Week in the San Carlos School District.** I will share more information about this important week in next week's newsletter but I want to ensure all families have our Spirit Days marked on the calendar.

- **Monday:** Hats on for Inclusion – Wear a hat to school
- **Tuesday:** Be comfortable, be you! – Wear pajamas to school
- **Wednesday:** Be a Hero for Inclusion! – Dress as a superhero or personal hero
- **Thursday:** Be unique! – Wear mismatched, funky, or your favorite color
- **Friday:** Kaleidoscope Day! – Wear tie dye or bright colors. (visualize a kaleidoscope reflecting the idea of different colors, patterns, and shapes working together to make a beautiful picture)

**Diversity of all kinds is an important part of our school - from learning differences to identity, we want to be sure all of our families and students feel welcome and a part of the Arroyo community.** While we celebrate Ability Awareness Week for one week out of every year, our goal is always to maintain this focus throughout the entire year.

**I hope to see your family at our Family Art Night on Friday March 5 at 7:00 pm.** See below for more information. It should be fun for the whole family!

Warmly,  
Mindy Shelton  
Principal

## 2/25/21 - Important Return to School Information

[Please see separate document here](#)

## 2/24/21 - REMINDER: Parent Information Sessions

Good Morning Arroyo Families,

We had an AWESOME time at our Side-by-Side Science assembly yesterday! We did some great hands on experiments and learned a lot about how science works. It was so fun to get to see the kids trying out different experiments and I loved the smiles on everyone's faces. Thanks again to our PTA who sponsored the assembly and provided kits for those who needed the materials.

**I'll be sharing a lot of reopening information in the next day or so but wanted to remind you of our parent information sessions coming up TODAY and next week. Please make a point to attend one of them.**

- a. TODAY - Wednesday February 24th 5:00-6:00 pm. [Zoom Link](#)
- b. Tuesday March 2nd 8:30-9:30 am [Zoom Link](#)

I would recommend reviewing the [information that I shared back in November](#) before attending our info session. I will be reviewing the most critical details and answering questions during our time this week and next.

**Please also take a few minutes to complete our mandatory [transportation planning survey](#) to help us prepare for a safe dismissal.** Thanks to all who have already completed it.

Warmly,

Mindy

## 2/22/21 - Eagle Eye

Dear Arroyo Families,

**I hope you had a safe and restful week off.** It was wonderful to see our students enjoying their Valentine celebrations before the break. I loved the photos they posted to our valentine spirit Padlet and enjoyed getting to visit a few classes to join in their Zoom fun.

**This Tuesday at 9:00 am is our Side-by-Side Science assembly.** The students are very excited for this and we appreciate our PTA for sponsoring it. Please be sure to gather the supplies needed for your child to do the hands-on experiments. You can [find a list of supplies here](#). We have a limited number of kits available for students who are not able to get the materials. Please [complete this form](#) if you would like to request a kit. Requested kits will be available to be picked up outside the school office from 8:00-4:00 on Monday.

**We are excited to begin our Phase 3 - Return to Campus over the next few weeks.** I want to highlight some important information for you to follow as we begin our process to return to campus. More information will be coming out later this week, but here's a checklist of items we need all families to complete.

2. Fever Free - Have you signed up for FeverFree yet? If you haven't all families (INCLUDING CONNECTIONS) must sign up. Families will need to complete the Fever Free screening by 8:30 am every morning on days they will be on campus.
3. Watch the return to school presentation again and review the handouts- you can find them here on our [DL Website](#)
4. Complete the mandatory transportation [survey plan](#) in order to help us plan for a safe dismissal.
5. Attend one of our Reopening Parent Information/Q&A sessions
  - a. Wednesday February 24th 5:00-6:00 pm. [Zoom Link](#)
  - b. Tuesday March 2nd 8:30-9:30 am [Zoom Link](#)
6. If you have questions or concerns specific to your child please emails me at [mshelton@scsdk8.org](mailto:mshelton@scsdk8.org)

**Thank you for paying close attention to and following all procedures.** We look forward to beginning this process.

Enjoy your week. Take a few minutes to read the latest edition of our student newspaper, [The Eagle Times](#).

Warmly,  
Mindy Shelton  
Principal

## 2/12/21 - Arroyo Reminders

**Next week is our mid-winter break. Please be safe and avoid travel and group gatherings as much as possible.** A spike in Covid cases in San Mateo County (and across the state) is the one thing that will get in the way of our being able to bring kids back to school.

**We are very excited for our upcoming Side-by-Side Science assembly on February 23 at 9:00 am.** We'll be joined over Zoom by Wacky Scientist Doug Scheer and students will be able to complete hands-on experiments right along with him. There are some supplies that students will need to be able to do the experiments. Many of them are things you likely already have at home but we wanted to give you plenty of time to gather supplies. It is not necessary to have everything but we'd love for students to be able to do some of the experiments themselves. You can [find a list of supplies here](#). We have a limited number of kits available for students who are not able to get the materials. Please [complete this form](#) if you would like to request a kit. Thank you to PTA for sponsoring the assembly!

Have a wonderful break and a happy Valentine's Day!

## 2/7/21 - Eagle Eye

Dear Arroyo Families,

**We are all excited to be getting closer to being able to bring students back on campus!**

You should have received a few emails over the past couple of days in preparation and I want to call your attention to them and ask you to read them thoroughly. We have many new procedures in place to keep everyone safe and make sure we're able to stay open once we get started.

- **Dr. Harmeier's email on Friday lays out our tentative timeline pending county health data. If all goes as planned, Arroyo will begin our orientations the week of 2/8.** Throughout that week students will be invited in small groups to come on campus one time to review procedures and begin to get comfortable being back on campus. The following week we will begin our Phase 3 plans, continuing core instruction virtually in the mornings with students on campus 2 afternoons a week.

- **Also on Friday you should have received an invitation to join our FeverFree symptom screening app (as well as an email from me with additional information). It is absolutely mandatory that families complete the screening BEFORE coming on campus.** We know this will be an adjustment to your typical routine and will be able to help in the beginning but by mid-March any student arriving without having completed the screening will be sent home. Our staff has already been using FeverFree. It's a relatively quick and easy process.
- **Please take the time to review the reopening plans and procedures laid out on our [Arroyo DL Website](#).** I encourage you to watch the recording of our parent information session for full details. It will be important for students to use their designated entrance/exit and to follow all other protocols. We will be reviewing these directly with students as well.
- **I will be holding a parent information meeting on Wednesday, February 24 from 5:00-6:00 to review procedures and answer questions.** I encourage you to attend. Zoom details will be shared after the break.

**Thanks to everyone who participated in the first annual SCEF read-a-thon.** It was great to see so much energy and enthusiasm around reading! Our Forts & Flashlights assembly was a huge hit and I've had many requests to do it again so perhaps we'll bring it back in the spring.

**Speaking of assemblies, I am very excited for our upcoming Side-by-Side Science assembly on February 23 at 9:00 am.** We'll be joined over Zoom by Wacky Scientist Doug Scheer and students will be able to complete hands-on experiments right along with him. There are some supplies that students will need to be able to do the experiments. Many of them are things you likely already have at home but we wanted to give you plenty of time to gather supplies. It is not necessary to have everything but we'd love for students to be able to do some of the experiments themselves. You can [find a list of supplies here](#). We have a limited number of kits available for students who are not able to get the materials. Please [complete this form](#) if you would like to request a kit. Thank you to PTA for sponsoring the assembly!

**Congratulations to our 4th graders who earned their ROPES last week.** Thanks for all of our volunteer judges as well. I love seeing the amazing projects our students come up with. This year I got to see students who built desks for Habitat for Humanity, a cultural heritage cooking project, a comparison of election processes from three different countries, a paralympic project and experience, and more! We're in capable hands with these future leaders!

**Next week is our mid-winter break. Please be safe and avoid travel and group gatherings as much as possible.** A spike in Covid cases in San Mateo County (and across the state) is the one thing that will get in the way of our being able to bring kids back to school.

Happy Superbowl Sunday & Valentine's Day!

Warmly,

Mindy Shelton  
Principal

## 2/5/21 - FeverFree Symptom Screening

Dear Arroyo Families,

You recently received an email from Dr. Harmeier explaining that the San Carlos School District will be using FeverFree as our symptom screener. This private HIPAA and FERPA compliant screener must be completed before any student comes onto campus.

Your students will be invited before the weekend. When you receive the invite, please make sure to:

1. Sign up using the invite link, using the email address you were invited from.
2. Register with **your name, not your child's name.**
3. Please be sure you are downloading the correct app (see image below).

Once you complete the registration, you will automatically be linked to your child's account. Please note we are slowly rolling this out across sites, so all of your children may not be visible on your app on the same day.

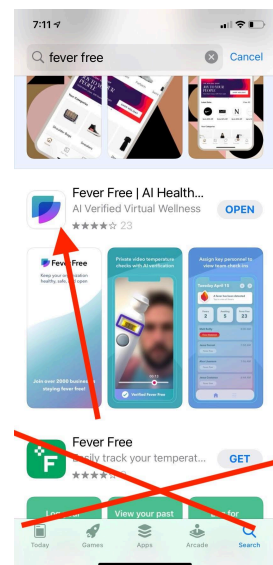
See the [tutorial videos, FAQs and links here.](#)

If you have questions regarding the sign up process, please contact FeverFree support at [support@feverfree.ai](mailto:support@feverfree.ai).

We are sensitive to the fact that some families may have reservations about using the video features of FeverFree. At home screening is in line with best practices and our county health requirements. FeverFree is HIPAA compliant, which means they abide by the same strict privacy laws that your doctor's office does. The videos are 100% private and not viewable by anyone at SCSD. SCSD has invested in the FeverFree platform because verified health screening assures school staff and families alike that everyone is actively participating in health checks, making campus safer for everyone. Completing this screening at home eliminates the need for onsite health checks, ultimately increasing your child's in-person instructional time.

More information on Fever Free's privacy policy can be found in [the FAQs here](#).

Thank you for supporting our symptom screening process.



Sincerely,  
Mindy Shelton

## 1/31/21 - Eagle Eye

Dear Arroyo Families,

**I loved seeing acts of kindness posted on our padlets last week for The Great Kindness Challenge.** It has also been wonderful to see the support for [Project Night Night](#) and all of the donations we have received, thank you! We can still accept last minute donations on Monday if you would like to contribute.

**This week we continue with our [SCEF Read-a-thon](#).** Please encourage lots of reading and even make time to read as a family. Make sure you're logging that time on the minute tracker link you can find on the [read-a-thon website](#). We're really excited for our Forts & Flashlights assembly tomorrow morning. Students will log on for our usual Monday morning assembly but we will expand it to last the whole hour. We'll start with our weekly announcements and then give students a little time to build a fort or get into a comfortable spot. They can keep cameras on or off and spend the time reading independently. We'll stop part way through for a read-aloud and then go back to independent reading. Please make sure your child has plenty of reading material ready!

**Many of our 4th graders will be wrapping up their ROPES projects this week and judging begins.** Thanks to those who have signed up to help as judges. This is always one of my favorite parts of the year. It's so inspiring to see the work that our SCSD students do to bring their passions to life.

**San Mateo County Covid case rates finally seem to be coming back down.** We continue to watch those numbers as we plan for a safe return to school. We hope to have more information in the coming week about when we anticipate being able to resume our plans.

Warmly,  
Mindy Shelton  
Principal

## 1/27/21 - Mid-week Reminders

**As part of our celebration of [The Great Kindness Challenge](#), our Eagle Council is collecting new books, blankets and stuffed animals for [Project Night Night](#), an organization that puts together care packages to support homeless children. We have a**

bin outside the Arroyo office where donations can be dropped off any time this week between 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. Donations will also be accepted on Monday if you need a little extra time to get items. More information about items that can be donated can be [found here](#). We'd love to have a great collection of items to donate and appreciate your support! Thanks for your support!

**Please join me this Friday at 9:00 for a Principal's coffee.** It's a great opportunity to build community with other Arroyo parents and ask any questions you might have. I hope to see you there! Here's the Zoom link to join the coffee chat.

<https://scsdk8.zoom.us/j/98353877923?pwd=ZFRFNWdCcWxvVWRSWmtOczdDeXdscz09>

**Our Arroyo mental health team has a new video up on our [Parent Education page](#) as a part of their Covid-19 Parenting series.** This one is on the topic of sibling rivalry but you'll find others on a variety of topics. These are short 5-10 minute videos with some great pointers for parents. We hope you'll check them out.

I hope your family is enjoying lots of reading time this week for our SCEF read-a-thon!

Warmly,  
Mindy Shelton  
Principal

## 1/24/21 - Eagle Eye

Dear Arroyo Families,

**We've got a busy week ahead at Arroyo. We're super excited for the 1st annual SCEF Read-a-thon!** The SCEF Read-A-Thon is a free two-week program to celebrate reading across the San Carlos School District. Students are encouraged to read as much as they can between January 25-February 5, 2021 and have the option to invite sponsors to support their reading with an online donation. Participation is complete FREE and voluntary, and your reader must be registered to participate. We'd LOVE to have 100% participation at Arroyo and I encourage you to make it a family event!

**Visit the SCEF Read-A-Thon website [scefkids.org/read2021](https://scefkids.org/read2021) to register, find the online minute tracker, and explore book lists by grade-level and genre.** On the website you will also find [inspirations](#) for your reader--read-aloud videos, book recommendations by local kids, teachers and community members (even me!), and resources for book lists and book bundles. **There is a virtual kick-off TODAY featuring Jenni Holm**, the bestselling, three-time Newbery Honor winning author. Visit the Read-A-Thon [website](#) to learn more about this event and to sign



up to attend. Teachers will be encouraging lots of reading over the next two weeks. Next Monday, February 1, we'll extend our morning assembly to spend the first hour of the day with a whole school Forts & Flashlights Read-in. Watch for more details next week.

**This week is also [The Great Kindness Challenge](#).** Arroyo will celebrate with a [week of Kindness](#) with suggested activities each day and a [checklist](#) to work through throughout the week. Our Eagle Council will be collecting new books, blankets and stuffed animals at Arroyo for [Project Night Night](#), an organization that puts together care packages to support homeless children. We'll have a bin outside the office where donations can be dropped off any time between 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. More information about items that can be donated can be [found here](#). We'd love to have a great collection of items to donate and appreciate your support!

