

Hoover Hedgehog News

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Principal: Mrs. Kathryn Bimpson
PTA President: Jong-Mi Lee

November 21, 2014

Calendar

November 26-28 Thanksgiving Break

Upcoming Events

Dec 2-4 Mini Book Fair
Dec 3 Ice Skating Party

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From the Principal's Desk

Dear Hoover Families,

As we continue through the conferencing and progress report season, our teaching professionals are busy calibrating student data to the new progress report card and preparing to share all of the learning your child is experiencing in the classroom during your conference.

While you will receive an informational letter from Barbara Harris, Director of Elementary Education, with your first trimester progress report, I would like to point out several important, new features. These are standards-based progress reports, which mean that they provide consistent evaluation of student progress throughout the year. Knowing the end-of-year target goals allows teachers to differentiate instruction to appropriately support each student. They also promote more detailed and meaningful conversation at parent-teacher conferences. The standards included on the progress report represent those believed to be most significant for student learning at each grade level, which allows for deeper learning as required by the CCSS. To learn more detailed information about the new progress reports please click on the following link:

<http://pausd.org/parents/curriculum/elementary/ProgressReports/downloads/ProgressReportParentGuide.pdf>

(Please contact Ms. JaLynn: 650-320-8106 x 0, for a paper copy of this information.)

Another notable feature of the new progress report is the focus on social and emotional learning. Social and emotional learning goals are the first listed on the progress report. This outlines the importance of these skills in relation to academic success. At Hoover, we take social and emotional learning seriously and work consistently to provide a safe, welcoming school environment in which each of our students can learn, grow, and reach his or her full potential. We utilize a wide variety of experiences in addition to our school-wide expectations for making safe, respectful, responsible

choices, because we know that each student constructs meaningful connections in different ways. Last month, I highlighted the variety of instructional practices being used in the classroom and school-wide programs in place to facilitate student experiences that build self-management, self-awareness, social awareness, and relationship skills. These four skills provide the foundations for success in school and life.

New additions to our social and emotional learning programs include a problem to solve that I share during the weekly Monday Message and refined school-wide guidelines to support students in making safe, respectful, responsible choices.

While out on the playground, I make note of issues that arise amongst our student population, then I craft short stories involving fictional students that I share during the Monday Message. After the message is shared, students discuss how the problem could be solved with their teachers in class. I was happily surprised when several students approached me on the playground, eager to share their ideas!

Additionally, refined school-wide behavior support guidelines have been established for staff and noon supervision volunteers. Mrs. Gandhi and I will be providing monthly trainings based on these guidelines for our volunteers and any other parents interested in learning how to solve problems effectively with children. **Our first training will occur on December 3, from 11:30-12:00, in the MP room. All are welcome!** At Hoover, we believe that school needs to be a safe place where students can learn from the choices they make, so that they can internalize the four foundational skills and turn poor choices into future success. I have attached the refined guidelines below so that everyone has access to this important information:



Guidelines for Consistently Supporting Students In Making Safe, Respectful, Responsible Choices at Hoover for Noon Supervision Volunteers

All adults are responsible for following through with any student if a poor behavior choice is witnessed.

Fundamental school expectations to be observed by all:

- **Treat everyone and everything with respect.**
- **Always be within the view of an adult.**
- **Walk on the redtop at all times.**
- **Walk on the structure at all times.**
- **Sit on the slide and go down one at a time.**
- **Be in control of your body at all times.**
- **If someone is hurt “stay until they say they’re okay” and if they’re not okay take them to the office or get adult help.**
- **All students are allowed to play in all games in age-appropriate groups (Grades 1-3) (Grades 3-5).**

- Stay seated while eating.
- Put all equipment / materials away when you are done with it/them.
- Dispose of all lunch waste in the appropriate bin (recycle, compost, non-recyclable)
- Play by the rules/posted expectations for all games.
- Weapons made with hands or other materials (Lego, foil etc..) are not permitted
- Toys from home stay in backpacks

Specific Expectations to be aware of:

- Tag is only allowed on the field
- Tag/Football: soft touch only (no tackling)
- The field nearest Charleston is for grades 3-5 and the field nearest the classrooms is for grades 1-3 (3rd grade may travel to both sides). The field is divided between rooms 17 and 18.
- The sandbox is for all grade levels

Flags used for rainy days and noontime activities:

- **Red Flag:** Play on red top only - table games – no balls – or tag
- **Black Flag:** Play on red top and black top only - equipment okay on black top – no tag or field games
- **Blue Flag:** Play on red top, black top, and structure. The field is closed
- **Yellow Flag:** There is a noon activity today.

• **Minor Behavior Intervention Strategies:**

- **Ten-Second Intervention:** Stop the student, name the behavior, and ask them to model the expected behavior.

