



# FRANK M. WRIGHT SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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"Striving For Excellence"

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents,

Over the years OUR school has continually improved through the hard work AND ACCOUNTABILITY of teachers, students and parents. Through the collaboration of school and community, our school continues to improve in its academic achievement. Our current API is up to 770. OUR school is a fine example of what happens when teachers and parents are on the same page in improving the academic success of their children.

I cannot tell you what an honor and privilege it is to be working in such a hard working school community. It does not mean there is not room for improvement because there is, but I have no doubt we will continue to improve. We continue to emphasize and integrate research based instructional strategies (collaboration, data driven decision making, curriculum mapping, PLC's, Mind Maps and writing). If you have any questions, concerns or would like to visit our school, PLEASE do not hesitate to call.

Thanks again for your support and remember, *Together We Are Making A Difference.*



## Welcome Mr. Emila Kelsall!!

I would like to welcome our new head custodian, **Emila Kelsall**. **Emila** comes to us by the way of Hawaii where he lived all his life before moving to the mainland in 1998. He served in the United States Coast Guard for 26 years and retired from in 1997 as a chief machinist technician. His duties in the Coast Guard included boating officer, pollution investigator and drug enforcement.

Having a hard time staying retired, **Emila** came back to the workforce in 1998 as a custodian. He worked at Cherrylee School for 6 years before coming to Frank Wright. Emila has three children and enjoys running, soccer and volleyball. He also likes helping out friends and family.

## Congratulations Blanca Galaviz!

### 2008 Frank Wright Spelling Bee Champion!

Sixth grader **Blanca Galaviz** from **Mr. Luna's** class won the 2008 Spelling Bee Competition by being able to spell aubergine. **Blanca** studied many hours and with the help and encouragement from her parents, (both whom are Frank Wright Alumni), **Blanca** prevailed. Also competing well and working hard for this competition were **Armando Martinez, Luis Reyes, Derrick Ho, Alyssa Rodriguez, Aidee Gutierrez, Michelle Chen, Thi Phan** and **Samantha Kuang**.

Blanca will be advancing to District Competition on Thursday, February 21<sup>st</sup> at Rosemead High School. We know Blanca will represent our school very well. Good Luck Blanca!



## PROFESSIONAL LEARNING COMMUNITIES

Over the years, our school has continually looked as what research says works best to increase student achievement. This is why we focus on writing, thinking maps and collaborate every Thursday. Our goal for the next several years is to refine our skills in writing and thinking maps through professional development. We will be following the PLC process. This process will help us plan better to meet the academic needs of our students.



## PREPARE YOUR CHILD FOR STAR TESTING

The best way for your child to prepare for the STAR Test is through consistent work habits. One of the most important habits is to eat and rest properly. This means eating healthy and getting plenty of sleep. Studies have shown that children who sleep a minimum of 8 hours a night consistently do better in school than those that sleep less.



## 6<sup>th</sup> Graders Enjoy a Week of Winter Snow at Science Camp

During the week of January 28 our 6<sup>th</sup> graders found themselves surrounded by a picturesque blanket of freshly fallen snow at the Los Angeles County Outdoor Science School of Blue Sky Meadow in the Los Angeles National Forest. This valuable experience provided students with 20 hours of natural science instruction, which focused on our 6<sup>th</sup> grade California Standards. Students learned about the energy exchange among organisms in ecosystems through lessons provided by naturalists. Activities included afternoon hikes, night hikes, evening programs, skits, folk dancing, and songs that promote science concepts. A delightful week to remember!



## Walk-A-Thon Scheduled for February 22<sup>nd</sup>!



Our annual walk-a-thon is scheduled for February 22<sup>nd</sup>. It's more important than ever to support this important fundraiser. If our school earns \$20,000 our assistant principal, Mrs. Richenberger has agreed to be slimed. If our school earns \$30,000 our principal Mr. Marquez will be slimed and whipped creamed. Please refer to your PTA Walk-A-Thon Flyer for more information.



## STUDENT SUPPORT PROGRAMS AT FRANK M. WRIGHT SCHOOL

PARENT EDUCATION CLASSES \***AFTER SCHOOL HOMEWORK CLASS** \*

**IN-SCHOOL FLEX PROGRAM** \* **ASPIRE** \***AFTER SCHOOL HOMEWORK CLUB** \* **ERANOWAN SCHOOL**

**AFTER SCHOOL INTERVENTIONS** \*

The success of our school over that last several years have not been through individual effort. It has been through the creative, collaborative and persistent efforts of our students, school staff, parents and community. Below are **some** of the programs currently being implemented to help our students achieve.

