



Tom Kitayama Elementary School

NEWSLETTER

August/ September 2009
 New Haven Unified School District <http://www.nhusd.k12.ca.us>

Lisa Metzinger
Principal

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What's Happening

September

2nd – First Day of School
 7th – LABOR DAY HOLIDAY
 16th – Back to School
 Night 6-8:00pm
 24th – MODIFIED DAY
 Kinder-5th 8am-12:05pm
 25th – JOG-A-THON
 Fundraiser
 28th – Regular school day
 begins for kindergarten

October

14th – Lifetouch Pictures
 ELAC 5pm SSC 5:30pm
 both in Media Center
 22nd – MODIFIED DAY
 Kinder-5th 8am-12:05pm
 30th – Halloween
 Parade 8:15 am

November

1st – Daylight Savings Time
 begins
 11th VETERAN'S DAY
 HOLIDAY
 12th Grading Day – no
 school for students
 18th ELAC 5pm
 SSC 5:30 pm in Media
 Center
 MODIFIED DAY
 All Grades 8am-12:05pm
 19th MODIFIED DAY
 All Grades 8am-12:05pm
 23rd- 27th Thanksgiving
 Break

December

16th - ELAC 5pm
 SSC 5:30 pm in Media
 Center
 21st – Jan. 1st Winter
 Break

School Office Hours
7:30 – 3:30

~ PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE ~

Dear Kitayama Families,

It is with much excitement that I welcome you to Tom Kitayama Elementary School for the 2009-2010 academic year. I can't wait to see everyone who is returning, and I look forward to meeting our new students and families. We are fortunate to have an outstanding staff who ensure that all students receive the highest quality education in a safe, caring learning environment. Together, we'll make it a great year for the entire Kitayama community.

Last spring, our district strategic plan was updated. After the revisions, the major objective in our strategic plan is that all students will be on grade level. Last year at Kitayama, the students, staff and families did an outstanding job of coming closer to meeting this goal. We pumped up our scores, thanks to our amazing teachers and students. Our STAR test results showed improvement in all areas in all grades!!! This is an accomplishment to be celebrated! Of course, we still have work to do to accomplish our goal of all students being on grade level, but we're on the right path.

In 2009-2010, our focus will remain literacy, as we add a stronger focus on reading, while continuing our important work on writing workshop. We will use the results of the STAR test, NWEA, and teacher developed assessments as we work together in professional learning communities (PLCs) to improve instruction and meet the needs of all students.

We are trying to cut down on printing costs, so we will not be sending home newsletters in the Thursday envelopes this year. Instead, all newsletters will be available on our website at <http://kitweb.nhusd.k12.ca.us>. We will have copies available in the office for families who need them.

I am very excited for this year to begin and eager to have your child experience a memorable school year.

Sincerely,
Lisa Metzinger

~ SCHOOL SCHEDULES ~

Kindergarten Schedule for September

We are excited to begin our second year of full-day kinder. Kinder parents please note that kindergarteners attend school as follows:

Kinder	8:00 -11:20 a.m.
	9/2 - 9/25
Kinder	8:00-12:05 on 9/24 only
Kinder	8:00 a.m. - 2:05 p.m. starting on 9/28
1st-5th Grade	8:00-2:05

Classroom Assignments

Classroom assignments will be posted on our web site and just outside our office on Friday, August 28th after 5 p.m. You will be able to locate your child's teacher and room on the lists posted. A school map will also be posted. In order to access the class lists at our web site, you will need a password. We will be using the auto dialer to give every family a phone call to share the password.

~ PARENT INVOLVEMENT ~

School Site Council and ELAC

If you want to get involved at Kitayama, you can become a School Site Council (SSC) member and assist our school make decisions about how our school operates. The SSC makes decisions about school policy and budget. Our first meeting will be Wednesday, October 14th at 5:30 p.m. in our staff room. Elections for the openings will be held on September 16th at Back to School Night. If you are interested, please submit a brief statement to me, expressing your desire to be an elected member, and include your name, your son or daughter's name and room number, and a phone number where we can contact you. In addition, we need parent involvement in our English Learner Advisory Committee (ELAC), which meets before SSC at 5:00. ELAC makes decisions about how to use resources to meet the needs of our English learners.