**Our Math In Focus Parent Night last week was well attended.** If you missed it, there's a link to the recording (along with other great parent resources) on the [Parent Education page](#) of our [Arroyo Distance Learning website](#). I encourage you to watch it as it provides some great context and resources to help parents understand the math program we use in SCSD. See below for parent education on our reading & writing program.

**Please join me this Friday at 9:00 for a Principal's coffee.** It's a great opportunity to build community with other Arroyo parents and ask any questions you might have. I hope to see you there! See below for the Zoom information.

Have a wonderful week full of reading and kindness!

Warmly,  
Mindy Shelton  
Principal

## 1/20/21 - Inauguration Day

Good Morning,

As you know, teachers will be checking in with students at 8:40 this morning to kick off the day and then allowing time from 9-10 to watch the Presidential Inauguration. If you're looking for a way to watch the coverage with kid-friendly commentary and history, Discovery Education has a livestream video that has already started this morning with some history, facts and trivia about Presidential Inaugurations followed by live coverage.

<https://www.discoveryeducation.com/learn/inauguration/>

# 1/19/21 - SCEF Read-a-thon

Dear Arroyo Families,

I am excited to share with you a new event for our school district--the first annual SCEF Read-A-Thon. The San Carlos Education Foundation is thrilled to honor the love of reading, and raise funds for every student in our district. We are hoping to achieve 100% participation at our school.

The SCEF Read-A-Thon is a free two-week program to celebrate reading across the San Carlos School District. Students are encouraged to read as much as they can between January 25-February 5, 2021 and have the option to invite sponsors to support their reading with an online donation. Participation is complete FREE and voluntary, and your reader must be registered to participate.

Visit the SCEF Read-A-Thon website [scefkids.org/read2021](https://scefkids.org/read2021) to register, find the online minute tracker, and explore book lists by grade-level and genre. Once registered, participants can share their online pledge page with friends, neighbors, and relatives who may choose to sponsor their reading. Sponsor donations of any amount are appreciated, but not required. The entire Read-A-Thon is virtual. You will be receiving a flyer and bookmarks for your reader in the mail.

On the website you will also find [inspirations](#) for your reader--read-aloud videos, book recommendations by local kids, teachers and community members, and resources for book lists and book bundles. **There is a virtual kick-off on Sunday, January 24th featuring Jenni Holm**, the bestselling, three-time Newbery Honor winning author. Visit the Read-A-Thon [website](#) to learn more about this event and to sign up to attend.

## **Read-A-Thon officially begins Monday, January 25th!**

This is going to be a wonderful two weeks focused on the joys of reading! I encourage you to find a book to read or listen to, and join in as we enjoy what is brought to our lives with a great book.

Warmly,  
Mindy Shelton  
Principal

# 1/18/21 - Eagle Eye

Dear Arroyo Families,

**Last week, [I shared some tips](#) about completing the stress cycle from the book [Burnout: The Secret to Unlocking the Stress Cycle](#). Another part of the book that really resonated with me was the importance of caring for each other.** We hear a lot these days about self-care, which is critically important for all of us, but just as important is caring for others. It helps give us a sense of purpose and meaning. As parents, part of our burnout comes from the constant need to care for others, but for our kids, that can be a piece that's missing right now. They don't have the same opportunities to care for their friends, classmates, teammates, etc. As parents, one of the things we can do to help is to give them opportunities to care for others that gives them the sense of purpose and connection that they so badly need right now.

**This Monday, January 18, 2021, we honor the birth of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., a man who dedicated his life to justice and civil rights, including equal opportunities in education.** Since 1995, the day has also been observed as a [day of service](#). Known as a day ON, not a day OFF, it is a day for us to rise to the challenge in King's statement, "Life's most persistent and urgent question is what are you doing for others?" This is the perfect opportunity to do a service project as a family and talk about the impact that service has on all of us. There are opportunities all around us from a neighborhood clean-up, to checking on a lonely neighbor, to donating or volunteering for a local non-profit.

**The week of January 25-29, Arroyo will celebrate [The Great Kindness Challenge](#), another great opportunity to show kindness and care for others.** We'll be encouraging students to do kind acts including creating sidewalk chalk messages or hanging posters in their window, sending a kind message to a teacher, friend or neighbor, etc. We'll also be collecting books, blankets and stuffed animals at Arroyo for [Project Night Night](#), an organization that puts together care packages to support homeless children.

**The week of January 25-29 is also the kick-off of our SCEF Read-a-thon.** Students are encouraged to read as much as they can between January 25-February 5, 2021 and have the option to invite sponsors to support their reading with an online donation. Participation is complete FREE and voluntary, and your reader must be registered to participate. We'd love to have 100% participation at Arroyo!

**Visit the SCEF Read-A-Thon website [scefkids.org/read2021](https://scefkids.org/read2021) to register, find the online minute tracker, and explore book lists by grade-level and genre.** Once registered, participants can share their online pledge page with friends, neighbors, and relatives who may choose to sponsor their reading. Sponsor donations of any amount are appreciated, but not required. The entire Read-A-Thon is virtual. You will be receiving a flyer and bookmarks for your reader in the mail. We'll have some extra special events and competitions at Arroyo to get everyone in the reading spirit! Watch for more details to come.

**We have some great parent education opportunities coming up.** Please consider attending if you can. More information can also be found in the District News section below.

- **K-5 Math in Focus Night with Susan F. Resnick** - Jan 20 from 7:15-8:15 (for parents of 3rd-5th graders) - Discover Singapore Math Pedagogy and Effectiveness, learn new strategies to help your child at home using important math tools to increase mathematical thinking and procedural fluency, and learn how to ask better questions and get better results
- **Free Parent & Caregiver Workshop from the Teachers' College Reading and Writing Project** - Thursday, January 28, 1:00-3:00 pm Eastern Time (10:00-12:00 our time) - Learn more about ways to support your child's literacy education at home, what or how they are learning in school, how to best engage in home literacy projects, and more.
- **Be sure to check out our COVID-19 Parenting Series** - a series of short videos created by our Arroyo mental health team and available for viewing anytime on our [Arroyo Distance Learning Website](#)
- **Save the date of January 29 at 9:00 am for a Principal Coffee Chat**

**Please consider volunteering as a judge for our ROPES program.** It's a great opportunity to see the amazing work our students are able to do in San Carlos. See the District News section below for more information and to sign up. This is one of my favorite evenings of the year. I hope you'll consider joining me.

**Finally, this week marks a historic moment in our country.** The swearing in of a new President is always an important event. 4th and 5th graders are at a perfect age to begin grasping how our government and democracy work. In 5th grade, this is an important part of our social studies standards as students begin to understand the founding of our country and the principles it was built on. We encourage you to take the time to watch the inauguration as a family this Wednesday morning. Teachers will be planning asynchronous time from 9:00-10:00 on Wednesday so that families who would like to watch the inauguration live may do so. We'll provide some alternative activities for students to learn about the inauguration if you would prefer not to watch it live.

Warmly,  
Mindy Shelton  
Principal

## 1/10/21 - Eagle Eye

Dear Arroyo Families,

Let's be honest, this was a tough week. In addition to the challenges that always come when it's time to get back into our routines after a long break, we had the storming of our Capitol building, a burning sense of injustice in our country, and the reality that 2021 isn't really all that different than 2020. We're burnt out and tired. Our kids are too, and they feel our stress as well. There's a lot of science to explain our exhaustion. Remember this article that I shared back in August about our [depleted surge capacity](#)? Unfortunately we're even more depleted now. While it's important that we understand why we feel this way, it's even more important to learn what we can do about it.

I recently discovered the book [Burnout: The Secret to Unlocking the Stress Cycle](#). It was written before the pandemic but I found it really relevant to how many of us are feeling right now. Typically after a period of intense stress, we have an opportunity to complete the stress cycle and return to a state of "normal." This past year we have faced stress after stress without the opportunity to recover. The authors describe 7 ways we can complete the stress cycle. [This article](#) does a nice job of summarizing the strategies. I encourage you to make some time everyday to use one or more of these strategies as a family. It's important that our kids see us modeling these things to take care of ourselves, and also important that we help them do the same.

**I hope you'll join me Wednesday evening at 7:00 for our PTA meeting.** We'll be hearing from Each Green Corner about the work they've done on our campus to maintain our garden and build outdoor learning spaces. Please mark your calendar and save the date for our next Principal Coffee Chat on Friday, January 29 at 9:00. At our last coffee chat, parents expressed the desire for a subscribable calendar of our school events. The school calendar on our [Arroyo website](#) is a Google calendar that you can [subscribe to by clicking here](#). PTA is still looking for some volunteers to help coordinate school wide events for the spring. Please see the PTA section below for more information or to sign up. Finally, a big thank you to a group of parents who have stepped up to put an Arroyo yearbook together this year.

**We're looking forward to the SCEF read-a-thon coming up at the end of the month.** Our Eagle Council is working on ways to bring some Eagle spirit to the read-a-thon through a school wide read-in and other fun reading-related activities. Watch for details to come. In the meantime, please be sure to register for the Read-a-thon by the January 18 deadline. We'd love to have 100% participation! See the SCEF section below or [click here](#) for more information and the link to register.

Warmly,  
Mindy Shelton  
Principal

# 1/8/21 - 5th Grade Outdoor Education

Dear 5th Grade Families,

We know that a great disappointment of this year for our 5th grade students is not being able to attend 5th grade science camp at Jones Gulch. This is really a rite of passage for our kids, and our 5th grade team has worked hard to find a way to provide another experience for your children. We are pleased to announce that our 5th graders will be participating in a virtual outdoor ed program! **\*Please note there is no cost to you for this program, we are grateful for SCEF's generous support that allows us to offer such a wonderful program to our students.**

Walden West, Santa Clara County's Outdoor Education Program, is providing a virtual Outdoor Education program that our students are able to participate in during the week of January 19-22. Students will work with the naturalists an hour a day, and work with their teachers to preview and extend learning during the afternoon times. You can [Review the outline](#) for the program. Students received their Outdoor Ed journals in their materials pick-up this week. Teachers will share their specific schedules with their students for the week of January 19-22.

We know that this experience can't replace our typical Outdoor Education program but we're excited to be able to offer something in its place.

Warmly,  
Mindy Shelton & The 5th Grade Team

# 1/6/21 - Today's Events

Dear Arroyo and Mariposa Families,

Today's unprecedented events at the Capitol present challenges for us all. This school year has been filled with unique situations that prove challenging for us as parents as we navigate the delicate balance of shielding our children while still helping them through these times.

While we fight through our own feelings about the state of our democracy, we also need to be prepared to help our kids process what has happened. We have shared resources with our teachers to ensure they are prepared to respect various positions, to show sensitivity toward signs of stress, and to create a respectful discourse if, or when, students initiate discussion.

Consistent with this school year, there is no "playbook" for the best response in such an evolving situation, but we wanted to share a few resources that can help. The first is a good general resource for having conversations after bad things happen. It offers 4 important steps to follow - Listen, Protect, Model, and Take care of yourself. The "PEARLS of wisdom" in the second article (Prepare, Explain, Answer, Reassure, Listen) provide a solid framework to help guide the conversation about today's events. The third is a quick guide to how someone becomes President to help with historical context.

Resources:

- [When Bad Things Happen](#) from Teaching Tolerance
- [How to talk to your kids about the breach at the U.S. Capitol](#)
- [How someone becomes president - quick notes](#)

As a school, our first job is always to support our students. We will continue to do so as we navigate through difficult situations amidst a challenging school year. If you need any assistance, or have any questions, please feel free to reach out.

Warmly,  
Alex Friel & Mindy Shelton  
Principals

## 1/3/21 - Eagle Eye

Dear Arroyo Families,

**Happy New Year! I hope 2021 brings health, happiness and peace to you and your families.** 2020 was a year full of challenges, but also one with many silver linings. 2021 won't bring a magical end to that but I know that we'll continue to work together as a community to support one another and make the best of it. Your holidays, like mine, probably looked a bit different this year but I hope you were able to create some great family memories and maybe even create some new traditions to carry forward.

**Monday, January 4 is a professional development day for staff.** There will not be class for students. Staff will be focused on creating opportunities for blended learning (mixing online and offline work) as we continue planning for students to return to campus. I know there are many questions about when students will be returning. Unfortunately I have no way to predict when San Mateo County health data will put us back in the Red Tier. As soon as we get word that

we're getting close, we'll notify the community and resume our plans. As a reminder, you can view those plans on our [Arroyo Distance Learning Website](#).

**School resumes on Tuesday and we'll begin with a school-wide assembly at 8:40 am.**

We'll use our usual Monday link and students will receive an email reminder with the link. Immediately following the assembly, students will log into their classroom Zoom link. Teachers are excited to welcome them back and hear about some of their winter break highlights. The new year brings a great opportunity for goal setting and that will be a big focus school-wide over the coming weeks.

**One of our school-wide goals continues to be building community and creating a strong, connected school culture.** We're in need of some parent volunteers to help move that goal forward throughout the remainder of the school year. A few of the key roles we still need to fill include:

- Winter/Spring Activity Committee (we've got some ideas but need volunteers to help carry them out, open to new ideas as well)
- Yearbook Committee (without volunteers, Arroyo will not have a yearbook this year)

**If you're interested and able to help, you can [sign up here](#) or see the PTA section below for more information.** For all those interested in helping with the yearbook, our PTA President, Kirsten Kell, will be hosting a zoom meeting this Wednesday at 6:00pm. See Zoom information below.

**In order to accommodate a change in Legarza's PE schedule, our 4th grade daily schedule will be changing a bit.** You can see the [updated daily schedule here](#) and watch for more information from your child's teacher. Start and end times (8:40-3:00) will not change.

Wishing you all a healthy and happy 2021 and looking forward to welcoming back our students on Tuesday morning.

Warmly,  
Mindy Shelton  
Principal

## 12/13/20 - Eagle Eye

Dear Arroyo Families,



**It's hard to believe that winter break is only a few days away.** 2020 has been quite a year but I'm very proud of all of the ways that our community has come together to support kids. Our teachers are working harder than ever to engage students, adapt lessons to online platforms, teach, assess, and prepare for bringing students back on campus. Our support staff has gone above and beyond to keep everything going as well. Parents are doing so much to support learning from home and we know it's not an easy job. With your support, PTA and SCEF have provided amazing resources to make sure everyone has what they need. Our students are doing a phenomenal job under difficult circumstances, and I'm especially proud of our student leaders who have helped us develop a sense of community at Arroyo despite the fact that students are not on campus.

