

# SCHOOL NEWS JAMES MADISON

San Leandro Unified School District



Gerhard Grotke  
Principal  
14751 Juniper Street  
San Leandro, CA 94579  
(510) 895-7944

**Attendance Line**  
If your child will be  
absent from school,  
please call the  
**ATTENDANCE**  
**LINE**  
895 – 7940

**Winter Break**  
**Dec. 22-Jan. 5**

**A big thank you to 5<sup>th</sup> grade parents for the many donations of food and raffle prizes for the spaghetti feed. Outdoor Ed is just around the corner. Start planning now!**

## December:

**Friday, Dec. 15**

*Principal's Coffee Chat 8:15*

**Thursday, Dec. 21**

*Early Dismissal Schedule!*

**Friday, Dec. 22**

*Teacher Planning Day, No Students*

**Friday, Dec. 22-Jan. 8**

*Winter Break*

**January 1, 2018**

**Happy New Year!**

## January

**Monday, Jan. 8**

*1<sup>st</sup> day back from Winter Break*

**PTO Meeting @ 6:45**

**Monday, Jan. 15**

*No School: Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday*

**Thursday, Jan. 17**

*Restaurant Night*

**Jan. 22-Jan. 26: Early**

*dismissal, Mid-Year*

*Assessments*

**Friday, Jan. 26**

*PTO Family Activity Night*

## **December 2017**

### **Principal's Message**

To our Madison Learning Community,

In December 2012, I wrote about three facts that I saw as defining our work as a school. At the time our current 5<sup>th</sup> grade students were still in kindergarten. It is important to look back and see where we were in order to appreciate where we are today.

**Fact #1:** All public schools face the challenge of preparing students for a world that has yet to be created. In the past 100 years, information has evolved from knowing what is happening around the block, to what is happening around the globe. Children are aware of more things happening in more places than ever before, and they will have to contend with how to relate to an ever changing world of diverse people, different cultures, and multiple languages.

**Fact #2:** In spite of our technological advances that help people check their spelling, write their words, compute their numbers, and read their books; children still need to think, evaluate and apply what they learn, reuse and relate to the one planet we all must share.

**Fact #3:** Children are still the same in so many ways. They need time, time to appreciate each other, time to play and see their family laugh, and time to create memories that will last them a lifetime.

James Madison is a great school because each of us takes the time to build and nurture relationships that allow us to trust and learn. We are not without problems and mistakes. We are after all, humans, working in an imperfect system, with the uncompromised expectation to provide the best possible education for each child. I want to thank everyone, (superb staff, nurturing families, the caring community and most of all the great students), for creating the working relationships and lasting friendships needed to sustain the excellence and success of James Madison Elementary School.

It is with great pride that I look back on our work together and see that our collective vision, our untiring effort, and our steadfast passion to provide the best possible education for all children has produced the unprecedented results for which James Madison Elementary School is known. We inspire success, every day, every way, for everybody. Peace, Health, Love, and Learning for all.

**Your Very Thankful Principal,**

**Garry Grotke**

**5th Grade Spaghetti Night was a huge success!** Parents, students, City Councilman Pete Ballew, and the school choir all turned out to make this year's Spaghetti Night the best ever! Over \$2500 dollars was raised along with the SLED donation of \$1700 helped us step closer to reaching our goal of \$21,000 to send every 5th grade student to Outdoor Education week at Mt. Hermon Science Camp.

