

ChalkTalk

THE HILLSBOROUGH CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Hillsborough Community,

Honestly... where does the time go? I simply can't believe that summer is here. I am constantly finding myself in awe of the work happening across our district to ensure that each and every student is successful - it's really quite amazing. My heart is filled with pride as I see the tremendous efforts put forth by all our educators in doing what each of them believes is best for our students. No task is too small and no task is too large in doing what it takes to ensure the very best outcomes for the children in our schools.

We wish our retirees well and thank them for their dedication to our school district and community: Jamie Adams and Sandra Brown (Crocker); as well as a handful of retirees who wish to keep their names confidential. We wish all our retirees good health and happiness and much gratitude for all their years of service to the children of Hillsborough.

We closed the school year celebrating the accomplishments of both our students and staff members. Awards were given for service learning, environmental excellence, academic achievements including first place winners at the state level science fair, and so much more. This year we saw students stretch their own learning in ways which made both educators and parents stare in awe; I'm particularly proud of the wonderful STEAM fair projects across all grade levels - the creativity of the projects and the true joy of learning was evident at every school site.

Educators in our district also pushed their own learning by stepping out of their comfort zones to take on new projects and events. Great examples of this include The Battle of the Books and the Spring Fling. Who knew we could actually have close to 500 students successfully

performing together at the San Mateo Performing Arts Center?! I'm also deeply appreciative of the collaborative efforts between our schools - I love seeing projects which start at one school and are then adopted by another site; learning from colleagues is learning at its very best!

I have great hope for our future when I look, listen and learn from our students. They make me smile and laugh, challenge my thinking and ultimately make me a better superintendent.

Sincerely,
Louann Carlomagno, Superintendent



FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

Hillsborough City School District welcomed three new elementary principals this past school year: Heather Burns at West, Heidi Felt at North, and Lina Butte at South. Their enthusiasm and camaraderie has re-energized the three elementary schools.

Crocker Middle School's principal, Dr. Jamie Adams, received the Community Care Award this year from the Associated Parent's Group of the schools. Shortly afterwards, Dr. Adams announced her long-deserved retirement at the end of this school year after ten years in the district — six as principal at West Elementary, and four as principal at Crocker. We thank her not only for her decade of leadership, but also for helping to successfully mentor our new elementary principals this year, so that the district continued to have stable and seasoned leadership.

The district is currently engaged in community input, as it prepares a long-term facilities master plan for all the school sites. The plan is expected to be completed by the end of the calendar year. Depending on the final details of the plan, the School Board may consider asking the voters of Hillsborough to approve a General Obligation Bond for infrastructure and new facilities construction, perhaps in the fall of 2020.

Don Geddis,
Board President



HCSD BOARD WELCOMES NEW CROCKER PRINCIPAL

It is with great excitement that HCSD announces Mrs. Maria Brady as the new Crocker Middle Principal.

Mrs. Brady comes to us from the San Mateo-Foster City School District where she served as an administrator for the past 19 years. She spent the last 10 years serving as the principal of Audubon Elementary School in Foster City, a site of 786 students and 50 staff members. As principal, in addition to supporting excellence in academic programming, she led her team in the implementation of a school-wide Positive Behavior Instruction and Intervention Support Program. Prior to that, she was a Principal on Special Assignment coordinating district prevention programs, supporting middle school students and focusing on Social and Emotional Learning.

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ChalkTalk highli

HCSD BOARD WELCOMES NEW CROCKER PRINCIPAL *(continued)*

Her leadership style promotes a collaborative spirit; which supports a commitment to executing best instructional practices, and maintaining high standards for all students. As a veteran instructional leader, she has built a very successful career leading, collaborating and innovating while building solid relationships with all stakeholders.

HCSD is confident in Mrs. Brady's leadership and her abilities to continue the success of the strong academic and social-emotional programs at Crocker Middle School.

NORTH HILLSBOROUGH SCHOOL

LOOKING BACK, LOOKING AHEAD

Congratulations to each and every one of our North students, staff, parents and community members for your contribution to an unforgettable year during which we embraced **change**. Together, we explored and discovered new ways to seek growth, improve communication, foster collaboration and enhance our school climate.

North School celebrates:

- A living **North School Constitution** aligned with our HCSD Essential Outcomes.

- An innovative way to create **fall kindergarten classes** to inform parents whether their child is an early or late bird Kindergarten student in June rather than in August.

- A proactive and inclusive **3rd-5th Grade Student Council election process**.

- NBA Math Hoops**: Our team took 2nd place in the Final Competition!

- A Computer **"Technology Lab" renovation project** to create a more flexible learning space.

- HCSD **"Battle of the Books" Champion Team**

- The "Weekly Tattler"**, a North School newspaper which recruits and currently includes 2nd, 3rd and 4th graders.

- 2019-20 **North Consultants** which consists of fifteen recent graduates to help us reflect, learn and grow.

- Our Service Learning Ambassadors' lead by Bradly Chamblin, win at the **"San Mateo County Rethink Waste Art Contest"** and were honored at a Hillsborough Town Council Meeting.

- K-5 North Constellation Family Groups** which include support, guidance and camaraderie for our pre-kindergarten/preschool, Bridge School, Learning Center and K-5 students. Throughout the upcoming year, North staff and student leaders will work together to improve collaboration, communication and our school climate.