**Our Eagle Council has a fun spirit week planned for next week.** Students are invited to share their photos on grade level padlets that have been shared with their school emails.

- **Monday - Holiday Baking & Food** - share pictures of your holiday baking & cooking projects, or your favorite holiday foods
- **Tuesday - Holiday Art** - create a holiday themed art project and share your photos
- **Wednesday - Holiday Decorations for Backgrounds** - share your holiday decorations or a picture of yourself in front of a holiday background.
- **Thursday - Holiday Clothes or PJs** - post a photo of yourself in your pajamas, an ugly holiday sweater, or other festive clothing. Be sure to wear them for your Zoom calls too!
- **Friday - No school** - it's the first day of winter break. Enjoy and be safe!

**We know that like everything else, holidays look different this year.** Our Arroyo mental health team have created a [couple of short videos](#) for parents with some tips to help children through this. Please take a moment to watch them, along with the others in our COVID-19 parenting series. As always, please reach out if your family is in need of extra support.

**A few scheduling reminders:**

- Our office will be open for modified hours this week. Email is the best way to reach us but voicemail will be checked frequently. Please call the office before stopping by.
- Thursday, December 17 is a minimum day with school ending at 12:30. Times for our elective classes will shift to accommodate the minimum day. PE times will stay the same but will be optional. Teachers will share additional details by class.
  - 4th Grade: Electives: 11:50-12:30, PE: 2:30-3:00
  - 5th Grade: Electives: 11:00-11:40, PE: 11:30-11:55
- Friday, December 18 is the first day of winter break. There will not be school.
- Monday, January 4 is a professional development day for staff. There will not be school that day.
- School resumes on Tuesday, January 5.

- As soon as we have word from San Mateo County that we will be returning to the Red Tier, we will resume our plans to begin on-campus learning. We will share more information on that as soon as it is available.

Wishing you all a safe and wonderful holiday season.

Warmly,  
Mindy Shelton  
Principal

## 12/10/20 - SCSD Notification - COVID Case in Arroyo School

Dear Arroyo Families and Staff:

The health and safety of our students and staff is our top priority. This letter is to inform you that a member of the Arroyo school community has tested positive for COVID-19.

Close contacts are individuals who were in proximity to the person who tested positive, less than 6 feet, for more than 15 minutes. **Our COVID-19 has interviewed this person and has personally reached out to any identified close contacts. If you did not receive a personal phone call and email, there is no further action on your part.**

Consistent with California Department of Public Health and San Mateo County's Pandemic Recovery Framework protocols, the community member is self-isolating and under the care of their healthcare provider to identify additional steps. Due to privacy laws and our own policies, we are not able to share more specific information concerning the community member. As

members of a compassionate and caring community, I ask everyone to respect each other's privacy, especially around health information.

If you are interested, there are [free testing sites in San Mateo County](#) available throughout San Mateo County for adults and children ages 5+.

Finally, as you know, there are concrete things we all can do to keep ourselves and families healthy and safe, including following the guidance of the Four Pillars of the [Pandemic Recovery Framework](#) – health and hygiene, face coverings, physical distancing, and limiting gatherings – at both work and home.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Mindy Shelton  
Principal

## 12/6/20 - Eagle Eye

Dear Arroyo Families,

**If you haven't already, please take some time to review our [Return to School Plans](#) on our [Arroyo Distance Learning website](#).** It will be important for everyone to be familiar with our protocols and procedures before returning to campus. We do not have an exact date for students to return to campus as it depends on San Mateo County's COVID numbers, but our goal is to be ready to move forward as soon as San Mateo County returns to the Red Tier. We hope to have a better sense of timing in January and will keep you updated as information becomes available.

**The San Carlos PTA Coordinating Council is continuing to collect grocery e-gift cards to support our fellow San Carlos District families who are experiencing food insecurity this holiday season.** [Click here to donate](#) a Safeway e-gift card to [sancarlosptacc@gmail.com](mailto:sancarlosptacc@gmail.com).

Thank you for your gift! (Please note it is not considered a charitable donation but will be given directly to an SCSD family in need).

**If you are finding yourself in need of support this holiday season, please let us know.** We want to be able to help. You can reach out to me directly, contact our PTACC support coordinator ([sancarlosptacc@gmail.com](mailto:sancarlosptacc@gmail.com)) or fill out this [Google Form](#) to request assistance.

**This is an exciting week for Arroyo Students! Our [student-led clubs](#) begin this week.**

Students who have signed up will receive an email by Monday morning with information about their club and a Zoom link for the club meeting. Please note that these clubs will be truly student-led. They will be conducted over Zoom with minimal adult supervision. Some clubs will successfully meet regularly throughout the rest of the year and others will fizzle out over time, that's all part of the process for our student leaders. If you hear of any issues arising from the clubs, please let me know so we can address it right away.

**4th Graders will begin their new round of the Exploratory Wheel on Monday.** Instead of attending by homeroom class we will combine A or B cohorts from two or three classes. You should have received an email from your child's teacher with more details, along with whether your child is in the A or B cohort when we return to school.

**Our Eagle Council has some exciting activities planned for our last week before Winter Break.** They have planned a fun spirit week including holiday baking, decorating and dressing up. Details will be shared next week. Remember that Thursday, December 17 will be a minimum day ending at 12:30 and the break begins on Friday, December 18.

Have a wonderful week! I hope to see you at our PTA meeting this Wednesday. See below for details.

Warmly,  
Mindy Shelton  
Principal

## 12/4/20 - Reopening Plans & Parent Education

Thank you to those who attended our Parent Information Session on Arroyo's Reopening Plans on Tuesday night. If you weren't able to attend, please take the time to watch the video recording of the session and review the plans. It will be important for everyone to be aware of our protocols and procedures before coming back on campus.

I have added a "[Reopening Plans](#)" page to our [Arroyo Distance Learning Site](#) under the Parent Resources section where you can find the following information:

- Recording of Parent Information Session
- Slide Presentation from Parent Information Session
- Parent Communication about Phase 3
- DRAFT Daily Schedule for Phase 3
- Arroyo Campus Reopening Plan
- Arroyo Ingress/Egress Map

I will continue to update this page as we finalize our plans for reopening.

While you're on the site, I encourage you to take a look at our [Parent Education page](#). You'll find our new "COVID-19 Parenting" Series, a set of brief 3-5 minute videos with tips and resources from our own Arroyo mental health team, as well as some slightly longer videos from our "Setting Limits, Holding Boundaries" parent education series. This page also includes our SCSD Parent Education Calendar and links to recordings from some of our past parent education events.

While our main goal is obviously to educate and support students, we're here to support you as parents as well. Please review these resources and reach out any time if there's more we can do to help you and your family. You can find additional support through the [SCSD Pandemic Care & Support Site](#).

Warmly,  
Mindy Shelton  
Principal

## 11/29/20 - Eagle Eye

Dear Arroyo Families,

I hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving and took advantage of the opportunity to slow down a bit and take a break from the normal routines of school and work.

**As you're probably aware, San Mateo County has now reached the purple tier of the [California Blueprint for a Safer Economy](#).** Unfortunately this means that our plans to bring our Urgent Learners on campus this week will need to be put on hold. Teachers will continue to provide extra support but it will need to be done virtually instead of in person. We're still moving forward with our [plans to begin Phase 3](#) in the hopes that we can return to the red tier, but we'll have to wait and see what happens.

**In preparation for when we are able to reopen, I will be holding an important parent information session this Tuesday at 7:30 pm to review health protocols, campus procedures, schedule changes, and more.** This session will be recorded and posted on our website but it is critical that all parents take the time to review the information shared before students come on campus. You can join the [Zoom meeting by clicking here](#) or use the Meeting ID: 998 3800 5418 and Passcode: 934813.

**Thank you to everyone who supported our Gratitude Festival.** We filled the whole Arroyo office with food for Samaritan House. They were expecting to pick up two bins from us but were able to fill five or six. Thank you for your generosity. We know that there are many people in need right now.

**The San Carlos PTA Coordinating Council is continuing to collect grocery e-gift cards to support our fellow San Carlos District families who are experiencing food insecurity this holiday season.** [Click here to donate](#) a Safeway e-gift card to [sancarlosptacc@gmail.com](mailto:sancarlosptacc@gmail.com). Thank you for your gift! (Please note it is not considered a charitable donation but will be given directly to an SCSD family in need).

**This week students will be invited to sign up for our student-led clubs.** We will be reviewing the process to sign up at our Monday Morning Assembly and students will be able to find all of the information they need on the [Student-led Clubs page](#) of our Arroyo Distance Learning website. Please note that these clubs will be truly student-led. They will be conducted over Zoom with minimal adult supervision. Some clubs will successfully meet regularly throughout the rest of the year and others will fizzle out over time, that's all part of the process for our student leaders. If you hear of any issues arising from the clubs, please let me know so we can address it right away.

Warmly,  
Mindy Shelton  
Principal

## 11/20/20 Report Cards & Important Reopening Information

Dear Arroyo Families,

I hope you have a restful and safe holiday next week. A few important items as we move into the next few weeks. Please note, there is a lot of information here, take your time in reading as we are working to move forward with all of these initiatives.

### Report Cards

Report cards will be emailed to you no later than Wednesday of next week. Please be sure to open them within one to two days as the password will expire. I also want to remind you of the [email I sent on November 10](#) with information about the report card and how to discuss it with your child. **If you have questions about your report card, we ask that you please wait until November 30th to contact your child's teacher.** We know it has been a very long school year

for everyone, and we want to be sure to allow all students, staff and parents to rest and recharge.

## **Phase 2: Support for Urgent Learners**

Phase 2 of our reopening plans allows for some additional support for students who are struggling to access their education through distance learning. This support will begin the week of November 30 with identified students being invited on campus during teachers' office hour times two afternoons a week. The other two office hours will continue to be online and available to all students. Parents of students who are considered urgent learners have already been notified. Please note, if the county returns to "purple" status these sessions for urgent learners will continue to be remote.

## **Preparing for Phase 3**

Beginning the week of December 7, we will be making some shifts to our schedule in preparation for Phase 3 which is bringing all students on campus for some in person activities in the afternoons. With many moving parts including staff from different schools and agencies, we are still finalizing our plans and expect to be able to share a final schedule by December 1. We anticipate that our morning schedule will continue to be the same from 8:40-11:30 am. Classes will be divided into 2 cohorts for in-person learning in the afternoons, with each group attending 2 days a week (either Monday/Tuesday or Thursday/Friday). Times for those sessions will fall somewhere in the 1:00-3:00 range with some variability to allow for staggered start and end times. The 11:30-12:30 slot and the two afternoons that students are not on campus will be a mixture of independent work and online instruction for electives and PE. You can see a DRAFT schedule here with updates expected in early December.

## **A/B Cohorts**

Thank you for responding to your child's teacher regarding constraints and needs as we look at our A/B Cohort schedule. You can expect to receive your child's cohort no later than Friday, December 4. Please note, once we have made cohort assignments we will not be able to adjust them unless there is an extreme circumstance.

- A Days - Monday/Tuesday
- B Days - Thursday/Friday

## **On Campus Orientation Day**

As we have mentioned in district and site communications, we will be bringing students on campus for an orientation in December (again, pending county health levels). This is optional for students, but please communicate with your teacher if you do not plan to send your child. From December 10-15, cohorts will be divided in half and each group of 7-8 students will come on

campus for a 90 minute orientation session during which time you can expect them to review health protocols and campus procedures, and spend some time in person getting to know classmates.

While we're excited to have students on campus and know that they are excited as well, it's important to set their expectations and remind them that school will look very different than they are used to. Students will be required to wear a mask and maintain 6 feet of distance at all times. In order to help prepare them for this, teachers will begin talking with students about this and asking them to wear a mask at times on Zoom so students both get used to wearing a mask and also get used to recognizing their classmates in a mask.

### **Important Parent Information Session**

Please plan to join me on Tuesday, December 1 at 7:30 for an important parent information session where we will review health protocols, campus procedures, schedule changes, and more. This session will be recorded and posted on our website but it is critical that all parents take the time to review the information shared before students come on campus.

I know this was a LOT of information. Please know that we're working to continue communication and you'll receive consistent reminders as we make these adjustments. We look forward to seeing you virtually or in person in December. In the meantime, I wish you a wonderful Thanksgiving. Thank you for your ongoing support and flexibility as we navigate this unprecedented school year.

Warmly,  
Mindy Shelton  
Principal

## **11/19/20 - Reminders: Magic Show & Coffee Chat**

### **Don't forget our Arroyo Family Night Virtual Magic Show - TONIGHT at 6:30**

We are so excited to bring this parent recommended show to our community! Alex has created a piece of magic for Taylor Swift at the AMA, performed on Penn & Teller, Fool Us, and was the "Magic Choreographer" for Sesame Street live "Make your magic." Following the show there will be time for questions and answers.

Alex Ramon Virtually Impossible Magic Show

- Host: Central Arroyo PTA
- Time: Nov 19, 2020 06:30 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)



- Join Zoom Meeting beginning at 6:20. Show starts promptly at 6:30 pm
  - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86164671064?pwd=N1B0S01tOFgyR21EWVZHYmpkMjVWdz09>
  - Meeting ID: 861 6467 1064
  - Passcode: 11192020

## Principal's Coffee Chat - Tomorrow (Friday) at 9:00

Join me for an informal discussion and a chance to connect with other Arroyo parents.

Join Zoom Meeting -

<https://scsdk8.zoom.us/j/96594244778?pwd=WHpUTENwaGprRUhhek5iMHZVc3dOQT0>

Meeting ID: 965 9424 4778

Passcode: 771988

## 11/15/20 - Change to 4th Grade Elective Rotation

Dear 4th Grade Families,

As you know, our 4th graders were scheduled to rotate their exploratory wheel classes beginning tomorrow. As we work through our reponing plans, we're anticipating some schedule changes to allow for students to be on campus two afternoons a week. Rather than rotate electives now knowing that there will likely need to be some changes in a couple of weeks, we've decided to **extend the current round of electives for 2 additional weeks of instruction, through December 4**. This will allow us a bit more time to work on schedules and cohort groups, while maintaining consistency for students.

Please let your 4th grader know to continue with the elective classes they have been in. Teachers will make sure students know where to go for their electives this week and we'll talk about it at our Monday assembly as well.

