

SCHOOL PLEDGE:

*At Holmes
Elementary School,
I will behave in such
a way that I will be
proud of myself,
and others will be
proud of me, too.
I came to school to
look, listen, and learn.
I will learn and I will
have a great day!*

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

**PHOTOS, PHOTOS,
PHOTOS!**

**STUDENT COUNCIL
2020-2021**

**INTRODUCING
NEW STAFF**



In Partnership for Excellence: Principal Jonathan Saipe

It is hard to believe it is December and we are still in online learning for a large majority of our students. As I reflect on the first trimester of the school year, I am proud of the efforts and strength of our school community. Our teachers have worked hard to align online learning schedules, assignments, and provide more whole and small group instruction. In addition to our focus on academic core skills, teachers have fostered a sense of community through the use of creative engagement strategies and by providing space for social/emotional wellness.

In October, we began Phase One of the district's reopen-



ing plans and have invited approximately fifty students back for appointment-based learning. This phase has allowed us to implement and refine our safety procedures in preparation for future phases. The district has

announced it will reassess the state and county COVID conditions and provide additional information on January 13, 2021.

As we continue with online learning, I want to share a few tips that have contributed to increased success and happiness during these unprecedented times. These may not be new ideas but they are important tips that are relevant for online learning, and will help us transition back to on-site learning. As a parent and educator, I have observed the positive impact of establishing routines and schedules. Having a consistent schedule allows the brain to anticipate, and makes life easier to navigate.

(Continued on page 4)

2020 in Pictures...



PTA President Kasey Tocco

Happy Holidays Holmies!

I hope this issue of the Hawkeye finds you healthy and safe. Despite immeasurable challenges, our teachers, staff and families have gone to great lengths to afford our children joy. Whether driving through the Halloween Haunted Pirate Ship, participating in the Pumpkin Carving Contest, or making wise decisions for Red Ribbon Week, our families have shown up in droves. As a parent, I have enjoyed scrolling our Holmes PTA Facebook page and seeing messages from our teachers, staff, and families encouraging one another. In a time when it's easy to feel isolated, our community has done the hard work of connecting and it has made all the difference for our kids.

As we look towards the New Year, the PTA will seek additional ways to keep our

community supported and engaged. We will continue to fund music/VAPA, introduce new programs such as Code Monkey, and evaluate user end rates to ensure we are best meeting the needs of our students. In addition, we would like to expand our Arts Attack program and provide our teachers budgeted funding. We are looking for an Arts Attack Coordinator for the school, if any of our parents are looking to be more involved. Thank you to Principal Saipe, our teachers, our PTA and our room parents for volunteering their time when there seems to be so little to give.

My wish for you this holiday season is that you are able to enjoy the simple pleasures at home with your family. I cannot wait for the days when we can be together in person again!

All my Best, Kasey Tocco

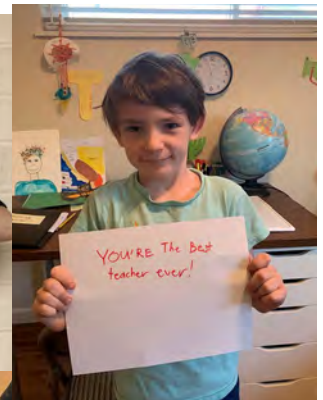
A Note From The Editor:

In order to showcase more of our students evenly across the many grade levels, this Hawkeye issue is focusing on grades 1, 2, and 3. The spring issue will feature TK/K, 4, and 5. Enjoy!

Tip: Wear Those Screen Glasses!



THANKFUL For Our Teachers



Materials Distribution Days



Holmes Student Council

Student Council is a group of 3rd, 4th and 5th graders elected by classmates to be leaders and contribute ideas to make our school better. Students bring ideas from their classrooms and share at meetings, which may then become a part of our school. Council representatives make many new friends. They also share school news with Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grades, write articles for the Hawkeye newsletter, and most importantly help Mr. Saipe improve our already great school! Officers are Student Council representatives in the 4th and 5th grades. Elections took place on December 10. The President and Vice President lead weekly meetings, along with teachers Mrs. Celle, Mrs. Litsey, Mrs. McTaggart and Mr. Rodriguez.