*Is running on the redtop safe/expected? Please walk on the redtop. **OR** What does safe behavior on the redtop look? (Be sure to observe and respond)*

- **1-2-3:** 1. Ask the student to change the behavior. 2. Redirect the student with options. 3. Remove the student from the situation or sit them out for a break for 2-5 minutes (use the digital clock to help students time themselves)

On the playground:

1. *Please sit down when you eat your lunch.*
2. *You can sit on this side of the bench or that side (if seats are assigned: You can sit here or at the bench near Ms. Bimpson's office to eat)*
3. *Please take your lunch to Ms. Bimpson's bench until you are ready to come back and sit with your class while you eat.*

1. *Please walk on the structure.*
2. *You can walk on the structure or run on the grass*

3. You need to leave the structure and play elsewhere until you are ready to walk.

• **Behavior Forms:** If an accident occurs that causes student injury, check to see if the student can move. If not, use your walkie-talkie to radio for help and stay with the student. Once the student is safely in the office, you will be asked to fill out an **incident form**. Ms. JaLynn, Ms. Anne, or Ms. Bimpson will help with this form.

If a student causes serious harm to others or property, you will need to walk the student(s) involved to the office and complete a **Behavior Referral Form**. Ms. JaLynn, Ms. Anne, or Ms. Bimpson will get a form for you and help you to fill it out.

On the Playground:

Level	Behavior	Response
Level 1	<u>Minor/Initial:</u> running on the redtop, kicking a ball away, handling minor conflicts inappropriately, minor teasing, not picking up the Lego pieces/sand toys/equipment etc...	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Stop the student 2. Name the behavior 3. Ask, if it was a (safe, respectful, or responsible) choice 4. Ask the student to make the safe, respectful, or responsible choice, OR ask him/her to show what the (safe, respectful, or responsible) behavior would look like /Ask to clean up etc... <p>Could include having the student repeat the expected behavior.</p>
Level 2	<u>Minor/Second Contact:</u> student does not respond to a request, or repeats the behavior	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Follow through by supervising the completion of the task/request 2. Have the student repeat the expected behavior / clean up an extra area/ put away extra materials or Equipment - as appropriate for the behavior
Level 3	<u>Disrespectful/Defiant Behavior:</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. Student refuses to comply, responds disrespectfully, runs away, is careless or mischievous, minor pushing or conflict that does not cause injury B. Deliberate, repeated teasing/exclusion/taunting, stealing, defacing materials in any area of the school, etc... 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Escort the student to the office and report behavior to principal, secretary, or clerk. <p>Office staff will follow up with a Behavior Referral Form.</p>
Level 4	<u>Physical Aggression:</u> ANY deliberate physical contact/fighting/hitting/shoving that causes injury, or other blatantly serious behavior	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bring Student(s) directly to the office and report as you would in level 3. 2. Notify principal at once

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions or want to learn more about our programs and protocols. Please contact Ms. JaLynn for an appointment at: 650-320-8106 x 0, or jkiger@pausd.org .

With warm regards,

Katy Bimpson
Principal

PTA President Message

What Are You Not Thankful For This Year?

November brings us a well-known celebrated holiday called **Thanksgiving**. For many of us, it means a day of rest to gather with friends, family, and loved ones to enjoy delicious meals and celebrate. Thanksgiving is a day when we are thankful for our family, children, health, job, income, home, car, iPhone, laptop, clothing, and food among many other material possessions. For others, **Thanksgiving is a solemn reminder that without support from loved ones, we are alone.**

Loneliness is a vicious illness that can affect anyone. Look at the people around you and ask yourself one question: Is this person going to be lonely on Thanksgiving? That person can be the man standing outside the grocery store asking for change. That person can be the young lady in the wheelchair waiting for her bus outside the hospital. That person can be the student waiting for his ride outside JLS Middle School. That person can be your neighbor who waters her lawn every week. That person can be your partner living in your home, going through the motions of routine chores and day-to-day life. **That person can be you.**

But guess what? Loneliness can be managed. What is the treatment? **Connection**. When one human connects with another human, our brain fires neurons that stimulate a positive physical response. Try making a connection with someone you identify as being lonely. It can start with a casual conversation, a simple "hello", and even a bright smile. Then look at yourself in the mirror and I guarantee that you will be tickled with contentment. Make your day special by making someone else feel special, even if that someone else is you. With that, I wish all the Hoover families a very warm and safe Thanksgiving Holiday Season.



