

Shaffer Elementary School

August/September
2016

Smoke Signals

WELCOME TO THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR

"PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE"



I would like to welcome all our new families and welcome back all our returning families to another busy school year at Shaffer. We are happy to have your students with us and are honored that you have entrusted their educational needs to us, as well. We are dedicated to providing your children the best possible education and we all take our roles very seriously. There are many opportunities for students and families to be involved at Shaffer and we hope you will find this to be a warm and welcoming place. I want to make sure you and your child(ren) feel comfortable expressing your feelings, concerns, questions, etc. and I welcome the opportunity at any time to meet with you to discuss any issues you may wish to talk about. I try my best to have an open door policy, but at times it does not always work that way. (Unfortunately it can get busy!) However, please feel free to make an appointment or email me at any time so we can meet. I value your input and want you to know that your child's academic success is very important to me. At Shaffer School we strive to meet their needs.

There are many ways we provide information so that parents can be informed of happenings at Shaffer School. One way is to look at the beginning of each month for your child to bring home the monthly newsletter SMOKE SIGNALS. This school newsletter always has information about the coming month's events, activities, and important information. We also have an interactive website at: www.shafferschool.com We encourage you to utilize the website and your child's class page to find out information occurring in their individual classes as well as the school. We are also on Facebook. Please like our page: "Shaffer Elementary School". We strive to provide multiple means to share information with parents and the community. We also utilize an automated phone system to get information out to families. This year the system will also include emails and text messages with information, too.

Also new to Shaffer School this year is the ability for parents to check their child's assignments and grades online. You do not need to wait for the teacher to contact you or parent/teacher conferences to find out how your child is doing in class. You will have the ability to log into the gradebook system at any time to check their success. More information on how to access this will be sent home very soon.

I wish everyone a very good school year ahead. Thank you for your dedication to your child's education. Working together we can provide them with the ability to achieve.

Sincerely,

Terri Daniels, Superintendent/Principal

IMPORTANT DATES

- Tues. Aug. 16 PTO Meeting
4:30 in Staff Lounge
- Tues. Aug. 16 Board Meeting
6:00 in Room 12
- Thurs. Aug. 18 ELAC Meeting
6:00 in Room 1
- Wed. Aug. 31 Back To School
Night 5:30-7:00**
- Mon. Sept. 5 Labor Day
No School
- Wed. Sept 7 2 Hour Late Start
Teacher Collaboration
School starts at 10:15
- Tues. Sept. 20 PTO Meeting
4:30 in Staff Lounge
- Tues. Sept 20 Board Meeting
6:00 in Room 12
- Wed. Sept. 21 PARENT
INFORMATIONAL
NIGHT 6:00 in
Room 1
- Thurs. Sept 22 School Pictures
- Thurs. Sept 22 Cross Country
Meet
- Fri. Sept 23 Countywide
Inservice~NO
SCHOOL for
STUDENTS
- Mon. Sept. 26 Site Council
Meeting 5:00
In Room 1
- Tues. Sept 27 Title 1 Information
Meeting 4:30 p.m.
In Room 1
- Tues. Sept. 27 FAMILY STEM
NIGHT 6:00-7:30
- Thurs. Sept 29 Title 1 Information
Meeting 7:30 a.m.
In Room 1
- Thurs. Sept 29 Cross Country
Meet

BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT AND TAMALE FEED

Please plan to join us on WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31st, for **BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT** and **TAMALE FEED** sponsored by the Shaffer School ELAC (English Language Advisory Committee) to earn funds toward 6th grade outdoor camp.

Time: 5:30-7:00 p.m.

Come meet your child(ren)'s teacher(s) and hear what's in store for them this school year. More information will be sent home soon.



There are many opportunities this month for parents to gain information regarding education at Shaffer School; in Lassen County; in the state of California; and in the United States. Please plan to attend the following meetings to learn all that is happening and the changes occurring in education and what this means for your child(ren.)

