

Principal's Message...

17 September 2018

Dear Columbia Families,

Here's what you'll find in this message:

1. Message from Principal Denhalter
2. Columbia Community Council
3. Report on Last Year's School Improvement Plan Goals
4. Report on current School Improvement Plan Goals
5. Fun Run!
6. Calendar Summary

- 1. Message from Principal Denhalter:** We're having a great start of the school year. I hope you had a great day today with your children. The teachers have taken full advantage of the day and received professional development for Mindfulness (strategies to help children focus and cope with anxieties), Local Case Management (to help struggling students with appropriate accommodations and interventions), and NearPod (to enhance instructional delivery and student learning). The school is in full swing and seems to be firing well on all cylinders. Thank you for your continual support.
- 2. Columbia Community Council:** Our School Community Council met last week. We reviewed the progress made on last year's school goals and this year's current goals. We also had a great discussion about our community's dress and grooming standards to guide our elementary school's policy. The Community Council is a great way for parents to be involved. One of the main responsibilities of the Community Council is to oversee the annual creation of the School Improvement Plan and the allocation of Land Trust funds (approx.. \$65,000 annually). Our Community Council meets about every month. If you are interested in joining this year's Community Council, please let me know by October 1, 2018.
- 3. Report on Last Year's School Improvement Plan Goals:** We had 3 primary schools goals with several action steps last year. Basically, our goals were to improve quality staffing by enhancing collaboration focused on determining and addressing student learning gaps, to improve K-3 reading fluency, and to improve grades 3-6 math proficiency. I'm pleased to report that we excelled in all three goals. Teachers met weekly to review student data and collaborated in providing instruction to help students excel. Our students did excel. In fact, while we had a goal to show 1% improvement in reading fluency, as measured by the DIBELS assessment, we actually achieved a 4.5% improvement. We also had a goal to improve by 10% on the SAGE Benchmark Assessments, and we actually improved by 24%. In addition, we recently received our SAGE scores and showed a 3%

improvement in both math and language arts (we're still waiting for science results). All of these growth scores are amazing! The teachers have been vigilant in determining student learning needs and collaborating with each other to deliberately address those needs. We have involved computer specialists to help with instructional learning with the iReady and Imagine Learning software, which also created small-group instructional time for classroom teachers. We used reading specialists to assist with student learning in 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grades, as well as providing additional language support in kindergarten and special education. These specialists were all paid for through the Land Trust funding via the School Improvement Plan. I also need to recognize you amazing parents who are able to support learning in so many ways. All of this, working together, is causing our students to excel. Congratulations to all of us.

4. **Report on current School Improvement Plan Goals:** Our three school goals for this current year are similar to those from last year, except our first goal of Quality Staffing includes a teacher book study of BOLD School: Old School Wisdom + New School Technologies = Blended Learning That Works. Teachers are learning and integrating instructional technology to enhance student learning. As part of this year's school goals and Land Trust allotment, we have increased the number of instructional technology devices (mostly CloudBooks and iPads) along with teacher expertise in using that technology. Currently, we have one class set of devices for each grade level (1-6) with two class sets of Cloudbooks used in 6th grade. We have also installed Apple TV in every classroom and replaced many outdated classroom projectors.
5. **Fun Run!:** Students will engage in many physical fitness activities this week, culminating on Friday with the Fun Run. The Fun Run is our primary school fundraiser and provides for two field trips per grade level, additional purchases with instructional technology, and all the many other student-focused PTA events. Please be generous as you consider your donation, and keep in mind that we deliberately avoid other fundraisers during the school year, such as selling wrapping paper, magazines, chocolate, popcorn, coupon books, etc. Look for a flyer coming home with your child tomorrow.
6. **Calendar Summary:** Updated calendar events may be found on our website: <http://www.davis.k12.ut.us/131>

Upcoming Calendar Events:

Tue
Sep 18
9am – 2pm
Wasatch Integrated Fieldtrip/ 4th Grade
Wasatch Integrated Waste Management District

Wed
Sep 19
Choir

Music Portable

Thu

Sep 20

11:45am – 2pm

Stem Fieldtrip/3rd Grade

Syracuse High School

Fri

Sep 21

9:15am – 12pm

Fun Run Fundraiser

School Grounds/Off Campus

Friday, September 21

9:15 – 10am

Fun Run K-3

Friday, September 21

10:15 – 11:15am

Fun Run Grades 4-6

Mon

Sep 24

8 – 8:45am

Student Council Meeting

SEM Portable

Monday, September 24

3:30 – 4:30pm

Kaysville Karate in Cafeteria

Wed

Sep 26

Choir

Music Portable

Wednesday, September 26

School Picture Day (Individuals)

Wednesday, September 26

3:30 – 7:30pm

Turnbow/Conferences

Room #7

Wednesday, September 26

3:30 – 4:30pm

Kaysville Karate in Cafeteria

Thu

Sep 27
8 – 8:45am
Year Book Committee Meeting
SEM Portable

Thursday, September 27
9am – 1:30pm
Barnes Park Fieldtrip/5th Grade
Barnes Park

Fri
Sep 28
8:50 – 11:15am
Vision Screening
Gym

Mon
Oct 1
8 – 8:45am
Student Council Meeting
SEM Portable

Monday, October 1
3:30 – 4:30pm
Kaysville Karate in Cafeteria

Wed
Oct 3
Choir
Music Portable

Wednesday, October 3
Parent/Teacher Conferences (Early 1:25 Dismissal)

Wednesday, October 3
PTA Book Fair
Library

Wednesday, October 3
8 – 8:45am
VIP Come Read With Me

Wednesday, October 3
11:30am – 12:30pm
PTA Board Mtg on school stage

Wednesday, October 3
1:30 – 2:30pm
Kaysville Karate in Cafeteria

Wednesday, October 3
3:30 – 7pm
Flu Shot Clinic -Say Boo to the Flu

Thu
Oct 4
Parent/Teacher Conferences (Early 1:25 Dismissal)

Thursday, October 4
PTA Book Fair
Library

Thursday, October 4
9am – 4pm
Student Council Training Day

Fri
Oct 5
PTA Book Fair
Library

Friday, October 5
October Birthday Tables

Mon
Oct 8
8 – 8:45am
Student Council Meeting
SEM Portable

Wed
Oct 10
Choir
Music Portable

Wednesday, October 10
9am – 2pm
Capitol & Planitarium/3rd Grade Fieldtrip
Capitol and Planitarium/SLC

Wednesday, October 10
9:15 – 11:30am
The Corn Maze/Kindergarten Fieldtrip
Corn Maze/Ogden,UT.

Wednesday, October 10
4 – 5pm
Community Council Meeting
Columbia Library

Thu
Oct 11
8 – 8:45am
Year Book Committee Meeting
SEM Portable

Mon
Oct 15
Ribbon Week

Monday, October 15
8 – 8:45am
Student Council Meeting
SEM Portable

Tue
Oct 16
Ribbon Week

Wed
Oct 17
Ribbon Week

Wednesday, October 17
Choir
Music Portable