

Michelle Chang, Principal

September 30, 2009

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Dianne Feinstein School Families,

Garden Day was a great success! A GIANT thank you to Miko and all the volunteers who made this day possible. Our yard looks fabulous, since volunteers dead headed plants, pulled out dead plants, trimmed plants and smoothed over our beds. I appreciate everyone's effort in keeping our school beautiful! If you would like to get your hands dirty and assist in helping keep our school beautiful, our next Garden Day is scheduled for October 17 from 9:00 am to 11:00 am. I look forward to seeing you here!

Thank you to our volunteers in Rooms 218 (Mrs. See) and 220 (Ms. Bowers) for their work at our Vicente gate drop off these past few days. If you are a parent/guardian in these classes and have not already signed up to help, please do so. Our volunteer staffed Vicente gate drop off helps to keep our school community safe during drop off each morning.

We will be having School Site Council elections in the upcoming weeks. Information about the election process is in this week's Wednesday envelope. Joining the School Site Council is a great way for you to be a part in the decision making process for our school site and to learn in depth about school processes and budgets. **Please volunteer to be a part of our SSC by filling out the nomination form and returning it to your child's teacher by October 2.** If you have questions about the role and responsibilities of School Site Council, please contact me or our SSC Chair Joshua Mates at joshmates@gmail.com.

We are in need of volunteers to help in putting together our Wednesday envelopes. If you are able to help on a Wednesday any time from 7:50 am to 9:30 am, we would appreciate your help. If you have younger children, they can come and be with you while you are assisting with the Wednesday envelopes. Thank you to all who have been stepping up to stuff our envelopes thus far! I appreciate your support!

We received our achievement data from the standardized tests (STAR) our students took last year. Our teachers did a fantastic job in preparing our students and it showed! School wide, we saw an increase of 18.1% (73.7% total) in students who were at proficient or above in English language arts and an increase of 10.6% (75.8% total) in students who were at proficient or above in math. Last year was the first year we had fifth graders so it was the first year our students took the science portion of the STAR. I am proud to say that 72.4% of our fifth grade

students scored at or above proficient in science. This is a fantastic score, especially for our first time! Lastly, our Academic Performance Index (API) increased ten points to 853. It is promising to see our scores increase every year. I look forward to seeing the great things in store for us in the years to come.

Yours in Education,
Principal Michelle Chang

GOT DATES?

September

➤ Tonight Kindergarten Family Dinner Night
6:00–7:30 pm, Multipurpose Rm.

October

➤ Tomorrow 1st Grade Family Dinner Night
6:00–7:30 pm, Multipurpose Rm.
10/7 3rd Grade Family Dinner Night
6:00–7:30 pm, Multipurpose Rm.
10/8 2nd Grade Family Dinner Night
6:00–7:30 pm, Multipurpose Rm.
10/12 Columbus Day, No School
10/14 General PTA Meeting
10/15 4th/5th Grade Family Dinner Night
6:00–7:30 pm, Multipurpose Rm.
10/16 Auction Committee Meeting
8:00 am, Art Room
10/17 Community Garden Day
9:00–11:00 am; DFES Garden
Week 10/26 Parent/Teacher Conferences
Early Dismissal at 12:50 pm
10/28 PTA EB Meeting, 6:00 pm, Art Rm.
10/30 Halloween at DFES

VICENTE GATE DROP-OFF AND SOCIAL CLUB



WHO	WHEN
➤ Rooms 218, 220 (See, Bowers)	Now thru 10/9/09
Rooms 112, 201 (Finnegan, Zucchi)	10/13/09 thru 10/23/09
Rooms 298, 209 (Sova, L. Wong)	10/26/09 thru 11/6/09
Rooms 203, 207 (Firestone, Mitsui)	11/9/09 thru 11/20/09

FUNDRAISING CORNER



The first Auction Committee meeting of the school year is Friday, October 16th at 8:00 am in the Art Room. Be part of one of DFES' biggest fundraisers! If you're interested in chairing or joining the Auction Committee, please contact Sandy at dfes.auction@gmail.com

If you need garden supplies, please participate in the **Sloat Garden Center's Growing Up Green fundraiser benefitting DFES.** Coupons were distributed in last Wednesday's Envelope. The next two Growing Up Green weeks are November 6-16 and December 7 – 14. Ten percent of your purchases come back to the DFES garden!

COMMUNITY BUILDING



The Kindergarten Family Dinner is tonight at 6:00 pm in the Multipurpose Room. There will be good food, fun, and special surprises. Pay at the door if you forgot to send in your payment.

Tomorrow is 1st Grade Family Dinner Night at 6:00 pm in the Multipurpose Room. If you haven't signed up yet, you can still RSVP to Sandy at sandy.wong333@gmail.com and pay at the door. Feel free to bring a healthy dessert to share!

PTA NEWS

Be a PTA member. Join today by filling out the PTA membership envelope. The cost is only \$10/person.

SSC UPDATE

Nominate yourself or others (with their permission) to be on the School Site Council (SSC). Nomination forms were distributed in last Wednesday's Envelope and are in this week's Wednesday envelope, too. Fill out the form and return it to your child's teacher by this **Friday, October 2nd**. If you have questions, contact the SSC at DFESSSC@sfusd.edu or Principal Chang.

ENRICHMENT AND AFTER SCHOOL CARE



Need child care on the Columbus Day holiday? GLO is offering a full day program at the West Portal School for current and non-current GLO grade school students. See the GLO registration form, or stop by the DFES GLO office for more information. The cost is \$38 for current GLO students and \$43 for non-current GLO students. The deadline for registering is tomorrow, **October 1st**.

GARDEN COMMITTEE

Many thanks to the families who helped in the DFES garden last Saturday. A lot was accomplished! Please take a minute to look around the garden and notice the nicely trimmed plants and the general garden clearing that took place. A special thank you to all of the kids who harvested and served carrots! Mark your calendars for our next Community Garden Day on Saturday, October 17th. We will be planting new shrubs, bulbs and succulents.

PEOPLE WHO MAKE IT WORK



Have you noticed that our pedestrian traffic was recently made safer at Vicente and 25th Avenue? Thank you, Supervisor Chu and Bond Yee of the Municipal Transit Authority for your expeditious help in securing a much-needed crossing guard. Special thanks to Dan Ryan, Matt Mitguard, Liz Isaacs and Principal Chang for their tenacious efforts to make our school safer. Look for some future traffic signs and other improvements resulting from the SJSU traffic study conducted at DFES in 2008.



Get ready for Halloween at DFES on Friday, October 30! There will be a costume parade and a Halloween Festival. More information will be coming soon.

GOT PARENT CONTACTS?

Committee/Event	Name	Email/Phone
PTA	Colby	colbyzintl@gmail.com (415) 309-2450
SSC	Josh	joshmates@gmail.com
Community Building	Liz	lizreye@sbcglobal.net
Enrichment/After School Care	Karen	mitguardfamily@yahoo.com
Garden	Miko	mikomaruoka@yahoo.com