Warmly,  
Mindy Shelton  
Principal

## 11/15/20 - Eagle Eye

Dear Arroyo Families,

**As we approach Thanksgiving, it's a great time to think about the many things we have to be thankful for.** Our Arroyo community is definitely high on my list. Thank you so much for your support during the beginning of this unusual and challenging school year. I want to take a moment to acknowledge your commitment and dedication and the time you are investing during Distance Learning. Your contributions last year to the nonprofit San Carlos Education Foundation are being put to work this year in many ways at Arroyo, and have provided tools and training to address the current moment.

**Grants made by SCEF from your donations will help school Arroyo purchase new Chromebooks for students and supplement technology support staff, allow us to hire school counselors and provide social emotional programs and electives.** SCEF also provides me with a Principal SCEF Flex Fund to invest in specific school site needs. In addition, because of the out-pouring of support last spring, SCEF is providing funds for classroom air purifiers, additional PPE, teacher professional development in distance learning and training in equity and social justice. Our San Carlos public schools maintain a high-quality education because of your investment of time and financial support.

**Wednesday November 18th is SCEF day.** We encourage students to wear GREEN for their Wednesday Zoom meetings and visit <https://scefkids.org/scef-day-2020/> to check out all the fun and educational activities SCEF has planned for the week.

**If you haven't already done so, I hope you will consider making a donation to SCEF.** Support from parents like you is critical to help sustain and enhance the education we provide to our students. To make a donation, or learn more, please visit. [www.scefkids.org](http://www.scefkids.org). Please take a moment to review the [SCEF Parent Guide](#).

**This week is also our Arroyo/CMS Gratitude Festival.** While this year has been challenging, we still have so much to be grateful for. Please see the details in the PTA section below and remind your students to check their school email for a variety of ways they can participate. We also have information on our [Arroyo Distance Learning Website](#) and will be discussing at our Monday Morning Assembly this week.

**I'd like to extend another big thank you to Each Green Corner,** and especially Sandie Nierenberg and Angela Holloszy, along with a team of volunteers from Arroyo and other community organizations, for the work they did on our campus this weekend preparing our outdoor learning spaces. They installed white boards and work spaces in our garden and WildZone, planted some new apple trees, harvested and replanted the garden, and more.

**On Thursday evening you received a survey requisition feedback on our return to school plan for December and January.** Please take the time to complete it before November 17th so that we can use that information to guide our planning. More information will be shared this week. There are a tremendous number of details to work through as we finalize our plans and we will share information as soon as it is available. Please take the time to read through it carefully. I will be hosting an important parent information meeting on the evening of December 1st. Please do your best to attend as I will be sharing detailed information about campus procedures and protocols. I will also be hosting an informal principal's coffee chat this Friday, November 20th at 9:00. See the PTA section below for the Zoom link.

**This Friday, November 20th will be another mostly asynchronous day to allow teachers time to prepare for our reopening.** Teachers will hold their morning meetings and review work for the day. The rest of the morning teachers will be receiving health and safety training from a panel of local pediatricians and health experts and will spend the afternoon preparing their classrooms and the campus for students to return.

**I wish you all a wonderful Thanksgiving!** Please remember that there will be no school the week of November 23-27. Enjoy the time to slow down from all of the daily pressures of life in 2020 and spend time together as a family. As we move towards the reopening of campus, we ask that each Arroyo family follow the [CDE's guidelines for Thanksgiving Celebrations](#) and limit gatherings to those within your own household. This will go a long way in easing the minds of our teachers and other families as they return to in-person school. As always, we are better when we work together and we thank you in advance for your cooperation and support.

Warmly,  
Mindy Shelton  
Principal

## 11/12/20 - Return to School Survey

Dear Arroyo Families,

I hope you all were able to take some time to breathe yesterday during our mid-week break. We are busy planning for our students to return to campus between now and January and to help us with our preparation, we ask that you complete [this survey](#) for each child at Arroyo. This will help us determine each family's plan on returning as well as get a pulse on how distance

learning has been going thus far. Please be sure to read the information at the top of the survey for more details on our phases of reopening.

A tremendous amount of work has been done to ensure the safety of our students and staff while on campus, and our gratitude for your adherence to our protocols is immeasurable. We ask that each Arroyo family follow the [CDE's guidelines for Thanksgiving Celebrations](#) and limit gatherings to those within your own household. This will go a long way in easing the minds of our teachers and other families as they return to in-person school. As always, we are better when we work together and we thank you in advance for your cooperation and support.

Please save the date for **December 1st** for an evening presentation that will provide you with additional information about our planned return to campus procedures.

Warmly,  
Mindy Shelton  
Principal

## 11/12/20 - Upcoming Events at Arroyo

There's a lot going on at Arroyo next week. Be sure to mark your calendars and participate in the fun. See below for all the details about:

- Spirit Gear
- ROPES (for 4th graders)
- Science Fair (for 5th graders)
- Arroyo Family Night Magic Show
- Arroyo Gratitude Festival

### **Last Chance to get your Spirit Gear!**

Our [online store](#) for Arroyo Spirit Gear is closing tomorrow! Don't delay – show your school spirit and order your Spirit Gear today! Ordering is only available until 10pm this evening for this school year! Orders will be distributed before Winter Break. Contact Sarah Kinahan if you have any questions or need assistance with your order. Go Eagles!

### **Attention 4th, 6th, and 8th Graders - Register for ROPES by November 20th!**

ROPES is on for the 2020-21 school year!! Want to pursue your Passion Project? Want to learn a new skill? Build something cool? Start a service project? NOW is the time to register for ROPES and earn your ROPE for your project.

What is ROPES? ROPES is a signature opportunity for students to exhibit their application of the 5C's! is the Rite Of Passage ExperienceS program that is specifically designed as an

optional enrichment activity as students complete a cycle of their education. Students in 4th, 6th, and 8th grade will choose a self-directed Challenge Project Categories: Creativity/Appreciation of the Arts, Innovation/Invention, Adventure/Personal Challenge, Cooperative Games, Service/Advocacy, Personal Reflections.

[Register here by November 20th](#) to be part of this program.

Click here for the [Orientation Slides](#) from Oct 29th. Click here for the [video recording](#).

### **Attention 5th-8th Graders - The 25th Annual SCSD Science Fair is going virtual!**

This is a fantastic opportunity for students in grades 5-8 that are passionate about Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics to display their learning. If you are interested in participating in the fair, please fill out the 2020-21 [SCSD Virtual STEM Fair interest Form](#). You can find more information on the [SCSD Website](#) and below.

### **Join us for the PTA sponsored Virtual Magic Show!**

**Next Thursday, November 19 at 6:30 pm via Zoom**

Magician Alex Ramon has mesmerized millions around the world with his magic, working with celebrities like Taylor Swift, Logan Pall, Penn & Teller as well as Disney Live! and Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey circus. Check him out at <https://www.alexramonmagic.com/videos>

Thursday night's show will begin promptly at 6:30 PM and run for approximately 35 to 40 minutes with time for questions at the end. Log-in at 6:20 pm and don't miss a trick!

Alex Ramon Virtually Impossible Magic Show

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86164671064?pwd=N1B0S01tOFgyR21EWVZHYmpkMjVWdz09>

Meeting ID: 861 6467 1064

Passcode: 11192020

### **Arroyo Central Gratitude Festival Wednesday 11/18 and Thursday 11/19**

With the Holidays approaching, the Arroyo community is finding ways to give back. Join us at school to share a note of gratitude and/or support some local charitable organizations.

- Samaritan House accepting shelf stable dry foods
- Lions Club and One Life Counseling Center accepting toys, books and gifts
- San Carlos PTA Coordinating Council accepting Safeway E-Gift Cards for families experiencing food insecurity

Donation bins available on campus from 1:30-5:00 pm Wednesday and 3:00-5:00pm Thursday. The Samaritan House bin for dry food will be out all week.

Find more info on the Gratitude Festival and Donation Drive [HERE](#).

# 11/8/20 - Eagle Eye

Dear Arroyo Families,

**It's hard to believe we're reaching the end of our first trimester this Friday.** Teachers will be taking some time over the next two weeks to assess students and complete our standards-based report cards which will be sent home by email sometime around November 25th. Watch for more information about the report card coming later this week. 4th grade electives will rotate beginning on the 16th. Teachers will share more information soon.

**Our staff spent Friday working together on our phases of reopening.** In addition to addressing the needs of our Urgent Learners (students who have been unable to access curriculum through distance learning), we're working on our plans for Phase 3, which is a continuation of core instruction delivered virtually in the mornings, with cohorts of students coming on campus in the afternoons twice a week for live instruction. We'll share more details as we continue to work through the planning process. We anticipate a gradual, measured approach as we begin this process in December with full implementation by mid-January. There is a lot that needs to be done in preparation for this and we appreciate your patience as we work through the details. Watch for a parent survey coming later this week.

**Part of our planning includes installing some outdoor learning spaces on campus.**

Through a partnership with Each Green Corner, Arroyo will have 3 new outdoor classrooms - in our garden, in our Wild Zone, and in a corner of our field/blacktop area. Each of these areas will contain seating areas and a whiteboard for teaching. Special thanks to Eagle Scout and SCSD alumni Nick B. for designing and constructing stools for students to sit on in our garden.

**Each Green Corner will be installing these classrooms on campus next weekend and needs volunteers (ages 5 and up) to help on Saturday, November 14 from 9:00-4:00.** Bring your mask, gloves, water bottle, and enthusiasm for some heavy lifting as we prepare our beautiful new spaces. COVID safety protocols will be followed. [Click here for more information and to register](#). More information is also below.

Be sure to check our [Arroyo Distance Learning Site](#) for some great [parent education opportunities](#) including a video recording of our Mental Health Associate, Teresa Wace's workshop on **Setting Limits and Holding Boundaries**. You'll also find information on our [Student-led clubs](#) and our latest edition of [The Eagle Times](#), our student newspaper.

**Please join me on Friday, November 20th at 9:00 am for a parent coffee chat.** Watch next week's newsletter for the Zoom information. That day will be another mostly asynchronous day so that teachers can attend a district-wide health & safety training.

**Don't forget that this Wednesday is Veteran's Day and there will not be school.** Thank you to all those who have bravely served our country!

Warmly,  
Mindy Shelton  
Principal

## 11/5/20 - Friday Reminders

**This Friday, 11/6 will be a mostly asynchronous work day** while teachers collaborate on our reopening plans. Classes will start the day with their morning meeting as usual and students will have work to complete throughout the day. Teachers will have office hour time in the afternoon for any questions that come up. Elective classes will happen as usual and students are expected to attend.

**Legarza will also be having a professional development day for their staff so PE will also be independent.** Students may watch [this video](#) for their PE time or participate in other off-screen physical activity, but we do encourage everyone to get some exercise throughout the day.

**Picture Makeup day will also happen tomorrow from 10:00 am - 1:00 pm in the Arroyo Learning Commons.** Students who were not able to make it or would like to retake a picture should plan to attend and may come at any time between 10:00-1:00. If you are ordering from Lifetouch you can go to [my.lifetouch.com](http://my.lifetouch.com) and select Arroyo School. The Picture Day ID is EVTP932SX.

Please follow these guidelines when coming to campus.

1. Complete the [Health Screener](#) on the day of your child's visit
2. Come to the Arroyo Parking lot
3. Parents, please stay in your cars at all times
4. Students will get out and walk through the gate to the blacktop and around into our outdoor corridor where they will follow the arrows and wait for their turn on spots marked 6 feet apart.
5. One student at a time will be allowed into the Learning Commons to get their picture taken
6. Students will follow arrows to exit the building on the library side and walk down the other outdoor corridor and back out to the parking lot to meet their parents. (This process shouldn't take more than a few minutes.)

**Have a great weekend!**

# 11/1/20 - Eagle Eye

Dear Arroyo Families,

**What a great week we had!** Halloween 2020 may not have been what we're used to but we sure had a great time anyway. The highlight of my week was getting to visit all of the classes on Friday to see their costumes and all of the fun they were having with guessing games, Halloween escape rooms, Kahoot challenges, art projects and more! Working with Eagle Council to judge our daily spirit competitions was another highlight. Huge thanks to Jane Howie and Mara Violanti for coordinating the week, and to those who volunteered their spookily decorated homes for our Halloween Jaunt. If you captured any photos along the way, we'd love to see them! Please add them (or other Halloween related photos) to our [Google photo album here](#). Another big thanks to Room Parent coordinators Beth Rowell and Leslie Ostrander, and all of the Room Parents for coordinating the Boo Buddies activity. I heard so much feedback from students, teachers, and parents that all of the activities this week really helped everyone feel more connected during a time where that's especially challenging.

**Despite everything going on in the world, finding ways to maintain social connection is critical.** While things like Zoom fatigue and a decrease in motivation are very real for both children and adults, it is important that we pay close attention to the Social-emotional impact the pandemic has on all of us. There is so much that is out of our control. We can't control the virus, we can't control getting back to the "normal life" that we so desperately want, and we can't control schools opening or closing. Even in my position as an administrator, there is a lot that is out of my control. While that can be frustrating at times, it's important to focus on the things that are in our control and ways that we can continue to meet our social-emotional needs, even if that looks different than we'd like it to. This article - [Social Emotional Risks and Solutions by Age](#) - has practical advice that I found helpful as a parent, for things you can do to help both yourself and your children through these trying times.

**It's especially challenging that the pandemic isn't the only thing going on in our world right now.** Racial and political tensions are high, adding to the stress and anxiety of everyone. I want to thank the parents and staff who took the time to participate in our CMS/Arroyo Break For Change group. This group has met weekly over the past six Wednesdays to discuss topics including racism in schools, implicit bias, talking to kids about racism, and taking action. If you weren't able to join us, it won't be the last opportunity to discuss these topics. Watch for more information coming throughout the year, beginning with a parent education opportunity this Wednesday at noon to join a live webinar - **Having Courageous Conversations About Race and Systemic Racism** - [sign up here](#) if you'd like to attend.



**Finally, this Tuesday is an important day for our country.** Whatever your political beliefs are, I encourage you to use your voice and vote. There are important topics at the national, state, and local level that need your voice. 4th & 5th graders are at a great age to talk about our democracy and the importance of voting so please consider sharing the process with them as well.

