

Principal's Message...

Dear Parents,



By now you have been hearing from your kids and teachers, I have to be at school on-time because our Morning Meeting begins first thing! The bell rings, the students take a morning lap to wake up, socialize and get that school energy flowing, and off into the class circle they go! What happens next is a lot of fun, builds classroom friendships, and helps everyone feel included, recognized and equal while building a strong sense of community. BUT the Morning Meeting is even more because it teaches those skills needed for success in the 21st century: collaboration, cooperation, communication, critical thinking and creativity while most importantly promoting the skills of being “social engineers” all of which lead to academic success too.

SO WHAT IS THE RESPONSIVE CLASSROOM

MORNING MEETING ALL ABOUT?

In a classroom, a strong community is fundamental.

- The children are expected to work well together, openly share their ideas, and take academic risks in order to grow and learn as an individual and student. But how does one successfully build this sense of community? Simply stated -the Morning Meeting.

- The Morning Meeting has four essential parts: the **greeting, share**, the **group activity**, and the **morning message**.

To begin the meeting, children properly **greet** one another using eye contact, a pleasant voice, and a firm handshake. Commencing the meeting with a greeting gives a sense of belonging to each student which is an essential component when working on building a solid community.

- During the **share**, children are encouraged to listen as another student shares an important story or event in their life. Likewise, the children are asked to respond with a comment or a question regarding that particular student's share. This is not an easy task for an 8-or 9-year-old child. Often times, children want to reply with a similar activity they too have experienced, rather than responding to the speaker's share. Thus listening to one another begins in the circle every morning. With this daily activity, the students are learning about their peers while they are gaining invaluable communication skills that will hopefully last a lifetime.

- Another facet of the Morning Meeting is the **group activity**. Taking part in the activity is crucial. When children do so, they are unassumingly taking risks they would not normally take in an academic setting. Participating in an unfamiliar game or being the leader of an activity can be intimidating to many youngsters, and as educators, it is important to teach children how to overcome these feelings in a safe and nurturing environment. With gentle guidance and support from their peers and teacher, children eventually learn that taking a risk can

result in a positive outcome, building self-confidence. As a result, children become comfortable with their environment and genuine learning in an academic setting takes place.

- The final component of the meeting is the **morning message**. The message can set the stage for the learning that lies ahead, or it can be used to review previously learned information. Either way, their minds are reflecting upon the material and the children are engaged early in the day, anticipating the day's lesson.

- It is true that setting the expectations for the Morning Meeting requires time, patience, and a great deal of modeling, however the benefits that come from this daily activity are far reaching in the many days of discovery and confidence that come from each child in the class. The components of this daily gathering work simultaneously allowing each individual to thrive. It begins in the Morning Meeting -where effective learning takes place, listening is appreciated and valued by all.

Join with all of us at Juan Cabrillo by asking your child about the daily Morning Meeting. Ask, what was the greeting today? Can you show me how you greeted your friends during Morning Meeting today? Maybe try it out at how during a Family Meeting? Use these similar frames for finding out about the other components of the Morning Meeting. Soon we will have opportunities for parents to visit and join us during class Morning Meetings as well. One of the most significant factors in student success is school climate and relationships. If a child feels comfortable on campus and has a relationship with an adult, their success in school significantly increases. Thanks in advance for assisting us in making this happening by discussing with your child about Morning meeting. Also for ensuring your child is at school daily and on-time so he/she can participate in Morning Meeting.

Hand-in-Hand, Together We Can!

Filling Buckets and Developing the Future Together!

Dr. Pam

The Week in Advance:

MONDAY, February 19, 2018

SCHOOL HOLIDAY

WEDNESDAY, February, 21, 2018

7:45-8:30 *FIRST MONTHLY COFFEE with the PRINCIPAL in MPR*

FRIDAY, February 23, 2018

School dismissal 12:40