



December 4, 2020

# A Message From Kathy:

Over the years I have heard a lot of graduation speeches but have only retained and practiced the message of one. While most speeches celebrate accomplishments, the message of this one was different... as it challenged graduates to ask themselves 2x a day (suggesting the timing be when they brushed their teeth and hoping they did it 2x a day) "How have I failed today?" The message being that if you did not fail that meant that you were not stretching, growing, trying new things. This speech was before the word GRIT was a character trait and before Carol Dweck had us all talking about and implementing Growth Mind Set, However there is a central theme that links it all together and that is PERSEVERANCE. Perseverance is failing and getting back up and trying again.

Daily, our scholars are failing and that is awesome! They are trying new things and thinking in new ways. At our best, we are challenging them to take risks while they are planting 4th grade division gardens, making Salvador Dali collages in 3rd grade, transforming glass to a stretchy rubber and creating inventions with the new material in 2nd grade or depositing 10 new words into their 1st grade word banks. Their first attempts are not perfect, they fail, we embrace and affirm the failure toward their continued growth. As we partner toward learning outcomes, ask your scholar how have they failed today, share stories of things you have failed at and persevered to succeed and let them know that their job daily is to fail at least twice.

Kathy

# **Important Reminders!**

- Friday, January 8th will be a <u>Non Student Day</u> across the Academy. Teachers and administrators will be meeting as a team to collaborate on grade level planning and participate in further training for campus wide social/emotional teaching and learning. This purposeful day of work and training will ensure learning outcomes and Academy objectives through the end of the year.
- Our Casa for Kids Holiday Bear Learning Service Project has been <u>canceled</u> by the Casa organization due to COVID we apologize to anyone looking forward to this event

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# Holiday Spirit Week! December 14 - 18



Merry Monday: Wear your pajamas and get ready for a cozy day of learning! At 12:30 we will read across the Academy with our teachers and have a milk and cookie treat. Candy Cane Tuesday: Break out your red & white and dress like a candy cane! Winter Wonderland Wednesday: Dress in winter white and get ready for some snow FUN! Head-to-Toe Thursday: Wear your favorite holiday hats & socks and get ready to play Heads and Toes at Recess!

Light-Up the Holiday Friday; Wear your favorite holiday light-up accessories and celebrate the season at our Holiday pizza bar -Lunch will be provided



Ms Jill's 2nd Graders transforming glass and creating inventions

# Recommended books for your family library with the theme of PERSEVERANCE:

- The Most Magnificent Thing by Ashley
  Spires
- Rosie Revere Engineer by Andrea Beaty
- Beautiful Oops! by Barney Saltzberg

# Table Talk Suggestion:

Would you rather be friends with Frosty the Snowman, or Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer, why?





**Winter Break Workshop!** Sign Up Today! Email front desk for more details

# **Mark Your Calendars**:

- 4th Grade Field Trip to Mission SJC: Tues Dec 8th
- Holiday Spirit Week: Dec 14-18
- Winter Break: Dec 21st Jan 1st

- Winter Break Workshop!
  - December 21-23
  - December 28-30
- January 8 Non Student Day