

LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Educational Service Center Northeast

Toluca Lake Elementary

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September 8, 2016

Dear Toluca Lake Parents and Families,

Our State Superintendent of Public Instruction and the California Legislature have declared September as **ATTENDANCE AWARENESS MONTH**. As you are aware, our District has mandated that a child miss no more than 5 days during the school year. Starting as early as kindergarten and prekindergarten, chronic absence (Missing 10% of school for any reason during the academic year) is an early warning sign of trouble in school and may eventually lead to a student dropping out of school. Under California law, a student is considered truant after being absent from school without a valid excuse for three full days in one school year or tardy for more than a 30-minute period of instruction without an excuse – or a combination thereof.

The connection between regular attendance and student achievement is conclusive. A student cannot learn when they are not in class. Here at Toluca Lake we have many rewards, contests and other activities that you will be hearing about to promote good attendance. If you have any concerns or need support in getting your child to school each and every day, please contact us as soon as possible.

Tuesday, September 13th is Back to School Night. The students and staff are very excited to have you come join us for this important activity. This is the time for you to get to know everything about the expectations for your child to have a successful year. Take note of when homework is due, classroom rules, schedules and where your child sits. Observe how well their belongings are organized. Please note the following:

- The students will have an **early dismissal at 1:09**, on that day.
 - 1 – **5:15 – 5:30** visit the Auditorium to learn all about the school with the Principal.
 - 2 - **5:30 -6:00** Grades TK through 2nd grade Parents will visit their child's classroom.
 - 3 **6:00 –6:30** Grades 3 through 5 & PALS Parents will visit their child's classroom.

Our PTA will be providing a Bake Sale. The PTA is working very hard to support all school activities. Please have a chat with the Parents at the Bake Sale to let them know of your interest in getting involved. Our motto is "Together We Achieve" and we can't do it without your help.

As a reminder: All the remaining Tuesdays, **September 20th through April 4th** we will have early dismissal for all students. On those Tuesdays, school will be out one hour earlier at **1:09** p.m. The early dismissals will allow us to provide instructional planning time and staff development.

Remember, you were the first teacher in your child's life and you have the power to continue that great attachment with them. An excerpt from "Home & School Connection" will give you an idea of:

Parent Power – Good Consequences

- Behaving well and working hard pay off!
- Tie good behavior to nice outcomes. If your child is quiet when you're on an important phone call, you might say "You were so patient while I made that call. Would you like to play a game now?"
- Recognize success. If your child keeps his/her room neater; let them know that perhaps you either could redecorate or rearrange their room.
- Comment on progress and effort, not just results. "You worked hard on that report."
- Ask your child to state the three school rules: **We are safe, responsible and respectful.**



Thank you in advance for participating in the education of your children. It is only through working together that we can guarantee the finest education for them.

Sincerely,

The Administrative Team and Staff of Toluca Lake Elementary