During our 4th Grade trip to Yosemite in May 2019, we learned that we are all part of something bigger. Together, we have the ability, privilege, and responsibility to make the world a better place. We are looking forward to a wonderful 2019-2020 school year!

Heidi Felt
Principal



WEST HILLSBOROUGH SCHOOL

WEST SCHOOL CELEBRATES STUDENT SUCCESS!

As the 2018-2019 school year came to an end, it is a natural time to celebrate the many accomplishments West students shared both academically, and social-emotionally. They have enjoyed another fabulous year together, and they should feel proud of themselves. Throughout the last weeks of school, one would hear West 5th-grade students present in the Tech Challenge, "Lend a Hand" where students were poised and articulate as they presented to a panel of judges on how they built their hand, explained how they collaborated as a team, described the barriers they encountered, and how they applied the HCSD Essential Outcomes. One might also find themselves cheering and clapping as West 3rd, 4th, and 5th-grade Athletics Awards were given to so many West students for both team and individual accomplishments. The last week of school included celebratory events such as the West School Awards assembly, where students celebrated each other for their participation in school-wide roles such as MPR Lunch Team, Conflict Mediators, Fire Marshall, Wildcat Fitness, Battle of the Books, West Field Day Assistants and many more. West School was also filled with celebration within classroom parties, publishing parties and culminating events such as Preschool and 5th-grade Promotion ceremonies including a school-wide send off for our 5th-grade students, where kindergarten through 4th-grade students gathered to "clap-out" as promoting 5th graders circled the school. Students cheered, held signs, and waved pom-poms in encouragement to celebrating our 5th-grade students, including their next journey into middle school. Congratulations to all West students on a 2018-2019 year filled with success!

Heather Burns
Principal



CROCKER MIDDLE SCHOOL

We have just completed another fabulous year at Crocker! The theme for the 2018-2019 school year was 'All In'! I have been so impressed with everyone's effort to contribute in Class Competitions and other school events. Student Leadership, WEB (Where Everyone Belongs), and Student Council paved the way for all students to thrive and partake in activities that were fun and interesting. It was clear students, staff, and parents rallied to make the 2018-2019 school year amazing.

The Essential Outcomes also took center stage as we challenged ourselves to reflect on being People of Good Character, Innovators and Problem Solvers, Effective Communicators, Global Citizen and Lifelong Learners. It was impressive to see throughout the year students actively working towards their self-identified goals around the Essential Outcomes. Remember, perfection is never the goal. Striving towards excellence is ideal and you should expect some ups and downs along the way!

Dr. Jamie Adams
Principal

SOUTH HILLSBOROUGH SCHOOL

The entire South School fifth grade class participated in the 2018-2019 National Geographic's Geo Challenge where the theme was "Tackling Plastic". Students were tasked with studying the negative impacts of plastics on the San Mateo Creek which runs through our campus. They mapped the creek from source to sea, learned how plastics can enter the waterway, and developed solutions to decrease the amount of plastic deposited in the waterways.

In groups, students focused on specific areas to resolve the overall problem which included designing ways to prevent plastic from entering the storm drains, contacting local businesses to ask for changes in their plastic use policies, making trash art, educating other students, and engaging the school in litter clean up efforts. As a culminating project, students created and submitted reflection videos that summarized all their hard work and efforts. Students practiced effective communication skills by writing business letters to local managers, emailing local business (and receiving replies), and conducting interviews and professional phone calls.

One fifth grade team was selected to participate in the Regional Finals in Fresno, CA. Even though they did not win the final competition, they learned many valuable skills. They had an opportunity to meet with the San Francisco director of Coffee and Sustainability at Philz Coffee to urge the company to reduce plastic straw use. Philz Coffee is now seriously committed to the idea of eliminating plastic straws at their new Chicago location.

Our students learned that even at a young age, they can make positive impacts in the local community. The teachers were inspired by the plastics theme and the work accomplished by the students, they decided to adapt this project into a unit that can be taught by any teacher in the district, in any given school year. The hope is to have next year's fifth-graders participate in another National Geographic Geo Challenge!

Lina Butte
Principal



300 El Cerrito Avenue
Hillsborough, CA 94010

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CONTACT US

If you have any comments, questions, or suggestions regarding *Chalk Talk*, please contact the District Office by calling (650) 342-5193. The District website can be accessed for the latest information at www.hcsd.k12.ca.us.



CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

August 14	Board Meeting, 6:00 PM	Crocker Lecture Hall
August 21	First Day of School	
August 30	Staff Professional Learning Day	No School for Students
September 2	Labor Day Holiday	No School
September 11	Board Meeting, 6:00 PM	Crocker Lecture Hall

SCHOOL BOARD

Don Geddis, President
Greg Dannis, Vice President
An Huang Chen, Clerk
Gilbert Wai, Trustee
Margi Power, Trustee

ADMINISTRATION

Louann Carlomagno, Superintendent
Leilani Bell, Human Resources Manager
Tracy Dennis, Information Technology Manager
Matthew Lindner, Director of Education Services
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Joyce Shen, Chief Business Official
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