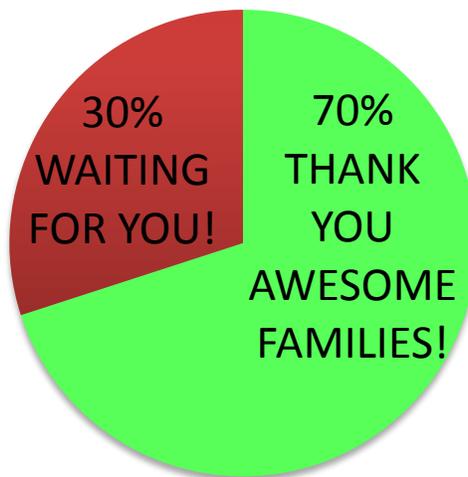
Hoover Highlights

PTA Membership

We are now up to 182 PTA members including 13 Teachers and Staff. There is no deadline to joining Hoover PTA, so please ask questions if you are not sure what PTA membership means or what it requires of you.

PTA Direct Appeal

Direct Appeal Results



Excellent work Hoover Families! You are all doing the right thing by INVESTING in your child's future by helping teachers with supplies, books, and other instructional material. It's never too late to contribute even a small amount to the Direct Appeal Fund. Please reach out to PTA for any questions.

HOOVER SOCIAL CLIMATE

Look out for upcoming social climate meetings and events right after the New Year!

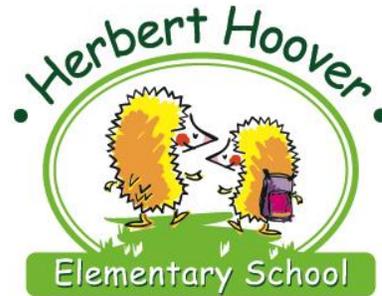
LEGO & GAME NIGHT

Many thanks to Ching S. and Naomi W. for organizing a memorable and exciting game night. We gave away many boxes of Lego to our dedicated builders and inventors. We thank all the parent volunteers who helped set up, clean-up, take photos, and were active participants!

Look out for the Mini Book Fair held on December 2-5, 2014!

Don't forget **Hoover Ice Skating Party** @ Winter Lodge taking place on December 3, 2014.

Once again, we need to give major recognition to all the parent volunteers who put in countless, most often thankless hours of work into making our school a better place. Please do not hesitate to reach out to any of us if you have questions, concerns, or compliments. Go Hoover Hedgehogs!



PTA Executive Board Members	
President	Jong-Mi Lee
Executive Vice President	Peggy B.
First VP of Membership & Administration Chair	Anais L.
Second VP of Fundraising Chair	Liliya S.
Third VP of Programs Chair	Indira S.
Co-Programs Chair	Miyoung K.
Fourth VP of Events Chair	Naomi W.
Fifth VP of Communications Chair	Gayatri B.
Co-Communications Chair	Anupama K.
Recording Secretary	Ann Y. L.
Parliamentarian	Mayma R.
Historian	Amanda S.
Treasurer	Elizabeth L.
Co-Treasurer	Joy W.
Financial Secretary	Jieun S.
Auditor	Lorie P.

Hoover Site Council Update

Q) What is **Site Council**? – Its role and its composition:

A) The Hoover Site Council is responsible for reviewing and approving the Single Plan for Student Achievement (SPSA), a state program whereby schools are given funds to be used as determined on-site. It is also responsible for establishing school goals and approving the annual School Site Council (SSC) budget and other school-wide policy issues. The Site Council is composed of an equal number of parents (Five) and staff members (Five, including the Principal) each serving two year terms. Elections for parent members of the Site Council are held in the spring whereas Hoover staff selects the staff members.

Q) Who are the Site Council Members for 2014-15?

A)

Parent Members	Staff Members
Bryna C.	Kathryn Bimpson (Principal)
Zainab J.	Elsa Chen
William L.	Kimberly Kwon
Phil S.	Peter Lee
Anamika S. (Co-Chair)	Michelle Thomas (Co-Chair)

Q) When and where are the **Site Council Meetings**?

A) Site Council meets once a month on a Wednesday, from 1:50pm until 3:20pm, in Room 17. The entire schedule of meeting dates is posted on our school's website. Our next meeting is on Wednesday, December 10, 2014.

These meetings are open to the public and all are welcome to join.

Also, these meetings are a great platform for extending communication and for providing feedback by sharing and discussion during 'Open Forum'

Q) How can I have access to the SPSA Plan?

A) The updated SPSA Plan will be displayed on our website soon.

Q) Where can I find the Agenda and Meeting Minutes?

A) The Agenda is posted on the display board outside the office and soon, both the Agenda and the Minutes will be posted on the 'Site Council' tab of Hoover's (under construction) new website.

Q) Are there any committees as part of site council? What are their role /goals?