Warmly,  
Mindy Shelton  
Principal

**Important Announcements:**

- **Daylight Savings ends today!** Don't forget to turn your clocks back an hour.
- **Friday, November 6th will be another mostly asynchronous day to allow staff time to work on our Return to Campus Plans.** Students will still have morning meetings and work to complete throughout the day. PE and elective classes will continue as usual.
- **Picture Makeup day will be on November 6th from 10:00 am -1:00 pm in the Arroyo Learning Commons.** Students who were not able to make it or would like to retake a picture should plan to attend and may come at any time between 10:00-1:00. **We ask that you follow these guidelines.**
  1. Complete the [Health Screener](#) on the day of your child's visit
  2. Come to the Arroyo Parking lot
  3. **Parents, please stay in your cars at all times**
  4. Students will get out and walk through the gate to the blacktop and around into our outdoor corridor where they will follow the arrows and wait for their turn on spots marked 6 feet apart.
  5. One student at a time will be allowed into the Learning Commons to get their picture taken
  6. Students will follow arrows to exit the building on the library side and walk down the other outdoor corridor and back out to the parking lot to meet their parents.  
(This process shouldn't take more than a few minutes.)
- **Our first trimester ends on November 13th.** Teachers will be completing our standards based report cards the following week which will be sent home no later than November 23rd. 4th grade electives will rotate beginning on the 16th. Teachers will share more information soon.

10/28/20 - Halloween Jaunt & Spirit Gear

**HALLOWEEN JAUNT THIS FRIDAY**

**The Halloween Haunted Jaunt is creeping up on us for this Friday 10/30!** This is a walk around the neighborhood for masked costumed kids (and their masked adult chaperones), making stops to gather up treats after solving tricky clues (hint: bring a pencil).

**All participants must complete the waiver and SIGN UP for the Jaunt.** We must have participant numbers to support a COVID-safe Halloween and make this as fun and safe for everyone involved (from our house volunteers, to our kids, chaperones, and neighbors).

<https://signup.com/go/AsiRUMN>

**Inside [sign-up.com](https://signup.com/go/AsiRUMN), you will pick from several start times** (3pm, 3:30pm, 4pm, 4:30pm and 5pm) and please tell us your name and grade (4th or 5th) when you register. To avoid crowding we are planning two routes and staggered starts along the route. The two routes are approximately 3 miles long and include at least nine treat stops! We expect the routes to be complete in about one hour of walking, but feel free to walk, skate, scooter, or bike to each stop – just don't crowd others as you arrive at your destinations!

**On Thursday participants will receive their Halloween Haunted Jaunt starting location via email**, in the email you will also be given a color and symbol. Assignments are: **Orange Pumpkins**, **Purple Cats**, or **Black Bats**

**At each stop you will see a poster with the clue to your next destination**, Your color and symbol will tell you what stop number you are at, so you can keep count of how many stops you've made and how many are more to come!

If you have any questions please reach out to Jane Howie [janehowie@gmail.com](mailto:janehowie@gmail.com) or Mara Violanti [mvandeven@yahoo.com](mailto:mvandeven@yahoo.com).

## **Spirit Gear Store Now Open!**

Our [online store](#) for Arroyo Spirit Gear is open *for two weeks only*. **Don't delay – show your school spirit and order your Spirit Gear today!** Ordering is only available until **November 13** for this school year! Orders will be distributed before Winter Break. Contact [Sarah Kinahan](#) if you have any questions or need assistance with your order. Go Eagles!

## 10/25/20 - Eagle Eye

Dear Arroyo Families,

**It's hard to believe it's already the last week of October. This week we kick off our school-wide Monday morning virtual assemblies.** We'll gather as a school community each Monday at 8:40 am for some brief celebrations and announcements before heading off to our class meetings. Parents are welcome to attend but we ask that each family log in together from one device to ensure we don't reach our capacity. The Zoom link was sent to all students' SCSD email accounts.

**Excitement is in the air for our Haunted Halloween Theme Week.** We'll kick this off at our assembly and then classes will spend some time on Monday coming up with their Haunted House name for the week. We'll have a different theme each day and encourage students to participate and post pictures or links to their class padlet for each day. Every students who participates will earn 5 points for their class. Our Eagle Council will be awarding extra points for creativity, spookiness, and more. See the PTA section below for details about each day's theme and the optional Halloween Jaunt on Friday. Please be sure to [sign up in advance](#) if you plan to participate.

**Picture Makeup day will be on November 6th.** Students who were not able to make it or would like to retake a picture should plan to attend. We will be following the same procedures from our last Picture Day and will send a reminder with more details as it gets closer.

**4th grade parents, mark your calendars for ROPES Information Night - October 29.**

ROPES is the Rite Of Passage ExperienceS program that is specifically designed as an optional enrichment activity as students complete a cycle of their education. ROPES provides students in 4th, 6th, and 8th grade an opportunity to participate in an academic ritual by way of real-life learning experiences. Participating students will choose a self-directed project that incorporates the 21st century learning skills of initiative, inquiry, creativity, communication, cooperation, and leadership. To learn more about ROPES projects and guidelines, students and parents should attend the ROPES orientation on Thursday, October 29 from 6:30-7:30pm - [Zoom link here](#). For more information, please visit the [ROPES page](#) on the SCSD site.

**Wishing you a safe and fun Halloween week!** While it won't be the Halloween we're used to, it's important to still make it a memorable and fun experience for our kids.

Warmly,

Mindy Shelton  
Principal  
[mshelton@scsdk8.org](mailto:mshelton@scsdk8.org)

# 10/23/20 - Arroyo Announcements

Dear Arroyo Families,

I am reaching out today on behalf of the Central Arroyo PTA to ask for your support of the [Team Kid PTA fundraising campaign](#) to support our schools.

This campaign is a partnership between our SCSD PTAs and SCEF to help raise local-level funds to bridge the gap between CA funding and what we need for a well-rounded student experience at Central and Arroyo.

This year, the PTA increased their budget for classroom teacher stipends and principal grants to make sure we have what we need to be effective in virtual learning. The PTA has also added additional funds for general school supply needs that may arise with hybrid learning. And though it will look different this year, they are still planning to have community building activities so be sure to stay tuned for those plans.

The Central Arroyo PTA is in their final weeks of this fundraising campaign, and they need help to reach our \$45K fundraising goal. I hope you will consider making a donation of any amount this year and supporting the valuable work the Central Arroyo PTA does to help students and staff throughout the year. Our ask is \$125 per student or \$250 per family, but we appreciate support in any amount. [Donations can be made here.](#)

Every dollar donated to our PTA goes directly to our schools!

With Gratitude,

Mindy Shelton

Principal

## **Additional Announcements:**

### **Haunted Halloween Week at Arroyo**

**Haunted Halloween Week, October 26th-30<sup>th</sup>**, is just around the corner. The kids are thrilled that Arroyo will be holding a **Spirit Tournament!**

Starting Monday with **Haunted House Naming**, on Tuesday they **Share a Scary Spooky Story**, on Wednesday the **Decorate Your Hearts Out**, Thursday is **Pumpkin Madness**, Friday is **Best Dressed**, and we round out the week with the optional **Halloween Haunted Jaunt** (3-6pm)

We still need several can-do volunteers to make these happen. **Sign-up HERE**  
<https://signup.com/go/AsiRUMN> for one or more opportunities.

We also need all willing participants to **sign up for the Haunted Jaunt, Friday 10/30 3-6pm.** Sign-ups are now open for all ghosts and ghouls wanting to solve riddles and puzzles to find houses with treats during the Halloween Jaunt! Sign up HERE  
<https://signup.com/go/AsiRUMN> to read the waiver. Put in your student's name, and select your starting time. In order to keep crowds to minimum we ask the you respect the start times, follow clues in order, wear masks, and of course physically distance if you come upon others solving their riddles!

\*The Halloween Jaunt is not part of the Spirit Contest.

**Our parent volunteer ask is:**

- **10-20 more pumpkins.** When you pick up a pumpkin for your child, can you get one more and support the overworked and frazzled parent that forgot to get one? We have all been there!
- **Four more houses/locations.** We need a few more houses for kids to visit during the Halloween Jaunt. These are the sites, where you (or volunteers - see below) would be willing to hand out treats in a COVID safe way, masked, socially distant etc.
- **10 or more volunteers** to help hand out treats so the folk supplying the house can take their kids out!
- **2 volunteers** to decorate a photo op spot at Arroyo for the Halloween Jaunt (Friday AM)
- **2 volunteers** to clean up the photo op spot after the Halloween Jaunt (Friday after 6PM)

## Reflections Contest “I Matter Because...” Deadline One Week Away!

Are you interested in creating your artistic interpretation of “I Matter Because..” in one or more of these six styles. The primary focus of the contest is on creative self-expression.

Students may enter up to two works of art. The six arts areas are as follows:

 Dance Choreography  Film Production  Literature

 Music Composition  Photography Arts  Visual Arts

Go to the website for more information and the submission link. Winning entries will be submitted to the regional contest.

[PTA Reflections Contest – For Students – Arroyo School](#)

\*\*\*Submissions deadline is November 2nd\*\*\*

## 10/18/20 - Parent Education Opportunities

**SCSD has a variety of parent education events happening in the next few weeks.** Please see below for opportunities to learn, get support, or discuss current topics and events in our community. All events will be virtual making them easy to attend from anywhere. I encourage you to take advantage of these great opportunities.

### Parent Education: Setting Limits & Boundaries with Our Children

Teresa Wace, Arroyo's outstanding Mental Health Associate from One Life Counseling will be providing 3 weeks of parent workshops on setting limits and boundaries with children. The three sessions will work well as a series but can also be stand-alone if you're only able to attend one. I really encourage you to participate as Teresa has some great suggestions to offer and it's helpful to hear from other parents as well. [Please sign up here](#) and a Zoom Link will be sent to you in advance of the session. All sessions will begin at 6:30 pm.

- **October 21: Setting limits and holding boundaries with our children** - This group is on how we create that parent "guard rail" for our children to help them feel safe, and learn to delay gratification. We will discuss how to help our children manage big feelings when limits are set. Please join us in a discussion of negotiating bottom lines, limit setting and the creation of an environment that fosters respectful adherence to boundaries. We believe that when a group of parents gather to share wisdom and support, the world becomes a better place as a result.
- **October 28: Setting limits and holding boundaries with our children** - This is a follow up meeting on how well we modeled limit setting and holding boundaries with our children. The intent is to listen to parents discuss what worked for them, to gain deeper understanding of new perspectives and approaches to hold that "guard rail" for our children. Please join us in a discussion of negotiating bottom lines, limit setting and the creation of an environment that fosters respectful adherence to boundaries. A group of parents gathered to share wisdom and support is how we change the world in small steps.
- **November 4: Setting limits and holding boundaries with our children** - Learn more about limit setting and the importance of holding structure, or containment for our children. Gain ideas for creating better listening behavior from children. Please join us in discussion of holding the bottom line, limit setting, and the creation of an environment that fosters respectful adherence to boundaries. They say it takes a village to raise a child. Please join your San Carlos School district community to gather, and to share parenting wisdom and support.

## Parent Education: Writer's Workshop

Join us for a virtual parent workshop to support your writers at home by our two literacy coaches. They will share routines, structures, and essentials to put in place at home, as well as strategies to help your child improve as a writer. There will also be time for questions and answers at the end.

- **Grades K-2:** Wednesday, October 21, 2020 @ 7pm - [K-2 Flyer](#) - [Zoom Link here](#)
- **Grades 3-8:** Thursday, October 22, 2020 @ 7pm - [3rd-8th Flyer](#) - [Zoom Link here](#)

## Parent Education: Navigating Emotionally Intense Conversations

On Thursday, October 22 Dr. Eran Magen, Founder for The Center for Supportive Relationships will share information about Navigating Emotionally Intense Conversations with Your Child or Teenager. Info & Tickets: <https://eranmagen2020carlmount.eventbrite.com>

Dr. Egan will be back October 30 at noon to host a virtual discussion group about strengthening communication. Info & Tickets: <https://parentforum4english2020.eventbrite.com>

## Parent Screening: The Social Dilemma

We tweet, we like, and we share— but what are the consequences of our growing dependence on social media? In the Netflix documentary, The Social Dilemma, Silicon Valley insiders reveal how social media is reprogramming civilization by exposing what's hiding on the other side of your screen. Take a look here at this [thought-provoking trailer](#). This is such an important topic, especially now that we (and our children) have become so dependent on the screen to stay connected both socially and academically. Join us for a screening and discussion of the documentary on Wednesday, October 28th from 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm (adults only). Parents and experts in the technology field will participate in a panel discussion of the film. Info & Tickets: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/social-dilemma-film-screening-tickets-122708407149>

## Parent Education Events planned for November include:

- [Conversations about Race and Systemic Racism](#)
- [Fostering Creativity in an Uncertain World](#).

## 10/18/20 - Eagle Eye

Dear Arroyo Families,

**SCSD has some wonderful parent education opportunities coming up in the next few weeks.** Please watch for a separate email with details on all of these offerings. All will be offered online making them easy to attend from anywhere. Please consider checking them out.



**Arroyo is planning an exciting week of Halloween events.** A huge thank you to our parent volunteers Jane Howie and Mara Violanti for coming up with some creative ways to make this unprecedented Halloween one to remember. We'll kick off the week with a virtual assembly on Monday, October 26 and conclude with a Haunted Halloween Jaunt on Friday afternoon. You can see additional details in the PTA section below. We've intentionally created a variety of ways to be involved and we'd love to see full participation from all of our Arroyo Eagles!

**As with so much of 2020, our holidays are going to look quite different this year,** but it is important to mark these occasions, especially with our children and to find creative alternatives to our traditional Halloween parties and parades. San Mateo County has released [guidelines for safe Halloween celebrations](#). Arroyo also supports the [Teal Pumpkin Project](#), raising awareness for food allergies and promoting inclusion of all trick-or-treaters.



**As I mentioned last week, October is Safety Month and digital safety is an important piece of that, now more than ever.** October 19-23 marks **Digital Citizenship Week**. As we are deep in distance learning, teachers have been teaching digital citizenship and safety since the start of the school year and students have been learning how to use their devices safely, responsibly and respectfully. WideOpenSchool provides some good resources for families to explore together:

- [Visit Interland, Grades 2-6](#) - Explore four islands in this game by Google that covers key digital citizenship topics like protecting privacy, sharing safely, and being kind online.
- [Digital Passport, Grades 3-5](#) - Explore some of the different elements of digital citizenship through these games. Pick one and play!
- [What's Cyberbullying?, Grades 3-5](#) - What counts as cyberbullying? Learn what it is, and what it isn't, and give kids important tools they'll need to combat the problem.

