

February 28, 2021

*The ideals which have lighted my way, and time after time have given me new courage to face life cheerfully, have been kindness, beauty and truth.*

Albert Einstein, Theoretical Physicist, Philosopher, Nobel Prize Winner

Dear Families,

I hope you enjoyed this gorgeous Southern California February weekend! The beautiful weather, coupled with the availability of vaccines for school staff and the announcement of a return-to-campus option on April 12, bring about renewed energy in the air.

While the details of our reopening are being worked out with our labor partners, you can expect the District to be surveying families of their preference for onsite or online learning in the near future. I will continue to provide updates to our school community at least twice weekly, once in the Principal's Corner in the Wednesday e-twig and again in the weekend TPES Updates and Important Information message, as soon as more information is provided. [Our District's COVID-19 Status Page is updated regularly and provides the most current information related to our reopening.](#)

I also welcome families to check out our monthly Principal Foundation Chat this Friday at 9:00 AM. The Zoom link is <https://sandiegounified.zoom.us/j/92277357059>.

I have received such a burst of joy at each Distribution Day this year, and seeing so many students' faces last Wednesday was the highlight of my week. Thank you to everyone who pitched in to help our Student Council raise funds to support the special programs such as art, PE, music, technology and Spanish at TPES. ***Everyone played a part in doing some extra helpful acts around the house, and the students collected \$5874.73 for our school.*** This money will be donated to our Foundation. (Please note that this was a completely Student Council, kid-inspired idea. Our Foundation has not asked kids to complete chores!)

It is so clear that Torrey Pines students are dedicated and thoughtful. We are respectful and considerate of others, too. This week begins our month-long focus on kindness. [Here's a great video to illustrate what it means to be humble and kind.](#) Please see our weekly messages below to note the weekly acts of kindness and dress-up days!

During the month of March we have three regular school weeks, a fourth week of Parent-Teacher Conferences and then a week of Spring Vacation. All families are invited to meet with their child's teacher for an update on student progress, but conferences are mandatory for any child who is not meeting grade level standards. You can expect information related to scheduling this conference from your teacher coming your way soon.

Thank you again for your partnership and support. Have a fabulous week!

Ms. Richard

### What you need to know for the week ahead:

#### **Kindness Month starts tomorrow, on March 1, at TPES!**

TPES is participating in the 2021 Great Kindness Challenge! Please join the Torrey Pines Elementary School Foundation, Mrs. Riney, and the Student Council in practicing these [50 Kind Acts](#) together. How many can you do?

Look for the Foundation's weekly eBlasts! We will highlight 2 kind acts to practice together. And, each Friday in March, we will host kindness-themed dress-up days.

During the month of March, Breakfast and Books with Ms. Richard on Tuesday and Thursday mornings will focus on stories about kindness.

Let's have fun and spread kindness, happiness and joy to our school community, family and friends! Can't wait to see what you do!!

#### **Week of March 1**

2 Kind Acts to Highlight:

1. Sincerely compliment 5 people.
2. Send a thank you note to your teacher, our Principal, a TPES staff member or our Superintendent, and tell them how they've inspired you. Take a picture of your thank you note and upload a photo to a Google photos album. Please see the e-twig Wednesday message for more information!

#### **Friday Dress-up Day**

Powered by Kindness: Dress as your favorite SuperHero/role model. Our Student Council wants everyone to know Super Heros include our first responders!

#### **Breakfast and Books**

Check out Breakfast and Books every Tuesday (Grades TK-2) and Thursday (Grades 3-5) from 8:00-8:30 AM. Ms. Richard reads books and leads discussions about personal character and interpersonal connections. Join us!

<https://sandiegounified.zoom.us/j/91548369892>

Password: book

#### **YEARBOOK News**

Here are some important dates to remember related to our yearbook.

Feb 28: Request student selfies this weekend, but no later than March 15. Students without a portrait photo will have their Art class self portrait used instead, unless permission preferences do not allow.

Mar 15: Please have all photos, comments, slides, etc uploaded by this date. Late submissions will

not be used in the yearbook.

*Yearbooks will now be sold on a first come, first served basis until sold out. Based on the demand signal, we will not have enough yearbooks for all students. The supply is limited!*

Everything you need to know about the yearbook is in one place. Please [click on this all-inclusive WEEKLY TOPICS LINK](#) for selfie info/upload, photo & comment submissions, and sales info.

WEEKLY TOPICS are over, but you can still submit your child's photos/comments for past topics at the same site until March 15.

Thanks for all your support! We hope your kids will enjoy a great book to commemorate this unique year, thanks to your involvement and submissions!