**PESA** (Parent Expectations Support Achievement). This program sponsored through the Los Angeles County Office of Education. The program is conducted by **Mrs. Lourdes Jauregui** (our community liaison) and **Ms. Delia Dominguez** (District Coordinators). Parent Expectations Support Achievement (PESA) is a parent education program based on the belief that parents' expectations are the greatest predictor of their children's achievement, relationships, and ultimate success. PESA is modeled after the highly acclaimed TESA (Teacher Expectations and Student Achievement) program, which has influenced a generation of teachers to have high expectations for all students. Project Goals are: Higher student achievement scores; Greater parent involvement in schools; Positive school-community image; Strong parent-teacher partnerships; Greater child self-esteem, leading to better decisions about drug and alcohol use, sex, and peer pressure; Good family communication and responsible behavior; Cost-efficient parent education through a trainer-of-trainers approach.

**PARENT EDUCATION CLASSES/MOMMY AND ME**– This program is sponsored by the El Monte Union High School District. It's conducted by **Ms. Janet Kershaw** and designed to help parents prepare their children for school. It's an exciting program that meets four times a week in room 9. Baby sitters are on staff so that parents can attend without worrying of where they are going to leave their pre-school children.

**AFTER SCHOOL HOMEWORK CLASS** – This is program paid by our categorical budget. This program is conducted by the collaborative efforts of **Mr. Jose Marquez, Mrs. Joella Richenberger, Mrs. Leslie Fleischer, Mrs. Sun Park, Mrs. Lynn Mondrala, Mrs. Diana Pirraglia, Miss Cristina Mendoza, Mrs. Laura Barrio, Miss Naomi Coleman, Ms. Veronica Perez, Miss Cynthia Borja, Mr. Alan Edpau and Miss Ruth Hernandez**. This class is designed to increase the homework completion rate of our 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. Simply put, if a student is not completing homework, they are required to stay after school and complete it before they fall too far behind. This program is designed as a student support program. A similar program was conducted at Adlai E. Stevenson High School in Lincolnshire, Illinois. This program was instrumental in helping ASHS become one of only four high schools in the nation to win USDE Blue Ribbon award on four separate occasions.

**IN-SCHOOL FLEX PROGRAM** – This program is paid by our categorical budget. It's conducted by **Ms. Veronica Perez**. The program designed to further support our 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade students who have difficulty in Algebra and/or Science. This program takes the premise that students can and will be able to learn Algebra by completing their Algebra homework. In other words, rather than giving students less work and lowering our expectations, students are given extra time **and** support to keep up. In this program, students are taken out of their elective program or partially out of their physical education program (3 days a week) and given individualized support during the school day. Once the student is caught up (and is able to keep up) he or she is returned to their regular program. Students enter or exit the program based on THEIR needs.

**ASPIRE**– This program is paid for by a grant in conjunction between the El Monte City School District and L.E.A.R.N. (Learning Enrichment and Academic Resources Network). This program is conducted by **Ms. Jonitha Curry**. It's designed to help meet the academic needs of our students. No more than ten students are with an ASPIRE counselor at a time. Currently we have five counselors working with our students. As counselors are hired and trained, the program will eventually expand and include more children. They help and assist students with homework and or academic skills that students need to improve in. Students also eat a snack, take part in a physical and performing arts activity. Students are released at 6:00 pm on regular days and 5:00 pm on consolidated days.

**AFTER SCHOOL HOMEWORK CLUB**–This traditional program is paid for by our categorical budget. It is currently a student volunteer program at grades 1-6. This program is conducted by **Mr. Michael** and **Mr. David Flippin**. It is designed for students that may need help with their homework.

**AFTER SCHOOL INTERVENTIONS**–This traditional K-8 program is paid by our categorical budgets. It is designed to assist students that are behind academically. This program is conducted by the vast majority of our teachers. Teachers at all levels identify students from within their classrooms that need additional academic support. They then support them as needed.

**ENGLISH SCHOOLS** Three different programs exist within our school. They are paid by our categorical budgets and district office. The first program is conducted by **Mr. David Luna** and designed to meet the needs of our 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade students that are having difficulty completing their homework. It requires that parents attend with the students on Saturday from 8:00 am until 12:00 noon. The second program is conducted by **Mr. John Marshall, Mrs. Mary Morze-Leyva, Mrs. Armandina Vega, Miss Cheryl Gruber, and Mrs. Sun Park**. It's designed to assist and or excel our 1<sup>st</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade students in reaching proficiency.

Our third program is sponsored by our district office and conducted by **Mr. Mike Rogel**. This is a district wide program that deals with the truancy and delinquency of children .

### 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE PROMOTION CEREMONY INFORMATION

Parents and students are reminded that any 8<sup>th</sup> grade student that is suspended during the last trimester of the trimester will be ineligible for 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Promotion activities such as Knott's and the ceremony itself. The promotion ceremony is planned for June 16<sup>th</sup> at the Rosemead High School Auditorium at 5:00 pm. It's schedule to last approximately one hour so it's very important that student and parents be on time. More information regarding dress and tickets will follow in June.

