

March 7, 2021

She was unstoppable not because she did not have failures or doubts but because she continued on despite them.

Beau Taplin, poet

Dear Families,

As always, I hope this message finds you having enjoyed rest, play and fun this weekend. You likely remember that it was at the end of this second week in March last year that our school closed. While we can reflect upon our flexibility and resilience throughout the last twelve months, I realize that the frustration, grief and loss many of us have experienced, and continue to experience, is unparalleled. Watching the number of vaccines administered and seeing the number of Phase One students on campus increase gives me HOPE, which for me is a great acronym for "Hang On Pain Ends."

Thank you for promptly completing your surveys, one for each child attending our school. I am looking forward to receiving your survey data so I can best understand the desires of each family. After District leaders provide more details outlining what we can expect after April 12, I will best understand how to match families' preferences with staff availability.

Of course, I will keep our community updated each step of the way.

All the best,

Ms. Richard

What you need to know for the week ahead:

Please complete the Reopening Survey ASAP, if you haven't already.

This weekend, parents received email invitations to complete a Family Preference Survey, a quick online questionnaire to help inform our school reopening plans this spring.

While we are excited to welcome more students back to our schools in April, we understand some parents may still prefer to have their children remain at home.

Your feedback is very important in helping us to best serve families through their preferred method of instruction, whether it be an on-site/online hybrid or a fully online format. Please take a moment to complete the survey here (one survey per child):

<https://sandiegounified.org/survey>

Reopening Updates Page

Check out SDUSD's "Reopening Updates" on our website to share news and highlight our progress.

Safe Schools: Parent Learning Menu

I know the link above was shared at the beginning of the school year; please review the safety and wellness modules as you like.

Technology Support for Families

Remember, only authenticated users can access Zoom accounts. Please click the link above if you need to learn how to log into Zoom with your sandi.net address.

Kindness Month 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 8

2 Kind Acts to Highlight

1. **Embrace your family with a big hug.**
2. **Write a thank you note to your mail carrier, or create a treat basket with bottled water and prepackaged snacks for package delivery persons.**

Friday Dress-up Day

Team Kindness: Wear your favorite sports uniform.

Post your kindness pictures here:

Student Council's Padlet pages:

<https://padlet.com/Wordmaster/kindness1>

<https://padlet.com/Wordmaster/kindness2>

<https://padlet.com/Wordmaster/kindness3>

<https://padlet.com/Wordmaster/kindness4>

password for all is 'TPES'

San Diego Helpful Honda Dealers Recognizes Teachers!

We have incredible, thoughtful, passionate and skilled teachers at TPES. Please consider nominating your child's teacher to be recognized and receive thousands of dollars for supplies! See below:

Do you know of, work with, or have heard the story of a San Diego County teacher whose efforts in the classroom have greatly impacted their students, community, or school?

To celebrate Teacher Appreciation week, May 3rd-May 7th, 2021, the San Diego Honda Dealers will be honoring and surprising a few lucky teachers with a new class room makeover (approximately \$5,000 of supplies/needs per teacher)! We want to identify teachers in schools across San Diego County who have gone above and beyond to give their students a memorable and unmatched educational experience - *and we need your help!*

HOW TO SUBMIT A DESERVING TEACHER: due by March 31

Download the form here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/2oqty3vtamwq199/AACjrIekRNW5EIt-LS3eyy8ca?dl=0>

YEARBOOK News

ONE WEEK LEFT: March 15 is the deadline for all yearbook content.

Everything you need to know about the yearbook is in one place. Info for student portraits, submitting photos/comments, privacy settings and to buy a yearbook can be found at this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TPES2021> (Please be sure to visit the site before March 15!)

15-19 March: Students will have the opportunity to take a "Zoom portrait" if they have not uploaded a portrait selfie. Please contact your child's teacher for scheduling information. If parents have given permission through Artsonia, I will use the student's self portrait from art class if I'm not able to get a selfie or zoom photo.

Thanks for all your support and hope your kids will enjoy a great book, thanks to your involvement and submissions!

You can contact TPES Yearbook at yearbook@tpesfoundation.org.

New Family Information Sessions: Please Share With All!

I am thrilled to welcome any families interested in learning more about TPES to upcoming information sessions! All are invited to join Foundation representatives and me on any of these dates to learn about TK/K and plans for all grade levels in the 2021-2022.

TPES was the only school in San Diego Unified to be re-awarded the prestigious National Blue Ribbon Award in fall of 2019. Let's make sure everyone knows about this high-caliber school in our backyard!

TPES New Family Sessions: 9:00-9:40 AM with Q/A 9:40-10:00 AM

Friday, March 19

Friday, April 16

Friday, May 14

Zoom link: <https://sandiegounified.zoom.us/j/82101707679>

Naval Base Point Loma Postage Stamp Competition: Women's History Month

Naval Base Point Loma is sponsoring a contest to create postage stamps that align with this year's Women's History Month Theme: Valiant Women of the Vote, Refusing to be Silenced. Please send pictures of all submissions by March 30, 2021. These submissions would be included in the Academic Anchor magazine produced by the Navy. Please reach out to Nakeya Gilmore at nakeya.k.gilmore@navy.mil.

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.

Use this Zoom link: <https://sandiegounified.zoom.us/j/88441691946>

Don't worry! This Zoom link allows sufficient audience access for our entire community. Other assembly dates will be April 14, May 12 and June 9. The Zoom link is the same for both assemblies.

Dance and Movement are Coming to Spring Rotations at TPES

Beginning the week we return from Spring Break, students in grades 2-5 will enjoy dance and movement during their rotation times. This course will replace the technology classes the students are finishing.

The purpose of this course, presented via ZOOM, is to provide educational experience in dance and its evolution from beginning to modern times. This includes gesture in dance,

ballet, jazz, and other forms of popular dance. Students will also study the creation of movement. A short introductory lecture supported by video and still images in a rich powerpoint format will put our work into context. Students will learn basic positions, some basic steps, and will then be guided in creating their own dance using a combination of dance steps and every day gestures to illustrate the movement's potential of becoming dance.

The goal of this program is to bring dance to those who might not otherwise be exposed to this exciting art form, and encourage all students to move, dance, and perform.

Remember, students in grades TK-1 will continue with Spanish instruction during their spring rotation.

More Information for Parents Related to SBAC Testing

Students in grades 3-5 will begin preparing for SBAC testing, which is planned for mid-May. Please review this parent website for more information.

It is a parent's choice for their child to test onsite or remotely. If students choose to be assessed remotely, their technology should have audio/video capabilities so they can be recorded.

We will be sending more information to parents as it is made available to us by the District.

Parent Teacher Spring Conferences: What You Can Expect

Remember that during the week of March 22-26, teachers will be holding parent-teacher conferences. All parents are welcome to conference with their child's teacher at any time. During the week of March 22, I am asking teachers to meet with any student who is not performing at grade level.

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

TPES School Office Open 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. 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.

School Governance Team

The next SGT meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 11 from 7:15 to 8:00 AM. Come meet our school's assigned Student Champion and learn more about our District's Restorative Practices Policies.

Zoom Link: <https://sandiegounified.zoom.us/j/84187461959>

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 of 3/8-3/12](#).

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 April. Check back next week for the date and time. 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 and 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.