### **TPES Office Hours**

The office is always staffed by Mrs. Kimberly on Mondays through Thursdays from 9 AM to 12 PM. If a parent needs to stop by outside this window, please email me at [nrichard@sandi.net](mailto:nrichard@sandi.net). I am on campus Monday through Friday regular work hours and am happy to assist.

### **GATE Program, Testing, and Class Placement**

GATE testing is currently on hold, and it will not resume until schools fully reopen. At this time, we don't have information about what the pause in testing will mean for class placement in our third grade Seminar class or at Muirlands Middle School. Teachers and administrators in our La Jolla Cluster are actively communicating with the District, and we will provide updates as we have them. Please know that although there is some uncertainty about next year, there has been no discussion about eliminating the GATE program at TPES or at any school in the San Diego Unified School District.

Please visit the [SDUSD GATE webpage](#) and the [Muirlands GATE webpage](#) for the most up-to-date information.

### **La Jolla High School Catalyst 4 Success Club**

We are the La Jolla High School Catalyst 4 Success Club and our mission is to empower the next generation to develop a passion for science. Visit our website at [tinyurl.com/ljhsc4s](http://tinyurl.com/ljhsc4s) for fun, easy, and educational science experiments you can do at home! All experiments are demonstrated by high school volunteers from our club. Thank you for your support!

### **An Interesting Podcast...This week in California Education, EdSource Radio**

This is an informative conversation that explains how state policies affect our County and District. <https://soundcloud.com/edsources-1/gov-newsom-lays-out-priorities-for-vaccinating-teachers-uncertainties-on-standardized-tests>

### **School Site Council**

The next SSC meeting is scheduled for this Wednesday, March 3, from 7:45 to 8:25 AM.

Zoom Link: <https://sandiegounified.zoom.us/j/82705330996>

We will be discussing our school budget for the 2021-2022 school year. Please review all agendas and minutes on our school website.

### **Student in the Spotlight Assemblies**

Save the date! This month's assembly is Wednesday, March 10 from 8:30-9:00 AM for grades TK-1 and 9:00-9:30 AM for grades 2-5. If your child will be recognized at the assembly, his/her/their teacher will notify you in advance. Don't worry! We will send a Zoom link that allows sufficient audience access for our entire community. Other assembly dates will be April 14, May 12 and June 9.

### **Upcoming Dates**

Parent-Teacher Spring Conferences: 3/22-3/26

Spring Vacation: 3/29-4/2

Distribution Day: 4/7 (tentative)

Distribution Day: 5/5 (tentative)

Memorial Day Holiday: 5/28-5/31

Last Day of School: Tuesday, 6/15

### **Food Services: Grab n' Go Meals**

Extra grocery items are available (while supplies last) at select schools on a rotating basis. Check the schedule for grocery distributions for next week - [Grocery Item Schedule for Week 3/1/-3/5](#).

Take special notice of the Food Bank Food Drives that will be happening at five sites next week - Chavez Elementary, Encanto Elementary, LMEC, Mira Mesa High, and Zamorano Elementary.

### **Weekly District Notices and Agendas**

Please see attached.

### **Information Worth Repeating:**

#### **Student Council Playground**

<https://padlet.com/Wordmaster/playground>

Password: TPES

Use this link to find out all happenings kid-created, including our Diversity Quilt. Thank you to our student council for organizing this virtual space.

#### **Free Tutoring Available**

UCSD is available to support our students' academics! They are offering **FREE tutoring for students K-12 on Tuesday & Friday from 5-7pm**. For more information, please click on [Tritons Tutor](#) and scroll down to the Parent/Student link (<https://hdhwellness.ucsd.edu/tritons-tutor/index.html>).

#### **TPES New Telephone Number**

With the upgrades in technology, our new phone number is 619 605 3700.

Our old phone number, 858 453 2323, will continue to forward to our new line until May 2020. Remember that at this time staff are working from home and are unable to answer the phone. Please continue to email office staff and teachers.

#### **School Site Council and School Governance Team**

The next SSC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 3 from 7:45 to 8:25 AM.  
Zoom Link: <https://sandiegounified.zoom.us/j/82705330996>

The next SGT meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 11 from 7:15 to 8:00 AM.  
Zoom Link: <https://sandiegounified.zoom.us/j/84187461959>

### **La Jolla Cluster Meetings**

Save the dates! These are a great way to hear more about issues that are affecting other SDUSD schools in our La Jolla community. The meeting dates for 2021 are scheduled for 3/18, 4/15, 5/20. All meetings run from 4:15-5:30 PM.

Cluster Meeting Zoom Link: <https://sandiegounified.zoom.us/j/82879953442>

### **Technology Tips**

Please check out the Parent Support Website <http://bit.ly/sdusditsupport> for any technology concerns.

*Our success depends on you! Thank you for being a part of Torrey Pines Elementary School.*