- ◆ PTO (Parent Teacher Organization) meets the third Tuesday of each month at 4:30 p.m. in the Staff Lounge. Please come join the group and support the PTO community. New members are always welcome. The first meeting of the school year is Tuesday, Aug. 16.
- ◆ Board Meetings are also held the third Tuesday of each month. The Board meetings begin at 6:00 p.m. and are held in Room 12. The first Board Meeting of the year is on Tuesday, Aug. 16.
- ◆ ELAC (English Language Advisory Committee) is made up of parents with students who are designated English Learners. However, all are encouraged to attend. The first ELAC meeting of the year will be on Thursday, August 18 at 6:00 p.m. in Room 1.
- ◆ ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21ST, THERE WILL BE A PARENT INFORMATIONAL NIGHT TO INFORM PARENTS ABOUT ESSA (EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT); THE SHAFFER SCHOOL LCAP (LOCAL CONTROL ACCOUNTABILITY PLAN); THE MISSION/VISION OF SHAFFER SCHOOL; STATE TESTING AND OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION THAT IMPACTS EDUCATION IN CALIFORNIA AND AT SHAFFER SCHOOL. PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND THIS INFORMATIVE NIGHT. 6:00 P.M. IN ROOM 1. (Childcare will be provided)
- ◆ Site Council is a group of parents and school staff who work together to develop a plan on how best to spend federal funding in order to improve student achievement. If you are interested in attending the meetings they are open to all individuals. The first Site Council Meeting of the school year is scheduled for Monday, September 26 at 5:00 p.m. in Room 1.
- ◆ Schools that receive Title I funding must provide parents an opportunity to learn and understand the mandates that surround the purpose for this funding. There are two Title 1 Parent Information meetings scheduled for all parents interested in gaining this information. (you only need to attend one of the meetings as the information presented is the same.) The two meeting options are: Tuesday, September 27 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 1 or Thursday, September 29 at 7:30 a.m. in Room 1.

If you have any questions on any of these meetings please contact the school office at: 254-6577.

LATE START WEDNESDAYS

If you are new to Shaffer School please note that the first Wednesday of each month the school operates on a 2 hour late start and school will begin at 10:15 a.m. for students on each of these days. This allows for teachers and staff to have time to meet and collaborate working on data to continue to improve student levels of achievement. We also have built into the yearly calendar a few days for early release to allow for the same purpose. It is proven to help improve student achievement when school staff have the opportunity to work together to review data and plan lessons accordingly. The dates for 2 hour late starts for the school year are:

WEDNESDAY:	September 7	October 5	November 2
	December 7	January 4	February 1
	March 1	April 5	May 3

***Please note on these days the morning bus will pick your child up exactly 2 hours later than their normal pick-up time. If your child rides the high school bus in from Wendel a van will come out to pick up students at approximately 9:30 a.m. on these mornings.

GET READY FOR: CROSS COUNTRY

The first sport of the school year is Cross Country and is open to all students in Transitional Kindergarten through Grade 8. Mr. Bailey, our coach and Athletic Director, will get information out to students and parents regarding practices very soon. However, in order to participate, all students must have a current sports physical form on file in the school office. The forms are available in the office and on our website under the Athletics tab. If your child would like to participate in Cross Country, please schedule a physical for them asap if you have not already done so. This physical will be good for all sports throughout the school year. Keep an eye out for information to come home with your student soon regarding the Cross Country season.

SCHOOL PICTURES

Mark your calendars now. School pictures are scheduled for Thursday, September 22.

Envelopes will be sent home with your child prior to the day for ordering.

SAY CHEESE!!!



No School For Students

****MONDAY SEPT 5 LABOR DAY**
****FRIDAY, SEPT 23 COUNTYWIDE INSERVICE**

WHAT IS **STEM**?

STEM STANDS FOR: SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING AND MATHEMATICS. STEM IS BASED ON THE IDEA OF EDUCATING STUDENTS IN THESE FOUR SPECIFIC DISCIPLINES IN AN INTEGRATED CLASSROOM APPROACH. THE UNITED STATES RECOGNIZES THE IMPORTANCE THE SUCCESS OF STEM EDUCATION PLAYS IN THE COUNTRY'S GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS AND FUTURE ECONOMIC PROSPERITY. STEM EDUCATION HAS BEEN ELEVATED AS A NATIONAL PRIORITY.

STEM



SHAFFER SCHOOL PTO WANTS YOU!!

At Shaffer School we are very fortunate to have a supportive PTO community. The PTO works together throughout the year to provide our Shaffer students with awesome opportunities and educational experiences. They welcome you to join them in their efforts and to bring in new ideas. Please plan to join PTO and be involved.

*"Alone we can do so little.
Together we can do so much."*

~Helen Keller

The first meeting of the school year is Tuesday, Aug. 16 at 4:30 in the Shaffer School Staff Lounge (Room 9). The PTO meets monthly on the third Tuesday of each month.

⁴For more information please call the office or speak with President: Katrina Branch.

