



February STEAM Update



Principal's Corner

As a kid I loved the month of February! Aside from Groundhog's Day, it was the month for Valentines! When we were young, my mom always had us make valentines for our classmates. Doilies, construction paper, glitter and glue would cover our kitchen bar, as my sister and I cut out hearts and made intricate valentine creations! I remember the sense of pride I felt bringing my works of art to school. My teachers always oohed and awed over the glittered hearts, as I inadvertently showered their classrooms with sparkles!

Valentines though also meant having to work in my dad's flower shop. Valentine's Day was big business, and meant all hands on deck! Hundreds of dozens of roses would be delivered Valentines week, and each rose had to be scraped of leaves and thorns.

Sitting in the back of my dad's shop, I would scrape thorns from roses, one at a time. It was tedious work—and, aside from the radio it was boring work, but it had to be done. I remember scrapping as fast as I could, and barely being able to keep up with the designers, as they made their beautiful arrangements, for the big day!

Working in the flower shop taught me the meaning of hard work. It taught me that sometimes the tedious and monotonous jobs are the most important. It also taught me the value of earning a dollar, and that the people working in the background, the ones that you do not see, are some of the hardest working people in the company.

Speaking of hard work—our students and teachers have diligently been preparing for the state exams that will take place this Spring. We are working on concepts, analyzing past scores, and making sure that all students have what they need before we start State testing! We know that our students will take what they have learned and do their best on their tests!

But the lives of our students are much more than test scores and grades. We know that students succeed best when they feel safe and supported. Hopefully, the successes students feel academically, socially, and emotionally throughout their school years continue as they leave our buildings each day and live as positive citizens in our community.

With that in mind, we're going to work hard to do exceptionally well on our State Exams. We're going to make our Valentines, and use lots of glitter and glue, and we're going to try to recognize all of those that work hard each day to make our school a wonderful place to be.

Happy Valentine's Day!



Mrs. Pearlman

Hanging out at the flower shop was something that I loved to do as a kid, and my own children and my nephew also loved it! This is a picture of our last Valentine's Day at my dad's shop. So many wonderful memories!



Important Dates to Remember:

January 24- Movie Night

February is Black History Month!

February 2- Ground Hog's Day

February 5- Family Science Night- 6 PM

February 7th- Father/Daughter Dance

February 7th -Women in History Assembly

February 10- No School

February 14-Valentine's Day

February 17- No School

February 28-Report cards go home

February 28- LCAP Parent meeting 3:15 PM

March 1- Dr. Seuss' Birthday

March 6- Pride Assemblies

K-3 9:00 AM, 4-8 10:15 AM



News from the Nurse

We are back in the hustle and bustle of yet another school year. When the students are all back together it creates an opportune environment for germs to be spread.

The nurse would like to give families a reminder of when to keep your student home from school. If your child has:

- Had a **fever of 100 degrees** or more, they must stay home until they have been fever free for 24 hours, without the use of fever reducing medication.
- **Vomited or had diarrhea**, they must stay home for 24 hours after the last episode.
- Had any **rash for which the cause is unknown**. Check with your family physician before sending your student to school.
- Been diagnosed with **Strep Throat**. Your student must stay home for 24 hours after antibiotic treatment has start-ed.
- Been diagnosed with **Pink Eye (Conjunctivitis)**. Your student must stay home for 24 hours after medication has started.
- Uncontrollable cough.



Should your child come to school ill, the school nurse may contact you to pick your child up from school. Following these guidelines is extremely important for the protection of our students and staff. There are many students throughout the district who have weakened immune systems and have trouble fighting off illness and

Bus Safety

As many of you know STEAM School utilizes one bus to pick up and drop off students each day. Passenger safety is the most important thing to keep in mind, and understanding the rules and laws regarding school busses can help minimize accidents with students. The law is really pretty simple if you follow a few guidelines. When meeting or passing a school bus from the opposite direction you must stop when you observe flashing red lights. Please keep your eye out for our school buses as they come and go from our property. Our student's safety is our number one priority.



CHARACTER COUNTS

Pillar of the Month

Integrity



Having integrity means doing the right thing in a reliable way. It's a personality trait that we admire, since it means a person has a moral compass that doesn't waver. It means having "wholeness" of character, just as an *integer* is a "whole number" with no fractions. Physical objects can display integrity, too — if you're going over a rickety old bridge that sways in the wind, you might question its structural integrity

Congratulations to the Basketball Team for a Terrific Season! Way to make us all proud! A special thank you to all who gave of their time to make the program a success!



Cleaning Closets

Remember as you clean your closets at home that we are always in need of donations for our programs. Before you throw out the Duplos, check with us, we have kinder classes who can use blocks. Duplos and baby dolls. We're always looking for golf clubs, games, and tools for our electives. We appreciate your donations to our programs!

Lost and Found

Please stop by and check the lost and found, as we will be sending all unclaimed items to the Goodwill.



