

# DRAGON'S LAIR

Genevieve Didion K-8

November 2019



*The 400-Bale Hay Maze at the Fall Festival*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Nov. 1 Middle School End of 1st Quarter - Shortened Day
- Nov. 1 "Gotcha" Character Trait Acknowledgement
- Nov. 4 Fall Picture Makeup Day
- Nov. 5 8th Grade Chipotle Fundraiser for Middle School Catalina Trip, 4:00 - 8:00 pm
- Nov. 11 Veterans Day - No School
- Nov. 12 What Parents Need to Know about Bullying/Social Media Presentation in the Multipurpose Room, 5:30 - 6:30 pm
- Nov. 13 PTA Meeting in the Library, 5:30 - 6:30 pm
- Nov. 15 Didion Fun Run
- Nov. 14-22 Elementary Parent-Teacher Conferences and Minimum Days
- Nov. 18-22 Scholastic Book Fair in Library
- Nov. 22 Thanksgiving Concert for Grades 4-6 in the Gym at 9:00 am
- Nov. 25-29 Thanksgiving Break



# PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

We had a wonderful wrap up to the month of October when we honored Unity Day on Thursday the 31st with an orange dress-up day to symbolize that we are all united in acceptance, kindness, and inclusion. Students signed a "Kindness Pledge" and we now have a "Be the 'I' in 'Kind'" banner hanging in the cafeteria that many students had their pictures taken with. For the months of November and December, we will be focusing on the character trait of "Gratitude." Students will be learning about gratitude, as well as talking about it in their classes. November is another busy month at Didion, highlighted by our biggest fundraiser of the year – the Didion Fun Run – as well as our annual Thanksgiving Concert. Here are highlights of some of this month's events:

**October "Confidence" Champions** – Congrats to the following students for exhibiting confidence throughout the month of October: Julie Yim, Quinten Alston, Alixel Sanchez, Jack Archuleta, London Tran, Mariana Ouchi, Naomi Sammis, Amina Talim, Adalien Jacobo, Cason Ortega, Devin Monks, Niko Monks, Grayson Porter, Grace Castro, Bradley Huestis, Louisa Chen, Haley Eldridge, Nico Ratanasen, Alyssa Christensen, Conner Ziegler, Channing Vang, Audrina Rangel, Emma Doering, Liam Brancamp, Andrew Lee, Ja'naya Washington, Karmella Manzo, Jason Yue, Lexi Mercado, Yolainah-Jaylii Edwards, Grace Gao, Ben Somera, Madison Russell, Adam Ruffell, Dylan Matsuo, Lily Agraan, Zeke Luna, Julia Bradshaw, Blake Willey, Anna Invanov, Ronnie Fortin, and Jaden Larkin.



**Fun Run** – Our biggest and most ambitious fundraiser is underway! The actual Fun Run race will be on Friday, November 15th and families are welcome to attend and cheer on their kids! We will be meeting out on the blacktop for morning announcements periodically between now and race day to talk about our overall progress as a school and if we've earned any of the rewards that I have presented to the students. Our goal is to eventually raise enough money to have a class set of Chromebooks in every classroom. Please check out [www.funrun.com](http://www.funrun.com) and help us reach our goal!

**Presentation on Bullying and Social Media** – On Tuesday, November 12th at 5:30, we will be hosting a presentation in the cafeteria on what parents need to know about bullying and social media.

**Elementary Parent-Teacher Conferences and Minimum Days** – Grade 1-6 students will be dismissed early from November 14th to November 22nd because of parent-teacher conferences. Grades 1-3 will be dismissed at 12:05. Grades 4-6 will be dismissed at 12:19.

**Thanksgiving Program** – Our annual Thanksgiving program, directed by Mrs. Elett Ricks-Chambers and featuring our amazing 4th -6th graders, is scheduled for Friday, November 22nd at 9:00 am in the gym.

**Veteran's Day and Thanksgiving Break** – There will be no school on Monday, November 11th in honor of Veteran's Day, and there will be no school during Thanksgiving Break from November 25th through November 29th .

**High School Specialty Programs Presentation** – On Tuesday, December 3rd , we will be hosting a presentation in the cafeteria on the various high school specialty programs that are offered throughout the district. More information is forthcoming.

**High School Specialty Program Student Exams** - Didion will be hosting several test sessions afterschool for the various specialty programs' application criteria during the month of December. Specifically, the application exam for HISP will be on 12/3, PACE and LEAD's will be on 12/10, and West Campus's will be on 12/11. More information is forthcoming.

**Lost and Found** – We have a lot of lost and found items in our cafeteria right now. Parents and students may visit to look through and recover any lost items that are there. We will be donating all remaining Lost and Found items at the end of this month.

# A LOOK BACK

## FALL FESTIVAL

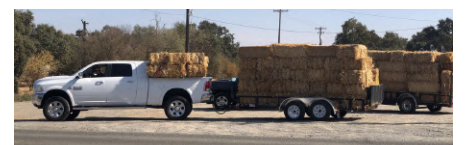


We wanted to take a moment to thank the Didion community for all of your help with the Fall Fest. We truly couldn't do it without you! We appreciate all of your time, volunteer hours, donations, support, and hard work you put into making our festival a success for our kids and community.

