



## Chautauqua Elementary Principal's Newsletter

September, 2021 [ESPANOL](#)

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# We love your kids!

It has been an amazing few weeks of school

It has been wonderful to get to know your students and to welcome them all back in school. While we had some bumps along the way, mainly with car pick up, our systems are running smoothly and now we can focus on meeting students' needs where they are and helping each one to learn and grow. Students love checking out books, making art, singing and playing games as well as digging into academic learning and challenging themselves to explore new concepts. We look forward to sharing more with you about your classrooms at our [virtual Curriculum Night](#) on September 29th.



### Outside Picnic Lunches and Snacks!

We have found great success with our outdoor lunches and snacks. We added seat cushions to the outdoor area for grades 1-5 and it has been great for our students to connect without their masks and socialize while eating.

Kindergarten is eating at tables in the front of the school. Keep in mind that we will try to stay outside when we can, so dress warmly. Also, when the weather turns

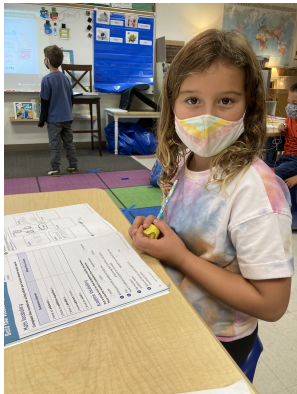
to heavy rain or wind, we will move lunches to inside

eating, with social distancing in the lunchroom, stage, gym and kindergarten classrooms.

### Math Curriculum



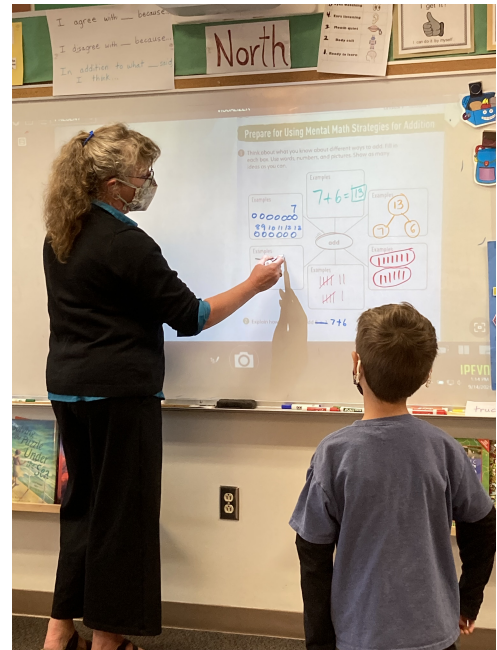
We have adopted a new math curriculum. Students are completing diagnostic assessments so we can see who needs more support and so they can be leveled in groups for support, practice and extension. The iReady curriculum has an emphasis on dialogue and conceptual understanding, which our teachers love.



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### **Pick up and Drop Off**

Drop off in the morning is going well. Please be aware that you can drop off in the second lot, so if the line is long, there is a driving drop off lane there, too. After the bumpy start, our beginning and end of days are going well. Our record end of the car line is 3:51. On average, the car pick up is done between 3:50-3:55 and the buses depart at that same time. We appreciate your support by being here between 3:30 and 3:40 and making sure your plans are clear in School Dismissal Manager. Please turn off your engine while waiting so that we don't pollute the earth, or use our environmentally friendly bus service.



### **Academic and Social Emotional Supports Tier 2 and 3**

Our Special Education services (Tier 3) began individual support the first days of school and groups started the second week. They are well in the swing of things. For Tier 2 (Math and Reading Support) we are busy assessing students and figuring out which students need support. Groups will be starting soon. If your student qualifies for support in Reading or Math we will let you know and they will get 30-40 minutes of support four times a week. Our PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention Support) staff are also gearing up to begin social emotional groups for students who would benefit from a short term group.

### **Volunteers**

We will begin having volunteers in the school in a limited capacity after curriculum night. Volunteers will need to upload proof of vaccination as well as have an updated volunteer background check, which is found [on our website](#). All volunteers must submit updated forms this year. Volunteers will also need to maintain 3+ foot distance from students and wear masks, or ideally, work with students when they are outside. We will carefully assess each volunteer request to balance the support and student safety.

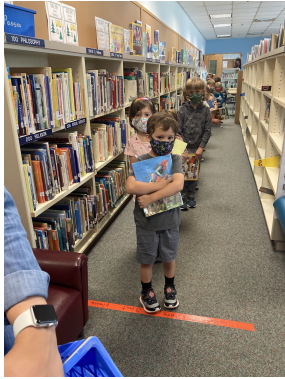
Volunteers are needed for the garden! Contact [rgoertzel@vashonsd.org](mailto:rgoertzel@vashonsd.org) if interested.

### **Pinwheels for Peace**

Our annual Pinwheels for Peace will happen this year! Students are busy making pinwheels. We will have mini-assemblies outside with grade level groups on Tuesday the 21st.

## Clubs

All students go to Art, Music, Library, PE and Spanish during the week, a different one each day. Our fourth and fifth



grade students go to a Club with Specialists on Fridays, like an elective. The clubs change each quarter and the current clubs are ceramics, running, intramurals, world music, and sketching and drawing.



## Drills!

We had a fire drill this week. We were outside on the McMurray field to maintain distance and student safety. They did great. We will work on maintaining silence while outside and using airplane arms for distance. Every month we have a drill: earthquake, fire, Intruder, Shelter in Place. We teach student safety while making sure we stay calm and don't worry our students. Please make a fire drill plan for your students at home with a meeting place outside.

## ASB Cards

You can [purchase your ASB card online](#) at this time. Instead of fundraisers, we collect a \$45 ASB fee to cover the cost of field trips, recess supplies and assemblies. If you have completed Free and Reduced lunch forms and qualify, you don't need to pay the fee. If you'd like to donate extra, please do! The payments can be accessed on the school website under the pay meals and fees button, log into Skyward and choose your child's name and "Shop for Items from your School" (it's not under fines and fees).