Parking Lot Pick-Up and Drop-Off Reminders

Please remember the following rules for the parking lot:

- **Drivers must STAY IN CARS AT ALL TIMES.**
- **Students must exit cars on the passenger/sidewalk side.** Exiting cars on the driver side stops all traffic and this also puts students in danger.
- **Please pull forward in the drop off/ pick up line**

Remember that teachers are just trying to keep everyone safe. Be nice, smile and wave and our parking lot will be a little calmer and a whole lot friendlier!



PTO

The PTO meets monthly, and would love to see you at their meetings! This has been an incredible year for fundraising, and support! From candy, and the jog a thon to the Fall Festival, and movie nights you have gone above and beyond in supporting our school! We can not thank all of you enough for your generous donations!

PTO met this month and discussed future funding of classrooms, a spring fundraiser of See's candy, as well as a large project that will make a lasting impact on our campus. Our next meeting is **February 3rd at 12:30 pm.**



8th Grade Baby Pictures for the Yearbook

It's time to submit baby/early childhood pictures of our **8th graders** for the yearbook. We are hoping to start a new tradition, where we show how our kids have grown. It's fun for the rest of the school to guess who is who in the baby section!. Some people actually submit a "baby" picture, but we suggest sticking with in your first couple of years (you don't want the pictures to be "too" obvious). If you have a scanner at home, you can email the picture to Mrs. Bertao at bbertao@sjcoe.net You can also send the photo in and we will scan it for you!

Eighth graders have until February 25 to submit the picture. Our goal is to get a photo of every 8th grader, so please submit early!



A Note from the VP!

Whenever I see a discarded item - whether it is trash or a child's forgotten lunchbox - I instantly hear my mother's voice, "Tabatha! Please pick up after yourself. You are leaving a trail of a mess!" I grew accustomed to her constant reminders, most of which are embedded in my consciousness. Now as an adult, picking up trash or returning a forgotten item left out at recess is a natural reflex. Taking pride in our school by keeping it clean goes beyond the aesthetic benefits, however. We must work together to clean up after ourselves everywhere we go - on the playground, at recess, in our classrooms, and the cafeteria. After all, our school is the space we spend the majority of our waking hours, so it is more about a shared responsibility for our school and our surroundings. I urge you to help keep our campus clean and remind others to do the same. Remember - *Always leave a space better than you found it!* ~ Mrs. Maxie



Attendance Matters!



Attendance this month has declined– please help us increase our attendance!
We need you at school EVERY DAY!

	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	JANUARY
TK/K	92%	93.37%	93.08%	95.8%	92.8%
1	96%	97.45%	97.20%	93.55%	94.4%
2	96%	95.17%	95.71%	97.2%	95.4%
3	96%	95.38%	96.04%	98.84%	95.6%
4	95%	95.17%	97%	97.63%	97.0%
5	96%	97.29%	96.85%	98.35%	98.0%
6	95%	96.79%	96.74%	98.16%	95.3%
7	97%	97.24%	97.86%	98.81%	97.3%
8	98%	98.02%	96.95%	96.62%	95%

Our Goal is
95%
Attendance
in all
Grade Levels!



Absences
Add up!

#SCHOOLEVERYDAY
Missing just 2 days a month
means a child misses 10% of the
school year.

Attendance Works
Helping Student Success by Reducing Chronic Absence

RUPERT GANZER

Australian Animals NEED YOUR HELP



STEAM Academy is partnering with WIRES Wildlife Foundation to help support animals who are victims of the Australian bush fires. We are collecting: ■
white towels of any size, and cotton pillow cases.

Please bring donations to your classrooms or to the school office. Monetary donations can also be sent to the office, and we will send a school check to the organization.

Please send donations to the school before January 30.

STEAM PTO
Presents:



**FAMILY
MOVIE NIGHT**
ABOMINABLE

Friday Jan. 24th
Doors open at 5:30pm Movie starts at 6:00pm

**Steam Academy
GYM**

Entry fee: **FREE!!!!**
Concession Stand will be open!
Bring something comfy to sit on!



For more Information
Please visit the STEAM PTO Facebook page

★ | ★ | ★

Saddle-Up And Head On Over To The
STEAM Academy's

Boots & Bows

DADDY - DAUGHTER DANCE

Bring a Dad, Grandfather, Uncle or Other Special Role Model!