**As part of the October safety month, teachers will also be taking State mandated training in October.** Friday, October 23 will be a day of mostly independent work / asynchronous learning. Teachers will start the day with a morning meeting to lay out the expectations and work for the day and will be available through office hours at the end of the day to check in and answer any questions students may have. Teachers will be using the time during the day to complete the required safety training in compliance with California State guidelines and will follow up next week with more information about their plans for the class on October 23.

**Picture Makeup day will be on November 6th.** Students who were not able to make it or would like to retake a picture should plan to attend. We will be following the same procedures from our last Picture Day and will send a reminder with more details as it gets closer.

Warmly,  
Mindy Shelton



Principal  
mshelton@scsdk8.org

## 10/11/20 - Eagle Eye

Dear Arroyo Families,

**Thank you to all of you who attended our student-led goal setting conferences.** I have heard some great feedback about the goals your children developed, and we appreciate your partnership as we work together to help your child be successful. Thanks also to those who attended our coffee chat on Friday morning. It has been a wonderful way to build our Arroyo community. Our next one will be on Friday, November 20 at 9:00 am. Please plan to join us.

**We would also love to see you at our PTA meeting this Wednesday at 9:30 am.** More details and the link to register is in the PTA section below. We'll be joined by local pediatrician Tara Tanaka who will be sharing information about [Wait Until 8th](#), a national campaign urging families to hold off on giving kids smartphones until 8th grade. Obviously times are different right now but at Arroyo, students are not permitted to use their cell phones on campus. We understand the desire to get your child a cell phone for emergency purposes, please consider holding off on allowing your child to have any kind of social media, even programs that claim to be "child safe." You will likely hear from your child something to the effect of... "Everyone has a cell phone. I'm the ONLY one that doesn't." I can assure you that's not true and that your child will be just fine without it. If you feel strongly about them needing a phone, please consider a flip phone that doesn't have all of the power and capability of a smartphone.

**October is Safety Month.** Each year we join other Californians in participating in the International [Great Shakeout Day](#) which is always the third Thursday of October, October 15 this year. We have learned this past year to be prepared for anything and preparing for earthquakes is an important part of living in the Bay Area. As with any year, we can "Shakeout" when and where we want, whether that's at home, work, school, or perhaps through a video conference with people working or taking classes from home. We can and should still practice how to be safe when the earth shakes, especially when your situation changes.

**This year, on October 15 at 12:30 pm, those of us on campus will pause to participate in a Drop, Cover, and Hold-on Drill from our [San Mateo County Big Five Protocols](#).** We will not be doing this drill live on Zoom but encourage families to consider their own emergency response plans and to discuss and practice those procedures with children sometime that day.

Each year the Arroyo staff reviews, updates and practices our emergency plans in accordance with the Big Five protocols developed by the San Mateo County Coalition for Safe Schools and Communities. We encourage you to do the same. The [2020-21 Big Five Community Packet](#) has information to help guide you in the process. None of us want to be involved in a real emergency, but practicing and being prepared will be key in keeping everyone safe.

**As part of the October safety month, teachers will also be taking State mandated training in October.** This year the list has grown to include safety training around Covid health practices in addition to normally required yearly training. In order for teachers to complete this training, Friday, October 23 will be a day of mostly independent work / asynchronous learning. Teachers will start the day with a morning meeting to lay out the expectations and work for the day and will be available through office hours at the end of the day to check in and answer any questions students may have. Teachers will be using the time during the day to complete the required safety training in compliance with California State guidelines and will follow up next week with more information about their plans for the class on October 23.

**There's still time to shop the Central/Arroyo Book Fair.** Don't forget to check out our [virtual book fair](#) going on now. Remind your child to record a book recommendation and watch recommendations from others [on our Flipgrid site](#). I love seeing their recommendations and feedback to each other.

**Remember there is no school this Monday due to a local holiday.** Enjoy the extra day to relax and spend time together as a family.

Warmly,  
Mindy Shelton  
Principal  
[mshelton@scsdk8.org](mailto:mshelton@scsdk8.org)

## 10/8/20 - Arroyo Reminders

### **No School on Monday, October 12**

Reminder that classes will not be held on Monday, October 12 due to a local holiday.

### **Parent Coffee Chat**

Please join us tomorrow at 9:00 am for a parent coffee chat. Mrs. Shelton will answer questions and we'll spend some time in breakout rooms getting to know other parents in the Arroyo community. Use the following link to join our Zoom session.

<https://scsdk8.zoom.us/j/95829749645?pwd=U2V6ZmdtbktBNTFmUlh6dy9OMkc1QT09>

Meeting ID: 958 2974 9645 Passcode: 941074

### **Shop the Central/Arroyo Book Fair**

Don't forget to check out our [virtual book fair](#) going on now. Remind your child to record a book recommendation and watch recommendations from others [on our Flipgrid site](#) -

I hope you have all enjoyed your goal setting conference. Have a great 3-day weekend!

## **10/4/20 - Eagle Eye**

Dear Arroyo Families,

**This week we begin our Student-Led conferences.** Please be sure you and your children have signed up for your conference. Teachers will do their best to stick to the time schedule but please be patient if you find yourself in a Zoom waiting room for a moment while they wrap up another conversation. This is a great opportunity to support your child in taking ownership over their learning. It is important for them to begin to understand how they learn, what they need, and how to ask for help. Conferences will focus on goals that students have set for themselves and they'll be taking time throughout the trimester to reflect on their progress and assess their own learning.

### **Students will have minimum days this week, ending at 12:30, to allow for conferences.**

5th grade students will still have PE & electives at 11:30, followed by independent work until 12:30 as usual. 4th graders will have independent work time from 11:30-12:30. 4th grade Art and Tinkering & Tech will meet at 12:00 on their regularly scheduled days. PE and the music elective are taught by outside contractors who are unable to adjust their schedules so those classes will still happen at their usual times but are optional for students to attend.

**Please join me on Friday at 9:00 for a parent coffee chat.** I'll answer any questions you have and we'll spend some time getting to know other parents and building our community. See the PTA section for the Zoom information.

**Our virtual book fair is happening now.** Please be sure to [browse the selection](#) and purchase some books. The book fair is a great way to support the Central/Arroyo PTA and get some great books for your child to enjoy.

Have a great week!

Mindy Shelton

Principal  
[mshelton@scsdk8.org](mailto:mshelton@scsdk8.org)

## 10/3/20 Central/Arroyo Virtual Book Fair is HERE!!!

Calling all readers... the Central/Arroyo Scholastic Virtual "Time Travel" Book Fair is finally here!!! The Book Fair is completely online, so shopping will be super easy!!

Just click [HERE](#) to browse your favorite titles. There are over 5,000 titles to choose from, over 1,000 titles for \$5 and under and several Spanish & Bilingual titles.

Check out these fun videos to see what's new and exciting for all your readers at home!

· Middle School Titles:

[https://players.brightcove.net/1543299976/LG9eJZeIF\\_default/index.html?playlistId=1666421958898426599](https://players.brightcove.net/1543299976/LG9eJZeIF_default/index.html?playlistId=1666421958898426599)

· Elementary Titles: <https://bcove.video/2zoSgmB>

Check out these cool digital flyers to see some additional fun picks!

· Middle School Digital Flyer for Fall 2020 selection:

<https://bookfairsfiles.scholastic.com/flippingbooks/F20-MS-booklist/F20-MS-booklist.html#p=1>

· Elementary Digital Flyer for Fall 2020 selection:

<https://bookfairsfiles.scholastic.com/flippingbooks/F20-SBF-booklist/F20-SBF-booklist.html#p=1>

Thank you in advance for your support! Funds raised from the Book Fair support the Central/Arroyo PTA and the Library. If you have any questions please contact Kristy Ettinger ([kristy.ettinger@gmail.com](mailto:kristy.ettinger@gmail.com)), Julie Ledford ([juliej74@gmail.com](mailto:juliej74@gmail.com)) or Stephanie Brill ([sibrill@gmail.com](mailto:sibrill@gmail.com)).

Happy shopping! Don't be afraid to teleport into the world of reading and escape into a new book! Time is a-ticking...

## 9/27/20 - Eagle Eye

Dear Arroyo Families,

**Thank you all for making Picture Day a wonderful success!** It was so nice to see all your children's smiling faces. If you haven't had a chance to order photos yet there are two options.

You can pre-order by Monday, 9/28 by going to [mylifetouch.com](http://mylifetouch.com), entering the Picture ID # EVTFVHS3K and selecting Arroyo School, or you can wait until you receive the proofs in a few weeks and follow the directions that will be included.

**Now that we're settling into school a bit more we'll begin offering our student leadership experiences.** Classes are currently selecting their Eagle Council representatives which will kick off at the beginning of October. Once they've had a chance to get rolling we'll hold a student assembly to kick off our student led clubs and have our first virtual spirit week. Our clubs will need some parent support so if you can spare an hour or so a week, watch for a chance to sign up next month.

**Our virtual book fair is coming up next week.** It's a great opportunity to get books in student's hands and support our school at the same time. Please see the PTA section below for more details and watch for information coming up soon for ways to get kids involved in sharing book recommendations with each other.

**Last week you saw our letter about Student-Led Conferences and our plans for the week of October 5th -9th.** As with in-person learning, students will have minimum days all week, ending school at 12:30 p.m. Teachers will be sending out conference sign ups for families to meet throughout the week. In order for teachers to have time to prepare, students will have asynchronous (independent) work time from 11:30-12:30. Students should be working on various projects and activities during this time. We're still working on our PE & Elective schedule for that week since we need to align with both Central's schedule and some outside vendors. I'll share more about that as soon as possible.

**We look forward to having conversations about where your child is and helping them shape their academic and personal goals.**

Warmly,  
Mindy Shelton  
Principal  
[mshelton@scsdk8.org](mailto:mshelton@scsdk8.org)

## 9/22/20 - Student Goal Setting Conferences

As we shared at Back to School Night, one of our goals for upper elementary is to help students take ownership of their learning. We do this in a variety of ways each day; by involving them in setting goals, monitoring their progress, & knowing what they need to do to reach the next level.

Student-Led conferences are a great opportunity for students to share their goals and progress and collaborate with parents and teachers around this process.

Student-Led conferences will take place the week of October 5th-9th. Teachers will be reaching out to schedule a time with each family. It is critical for students to be present for the conference and be a leader in the process. Helping students take ownership over their learning increases attention to work, support for when students struggle, and pride in the final product.

- Research tells us that engaging students in the learning process and having them set personal goals increases student achievement and responsibility for their learning. Children learn at different paces and in different ways, thriving when they can practice with guidance at a level just beyond their independent “learning zone”.
- Students need to develop study skills and work habits that will lead them to create a strong sense of agency and ownership of their learning.
- When students own their own learning and start to see that they can achieve the goals that they set for themselves, it is very motivating and engaging. This also helps students to make larger academic jumps as they remain focused on their growth and learning.

Another way we will be encouraging student ownership is through our report cards. Our 4th and 5th grade teachers developed a standards-based report card that incorporates student-centered language and continuity with our Social Emotional Learning expectations. We will send out more information in November in advance of report cards being sent home.

We’ve put together the chart below to help you understand the differences in the purpose and structure of goal-setting conferences and report cards. You can also view the chart [here](#).

## What to Expect...

	Student-Led Conferences	Report Cards
<b>Purpose</b>	Teacher, child and parent collaborate on creating goals for the child to accomplish by the end of the school year. Goals may pertain to social/emotional needs, academics, and/or student independence depending on the needs of the child.	Teachers provide a report of academic progress three times during the school year. This is to inform both the student and their families about the student's progress towards mastery of standards
<b>Information Given</b>	Teacher will share child's progress towards building their foundation for learning, which include the 5 C's and a Mindset for Learning. Evidence may be both anecdotal and data driven. It may be provided via discussion and/or student work.	Data shows child's progress towards mastery of grade-level standards. Evidence is assessment-driven.  Note: Mastery of grade-level standards is expected by the <b>end</b> of the year. Report cards in November and March mark progress towards mastery.
<b>Teacher's Role</b>	Teacher shares observations about what the child is doing well, and where he/she needs to grow. The teacher will share data on their recommendations for goals. They will offer ideas for support.	Teacher administers benchmark assessments in reading, writing and math. Based on assessments, teacher marks where the child is in mastering grade-level standards. Teacher shares report card with the student, so they are able to share their progress with their parents at home.
<b>Student's Role</b>	Child sets an/a academic/social goal(s). They take ownership towards reaching their goal through collaboration with the teacher and parent. They share concrete steps they plan to take in order to achieve their own goals.	Child reflects on the progress shown on their report card with their parents. They celebrate successes and continue to work on areas in which they need to improve. They reflect on the goals set in the conferences and track progress.
<b>Parent's Role</b>	Parents share their hopes and questions with the teacher and student and provide input on their child's goals. Parents communicate what strategies have worked in the past.	Parents review grade-level progressions and goals from October conference, and celebrate their progress. Parents sign report card envelope and sends back to the teacher.

We look forward to our continued partnership in supporting your children.

Alex Friel & Mindy Shelton  
Principals

## 9/20/20 - Eagle Eye

Dear Arroyo Families,

**Happy Fall!** This is my favorite time of year. Pumpkins, leaves, cooler days and nights all make for a wonderful season. It's also great to have a return to healthier air quality. I hope you can find some time this weekend to get outside and enjoy a family activity. For those celebrating Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, I wish you Shana Tova. Fall is a great time to reflect on the year behind us and begin to think about the new year ahead. At school we will begin talking about setting goals for the year and reflecting on how we've done on past goals in preparation for our Goal Setting Conferences next month.

"Autumn shows us how good it is to let things go" - Anonymous

**I want to remind everyone that Picture Day is coming up this Friday.** Please refer to the [letter I sent out last week](#) with the schedule and procedures for the day. You should be receiving information from Lifetouch in the next few days about ordering. Please try your best to make the time provided, it shouldn't take more than 5-10 minutes. We will have a make up day on November 6, but we'd like to try and get everyone in this week if possible.

**As our students spend more and more time online, I want to remind families of the importance in having discussions about internet safety.** Due to changes in our learning environment, we have updated our [Acceptable Use Agreement](#) in the district. Please be certain to review and share with your children.