A) Yes, this year we have the following 3 Committees:

1. Safe School Climate Committee
2. Common Core Communication/Parent Ed Education Committee
3. Technology Committee.

Safe School Climate Committee Goals:

- Finding creative activities for older students – for example- Makers Studio in Barron Park
- Addressing the 2:00pm – 2:30pm dismissal time gap for families with multiple kids.

- Looking into Networking groups, Play pool groups etc.

Common Core Communication/ Parent Ed Education Committee Goal:

- Look into different ways to spread understanding of the Common Core goals and objectives within Hoover's parent community.

Technology Committee Goals:

- Look into technology related needs at Hoover.
For example, last year two new laptop carts were bought as well as the need for few extension cords was fulfilled.

In our last meeting held on November 5th, we had an interesting discussion on the topic of 'Mindfulness for Elementary Students' (submitted by Anamika). What is mindfulness and how can it be incorporated within our classrooms? All the teachers shared, how in their own ways, they were using it. Parent members also shared their own personal and their children's example of having used this 'effective technique' for reducing overall stress and for improving both social-emotional and academic performance.

If you are interested in learning more about this topic, please read the article used for discussion <http://www.pbs.org/thebuddha/teachers-guide/>

In the **Open Forum section**- a member had bought up the issue of the school's policy on not permitting to play on the school's playground before and after school (2pm). This was discussed in detail and Ms. Bimpson expressed that, as this is a big liability risk- this is also being discussed at the District level. At Hoover, an exception was made only for the 'wiggly Kindergartners' for which a district supervised staff member is allocated. However, extending this to the entire school is not possible primarily due to the liability involved.

If you would like to know more on this, then, please click on the link for the Minutes of the last meeting https://docs.google.com/document/d/1mbu0g8SJC_dpMqNczeUSi2uEhIKKGkM8J_c6-dAFpGU/edit

Ms. Bimpson's update:

- -Austin Buffum, RtI and collaboration expert , along with guiding coalition of T. Davis, K. McAlpin, Rachel MW and Katy, have spent some time with him to work on our RtI practices. This will help improve instruction for all kids of all learning types. (Source: meeting minutes https://docs.google.com/document/d/1mbu0g8SJC_dpMqNczeUSi2uEhIKKGkM8J_c6-dAFpGU/edit)
- The work on Core Values/Mission is ongoing. The plan includes the structure of the work along with projected phases. During phase 1, Ms. Bimpson and staff reviewed the data collected from the visioning retreat in August, created essential questions, and crafted next steps in the form of the 'Visioning Compass and Goal Setting Plan'. Ms. Bimpson will be the liaison between parent body and the staff with the help of PTA.
- Ms. Bimpson was excited to share the success of Unity Day at Hoover.

Ms. Bimpson also shared about the 'Parent led School Climate Committee' also known as the 'Focus Group' which comprises of PTA, Site Council and other parents involved with a prime objective of

'making families feel welcomed at Hoover'. Ms. Bimpson has drafted School-wide Guidelines for students, parents and volunteers and has sent it out to staff to give feedback on it.

- Monthly trainings will be provided on these guidelines, a video-copy will go on our website. Each classroom will be visited by Ms. Bimpson to talk about good friendships, respect, safety, and responsibility.
- Work with 'Student Focus Group' is also underway. Its mission will be to revise 'expectations' for play on the playground as well as other common areas.
- Plan to have a dedicated Hoover school banner which would display the core values of making 'Safe, Respectful and Responsible' choices.

SITE COUNCIL APPROVAL OF SPSA PLAN: The SPSA plan for 2014-2015 was approved pending review. This plan is a living document; it can be worked on throughout the year. Approving it will not make it permanent for the year. The SPSA plan will soon be available on Hoover's website.

The Site Council is busy looking into the possibility of having a 'Makers Studio' at our school site as well. The TOSA dedicated for this mission at Barron Park, Ms. S Kolhatkar, will be sharing her insights and giving her feedback on the project site at Barron Park.

Our upcoming meeting is on **Wednesday, December 10th, room 17**. All are welcome to join in. We will be hearing from Ms. Kolhatkar, will have Principal's update as well as discuss the following articles:

1. Article/blog on 'Educating Parents About Education' (submitted by Ms. Bimpson)
<http://www.edutopia.org/blog/educating-parents-about-education-tom-whitby>
2. Article on 'How the Maker Movement is Transforming Education (submitted by William Leong)
<http://www.weareteachers.com/hot-topics/special-reports/how-the-maker-movement-is-transforming-education>

If you have any questions or concern or just want to share some feedback or insight, please feel free to reach out to our Site Council Parent Co-Chair – Anamika S. at anamikasingh1@gmail.com or Staff Co-Chair – Ms. Michelle Thomas (mthomas@pausd.org). As always Ms. Katy Bimpson (kbimpson@pausd.org) is interested in hearing from you.

Thank you!