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Parents please mark your calendars and note the following important school dates.

Feb. 15 ELAC Meeting 9:00 am Room 4  
Feb. 18 PRESIDENT'S DAY LEGAL HOLIDAY  
Feb. 19 First Day ELA Benchmark  
Feb. 19 EMCSD Board Meeting Administration Building 6:00 p.m.  
Feb. 20 8<sup>th</sup> Grade AHS Student Parent Orientation 7:00 pm Arroyo HS Gym.  
Feb. 21 DISTRICT SPELLING BEE Rosemead HS Auditorium 9:00 am  
Feb. 21 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Registration to Arroyo HS 8:15 am.  
Feb. 22 School Wide Walk-A-Thon Fundraiser  
Feb. 28 K-6 Student of the Month Assembly  
Feb. 29 7-8 Student of the Month Assembly  
Feb. 29 Family Movie Night!  
Mar. 4-5 STAR Testing Writing Grade 4 & 7 Only  
Mar. 9 Daylight Savings Begins  
Mar. 10 EMCSD Board Meeting Administration Building 6:00 p.m.  
Mar. 12 School Wide Writing Assessment  
Mar. 15 Fiesta of Books El Monte Community Center  
Mar. 19 7-8 Student of the Month Assembly  
Mar. 20 K-6 Student of the Month Assembly  
Mar. 20 2<sup>nd</sup> Trimester Ends  
Mar. 20 ELAC Meeting 9:00 am Room 4  
Mar. 21 Good Friday (Local Holiday) No School  
Mar. 21-28 Spring Break  
Apr. 7-11 Parent Conference Week

Apr. 7-11 Consolidated Day Week  
Apr. 9 Report Cards Go Home  
Apr. 14 EMCSD Board Meeting Administration Building 6:00 p.m.  
Apr. 17-24 Annual PTA Book Fair  
Apr. 18 ELAC Meeting 9:00 am Room 4  
Apr. 21 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Panorama Pictures  
Apr. 24 Open House  
May 4-16 STAR Testing  
May 8 Trimester ½ over  
May 16 ELAC Meeting 9:00 am Room 4  
May 19-22 STAR Testing Make-ups  
May 19 EMCSD Board Meeting Administration Building 6:00 p.m.  
May 21 Progress Reports Go Home  
May 26 No School Legal Holiday Memorial Day  
May 30 Post STAR BBQ Celebration  
June 5 American Legion Awards  
June 6 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Run For Your Heart Cross County Invitational  
June 12 K-6 Student of the Month  
June 13 7-8 Student of the Month  
June 16 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Promotion Rosemead HS  
June 18 Last Day of School  
June 20 ELAC Meeting 9:00 am Room 4  
June 23 EMCSD Board Meeting Administration Building 6:00 p.m.

### *STAR Testing & STAR Celebration BBQ Dates Set*

Between May 5<sup>th</sup> and May 16<sup>th</sup> our children will be taking the STAR Test.. Make-up tests will be held on May 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, & 21<sup>st</sup>. It is very important that your child not be late or absent during this time. As a reward, any child that has perfect attendance and has taken all of the STAR tests **during their scheduled times without a make-up test** will be eligible to attend a special BBQ on Friday, May 30<sup>th</sup>..

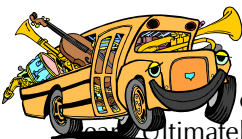


### UNIFORM SHIRT COLOR OPTIONS

Just a reminder that we now have a choice in color for uniform tops/shirts. You may send your child to school in white, light blue or navy blue colored uniform shirts.

### FIELD TRIPS CONTINUE TO BE PART OF A WELL-ROUNDED EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE AT FRANK M. WRIGHT SCHOOL

A well-rounded education takes many forms. One is to allow our students to experience as many outside experiences as possible. Our goal is for every student at Wright School to attend at least two field trips per year. Ultimately, if a child enters Kindergarten at Wright School, the goal is for this child to have experienced a minimum of 18 different field trip experiences by the time the child reaches 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Our PTA has agreed to this goal and has agreed to once again sponsor one half of this year's field trips. If you are not part of the PTA, please join and be an active member. We invite you to share the excitement of being involved in your child's education.



### ***VOLUNTEERS WANTED!!***

Wright School would truly benefit, from parents volunteering more in the classrooms. We want to increase parent involvement in all our classrooms. If you can schedule some time to be part of this special opportunity, and be part of our Mom/Dad room parent, please contact our Community Liaison Lourdes Jauregui at 626-575-2333 so she can schedule a time for you.

*Parent Teacher Association = success for our children. If you become an active member of the PTA, you will become a proactive member of your child's educational experiences. Together we are making a difference.*