**Some important highlights of the [Acceptable Use Agreement](#) include:**

- Students should not share passwords with anyone except guardians. This includes not sharing passwords with siblings or friends.
- Students are responsible for the proper use of their account at all times.
- Students shall not have any expectation of privacy in any use of district technology - Be appropriate in using any district technology including any Google Suite Apps and/or Seesaw.
- Passwords created for or used on any district technology are the sole property of the district and should not be changed.
- **Parents and students may not record audio or video footage of any class, including a distance learning class, without the consent of both the teacher and principal. They may also not take any screenshots or photographs of live meetings or classes.**

Thank you for taking the time to review this important set of expectations with your children. Don't forget to regularly check our [Arroyo Distance Learning Site](#). Our homepage celebrates students who earned Soar Cards this week and those who are celebrating birthdays. Don't forget that you can fill out [Soar Cards](#) too to acknowledge your child be Responsible, Respectful and Safe.

Warmly,

Mindy Shelton  
Principal  
[mshelton@scsdk8.org](mailto:mshelton@scsdk8.org)



# 9/17/20 - Arroyo Picture Day

Dear Arroyo Families,

**On Friday, September 25th we will be having picture day from 8:30-4:00 p.m.** We have been working closely with Lifetouch to bring a Covid-safe experience to our school.

**We have set the schedule up to be one classroom per half hour**, which provides enough time for students to come and get their pictures taken. Pictures will be taken in the Arroyo Learning Commons. Please refer to the schedule below.

**We ask that you follow these guidelines.**

7. Complete the [Health Screener](#) on the day of your child's visit
8. Come to the Arroyo Parking lot
- 9. Parents, please stay in your cars at all times**
10. Students will get out and walk through the gate to the blacktop and around into our outdoor corridor where they will follow the arrows and wait for their turn on spots marked 6 feet apart.
11. One student at a time (for each of the two cameras) will be allowed into the Learning Commons to get their picture taken
12. Students will follow arrows to exit the building on the library side and walk down the other outdoor corridor and back out to the parking lot to meet their parents. (This process shouldn't take more than a few minutes.)

**We ask that you come during your time slot ONLY**, and not during other students' times in order to follow all Health Department Guidelines. If you are unable to make the time provided, there will be a make up day on November 6. (The only exception to that will be for siblings - contact Mindy Shelton at [mshelton@scsdk8.org](mailto:mshelton@scsdk8.org) if you have 2 children at Arroyo and would like to bring them at the same time)

Prior to coming, please [review this document](#) from the school district and these videos provided by Lifetouch

Fall 2020 Video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kWaZJEKrTA4>

Picture day Video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LevtvXI9I2Q&feature=youtu.be>

COVID Processes:

<https://lifetouch.com/newpicturedayexperience/?preview=true>

**You will receive picture ordering information directly from Lifetouch.** Teachers are aware of the picture schedules and will not be holding Zoom sessions during their class's time.

Time	Class
8:45 - 9:15	Cheatham
9:15 - 9:45	Crettol
9:45 - 10:15	Murphy
10:15 - 10:45	Sevilla
10:45 - 11:15	Skinner
11:15 - 11:45	Lamb
11:45 - 12:15	Mooney
12:30 - 1:10	Lifetouch Lunch Break
1:15 - 1:45	Robinson
1:45 - 2:15	Naughton
2:15 - 2:45	Murray

## 9/15/20 Arroyo School Directory

The PTA is pleased to announce that the **2020-21 Arroyo School Directory is ready!** If you provided an email address in InfoSnap and agreed to have your information shared in the Arroyo directory, your contact information is included. We've also included families from Arroyo who are participating in the Connections Year-Long Distance Learning Program this year.

Please note that the directory is for personal use only and should not be used for any form of solicitation. Our hope is that it makes it easier for you to connect with other families in our community. The Directory will not be posted online so please save a copy for your records.

Special thanks to Vanessa Poon for putting the directory together.

(NOTE: Link removed for privacy of families. Contact Mindy Shelton at [mshelton@scsdk8.org](mailto:mshelton@scsdk8.org) to be emailed a copy).

## 9/15/20 Mid-Week Announcements

### **PTA Meeting - Wednesday, September 16th at 7pm- Special Topic- Art in Action!**

Margaret Sena, Ph.D., is a parent at Arroyo and part of a working group of volunteers who are planning how to deliver the Art in Action program via distance learning to students at Arroyo and in Grade 6 at Central this year. She will provide an overview of the benefits of the program, details about how parent docents will teach lessons and provide supplies to students, and update the audience about how they can help or be involved.

#### Join us for this Arroyo/Central PTA Meeting

- When: Sep 16, 2020 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)
- Register in advance for this meeting [here](#) (note corrected link)
- After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

### **School Site Council Representatives Wanted**

Are you looking for a way to get involved and contribute to plans at Arroyo & Central this year? Sign up to be considered for our School Site Council (SSC).

What is the SSC? A group of teachers, parents, and classified staff that serve a two year term collaborating with the principals of both Arroyo/CMS to review school improvement programs and plans. They provide quality feedback on the School Safety Plan, School Site Plan, and the district LCAP.

What do I need to do? Attend meetings throughout the school year. This year we will be meeting on Mondays from 3:30-4:30, generally on the 3rd Monday of the month except where we've had to adjust for holidays, etc. Here are the dates we plan to meet:

- Sept 21, Oct 19, Nov 16, Jan 11, Feb 8, March 15, April 19, & May 17

How do I sign up or get more information? Email Mindy Shelton ([mshelton@scsdk8.org](mailto:mshelton@scsdk8.org)) or Tom Domer ([tdomer@scsdk8.org](mailto:tdomer@scsdk8.org)) to express your interest and/or ask questions. Our first meeting is next week so don't delay! I look forward to hearing from you!

### **Break for a Change**

Central and Arroyo are joining forces to provide parents an opportunity to work together for Racial Justice. Tom Domer & Mindy Shelton would like to welcome parents to join them for the next 6 Wednesdays from 4:00-5:00 pm to discuss short readings and stories that address racism and inequity. This group will be an open space to talk about how we create a safe school and community for all families. Our first meeting will be Wednesday, September 23 from 4:00-5:00 pm (followed by every Wednesday through October 28). [Please RSVP on the form](#) to receive information about our first short reading and the Zoom link.

## 9/13/20 - Eagle Eye

Dear Arroyo Families,

**Mid-September is always a bit of a challenging time in schools.** The honeymoon period is over, summer is well behind us and the reality of the school year sets in. Teachers and students are doing the hard work of assessing academic levels, solidifying norms and routines, and starting to dive into curriculum, but we're not quite ready for the more interesting, deep learning that comes a little bit later. It's not uncommon for kids to report feeling "bored" or less interested than they usually are. Add to that the challenges of distance learning, a global pandemic, and being stuck inside due to bad air quality, and it definitely makes for challenging times. If your child is expressing these feelings, it's important to listen to them, empathise, and reassure them that they are not alone and it's normal to feel this way. Reflect on hard times in the past and remind them that they'll get through this too and have a lot of support in place. It's hard as a parent too. Hang in there! You are not alone and we're all working together to get through it.

**This week we introduced a new tool called [Sown to Grow](#), a platform designed to empower students to set goals, reflect on strategies, and learn how to learn.** We'll be incorporating several of the goal setting modules throughout the year but we're starting with a weekly emotional check-in where students will respond to a prompt about how they're feeling this week and reflect on any strategies that help them along the way. Teachers, our school counselor, and I will all be monitoring these check ins and will reach out to parents if any concerns arise.

**Now that students are familiar with our school-wide behavior expectations, we want to introduce some positive reinforcement for students who are following those expectations.** At school, we use [Soar Cards](#) to acknowledge students who are being Responsible, Respectful, and Safe. This year we've developed electronic Soar Cards, and we're inviting you to participate in the process. If YOU see your child doing something Responsible, Respectful, or Safe, [please fill out this quick Google Form to tell us about it](#). Any time a child receives a Soar Card, they'll get an email to the student, parent, and teacher

acknowledging their good work. We'll list weekly recipients on our [Arroyo DL Website](#) (where you can also find a link to the form), and will randomly draw cards for a small prize.

**Speaking of our [Arroyo DL Website](#), please be sure to check it often.** We've added a spot to celebrate birthdays and a new challenge project for students. Teachers also update their page each week with their schedule and announcements.

**Mark your calendars for September 25 for Arroyo Picture Day.** Students will be invited on campus one class at a time to take their school photo. We'll send a schedule and a list of safety precautions next week. Whether you plan to order or not, we do need all students to take a photo. We use them as a part of our student information system and also for our school yearbook. Make-up photos will happen on November 6.

Warmly,  
Mindy Shelton  
Principal  
[mshelton@scsdk8.org](mailto:mshelton@scsdk8.org)

## 9/8/20 - Rolling Power Outages

Dear Arroyo Families,

I hope you enjoyed some extra relaxation this weekend and were able to find ways to escape the heat and smokey air. I wanted to send some information in advance of rolling power outages this week so we have clear protocol to follow in the event of teachers or students being dropped from Zoom calls.

**If students are on a Zoom call and the teacher gets dropped from the call** (either due to power outage, internet issues, etc.), students should log out of the call and check Google Classroom. They can continue with asynchronous/independent work and watch for a post from their teacher with next steps. If a teacher is able to, they will either post an announcement or send an email with an update, but it may not be possible for them to do that right away. As soon as they are able, they will post a message for students to log back in.

**If students are on a Zoom call and get dropped**, they should attempt to log back in but if power or internet outages make that impossible, they should communicate with their teacher as soon as possible and the teacher will do their best to help them get caught up.

**Please take a few minutes to discuss this with your child so they know what to do.**

Teachers will be reviewing in the morning but it's helpful to hear it more than once.

Thank you for your continued patience and flexibility.

Warmly,  
Mindy Shelton  
Principal

## 9/6/20 - Eagle Eye

Dear Arroyo Families,

**Thank you for your continued support and partnership.** With a few weeks under our belt, we're able to get a sense of what's working well and what we need to adjust. Unfortunately there's no "one size fits all" approach and we appreciate your communication in helping us create the best program we can.

**One of the challenges of our current environment is maintaining our sense of community.**

Teachers are doing a great job of building that community within their classes, but it's also important that we maintain our school-wide culture and community. One of the highlights of my first weeks of school has been visiting classes and spending some time getting to know our 4th graders, reconnecting with the fifth graders, and reminding them that I'm here for them if they need me. Our school counselor Ms. Jobak is also available, and the two of us will be hosting a weekly lunch bunch on Fridays at 12:30 that students are able to drop into any time they'd like. Ms. Jobak sent students an email with the Zoom link. Please encourage your child to drop in some time. We'll eat our lunches together, chat, and even play some games.

**Building community amongst parents is important as well.** With that in mind, Our PTA and I will be hosting a virtual parent coffee social this Friday at 9:00 am. Please drop in for an opportunity to get to know other Arroyo parents so that we can all support each other. See the PTA section below for more details and the Zoom link. I'd also like to thank our room parents (and room parent coordinators Beth Rowell and Leslie Ostrander) who will be helping to connect families within each class. Watch for emails from your class's room parents who will be setting up a way to share contact information and connect socially outside of class time. We're still looking for a few more room parents so [visit our volunteer page](#) or check in with your child's teacher if you're interested.

**Remember that Monday is Labor Day and school will not be in session.** I always find that this comes at a perfect time when the reality of being back in school sets in and we're all in

need of a little extra break, especially this year. Enjoy the extra time (especially since our air quality seems to be returning to normal).

Warmly,  
Mindy Shelton  
Principal  
[mshelton@scsdk8.org](mailto:mshelton@scsdk8.org)

## 8/31/20 - Eagle Eye

Dear Arroyo Families,

**Thank you for attending Back to School Night last week.** We appreciate your participation and this year, more than ever, it is important that we build a strong partnership between families and teachers. If you weren't able to attend, please be sure to look through your teacher's slides or recorded presentation so you know what to expect for the coming year. [Our Arroyo Distance Learning Website](#) is another great resource for staying up to date with your child's classroom.

**With our first full week and our Back to School Night behind us, we will begin to settle into the school year this week.** We've gotten a chance to adjust to being back to school, figure out our Zoom links, and begin to get to know each other. That doesn't mean it will be smooth sailing. We know there will be bumps in the road, technology challenges, and emotional ups and downs for all of us. [This article](#) was shared with me recently and it resonated, both for me personally and in conversations I've had with many members of our community. It's important that we help our kids navigate through these feelings as well. As parents, teachers, and leaders, we need to model healthy ways to manage the emotions and stress that we're all facing right now, and show our children a lot of empathy in all that they are feeling and experiencing. By working together we can help our kids develop strong resilience and perseverance, along with good coping skills.

**Our district nursing team recently shared this [SCSD Pandemic Handbook for Distance Learning](#).** Please take a moment to look through it as it has a number of additional resources for families.

As always, please reach out if there's anything we can do to support your family.

Warmly,  
Mindy Shelton  
Principal  
[mshelton@scsdk8.org](mailto:mshelton@scsdk8.org)

## 8/23/20 - Eagle Eye

Dear Arroyo Families,

**We made it through the first week of smoke days and distance learning.** If we've learned anything about 2020 it's that plans will be ever changing! Thank you all for your patience and flexibility as we continually pivot!

**Monday morning we start our [daily instructional program](#).** School will begin at 8:40 a.m. Students are doing a great job logging in and being ready to go. Please note - teachers take attendance during the first 20 minutes of school. We will call you if your child is marked absent. If your child is sick or needs to miss class for an appointment, please call our attendance line (650-632-8300) just as you would have in the past.

**We are excited to launch our [Arroyo Distance Learning Support Site](#).** This site will include all of our principal updates, parent support information, technology help, and student extension activities. You can access google classroom from here, and view other classroom specific announcements. It is still a work in progress so please be patient as we get everything added but we hope it will be a valuable one-stop resource for you. I recommend you bookmark this site and check it daily for updates.

**On Monday morning I'll be hosting grade level assemblies to review our school wide behavior expectations with students.** 5th grade will meet at 9:00 and 4th grade at 10:00. Teachers will be sharing Zoom links and also reviewing these expectations throughout the week. We'll talk about what it looks like to be Responsible, Respectful and Safe through various aspects of school and the platforms we'll be using this year. I'll be [sharing more information here](#) about how you can support this at home.

**PE, Elective & Exploratory Wheel Classes will begin on Monday.** All classes will rotate on an A/B schedule with A Days on Mondays & Thursdays, and B Days on Tuesdays & Fridays. You can see a [full schedule here](#).