We are grateful for the high school volunteers who play an integral part of the festival. Also, we wanted to give special gratitude to the dads and the Kennedy High School ROTC, who helped with the set up and take down of the 400 bale hay maze.

You are appreciated!

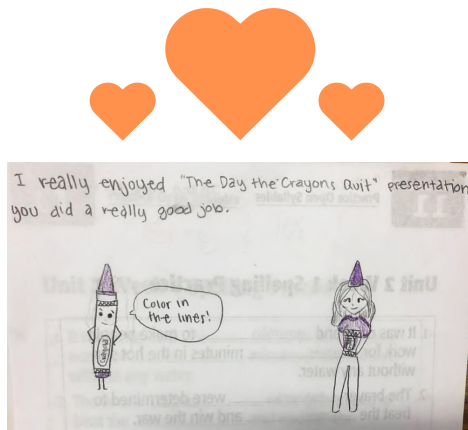
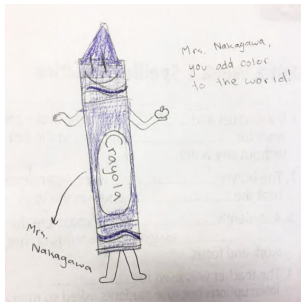
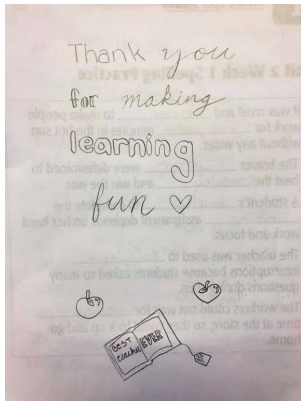
Sincerely,  
Elaine Austin and Nancy Street  
Fall Festival Co-Chairs



Didion's dedicated parent volunteers created the first ever hay bale maze!

# OCTOBER AT DIDION

The 4th, 5th, and 6th grade teaching teams dressed up and role played as crayons from the popular book, "The Day the Crayons Quit." Students learned about the importance of listening to one another and perspectives.



October was **National Bullying Prevention Month** and Didion celebrated on October 31st by wearing **orange**, the color associated with Unity Day across the country. The color has come to symbolize that we are united in kindness, inclusion, and acceptance. Students signed a "Kindness Pledge" on Friday to show that they are committed to being kind to themselves and each other.



Didion's Flag Football team is currently in 2nd place! Go Dragons!

# IN THE KNOW



## SEE'S CANDIES FUNDRAISER

Beginning Nov. 4th, Orders due Nov. 15th

A See's Candies fundraising envelope has been sent home with your child, with orders due by November 15th. This is the perfect opportunity to buy holiday gifts for your friends and family, and remember, candy prices are the same as at the store, and buying through Didion supports our school! Corporate gift boxes/tin are available for order through Taji Sperber by text at (916) 690-5054. Middle school students can earn credit towards the Catalina Trip. The top selling class will earn a prize!

Tentative delivery schedule is the week after Thanksgiving. For more information, please contact **Taji Sperber** at [Tajisperber@gmail.com](mailto:Tajisperber@gmail.com).

## 8TH GRADE CHIPOTLE FUNDRAISER

Nov. 5th from 4:00 - 8:00pm



Please visit Chipotle's at Delta Shores to help raise money for our annual 8th grade field trip to Catalina. Just bring a hard copy of the attached file, or show it to the cashier on your smartphone. 33% of the proceeds will be donated back to Didion to help support the Catalina trip!

## SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

Nov. 18th - 22nd in the Library



The book fair is back! Did you know that 50% of our profits from book sales come back to the school? It's true! Don't miss your chance to get some great books and help our school at the same time! [Sign up to volunteer and earn \\$5 book credit per shift.](#)

## THANKSGIVING PROGRAM

Nov. 22nd at 9:00 am in the Gym

Our annual Thanksgiving Program is back, directed by Mrs. Chambers. Our 4th-6th graders will perform what's sure to be a beautiful way to usher in the holiday season.



*Girls should wear dark skirts or pants and white blouses. Boys should wear dark pants and white shirts with ties. If any student needs assistance with a white shirt or tie, they should speak to Mrs. Chambers as soon as possible.*



# DIDION FUN RUN

PLEDGING NOW OPEN AT [FUNRUN.COM](http://FUNRUN.COM)

**FUN RUN EVENT AT DIDION ON NOVEMBER 15TH**

## GOALS:

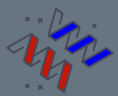
- 100% of families get pledges from sponsors
- 5 pledges per student
- \$45,000 school profit

## HOW TO START:

- Sign up for an account on [FunRun.com](http://FunRun.com)
- Click "Register Student"
- Type in Genevieve Didion
- Begin sharing pledge link by email, text or on Facebook
- **\*Bonus\*** Make a Student Star Video to share!



