



*We engage children in an inspiring, challenging, and civically active educational experience that embraces learning through the arts.*

## Looking Ahead In 2017

**Hello LFCSA community!**

### **Welcome to 2017!**

As you already know, LFCSA is truly a vibrant and lively school. As a school that believes in creativity and innovation, our community continually collaborates on bringing a wide variety of experiences for our students. This blast will give you a short update on what's in store ahead.

Items in this blast:

- Overview: Keeping with "traditions" and starting "new" ones
- Middle School Petition: Strategic Planning and Mobilizing Meeting
- Budget Adjustments
- Screen Free Week
- Math Night
- Safe School Tiers of Intervention
- 2017-18 Academic Calendar feedback

### **Traditions "old" and "new"**

As we look forward, there are so many exciting "old" and "new" events that we have been working on for the students. We will be continuing with great things like our learning celebrations, 5<sup>th</sup> grade outdoor camping trip, awesome PTA sponsored events like Jog-a-thon, the 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> grade dance, Ruth Beaglehole, and community service

activities.

Some new things to put on your radar as we continue to push further in the mission and vision of our charter include submitting a middle school petition; Fundraising to purchase and redesign our building, Community-wide Screen Free Week; Assemblies: Reading Rainbow, LAFD, LAPD; New Annual Survey to inform our Local Control Accountability Plan; just to name a few.

Your participation in the school's efforts can only strengthen the school and its offering to the children. Thank you in advance for your support of our unique and amazing program!

### **Middle School Strategic Planning and Mobilizing**

We are starting off with two meetings to discuss the timeline, major event points, and details on what the educational program should include.

- Hopes and wishes for what an LFCSA middle school experience "looks like"
- Help wanted for facilities scouting, public relations, fostering political capital, fundraising, and operational support.

RSVP using following link so that we can arrange for a meeting space <https://goo.gl/forms/qACdR9hrjJkTb3382>.

### **Budget Adjustments**

Due to having open seats in various grade levels, we will need to make some budget adjustments due to the reduced funding. In order to not have too great of a negative impact, please consider the following ways to help:

- Continue to give what you can to support our Annual Give goal of \$100,000. We are currently at \$40,109 with 80% of families contributing.
- Tell a friend about the opportunity to bypass the lottery and enroll this year. Increasing the number of

students will alleviate the problem.

- Make sure your child comes to school, and is not absent the entire day if s/he has an appointment. Coming to school for part of the day gives the school credit. Each absent day takes away from the budget, and most importantly the learning.

### **Screen Free Week: Taking the opportunity to engage in a direct and humanistic way. Get Ready! January 16th-22nd**

Rediscover the joys of life beyond the screen. Plan to unplug from digital entertainment and spend all that free time playing, daydreaming, creating, exploring and connecting with family and friends! LFCSA is implementing a screen free week in January to help us all kick off this new year with a week of being present with ourselves, without the screen, and in active participation with others.

As you may have seen in our previous blasts, the American Academy of Pediatrics has created **New screen time rules for kids**. Two hours of TV a day may be too much for kids. [Read the full story](#) about different recommended times for different age levels.

Screen-Free Week is a celebration, not an exercise in depravation, rather it gives you the opportunity to enjoy leisure time and to dream up your own screen-free activities.

Question: Do I need to turn off even my cell phone? What about using screens for work or homework?

Answer: We're absolutely not asking anyone to stop doing their job or their homework, or to stop talking on the phone. The goal of Screen-Free Week is to refrain from using screens for entertainment in order to enjoy the rest of the world. Screens are so interwoven in the fabric of our lives that sorting out what's entertainment and what's work or communication may be difficult. In fact, figuring out the role of screens in our lives is an important component of Screen-Free Week. But if talking, texting, or checking your

work email is interfering with screen-free family time (including meals), then you may want to think carefully about how you're using them.

We will be giving screen free homework to students and families, and we are asking the entire LFCSA community to participate. For some of us it will be a challenge to "unplug" ourselves from our screens, let alone having the children do it!

Click [here](#) for examples of activities that can be logged for each day of the week.

Click [here](#) for 7 Parent Tested Tips to Unplug and Play

### **Math Night - Come build your understanding of how math is being taught**

Each grade level team will be sharing how math is being taught in the classrooms. Take this opportunity to get your questions about how you can best help your child be successful in math answered by the teachers! We will hold our Family Math Night during the Screen Free Week, so that you can also take home some ways to engage in math conversations at home. Be on the lookout for the blast with detailed times/dates.

### **Safe School Process - The long term impact of repairs vs. consequences**

Check out what the kids are saying about the importance of repairing: <https://vimeo.com/196359670>

Their thoughts really help us understand why fixing things is a more important focus than punishment.

Also, click [here](#) for a description of our Safe School Tiers of Interventions, so that you can better understand how we approach helping students reduce negative behaviors, increase positive ones, as well as build empathy, and understanding of diverse perspectives.

## Calendar feedback for 2017-18

Click [here](#) to see the proposed calendar for the 2017-18 school year. Please submit feedback here: [Calendar Feedback Form](#). Due by Friday.

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Well, there's a short snippet of some of the things to come. Please make sure to always read the our blasts for updates and important information. We'll see you all tomorrow!

Sincerely,

Dr. Lee

[Forward this email](#)

STAY CONNECTED