Usually, Student Council representatives help the school on campus, but this year will be much different. We will not be able to clean up the school ("Campus Beautiful" initiative) every week under the current circumstances, and many of the school fundraisers like Jogathon may not happen, but we will find creative ways to support our school; for example we are hoping to still offer Valentine Grams! A success so far has been that we did hold our annual Salvation Army Fall Food Drive, and our school collected THREE vans full of food to support our community! Wow, thank you so much! Even without our usual events, Student Council will try to make this year the best possible however we can. Go Hawks!



Your 2020-21 Student Council

Officers:

President: Karis M.

Vice President: Addie L.

School Reporter: Audrey V.

Safety Officer: Charlie H.

2nd Grade Liaison: Jack C.

1st Grade Liaison: Riley S.

Kindergarten Liaison: Taylor P.

Room 12, Mrs. Celle (3rd):

Audrey R.
Wyatt H.

Room 16, Mrs. Flinn (3rd):

Kamryn B.
Sydney B.

Room 20, Mrs. Elliott (3rd):

Jay S.
Troy Z.

Room 21, Mrs. Pope (3rd):

Camryn W.
Samantha D.

Room 7, Ms. Muller (4th):

Aurora G. Harley C.
Lily E. Matthew C.

Room 10, Mrs. Litsey (4th):

Ella F. Kenzi M.
Leander H. Sammy M.

Room 15, Ms. Sipe (4th):

Charlie H. Ellery K.
Jack C. Taylor P.

Room 11, Mrs. McTaggart (5th):

Audrey V. Drew R.
Evan D. Karis M.

Room 19, Mr. Tse (5th):

Abigail L. Addie L.
Miu Miu L. Teagan M.

Room 22, Mr. Rodriguez (5th):

Alexis L. Avery B.
Riley S. Samantha L.

Principal Saipe

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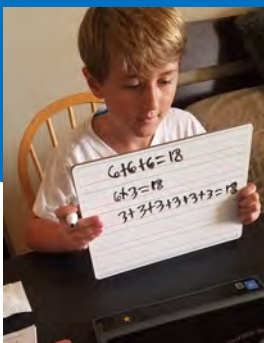
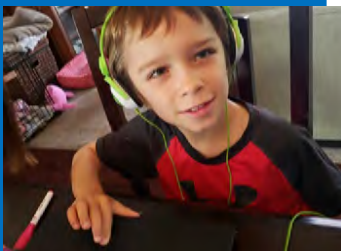
Children should continue to wake up the same time each day, get dressed and eat breakfast before school. Going through this consistent routine will allow them to be ready to actively participate in the day ahead. It is also important to make sure children take their recess and lunch breaks away from the computer. At the end of the day, I find it extremely gratifying to go on a family bike ride, walk, or do a sports activity in the neighborhood. It is a great way to have fun, reduce stress, and work up an appetite before dinner. Lastly, ending the night with a warm bath or shower followed by listening to a story or reading a book is a great way to get calm and prepare for a good sleep.

Another tip is that children benefit from having dedicated space to complete work and participate in online learning. Some children may benefit in a quieter place while others thrive in a busier home spot.

Regardless of which space is more productive for your child, it is important to have a consistent place with supplies needed to support their learning. As you know, teachers no longer have the ability to check-in as frequently or look over their students' shoulders to see how the learning is taking hold. Now more than ever, we need to rely on parents to continue to give us feedback on what is working and how the lessons are being received. Your continued support and valuable feedback is very much appreciated.

As we begin Winter Break and a new year, I encourage everyone to continue to stay safe, stay resilient, and stay positive. Let us return to school in the new year reenergized and ready to hit the ground running. I look forward to the day it will be safe enough to bring all of our students back so they can learn, play, and grow together.