STEM FAMILY NIGHT

Shaffer School is proud to sponsor a family night event each month of the school year to promote family interaction and bonding and to provide opportunities for families to connect. Our first Family Night of the School Year (other than Back To School Night) will be our **FAMILY STEM NIGHT**. We encourage all families to come and share in the exploration and discovery of STEM activities. Join us for a fun filled evening of Science, Technology, Math and Engineering projects. **COME LEARN WITH YOUR STUDENT AND SHARE SOME INTRIGUING FINDINGS.....DEFINITELY A NIGHT TO EXPERIENCE.**

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27TH

6:00-7:30 P.M. IN THE SCHOOL CAFETERIA

BRING THE ENTIRE FAMILY

SHAFFER 'ROCKS'

Shaffer ROCKS is our character criteria. ROCKS stands for:

***Respectful
On Task
Cooperative
Kind
Safe***

At Shaffer we follow the PBIS (Positive Intervention Behavior and Supports) Framework for our discipline policy and behavior expectations. Your student will know what ROCKS means and, if they are in need of disciplinary recourse based upon the choices they've made, their consequences will be based upon the Shaffer ROCKS expectations. We hope that parents will support these expectations of being: respectful, on task, cooperative, kind and safe at home and in the community as well as at school, as we work together to build individual character and civility. GOOD CHARACTER COUNTS.

CHARACTER

EDUCATION

MENTORS MAKE A DIFFERENCE!!!

At Shaffer School each student is connected with an adult mentor on campus. (Each adult staff member has a group of students assigned to them.) Mentors will meet frequently throughout the school year with their student groups to build adult~student relationships on campus. Statistics show mentoring at its core, guarantees young people that there is someone who cares about them, assures them they are not alone in dealing with day-to-day challenges, and makes them feel like they matter. Research confirms that quality mentoring relationships have powerful positive effects on young people in a variety of personal, academic, and professional situations. (See next page for further statistics on the effects of having a mentor.)

We began this program last school year at Shaffer and student feedback was extremely positive. The students overwhelmingly voted to keep this program on campus!!!

WHY HAVE MENTORING???

Mentoring has significant positive effects on two early warning indicators that a student may be falling off-track:

High levels of absenteeism (Kennelly & Monrad, 2007)

- Students who meet regularly with their mentors are 52% less likely than their peers to skip a day of school and 37% less likely to skip a class. (*Public/Private Ventures study of Big Brothers Big Sisters*)

Recurring behavior problems (*Thurlow, Sinclair & Johnson, 2002*)

- Young adults who face an opportunity gap but have a mentor are 55% more likely to be enrolled in college than those who did not have a mentor. (*The Mentoring Effect, 2014*)
- In addition to better school attendance and a better chance of going on to higher education, mentored youth maintain better attitudes toward school. (*The Role of Risk, 2013*)



“We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.”

~Winston Churchill

FAMILY~SCHOOL RELATIONSHIPS

“We believe partnerships with parents, families, communities, and other stakeholders are essential to quality public education and student success.”

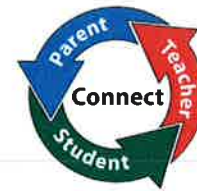
~NEA core value on partnership

The National Education Association has long known that partnerships are essential for helping students achieve at their maximum potential. Most school professionals realize that the job of educating students cannot be achieved by their efforts alone. Rather, it requires a collaborative effort with families, communities, and other stakeholders.

At Shaffer School we honor and value the role of parents and guardians in the educational realm of students. Parents are a child's first, and main, teacher. When schools and home work together the results for the child can be enhanced for greater success. We welcome your input, ideas, and suggestions. Please feel free to share your ideas as we work together to provide your child with the greatest educational opportunities. Let's work as a team to support the dreams, goals, and hopes of our children.

“Parents, families, educators, and communities—there's no better partnership to assure that all students pre-K to high school have the support and resources they need to succeed in school and in life.”

~NEA President Dennis Van Roekel



DID YOU REALIZE???

Your child's daily, on-time attendance is critical to their success in school. And while some challenges to your child's school attendance are unavoidable, it's **important to understand the impact of each absence.**

- A student is considered chronically absent if they miss only **two days of school per month** (18 days in a year), **whether the absences are excused or unexcused.**

This is true for children as early as elementary school, **when they are at a higher risk of falling behind in reading.** Even one year of chronic absence can cause a child to fall behind academically and decrease a child's chances of graduating from high school, which can have long-term consequences on their financial independence, physical well-being and mental health.

The good news? Attending school every day increases a child's chances of success in school and in life.