



The HOOT

April 2026

OWL Community Newsletter



Principal's Message

Dear OWL Families,



Happy April! We hope that all of you enjoyed some relaxation and fun over the spring break, as we're now back on track at school:) It's hard to believe that we are nearing the end of our school year! The next couple of months are sure to go by quickly...and we have many upcoming events that will keep our OWLS happy & busy!

This month many of our grade levels have field trips/events taking place. On our first week back from break, our TK students went to Fog Willow Farms, 2nd grade held their PBL Showcase on Animal Adaptations, 3rd grade is off to Valley Days at Micke Grove Park and 4th graders will be heading to Fog Willow Farms as well. It's an exciting time, as many of our classes include field trip experiences as part of their Project Based Learning (PBL) components. These experiences offer hands-on learning, exploration, investigation, collaboration and lots of fun!

On Saturday, April 18th, a group of 4-6 JMC students will be heading to the SJCOE Math Competition! Let's send our Good Luck vibes and BIG OWL "HOOTS" to Lucas Hudelson, Hudson Carroll, Eshaaun Chaudhary, Ava Magness and Ariana Medina! And of course, a special "SHOUT OUT" and sincere appreciation to their math coach, JMC's highly talented 7/8 math teacher, Kaci McCoy! We'll be rooting for you all!

Be sure to save the date for Thursday, April 23rd! Our PTSA Owlance is going all out to put on a Birthday Celebration for JMC's 10th year! Please scroll down to read more information about this special event for our school community! We hope to see all of you there, along with many of our JMC alumni staff, students & families!

The State Spelling Bee is on Saturday, 4/25. JMC will be represented by 5th grader, Annalisa Casillas, our district and county winner! Please join me in sending her our well

wishes and congratulations. We are so very proud of her achievement! GO, Annalisa! HOOT, HOOT, HOOT!

A few reminders to mention...and we thank you for your continued cooperation!

- Please **label your student(s) clothing/lunch pails & water bottles**...6 bags of items were donated to a local charity over the break!
- Please check that your **student(s) are following our district's dress code policy**. As the weather becomes warmer, please be aware of what students wear to school! **Undergarments need to be covered, tops need to cover chest and mid-drift, shorts are to be mid-thigh level, and shoes need to have a backing/strap behind the heel.**
- Lunches for students need to be dropped off by a parent or family contact. **Students cannot have lunch orders delivered to school from Door Dash!**
- Please **pull ALL the way forward** when driving through to drop off your student(s)...this is a big help to maintain the flow of traffic and prevent backed up vehicles.
- Please **do not stop in the crosswalk area** and allow your student(s) to exit the vehicle when dropping off.

It's a happy time of year with much to celebrate at JMC!

In Partnership,
Dawn Archer - Principal



PTSA News

Find all the details and links to JMC's fundraisers on our Linktree: <https://linktr.ee/JMCOwlance>

Hey there, JMC Owls! 🦉 💙 💚

Can you believe it's already been 10 years since John McCandless opened its doors? We are so proud of our community and we want to celebrate this huge milestone with all of you!

The JMC PTSA is throwing our school a fun, old-fashioned birthday bash, and you're invited! We are calling all alumni staff and students, current families, and community members to come celebrate a decade of JMC excellence.



📅 SAVE THE DATE: April 23, 2026 🕒 TIME: 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Get ready for an evening packed with: 🍰 Cake & Ice Cream! 🎤 Live Entertainment! 🧩 Fun Games for the kids! ✨ Lots of time to reconnect with the JMC Family!

Please pass this invitation along to any fellow JMC family members—we want to see as many familiar faces as possible to celebrate this amazing community.

Check out the flyer for details and get ready for a BLAST! 🚀



~JMC PTSA Owlance

April Happenings

- 4/6:** TK Field Trip to Fog Willow Farms
 - 4/6:** Early Release @ 1:30
 - 4/8:** 3rd Grade Field Trip to Valley Days @ Micke Grove Park
 - 4/10:** Friday Flag Salute/Check Lost & Found
 - 4/10:** 4th Grade (Kinser) OWLS & HOM Awards @ 8:30-
OWLS Nest
 - 4/10:** 4th Grade Field Trip to Fog Willow Farms
 - 4/10:** 7/8 OWLS & HOM Awards @ 2:30- OWLS Nest
 - 4/13:** Early Release @ 1:30
 - 4/15:** LUSD Board Meeting @ 7:00 - Beverly Holt Boardroom
 - 4/17:** Spirit Day Friday/Check Lost & Found
 - 4/18:** SJCOE 4-6 Math Competition @ 9:00-10:00
 - 4/20:** Early Release @ 1:30
 - 4/22:** Earth Day
 - 4/23:** JMC's 10th Birthday Bash @ 6:00-8:00
 - 4/24:** Friday Flag Salute/Check Lost & Found
 - 4/25:** State Spelling Bee
 - 4/27-5/1:** State Testing for Grades 3-8 (ELA)
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State Testing Time!

I'm resharing this information again, as it's important to review! Our 3rd-8th students will soon participate in the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP). Testing time will take place over two weeks, starting with ELA the week of 4/27 and Math the week of 5/4.

These assessments are highly important for our students and school. They are necessary tools for evaluating student learning and the effectiveness of educational programs.

Other benefits include:

- **progress monitoring of student growth in core subjects of reading, writing, math, and science**
- **data driven instruction that allows teachers to identify areas of need and adjust instructional practices**
- **identifying achievement gaps that determine targeted supports to ensure all students are learning**
- **measuring student mastery of state standards to ensure curriculum aligns with required grade level learning goals**

We thank you for supporting our OWLS and teachers during this time. Here are some ideas to ensure students are ready to Do Their Best on the Test!

- **get a good night's sleep**
 - **be present at school and arrive on time**
 - **eat a nutritional breakfast at home or at school**
 - **stay positive**
 - **healthy snacks**
 - **encourage effort**
 - **celebrate hard work and completion**
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Important Drop-Off & Pick-Up Reminders!

- Follow **safe driving practices** for drop-off and pick-up
- Pull **all the way forward** when dropping off your student in order to prevent blocking the flow of traffic
- If arriving after dismissal time, please pick up your student by **1:45 on Monday** and **3:30 on Tuesday-Friday**
- **Keep open communication** with your student's teacher
- Please **do not park in and/or block areas of surrounding businesses**. Park along the street or arrive closer to the end of dismissal time at 3:30
- Please **do not park in the painted RED zones**.
- Please be **patient & appropriate** when talking with school staff and family members

We appreciate your cooperation...THANK YOU!



Contact info

If you have any comments, questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact us. Please reach out via the following means:

- School Office (209) 888-0160
- Dawn Archer - Principal **darcher@lusd.net**
- Brian Cobb - AP **bcobb@lusd.net**
- parentsquare.com

Comment...