PTA

The PTA is the parent group that helps to organize many fun events that happen at our site. If you are interested in being involved, we have a PTA informational meeting planned for Monday, September 23rd at 7:00 p.m. The meeting will be held in our Media Center. All parents are encouraged and welcome to attend.

~~~~ SCHOOL CLIMATE ~~~~~

**BEST**

This year we will continue with BEST (Building Effective Schools Together), our school-wide positive discipline program. All staff will be teaching and enforcing the following rules: be safe, be responsible, and be respectful. Throughout the year, teachers will be teaching lessons on what these rules look like in action at Kitayama. Student caught following the rules earn Super Bees. Teachers reward students in their classrooms for earning Super Bees. In addition, we hold a weekly school-wide drawing, with one student from each room earning a prize from Ms. Metzinger. From that group of lucky winners, we hold another drawing for a free book. We're excited about another year of BEST behavior at Kitayama. We look forward to your support in reinforcing these rules at home.

**School Safety Drills**

To ensure proper conduct and procedures in emergency situations, school safety drills will be administered once a month.

**Garden Clean Up**

As you drive by Kitayama, you may notice our garden looking clean and ready for planting. That's because Eagle Scout candidate and Kitayama graduate Eric Brown has organized a team of volunteers to clean up our garden. Restoring the garden's beauty is Eric's Eagle Scout project. In August, Eric and his team of volunteers cleaned up and weeded the garden. In September, they will be preparing the soil for planting, and eventually they'll be planting. Look for broccoli to be sprouting up soon! We're very grateful to Eric and his team for volunteering to make our garden flourish once again.

**Student Lunch Times**

The following is our schedule for lunch:

|                                   | Regular School Day | Modified Day |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| Kinder                            | 10:25-11:05        | 10:25-10:55  |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> – 3 <sup>rd</sup> | 11:05-11:45        | 10:55-11:25  |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> – 5 <sup>th</sup> | 11:45-12:20        | 11:25-11:55  |

~~~~ UPCOMING EVENTS ~~~~~

Back to School Night

Back to School Night is on Wednesday, September 16. This is an evening for parents to meet the staff and learn about curriculum and standards, mingle with each other, and enjoy coffee and dessert. The schedule for this year is as follows:

- 4:30-6:00: Scholastic Book Fair (Cafeteria)
- 5:30-6:00: Dessert: Meet the Principal, Specialists, PTA (Courtyard)
- 6:00-6:45: K-2 Back to School Night (Classrooms)
- 6:45-7:30: 3-5 Back to School Night (Classrooms)

Free and Reduced Lunch Information:

NHUSD offers free or reduced price breakfast and lunch to students who qualify. Families must complete an application for free or reduced lunch every year. Students who received free or reduced price lunch at the end of last school year will automatically be on the program until October 12th. To able to continue in the program, you must complete an application before October 9th.

Lunch Payments

To alleviate your child carrying cash to school, families can prepay lunch meals for their child. Parents may pay on-line or in the cafeteria. If you're paying in the cafeteria, we ask that you wait until after breakfast is served to make your payment. Once the children are in their classrooms, we can devote all our energy to you. Checks or cash are acceptable. To pay on-line, go to the district web site at www.nhusd.k12.ca.us. Go to the "For our Parents" heading. Then select "Food and Nutrition." From there, select "MyNutriKids" and follow the instructions. Whether paying in person or on-line, it is important to keep the balance in the positive to avoid negative charges

Kids First

Kids First registration day is Thursday, August 20th at the Cabello Student Services Center, 4500 Cabello St from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. Those who don't register on the 20th must contact Ken Bulman at extension 260 to schedule an appointment to register. Ken starts back to work on August 24th. If you want your children to attend Kids First on the first day of school, you must register before school starts. **There is a one day wait to process paperwork once school starts.**

Bus Schedule

The bus schedule is posted below. If you have further questions regarding transportation, please visit the New Haven website at: www.nhusd.k12.ca.us. Go to the "For our Parents" heading. Under the "Transportation" heading, you will find all the bus schedules listed by school site. Bus applications and a section of "Frequently Asked Questions" can be accessed there as well. The transportation department is always willing to help parents with their questions at the Corporation Yard by calling 471-5559.

| BUS # 4 | Pick up | Location | Drop off |
|---------|---------|----------------------|----------|
| | 7:20 AM | Trailside & Arizona | 2:28 PM |
| | 7:25 AM | Dowe & Condor | 2:25 PM |
| | 7:30 AM | Almaden & Ascot | 2:10 PM |
| | 7:35 AM | Los Robles & Almaden | 2:18 PM |
| | 7:40 AM | Medallion & Brenda | 2:22 PM |

Kitayama arrival time - 7:45 AM.

Student Insurance

As a service to you, the Board of Education is making available an opportunity to purchase student accident insurance for your children who attend school. Since the district has no other student insurance covering your child, it is especially important that you consider this offer. Further information regarding the application, benefits and payment information are available at www.studentinsuranceagency.com or you may contact Keenan & Associates, agents for New Haven Unified School District, 1111 Broadway, Suite 2000, Oakland CA 94607, phone number 510/986-6750.