- 4th graders will participate in an Exploratory Wheel of classes that rotate each trimester. This year's wheel includes Music, Art, and Tinkering & Tech and students will participate as a homeroom group. On Monday your child will receive their schedule from their teachers. Students will be provided all the necessary links on their daily schedule.
- 5th graders will participate in a year-long elective which was selected last spring. Classes include Band, Orchestra, and Tinkering & Tech (formerly Makerspace). Elective teachers should have already reached out with Google Classroom Codes and Zoom Links.
- 4th and 5th graders will be provided live instruction from Legarza PE teachers on zoom twice a week opposite their Electives. Your child's teacher will be giving them links and



information about how and when they log on. 5th graders are scheduled from 11:30-12:00 twice a week, and 4th graders are scheduled from 2:30-3:00 twice a week.

Here is the page where you can find [the weekly lesson topics](#).

Please note that the elective survey sent over the summer was intended to gauge interest in the program. All students have been enrolled in an elective/exploratory/PE class regardless of your response to the survey. We encourage you to give it a try but if you would prefer to opt out (or change your mind throughout the year, please email me so I can update our rosters.

**On Thursday, August 27 we invite you to our virtual Back to School Night.** Classroom teachers will begin their presentations at 7:00 and will share a Zoom link to their class. Elective/Exploratory teachers will be sending pre-recorded videos with similar information for their class. There will not be a school-wide session this year as that information was shared at our parent orientation on August 17. If you missed it, [you can view the presentation here](#).

**Friday, August 28 will be a minimum day, ending at 12:30.**

**Please also join us for our first PTA meeting on the year on Wednesday, August 26 at 9:30.** Please see below for more information.

Thank you all once again for your flexibility, kindness and trust as we embark on this new journey together. Please let us know if there's anything we can do to help your child have the best experience possible.

Warmly,  
Mindy Shelton  
Principal  
[mshelton@scsdk8.org](mailto:mshelton@scsdk8.org)

## 8/18/20 - Arroyo First Day Reminders

Dear Arroyo Families,

We're excited and ready to kick off the school year tomorrow! Please read below for some reminders about this week.

**Thank you to everyone who attended our parent orientation last night.** In case you missed it, you can [watch the recording here](#) and view the [slide presentation here](#).

**Tomorrow we will kick off our day with a brief Zoom assembly to welcome everyone to Arroyo and the 2020-21 school year.** Following that each classroom will have a Zoom session to begin getting to know each other. The rest of the day will be time for our one-on-one meet &

greet. Students may be assigned an independent project to work on throughout the day but we will not be having any other class sessions. Thursday and Friday will follow a similar schedule with a class Zoom session in the morning followed by independent work while teachers meet with individual students. **Our [regular schedule](#) will begin on Monday.** Teachers will be sharing Zoom links and a more specific daily schedule for their class.

**When coming on campus, it is important to follow all of our health procedures.** While we are excited to have your entire family a part of our community, we are following the County Health guidelines and we ask that **only one parent** accompany their child to campus. We also ask that you please refrain from bringing siblings.

### **Prior to Coming on Campus**

1. Review the [procedures for coming on campus](#)
2. Take temperatures of all family members coming to campus 30 minutes prior to coming on campus (**DO NOT come to campus if anyone in your household has a temperature or other symptoms** - email your teacher to schedule an alternate time over Zoom)
3. Complete the [health screening form here](#).

### **Coming on Campus**

1. All family members must wear a face covering
2. Please sanitize your hands at the hand sanitizing stations on entry
3. Enter and exit from designated entry points
4. If you arrive early, please wait on the blacktop area to allow time and privacy for others during their meetings.
5. Maintain Physical distance from all others on campus
6. Do not congregate on campus - once you have had your meeting please exit through the marked exit

**PTA will be setting up a “First Day Photo” area on campus.** Again, please practice safe social distancing when waiting to take your child’s picture. Look for the way to upload your photo to our school Google Photos Site so we can celebrate their first day.

**Please mark your calendars for Back to School Night on Thursday, August 27 at 7:00 pm.** This will happen over Zoom. More information will be shared soon. **Friday, August 28 will be a minimum day.**

We can’t wait to see everyone! As always, please reach out if you need anything.

Warmly,  
Mindy Shelton  
Principal  
[mshelton@scsdk8.org](mailto:mshelton@scsdk8.org)

## 8/16/20 - Eagle Eye

Dear Arroyo Families,

We're excited to kick off the school year! It may be a different kind of year than ever before but we're ready to get it going.

**Please join us Monday night at 7:00 pm for our Arroyo Orientation.** During that meeting, we'll share a bit about the Upper Elementary program & philosophy, talk about some important aspects of this year, and hear from our PTA about ways parents can get involved to support the school and our students. Please use the [Zoom link here](#) to join the call.

**On Wednesday, all students are invited to a brief School-Wide Kick-off assembly at 8:45 am.** A zoom link will be emailed to their school gmail account and shared by classroom teachers on their schedules. We ask that siblings attend together to make sure we don't exceed our maximum capacity. Immediately following that, teachers will be hosting their own classroom welcomes over Zoom. Watch for an email from your teacher with specific details.

**This week your child is invited to meet their teacher either via Zoom or in person.** Teachers will be sharing details and a schedule. It is important that you make every effort to attend one of the times available. If your meeting takes place over Zoom, your teacher and I will also arrange a time to come pick up materials. The materials provided will be needed for the duration of Distance Learning.

**When coming on campus, it is important to follow all of our health procedures.** While we are excited to have your entire family a part of our community, we are following the County Health guidelines and we ask that **only one parent** accompany their child to campus. We also ask that you please refrain from bringing siblings.

### **Prior to Coming on Campus**

4. Review the [procedures for coming on campus](#)
5. Take temperatures of all family members coming to campus 30 minutes prior to coming on campus (DO NOT come to campus if anyone in your household has a temperature or other symptoms - email your teacher to schedule an alternate time over Zoom)
6. Complete the [health screening form here](#).

### **Coming on Campus**

7. All family members must wear a face covering
8. Please sanitize your hands at the hand sanitizing stations on entry

9. Enter and exit from designated entry points
10. If you arrive early, please wait on the blacktop area to allow time and privacy for others during their meetings.
11. Maintain Physical distance from all others on campus
12. Do not congregate on campus - once you have had your meeting please exit through the marked exit

**PTA will be setting up a “First Day Photo” area on campus.** Again, please practice safe social distancing when waiting to take your child’s picture. Look for the way to upload your photo to our school Google Photos Site so we can celebrate their first day.

**Thank you for your feedback on the electives survey. Electives and PE will begin August 24th.** All students will be assigned to an elective and PE class but if it feels like it is too much for your child, please contact me to opt out. More information about electives and PE will be coming soon.

**We’re looking forward to a great year and look forward to having your family as a part of our Arroyo community!** Please reach out if there’s anything I can do to support your child.

Warmly,  
Mindy Shelton  
Arroyo Principal  
mshelton@scsdk8.org

## 8/13/2020 - Arroyo Updates & Video Link

Dear Arroyo Families,

**Thank you to those of you who were able to attend our Parent Education Night.** We appreciated your questions, comments, and ideas. We look forward to a successful school year! For those of you who were not able to attend the meeting, we did record the presentation and you can find the [video recording](#) here. You can also view the [slideshow](#). If you have any questions, please contact me at mshelton@scsdk8.org .

**Tomorrow you will be receiving your child’s classroom assignment.** Teachers will be following up with an introduction and overview of the first few days’ schedule.

**Please join me in welcoming a couple of new staff members to our team.** We’ll get our [staff page](#) of the [Arroyo website](#) updated with these additions as soon as possible.

- **Annabelle Ortiz** is our new Education Specialist. Annabelle worked at White Oaks last year and we're thrilled to have her joining us in Room 1.
- **Annick Tumolo** will serve as our Speech & Language Pathologist this year. Annick is a long-time member of our SCSD staff.

**Remember that we will be inviting families on campus during the first 3 days of school for a 15 minute physical distance meeting with the teacher.** This will be an important time to pick up your child's supplies, have your child meet their teacher, and take your first day of school picture. PTA will be providing an outdoor photo booth opportunity! Your teacher will be reaching out with more information and a schedule.

**Finally, mark your calendars for Monday August 17th @ 7:00 p.m. for our Welcome to Arroyo event.** This is a time to hear more about what to expect over the next month in our Distance Learning Model and hear how you can support our school through volunteering. Please use this [link](#) to join our call.

Warmly,  
Mindy Shelton  
Principal  
[mshelton@scsdk8.org](mailto:mshelton@scsdk8.org)

## 8/10/20 - Arroyo Updates & FAQs

Dear Arroyo Families,

We hope you're enjoying the final days of summer. We've been busy preparing and are excited for the start of the school year.

**We know that you have a lot of questions about how this year we'll look. We have compiled many of them into this [Frequently Asked Questions](#) document.** We hope you find it helpful.

**We're looking forward to our parent education event on Tuesday night at 7:00 pm - Setting Your Child Up For Success With Distance Learning.** We'll share some ideas and suggestions for setting expectations and helping your child set up their space and schedule. If you haven't already done so, please [RSVP here](#). A Zoom link will be sent to those who RSVP prior to Tuesday evening. The session will be recorded and shared for those unable to attend. Please keep in mind this is NOT a general information session, it will be specific to the topic of setting your child up for success. Please see our FAQs above and join us for our Virtual Parent Orientation Night on August 17.

**Our teachers have been participating in a variety of professional development opportunities** with topics ranging from creating virtual curriculum, engaging students through technology, trauma-informed practices in our “new normal,” and more. On Thursday we’ll be working together (virtually) to dive deeper into “Blended and Online Learning” with [Catlin Tucker](#).

**Many of you have asked about access to Chromebooks or Hotspots.** If your child needs a Chromebook, please complete this [form](#) and we will contact you for pick up between August 17th-21st.

**We expect class assignments to be emailed to families by Friday.** Our PTAs will be working to get out our school directory as quickly as possible after that. We’ll also be updating you with more information about the beginning of the school year.

Warmly,

Mindy Shelton  
Principal  
[mshelton@scsdk8.org](mailto:mshelton@scsdk8.org)

## 8/3/20 - August Updates from Arroyo

Dear Arroyo Families,

I hope this letter finds you well. This has, no doubt, been a one-of-a-kind summer and despite all of the unknowns, I am very excited to reconnect with you all. I understand that there are many questions that still need to be answered and while I may not be able to answer them all today, my goal is to keep you up-to-date on what we, as a staff, are working on in order to launch an engaging and inclusive start to the year.

In the coming weeks, we will be focused on the following key areas:

- Setting up families and students for Distance Learning success :
  - Suggested Daily Schedules
  - Class Assignments
  - Connecting with Teachers
  - Materials
  - Chromebook (Families in Need)
  - Parent Education/Support
- Supporting teachers and staff in their preparation for Distance Learning success::

- Professional development
  - District-Wide
  - School-Wide
  - Grade Level PLC's (Professional Learning Communities)

As challenging as last spring was for all of us, our sense of community did not falter. We truly are Stronger Together and it is this mindset that is crucial to have as we head into more uncharted territory. Our SCSD PTA/SCEF fundraising campaign this year is #TeamKid and isn't that the truth? Moving forward with our common goal of ensuring a positive learning experience for our students, we can do amazing things this Fall!

Warmly,

Mindy Shelton

[mshelton@scsdk8.org](mailto:mshelton@scsdk8.org)

[Arroyo School Website](#)

[SCSD 2020-21 Calendar](#)

### **Class Assignments**

In the next week, we will be finalizing the Connections program enrollment which will help us reconfigure classes at our school sites. Class assignments will be sent to families via email the week of August 10th. Class assignments are created based on several factors that both the teachers and administration use to create balanced classes. This helps ensure that teachers will be able to meet their students' needs throughout the year.

Since we are starting in distance learning, students will not be put into A/B sections at this time. Once teachers are familiar with all students they will help to divide the class into two sections equitably prior to going back to in-person instruction.

### **Schedules**

We will be working with teachers to create schedules that include whole class virtual meetings, small group instruction, 1:1 support, and independent work for students. Students will have a daily schedule to follow and our goal is to keep the whole and small group zoom sessions for students on a consistent schedule so that you can plan around those times in your day.

### **Connecting with teachers and peers**

It is of the utmost importance that students feel connected to their "classroom," peers, and teacher. Building relationships with their teachers is an essential part of the beginning of the year. We are working on a plan to hopefully provide a live connection with teachers the first week of school. You will be receiving communication on this later in August.

Teachers will spend the first few weeks of school intentionally building community amongst the class. This is something we do every year, but it is especially important this year. Students will need extra time to get to know each other and build the trust they need to work together throughout the year. We know this is especially important for our 4th graders who are coming together from two different elementary schools. We'll also be working with our PTA to create some virtual social opportunities for families to connect.

### **Materials/Chromebooks**

We are working on a plan for supplies and materials to be provided to families during the first week of school, including but not limited to mini whiteboards, markers and crayons, as well as curriculum materials and a Chromebook for families in need of a device. A more complete list will be sent out to families closer to the start of school. A separate email will be sent out to survey families on their needs for a device.

### **Professional Development**

Teachers are being provided a comprehensive list of robust professional development during the month of August. The PD provided will be designed to support their planning for small group instruction, student engagement, use of technology, and assessment.

### **Upcoming Events to Calendar** (more details will be sent separately)

- **Tuesday, August 11 - 7:00 pm - Upper Elementary Parent Education**  
**Setting Your Child Up For Success With Distance Learning** - we'll share some ideas and suggestions for helping your child set up their space and schedule, and help set expectations. Please [RSVP here](#) and include any questions you'd like us to address. A Zoom link will be sent to those who RSVP as the event gets closer. The session will be recorded and shared for those unable to attend.
- **Monday, August 17 - 7:00 pm - Arroyo Parent Orientation**  
What can you expect from the coming year. More information as it gets closer.
- **Wednesday-Friday, August 19-21 - Arroyo Welcome Week**  
Will include materials pick-up, meet & greet, community building, and virtual grade level assemblies. More information and a specific schedule will be sent home soon.

### **Plans Changing?**

If your child will not be attending Arroyo School or the SCSD Connections, please email Tracey in our school office as soon as possible ([tolazar@scsdk8.org](mailto:tolazar@scsdk8.org)). We're preparing for each and every seat! Thank you for your help.

### **Still Have Questions?**



We designed this quick [survey](#) to capture parents' outstanding questions. Please let us know what you still want to know!