*Sacramento Republic youth soccer players with Fireball at the Fun Run assembly*



Fun Run profits will support technology education at Didion. Chromebook carts will be purchased with all monies raised.



# STAFF SPOTLIGHT



## KINDERGARTEN TEACHING TEAM

*Dressed up as Pete the Cat is Didion's wonderful kindergarten teaching team:  
Ms. Jamie Green, Ms. Christy Fung, and Ms. Wendy Martinez*

### fun facts

- The kindergarten team has a total of 76 teaching years combined
- Between us we have taught every grade K-12
- We have taught kindergarten for a total of 49 years
- We all love chocolate
- We have many team matching attire
- We all got a new car this year
- None of us can carry a tune but we still sing in front of our five year olds almost daily



# STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

*The Elk's Lodge #6 has a Student of the Month program that recognizes one high achieving students from area schools each month. They generously host a luncheon for the Student of the Month recipient and his or her family where they recognize the student and award him or her a small gift.*

## PATTON ZAPP



**How many years have you been at Didion?**

I've been here for 9 years.

**What's your favorite memory from your time here?**

That's a difficult one. It's probably making my first friend here--Joshua Sanchez. We played in the small kindergarten playground and rode tricycles around.

**What makes Didion different from other middle schools?**

Didion is such a small campus that everyone knows one another. Older kids know the names of younger ones and it's so tight knit that students don't think about hurting one another.

**What are some hobbies that you have outside of school?**

I go to a church group every Wednesday, I study, and I like to draw. I also like to play videogames like Tom Clancy's Rainbow Six Siege. I like videogames because you can immerse yourself in a different world if you're going through hardships or you need a chance to escape.

**What's a book that you've enjoyed reading?**

One of the books that Mrs. Tateishi introduced me to was Ready Player One which is one of my favorite books. The movie was horrible, but the book was fantastic. It immerses you in a dystopian future and it includes references to the 1980's and other things that I know about. My family is big on talking about the past, and I've heard them mention Galaga, Pacman, and my parents have also shared music from the 1980's with me. I also like watching The Goldbergs which has introduced me to the 1980's and other time periods.

**What's something that most people don't know about you?**

A lot of people don't know that when I was younger I was very shy. I'm very outspoken now, but I used to get really nervous about making eye contact and talking to people. Now I can give speeches without fear.

**Where do you want to go to high school?**

The JFK MAD program. Before I leave, I'd like to thank every teacher here for getting me through some difficult times. I'd also like to thank my parents because they're the ones to pressure me to get my work done and buckle down.



# JADE MELENDREZ



**How many years have you been at Didion?**

Two years.

**What's your favorite memory from your time here?**

When I got an A+ in Mr. Flaten's class. His class was very hard, and he was a tough grader, but he was a great teacher. I worked extra hard on my lab reports. Another favorite memory I have was when I would go to Mr. Peterson's class last year during lunch recess and he would teach me compacted math topics. I was really happy when I got into the advanced math class this year.

**What are some hobbies that you have outside of school?**

I make pancakes, and I play the violin. I've been playing for two years. I also study a little bit to expand my vocabulary.

**What's a book that you've enjoyed reading?**

A Tale Dark and Grimm. It's about fairytales and not the Disney kind. I like stories that are scary and morbid because they're entertaining.

**What's something that most people don't know about you?**

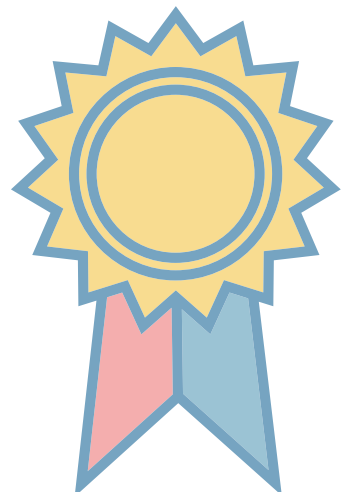
I've only been in the United States since I was around 7. I also like to watch Fresh Off the Boat because it's relatable and hilarious. I also like Jackie Chan movies because he's funny and I used to do karate.

**What high school do you want to attend?**

West Campus because it's a highly rated school and my sister goes there.

**What's a future goal you have?**

I want to be a dermatologist because I want to continue my family's line of doctors.



# SCHOOL SPIRIT TASTES GREAT



Make dinner a selfless act by joining us for a fundraiser to support 8th grade Catalina Trip. Come in to the Chipotle at **8124 Delta Shores Circle** in Sacramento on **Tuesday, November 5th** between **4:00pm** and **8:00pm**. Bring in this flyer, show it on your smartphone or tell the cashier you're supporting the cause to make sure that 33% of the proceeds will be donated to 8th grade Catalina Trip.



Online orders will not be included in the fundraiser total. To ensure your purchase is counted in the fundraiser, be sure to order and pay in-restaurant. Gift card purchases during fundraisers do not count towards total donated sales, but purchases made with an existing gift card will count.