

# DRAGON'S LAIR

Genevieve Didion K-8

August/September 2018



CALLING ALL  
DIDION DRAGONS  
**WELCOME BACK!**

*In our first issue of the 2018-19 school year:*

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Read the first monthly message from Didion's new principal, Mr. James Eder. Mr. Eder will share school news and updates in each issue of Dragon's Lair.

## NOTES FROM THE PTA

Learn ways to support our school throughout the year.

- Join the PTA
- Get your Didion gear
- Ways to volunteer

## AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Enrich your child's education with fun and experiential after school programs. Registration is open for the fall trimester.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Aug. 30 First Day of School
- Aug. 30 First Day Coffee Hour from 8:15 - 9:15 am
- Sep. 3 School Closed for Labor Day Holiday
- Sep. 5 Fingerprinting/Live Scan from 4:30 - 6:00 pm
- Sep. 5 Back to School Night & After School Programs Informational Tables from 5:30 - 7:35 pm
- Sep. 19 Fall Picture Day
- Sep. 19 PTA Meeting at 6:00 pm in the Library

*Look out for our School Kine Cookie Fundraiser!*

### STAY CONNECTED

- **Sign up for Dragon Text Blasts.** Text @dragonbl to 81010
- **Download the school app.** Search Genevieve Didion in iTunes or Google Play
- **Subscribe to our e-newsletter.** All following issues of Dragon's Lair will be digital. Sign up at [didion.scusd.edu/newsletter](http://didion.scusd.edu/newsletter)

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# PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Welcome back! I hope you all had a restful summer, and are as excited for the 2018-19 school year as we are! The Didion staff, from our custodial and maintenance personnel to our front office and parent volunteers, has been working hard to prepare for the new school year and our first day of school on August 30th. In particular, our teachers have been working diligently on the district's new English Language Arts textbook and curriculum adoption. Our teaching team will be collaborating all year to insure students are supported and challenged at all grade levels.

Even though the year has just started, I have already been overwhelmed by the showing of support and involvement by the community. The attendance and positive energy at early events such as the Kinder Orientation and Principal's Meet and Greet on August 24th showcased why Didion is such a special place. I am humbled and honored to have this opportunity to serve as your principal, and I cannot wait to meet our students and for this year to begin! And while I have already met many of you, I hope to meet each and every one of you in the coming weeks.

Looking ahead for this month, I will be holding citizenship assemblies during the first few days of school for our entire student body to reinforce behavior expectations and to present important school rules. Among many things, students will learn about my call to them to always work hard and be kind. **Back to School Night (BTSN) is scheduled for Wednesday, September 5th from 5:30 – 7:35 pm.** This event is intended for parents only. The format of BTSN is different this year from years past. The evening will begin with opening remarks by me on the blacktop, followed by two sessions in the classrooms. Teachers will be presenting two identical presentations in their classes with a brief passing period between each presentation to allow parents to visit more than one class if necessary.

**September 19th is Fall Picture Day.** Visit the school website (<https://didion.scusd.edu/>) to view the calendar and for the most up-to-date information.



I also want to take this opportunity to introduce new members of the Didion staff. Pamela Tatieshi is our new middle school language arts teacher. Natalie Liang is another new addition to our middle school team, and she will be teaching a period of compacted Math 7/8. Della Logan is joining us as our new speech therapist, and Lily Tang has been added to our yard duty team. I want to extend a warm welcome to all of our new staff.

As we get geared up for the year, I want to remind everyone of some very important safety reminders and also make you aware of an important safety update. First, we all know that traffic around drop-off and pick-up time is a challenge. I want us to always be mindful of traffic and pedestrian safety during these times, and to exercise caution and patience. Please refrain from making u-turns in front of the school and also from parking in loading zones, or dropping off/picking up students in the staff parking lots. Additionally, adults and students alike should use the crosswalks when crossing the streets. Lastly, I want to remind everyone that anyone who is on campus after 8:15 needs to check in with the main office and get a visitor badge. **As part of our commitment to campus safety, this school year we will be locking the walking gates that are adjacent to both staff parking lots during each school day.** Safety is our number one priority and collectively we must commit to procedures that help us keep the campus safe.





## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE, CONT.

Please visit our school website often for important news and information. Also, please be sure to sign up for Dragon Blast text messages to get text messages sent directly to your cell phone about upcoming events and important information. See the attached flyer for details.

This is going to be an amazing year. I am looking forward to working together with you to support the achievement and growth of our students. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Mr. Eder

## AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

As we get back to school, don't forget to enroll your child(ren) in Didion's After School Programs. Our STEM4AL approach focuses on Science, Technology, Engineering, Math, Arts, and Foreign Language. In addition to the variety of enriching programs offered last academic year, we enthusiastically announce the return of violin with Ms. Skarli Pena from the Sacramento Institute for Music and the Arts, the addition of a new art class with Stephanie Seelig (Didion parent and middle school art instructor), and the revamping of our chess class through Chess Academy (a new chess program through Dream Enrichment).

Please note that most after-school programs start at the end of September or early October, but they fill up fast. For more information, please visit Didion's website at <https://didion.scusd.edu/afterschool-programs>.

### 2018-19 PROGRAMS

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FUN TO LEARN MANDARIN

EARLY ENGINEERS

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NATURE DETECTIVES

HONEY CODE

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MAD SCIENCE

CHESS ACADEMY

FOOD EXPLORERS

YOUNG ACTORS STAGE

NINJA PANDAS

DIDION BAND

# NOTES FROM THE PTA

*The Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) supports the Didion community through fundraising and volunteer efforts*

## JOIN THE PTA

The start of the school year means it is PTA signup time! Every year we ask each Didion family to support our PTA with one membership per adult. The membership forms were sent home in your start-of school-packet. Please return the completed form, along with your membership check and completed survey, to your child's teacher by Friday, September 14th. Without your support, the PTA would not be able to provide our school with things like field trips, computers, classroom supplies, and a library.

**Our first PTA meeting of the school year will be Wednesday, September 19th at 6:00 pm in the Didion library, and is open to all.** Child care is provided at all PTA meetings. Hope to see you there!

## GET YOUR DIDION GEAR

Purchasing a t-shirt adorned with the Didion Dragon is a great way to support the school and show your school spirit! Your child can rock their Didion gear at school assemblies, spirit days, and field trips. Gear will be available for sale during the First Day Coffee Hour, Back to School Night, and at the Front Office.



## WAYS TO VOLUNTEER

### *To Volunteer in the Classroom and Field Trips*

Parents, grandparents and other adult volunteers who wish to volunteer in the classroom and on field trips are required to follow the SCUSD volunteer registration process, including fingerprinting, TB testing, and background checks. Forms are included in your start-of-school packet and also available in the Front Office.

### *School Events*

Looking to help out? School events require the help, planning and coordination of Didion parents and families. Parents are encouraged to get involved and learn more by attending a PTA meeting or signing up online for volunteer and donation opportunities. Events include the Fall Festival, Scholastic Book Fair, Father-Daughter Dance and more. Signups for each event can be accessed online at <https://didion.scusd.edu/volunteer-opportunities>.

## NEXT ISSUE

*The next issue of Dragon's Lair will be published on Friday, September 28th. We love to share news about school events and student successes. To have your article included, please email information and photos to the newsletter editor at [jules.skr@gmail.com](mailto:jules.skr@gmail.com) by Monday, September 24th. Thank you.*