Friday, February 7th

5:00 pm - 8:30 pm

STEAM Academy at River Islands

18001 Commercial Street Lathrop, CA

\$25.00 per couple and \$5 for each additional daughter

Dinner will be served, Raffle, DJ, Photo Booth
additional raffle tickets may be purchased at the door \$1.00
Opened to the community
Questions Contact Emma Valdovinos NGSAPTO@gmail.com

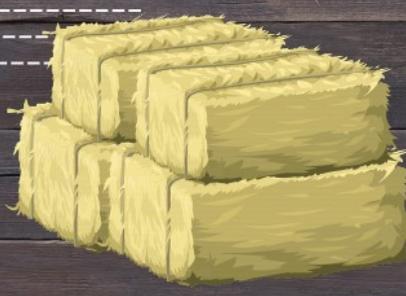
Please return the bottom of this form to your child's teacher by 01/29

Daughters Name(s) _____
 Teachers Name _____
 Number of guests attending _____

Please make checks payable to NGSAPTO

Dinner will include a side, chips and a drink
(please choose 1 per paid guest)

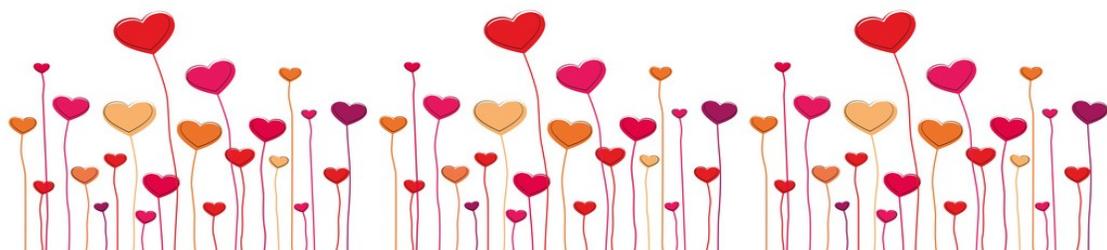
- 1. Hamburger
- 2. Hotdog
- 3. Veggie



*Jessica Red, BSN,
RN*

School Nurse
Coordinator;
San Joaquin County
Office of Education
209-279-3308

Nurse's Corner



Healthy Habits February

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the number of children with obesity has continued to rise over the past two decades. Some of the reasons this is concerning are:

- Increased risk of being bullied, social isolation, depression, and lower self-esteem
- Higher risk for having other chronic health conditions such as asthma, sleep apnea, bone and/or joint problems and Type 2 diabetes, heart disease, high blood pressure, and high cholesterol.

What can you do?

- Balancing Calories: helping kids develop health eating habits at a young age.
- Encourage health eating habits
 - + Provide plenty of vegetables, fruits, and whole-grain products
 - + Include low-fat or non-fat milk or dairy products
 - + Choose lean meats, poultry, fish, lentils, and beans for protein
 - + Serve reasonable-sized portions
 - + Encourage your family to drink lots of water
 - + Limit sugar-sweetened beverages
 - + Limit consumption of sugar and saturated fat
- Help kids stay active
 - + Children should participate in at least 60 minutes of moderate intensity activity most days of the week, preferable daily. Remember that children imitate adults. Try starting by adding physical activity to your own daily routine and encourage your child/children to join you.

Suicide Prevention Resources

We recently had our seventh grade students complete the California Healthy Kids Survey that is put out by the state of California and required for our school to administer. We had 62 seventh grade students complete the survey. Of those 62 students, **we had 12%, or seven students, respond that they have seriously considered attempting suicide.** That is seven too many for us. Together with administration, the teaching staff and other support staff, suicide awareness and prevention education has been taking place in all of our 6th through 8th grade classrooms. While we have the resources to address the concerns at school, we want to make sure that as parents, you have the resources to address any concerns at home.

To learn more information about suicide and to learn about the risk factors and warning signs, you can visit:

<https://www.suicideispreventable.org/> or <https://www.thetrevorproject.org/> or <https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org/>

The national suicide prevention line number: 1-800-273-8255

If you feel your child is in crisis:

- If you have Medi-Cal you can call: 209-468-8686 or take your child to 1212 N. California St., Stockton, Ca 95202.
- If you have Kaiser, you can call: 1-855-268-4096 or take them to 1305 Tommydon St., Stockton, Ca 95210
- If you have another insurance plan, talk to your child's pediatrician and they can point you to a mental health clinician

You can always call 911 or take your child to any emergency room if you are worried about their immediate mental health or worried they are going to hurt themselves.

- Please note that self harm and thoughts of suicide are not always related. Many children and adolescents may self harm but not have thoughts of suicide. It is important that we do not assume a child is suicidal if they are self harming. The most important thing you can do is talk to your child, take all threats or concerns seriously and reach out for help.
- If you are concerned about your child's mental health or that they may be having thoughts of suicide, please notify administration, your students, teacher or the school nurse so that we are aware and can ensure the safety of your student at school. We also have a crisis counselor available two days per week and a school psychologist one day per week. We are here to help so please reach out if you have concerns.



Suicide Prevention Resources:

- National Suicide Prevention Hotline: 1-800-273-8255
- The Trevor Project Crisis Line: 1-866-488-7386
- The Trevor Project TrevorText: Text "START" to 678678
- The Trevor Project TrevorChat: [thetrevorproject.org/get-help-now](https://www.thetrevorproject.org/get-help-now)