



# James Madison School News!

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



## Calendar of Events

**Thursday, Dec. 6**

Papa Murphy's Day

**Tuesday, December 11**

SSC/ELAC Meeting @ 6pm

**Thursday, Dec. 20**

Principal's Coffee Chat @ 8:15

**Friday, Dec. 14**

5th Grade Spaghetti Feed  
@ 5:30

**Friday, Dec. 17**

**Holiday Food and Toy Drive  
Ends**

**Thursday, Dec. 20**

**Early Dismissal Schedule  
K @ 11:40, 1-5 @ 1:50**  
Spirit Day!

**Friday, Dec. 21**

No School, Teacher Planning  
Day

**Dec. 24-Jan. 4, 2019**

**Winter Break**

**Monday, Jan. 7, 2019**

**First Day back from break**  
PTO Meeting @ 6:15 pm

**Monday, Jan. 21**

No School, Martin Luther King  
Jr. Holiday

**Friday, Jan. 25**

Let's Build It! Activity Night

**Attendance Line  
895-7940**

If your child is or is going to be absent please call the attendance line and leave a message. Include your child's first and last name and the Teachers name or room number.

Absences must be cleared within 24 hours.

**Dec., 5, 2018**

### **Principal's Message**

2018 has been an extraordinary year for our school. James Madison was honored with the Distinguished School Award from the State of California School Recognition Program. The application involved writing about why our school is an amazing place for students to learn. As I thought about our school, and what helps us stand apart from other successful schools, I recognize some simple but significant facts:

#### **Fact #1**

All schools are faced with 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 events happening in more places than ever before. Students will have to contend with how to relate to a rapidly changing world.

#### **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 to better use, 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 to grow, 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, a supportive school district, a caring community, but most of all great students), for creating the working relationships and lasting friendship needed to sustain the excellence and success of James Madison Elementary School.

**Happy holidays, and best wishes for 2019!**

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