Snapshots of Distance Learning



HOLMES ELEMENTARY HAWKS

New Staff Corner

WELCOME!



WELCOME!



Happy Holidays!

Introducing: Steven Susalla (Counselor)

Steve Susalla is the new school counselor. He is excited to be working at Holmes Elementary. After retiring from a 20-year career in the Navy, and not knowing what to do next with his life, Steve started substitute teaching and realized that he loved working with children. Teaching was great, but was not giving him enough time with each student, so he looked into counseling and loved it! Steve enrolled at Point Loma Nazarene University in the Guidance and Counseling program, and received a Master degree in the field this past May.

Steve has four children (2 months old, 8, 9 and 11 years old) so he is well versed in the elementary school-aged child. He coaches softball and baseball, and helps out with soccer. Steve loves spending time with his family, mountain biking, and working on old cars.

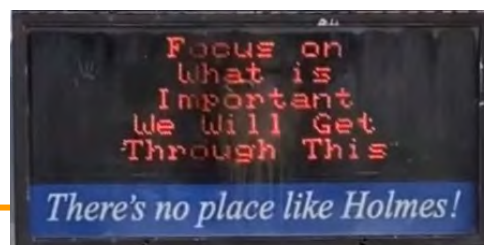
Once school returns to in-person teaching, Steve will be seen "out and about" around the campus. Send him an email if your student would benefit from talking with him. Steve's email is ssusalla@sandi.net.

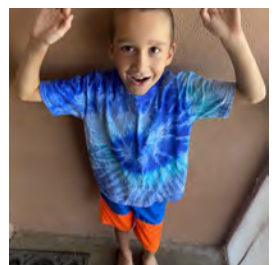
Introducing: Zachary Smith (P.E. Coach)

Coach Zak Smith is honored to be a P.E. teacher at Holmes Elementary. He is excited about teaching at the elementary school level — previously he taught and coached at the high school level — and divides his time currently between two school assignments: Wegeforth and Holmes Elementary Schools. Previous high schools where he taught and coached include University City (UC) and Point Loma High Schools. Zak was a San Diego Unified student himself, and graduated from Point Loma High School. Growing up, Zak was involved in many

different sports and activities including martial arts, basketball, skateboarding, and various water sports. In his personal time, Zak enjoys cooking, relaxing at the beach, reading, and enjoying time with his family.

Keep moving, Holmies, and best wishes for a great year!





Halloween



Earthquake Drill - Stop, Drop, Cover!



Science from Home



HOLMES ELEMENTARY

4902 MOUNT ARARAT DRIVE
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92111

PHONE: (858) 496-8110



PRINCIPAL – JONATHAN SAIPE
PTA PRESIDENT – KASEY TOCCO
HAWKEYE EDITOR – JANET KNEIER

*Full PTA Board list at
www.holmespta.org (About Us);
Also visit [www.sandiegounified.org/
schools/holmes](http://www.sandiegounified.org/schools/holmes)*

The HAWKEYE is a quarterly newsletter sponsored on behalf of Holmes Elementary School by the Parent Teacher Association (PTA).

The PTA is a committed group of volunteers, usually parents of current students, that support Oliver Wendell Holmes Elementary, a Clairemont neighborhood school in the San Diego Unified School District. A collaboration of parents, teachers, administrators, and students, the Holmes PTA is devoted to building an equitable school community. We fund and implement positive learning experiences through strategic programs aimed at providing educational enrichment for students, and that will develop well-rounded, engaged learners. To join these efforts, contact president@holmespta.org.

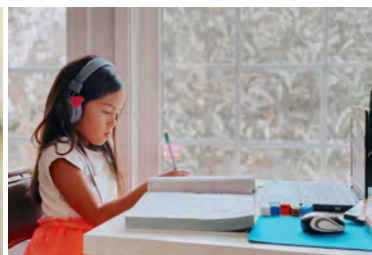
Dear Students, We Are So Proud of All of You



RESILIENCE



COURAGE



INNOCENCE



PERSEVERANCE

