

Longfellow Spanish Immersion Magnet School

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Dear Longfellow Families,

Can you believe that school is just two short weeks away? I hope that your summer break has been relaxing and full of wonderful memories of fun times with friends and family!

Many of you may have noticed that our website is not up-to-date. This summer, all district websites were updated and the process was not as smooth as had been anticipated. We are just now learning how to update our new website and will get it updated as soon as possible.

In the meantime, please note that school does start on September 8th and our bell times have not changed. Wednesdays will continue to be our weekly minimum day.

At this time I'd like to introduce this *school newsletter* as the new primary tool for all school communications. This newsletter will replace the eAnnouncements googlegroup. While I will continue to include PTO announcements in this newsletter, you will want to read the PTO announcement below about changes to their communications.

The newsletter will reach all families via SchoolMessenger, which is linked to the email addresses provided in PowerSchool. If you know someone who isn't receiving this newsletter, he or she should email Glenda McGee-Bolden at gmcgee-bolden@sandi.net to provide the school an email address.

My goal is to send out this weekly newsletter on Friday evenings. You are receiving this newsletter today due to the need to communicate important information to you in a timely manner, you are receiving this

Please take the time to read through each of the school and PTO announcements below...



Upcoming Events

September 2

YMCA Character Builders
Parent Meeting
6:00 pm in the Auditorium

September 4

Kindergarten Orientation
1:00 pm in the Auditorium

September 8

First Day of School!

September 11

PTO's Welcome Back Bonfire
4:00 pm at DeAnza Cove

September 14

PTO Meeting
6:00 pm in the Auditorium

September 15

SGT Meeting
7:30 am in room 1

September 16

Back to School Night
Details to come

September 24

SSC Meeting
7:30 am in room 1

September 25

Picture Day!

School News from Principal Sánchez

❖ YMCA Character Builders Childcare Parent Meeting...

A YMCA Character Builders Childcare Parent Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 2nd at 6:00 pm in the Longfellow Auditorium.

The purpose of this meeting is for the YMCA team to respond to recent parent concerns over changes in their fee schedules for the 2015-2016 school year.

Families will have the opportunity to dialogue with the YMCA team.

If you cannot be present on this evening and you want to be sure your concerns are heard and addressed, please email your comments to pdowling@sandi.net. We will share your comments with the YMCA team.

❖ Boys & Girls Club Afterschool Program Option...

If you are in need of an afterschool program option, consider the Boys & Girls Club of Clairemont!

The membership fee is \$30 and it will be valid until June 30, 2016. If your child attended the Boys & Girls Club this summer, the membership does not need to be paid again.

The afterschool weekly rate is \$25.00.

If you are interested in utilizing the Clairemont Boys & Girls Club as an afterschool program option, please download, complete, and submit the attached membership form to the Clairemont Boys & Girls Club by Friday, August 28, 2015.

Transportation to the Clairemont Boys & Girls Club

The Boys & Girls Club currently does not have a bus available to transport students from Longfellow to their facility on Clairemont Mesa Boulevard.

Longfellow, however, currently has a school bus with 35 available spaces. An afterschool bus stop at the Clairemont Boys & Girls Club is being added to this bus route. The Clairemont Boys & Girls Club stop will be the third stop on this route – leaving students at the Clairemont Boys & Girls Club at approximately 4:45 pm on regular school days.

If you are interested in utilizing school bus transportation to the Clairemont Boys & Girls Club, you will need to complete the attached School Bus Transportation Application and return it to Longfellow by Friday, August 28, 2015. A Wednesday-only option is also a possibility.

The cost for transportation is \$250.00 for the year (\$25.00/month).

FYI... the Mission Valley YMCA will continue to provide before and after school licensed childcare this school year on our school campus.

❖ Longfellow Classroom Communications...

This year, all elementary teachers will create a class group in their outlook email account to communicate with families about classroom, grade level, and school information. Middle school teachers will continue to use googlegroups.

❖ Notification of Teacher and Classroom Assignments...

Your child's *tentative* teacher and classroom assignment, for the 2015-2016 school year, will reach you via an email from your child's teacher by 5:00 pm on Friday, September 4, 2015.

❖ Teacher and Classroom Assignments...

Teacher and classroom assignments are *tentative* until the end of the enrollment verification period, on or about the 4th week of school. If the school has a significant increase or decrease in enrollment, we could gain or lose a teacher. Either of these scenarios would force a reorganization of classes where students are assigned to a different teacher and classroom.

❖ Requests for a Teacher/Classroom Change...

Requests for a teacher/classroom change will not be considered until the enrollment verification period has been completed and we know if a reorganization will be necessary. Please know that, in accordance with district policy, we are required to ensure that classrooms are balanced (gender, ethnicity, class size, special program, ability). Every year, classroom teachers go to great lengths to create balanced classes. Consideration of a teacher/classroom change will occur as long as the classroom balance is not compromised.

PTO News from PTO President Leah Kirby

❖ Konstella

This year, the PTO will be using Konstella, a new communication tool, for our school-wide PTO communications. Konstella will make staying organized easier and help build a secure and private parent community here at Longfellow. If the PTO has your email, we will send you an invitation to join the first week of September! If we do not have your email, you can go to Konstella.com to register!

Here are some of the ways Konstella will change the face of communication for the Longfellow community:

- It provides a single location for your child's/children's activities, including class announcements, parties, school events, and volunteer sign-ups.

- Your personalized calendar in Konstella automatically includes all upcoming activities and deadlines for your child's class and Longfellow as a whole. This calendar can be synced to your own personal electronic calendar.
- Parents can communicate with other parents about various topics via a message board. If interested in a topic, you can subscribe to a particular thread and respond directly from each email. This is beneficial in discussing topics such as good summer camps, class-wide playdates, or finding parents with similar interests.
- Parents will have the ability to communicate directly with other parents for the purpose of planning activities.
- Parents can join a Los Compadres de Escuela Longfellow PTO committee or volunteer for a school event with just one click!

Some notes on using Konstella:

- Please add konstella.com to your email program's safe list.
- Please customize your privacy settings by clicking your name, then Settings.
- Questions or issues? Please contact Linda Schulte at vpcommunications@longfellowcompadres.org.
- Privacy notice: Konstella is a secure site and your privacy is of utmost importance to us. You will control your privacy settings within the tool, so you decide what you would like to share with other parents. Your information will not be accessible to third parties.

While we hope you will join Konstella to take advantage of its helpful and efficient classroom and school-wide communication features, it is important to note that classroom teachers will communicate school news via a class group created in their outlook email account and the school will send school wide eAnnouncements via a SchoolMessenger newsletter.