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| **MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL** |
| **Neil Armstrong Community –**  Can you believe we are entering the final month of the school year! What a crazy but truly amazing year this has been. This year has shown the resilience of the human spirit. Our teachers and our students have adapted throughout the year and grown so much. We appreciate you trusting us with your amazing students!  **SCIENCE OLYMPIAD**  I would like to take a brief moment to celebrate the amazing achievement of 6 - 4th graders at our district Science Olympiad competition. Mrinalini Prakash, Veda Oza, Finn Pearson, Ishaan Banerjee, Pratik Sahu, and Pradyun Chavan are the members that comprise team “Newton’s Apples”. This amazing team competed and won 1st place in our entire district in the Instant Challenge competition. We are so proud of them and all their hard work and ingenuity! Congratulations Eagles!  **SAFETY AROUND SCHOOL**  As a reminder, please be mindful when you are driving around our school area that we are a school zone. We have seen some cars speeding through the neighborhood at pick-up and drop-off, which creates a dangerous situation for our students. If you can please be sure to slow down. Please be considerate of our neighbors and our community and do not block driveways or double park in the street as it creates unnecessary congestion. We know that we tend to rush in our lives, but if you can please slow down, USE CROSSWALKS, and only park in appropriate places. Adhering to all of this will help all of our students move to and from school more safely.  **MASKING**  Over the past few weeks, I know we have seen an uptick in Covid cases and are thankful to all our families for working with us. We work hard to keep your family informed and as safe as possible while following all CDPH guideline. We are empathetic to the fact that there continues to be diverse views and opinions on masking. **I ask our entire school community to pull together, please, to respect everyone’s personal choice regarding masking, free of judgment, teasing or peer pressure.** Masking continues to be recommended, but not required, for our students and staff, but this a personal choice for each family and we will continue to respect that.  If you have any questions about any of this, please do not hesitate to reach out to me and I will help you the best I can.  **PARENT ORGANIZATIONS NEED YOUR SUPPORT**  NAAB and PTA continue to struggle to find parents to fill various roles. New parents bring new ideas and fresh perspectives that are critical to the operation of both organizations. As an elementary school parent myself, I understand intimately the intimidating prospect of volunteering at school. However, I cannot emphasize enough how critical it is to the operation of these organizations. Without new parents getting involved, we cannot continue to thrive. Here is a quick synopsis of the two organizations:  NAAB: Neil Armstrong Academic Boosters is our fundraising body of our individual school so that we can provide instructional assistants, our librarian and emotional supports for students to support learning. They put on our Eagle March, Auction (next year), and any new fundraising events parents would like to see. NAAB nurtures the school learning experience.  PTA: Our Parent Teacher Association provides events and experiences for our students throughout the year. PTA supports our community through events like the book fairs, movie nights, the carnival, International night, the Sweetheart Dance, and so many more great events for our kids and our community.  I appreciate your consideration of supporting our parent organization. If you are interested and able to join our NAAB meetings, they are approximately one hour on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. You can reach out to [naabeagleboard@gmail.com](mailto:naabeagleboard@gmail.com) for more information. If you are interested and able to join our PTA meetings, they are approximately one hour on the 3rd Wednesday of the month. You can reach out to them at [naeaglespta@gmail.com](mailto:naeaglespta@gmail.com)    **NAAB GOLF TOURNAMENT AND DINNER**  With all that said above, unfortunately, due to lack of participants, NAAB had to make the decision to cancel our golf tournament and Dinner that was planned for this year. As a NAAB team, they try to get creative in our fundraising efforts while also providing community experiences to bring all of us together. NAAB is a critical organization for our school as they provide the funding for all of our Instructional Aides, extra library time for our students, as well as emotional supports that all students benefit from. We hope to come back stronger next school year to provide experiences that our community can engage with while supporting the school.  **PTA SWEETHEART DANCE**  Thank you so much for all families that were able to join us for the amazing Sweetheart Dance. It was such an amazing event for our community and for our students. A huge thank you to Norm Higa and his committee for all the planning and hard work to bring this island experience to life. Our Neil Armstrong community is grateful for the fantastic opportunity and I appreciate so much of our community joining us!  **LUNCH CHANGES**  I wanted to let parents know that in the month of May we will change our system at lunch. For this entire school year, except when it is raining, we have been eating outside. May typically becomes very hot which will limit our ability to eat outside. Starting this coming Monday, we will move our lunch tables back inside and will return to our pre-pandemic lunch system of eating indoors. This year, we have endured smoke, wind, cold, bees, and many more elements but continued to eat outside for the time our students are eating. However, the heat makes the benches very hot for the students to sit on and they can overheat while they are sitting in direct sunlight. I hope you can understand the reason for this change. If you have any questions or want to discuss, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.  **HOUSEKEEPING ITEMS**   * We have an overwhelming number of items in our lost and found! PLEASE BE SURE TO LABEL YOUR STUDENTS CLOTHES ON THE TAG. I have personally gone through the entire lost and found and returned any items with a name on it. If your child is missing anything, please come to the front office and take a look for your missing articles of clothing, water bottles, or lunch boxes. * Just a gentle reminder that the back parking lot is for staff parking only. Please do not use this lot for pick-up and drop-off as it can create a dangerous situation for students who are walking out there before and after school. Thank you for your understanding.   **MAY CALENDAR**  5/2 – 5/6 – Teacher Appreciation Week  5/6 from 5:00 – 7:30 – International Night  5/9, 5/10, 5/12, 5/13 – Assessment days – Early release for Grades 1-3  5/10 – 5/13 – 5th Grade Camp  5/16 – 5/18 – Spring Book Fair  5/19 @ 5:00 – Incoming TK informational night  5/19 @ 6:30 – 7:30 – Open House  5/30 – NO SCHOOL – Memorial Day  6/2 – Last Day of School – Minimum Day  Thank you for all of your support this school year. Please do not hesitate to reach out to your student’s teacher or myself if there is anything we can do to support your student or family as we wrap up this year’s journey together.  Mr. Jared Gagnon  Principal  Neil Armstrong Elementary School |
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