

USC School News – April 9, 2018

Parent Conferences are April 11, 12 & 13

We hope you have a productive teacher parent conference. Conferences are intended to help you understand your child's academic and social development, to highlight strengths and challenges, and to encourage parent-teacher dialogue. Conference reports are intended to provide information for parents, not children. We, of course, encourage you to paraphrase reports in a manner that is suitable for your child. If your child wants more information about how the teacher views his or her progress, please ask the teacher to talk with your student individually. Teachers are happy to do so. The best parking options for parent conferences will be at the community center and up the hill on Union Street.

Important! Wed. April 11 - Fri. April 13th are half days.

You may pick up your child during lunch as school ends at 12:15 and the afterschool program starts at 12:45. Depot pick-up is 12:15 – 12:25. **Please check the Lost and Found** cubbies on the porch for items. We will donate any items left after Friday April 13th. Please put your child's names in sweaters, jackets & coats to keep them out of the lost and found.

Art News

4th grade artwork will be on display at the Community Center April 20th - 22nd for Godwit Days. Thank you Janarie Ricchio for working with the students to create the artwork. Please visit the Community Center to enjoy the exhibits at the Godwit Days Festival.

USC Receives Distinguished School Award

The staff and I are pleased to inform you that Union Street Charter School has been designated a Distinguished School. We decided to pursue this award to honor the whole school community-students, families, volunteers, donors, and staff.

The Department of Education stated in their press release: "Sponsored by California Casualty, the 2018 California Distinguished Schools Program recognizes California elementary schools that have made exceptional gains in implementing academic content and performance standards adopted by the State Board of Education.

Schools that applied were eligible based on their performance and progress on the state indicators as described on the California School Dashboard. Indicators include test scores, suspension rates, and English learner progress. Schools were also eligible to apply for a California Exemplary Program Award in Arts Education, and/or Physical Activity and Nutrition Education, which will be announced at a later time. These award winners represent examples of not just excellent teaching, learning, and collaborating, but also highly successful school climate efforts, ranging from real time conflict resolution to positive behavior intervention."

In order to receive the award, we were required to write about our school. The teachers and I chose Visible Thinking (used mainly in grades 3-5) and Acting Right (used mainly in grades K-3) as our model practices. Visible Thinking and Acting Right routines support student focus and hold students accountable for their learning. Visible Thinking allows teachers to scaffold student thinking by providing specific routines that help students develop a deeper understanding of curriculum and make connections to the world around them and to express their thinking orally and in writing. Acting Right practices increase student awareness of each individual's role and responsibility as a member of a learning community during the daily morning meeting, where they make a commitment to themselves and to the entire class to control their bodies, voices, and imaginations, and to concentrate and cooperate throughout the day.

Many thanks to everyone who makes USC a special community everyday.

Spring Break is April 16th – 20th

Calendar Highlights for Family Vacation Planning:

April 11-13: Parent conferences, half day

April 16 – 20: Spring Break

April 30 – May 6: Screen-Free Week 2018

May 3: Open House

May 28: Memorial Day, No School

June 1& 2: School Play grades 3-5 at HSU

June 14: Last Day of School

June 17: All School End of Year Picnic & 5th grade graduation

Questions or Suggestions? Please contact Rea Erickson at rea.unionstreet@gmail.com or Pam at office.unionstreet@gmail.com