

August 15, 2016

Dear St. Leonard Families,

Welcome to the 2016-2017 school year! I hope that you have had a wonderful summer, and that your families made wonderful memories together. I was fortunate to spend three amazing weeks on the Oregon coast with my family including my grandchildren (ages 1 and 3) who have just moved to the U.S. from Taiwan. Listening to my granddaughter converse fluently in both English and Chinese was a reminder of the incredible capacity of the human brain. She wasn't "taught" Chinese. She was simply exposed to the language daily through those around her. All children have the ability to learn so much when given significant exposure to new learning and challenging opportunities. That is our daily goal at St. Leonard Elementary.

The year ahead will hold new and exciting opportunities. While only a few staff members have left SLES due to retirement, promotions, or placement decisions at the Central Office, we have added positions and programs. At last count, we have 15 new staff members to welcome to SLES! While you won't meet all of them (depending on programs and grade levels), most of you will meet our new secretary, Theresa Young, and our new Vice Principal, Alkeisha Williams.

Also new to SLES is a 1:1 device program being implemented in fifth grade. This is partly possible due to your generosity in our first technology FUNdraiser last year. Watch for more of these events this year! There will be increased technology at all grades with a goal of 1:1 devices in grade four and increased devices in every classroom by the end of the year.

We strongly encourage you to join and continue to support FAST (Family and School Team). All money earned via membership and fundraising stays at SLES to support our students. We will have a Boosterthon again this year. Please consider making a tax-deductible pledge or a donation to FAST. Money earned by FAST pays for: Field Trip buses, cultural arts assemblies, grade 3-5 agenda books, grade 3 recorders, family events, classroom supplies, and so much more.

Please note that you can view your student's homeroom teachers and schedules in HAC effective August 22. This information will also be available by joining us on Friday, 8/16 at 2:00 for Classroom Connections (GRADES 1-5). Students can meet their teachers, find their seats, and greet their friends. Teachers have a meeting at 3:00, so all visitation will need to be completed at that time. Prekindergarten and Kindergarten students will receive a letter this week inviting them to Orientation/Open House on Friday, 8/26 at 11:00. Pre-K and Kdg teachers will not be available at 2:00.

Reminder: All volunteer applications are now purged each year and volunteers must reapply annually. If you wish to chaperone a field trip or volunteer at the school, please go to the parent tab on the CCPS website and complete the application process. You will receive an email confirmation of your approval. You can also find bus stop and bus schedule information on the parent tab.

Finally, please mark your calendars for Grade 1-5 Open Houses: Grade 1, 4, 5 will be on September 1 at 6:00 p.m. Grades 2 and 3 will be on September 22 at 6:00 p.m. We look forward to seeing all of you then.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone. It's going to be a great year!

Toni Chapman

SLES will promote equity, identify and remove barriers, and ensure that Learning Equals Opportunity for all.