

DRAGON'S LAIR

Genevieve Didion K-8

April 2019



Winners of the March Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) theme of gratitude.

Highlights from our April issue:

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Read about what's coming up for Didion's spring schedule of fundraising and state testing.

PHOTO GALLERY

View photos from the 6th grade trip to Sly Park, the Father Daughter Dance, and the Fried Rice Breakfast & Egg Hunt.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Check out pictures of our awesome yard duty staff!

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Apr. 9 Spring Pictures (pre-order required)
- Apr. 10 Apex Fun Run (Jog-a-Thon)
- Apr. 12 Class Colors Spirit Day (Primary wears white; Intermediate wears blue; Middle wears red)
- Apr. 15-19 School Closed for Spring Break
- Apr. 25 & 26 Kids Heart Challenge
- Apr. 30 Start of CAASPP testing window
- May 1 PTA Meeting at 6:00 pm in the Library
- May 3 Mother-Son Dance from 6:00 - 8:00 pm
- May 17 Spring Dinner
- May 17 Talent Show at 6:30 pm in the Gym

STAY CONNECTED

- **Sign up for Dragon Text Blasts.** Text @dragonbl to 81010
- **Download the school app.** Search Genevieve Didion in iTunes or Google Play

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Spring is officially here, and there is a lot going on at Didion for the month of April. March closed out with the amazing Father Daughter Dance, which was almost too cute to take! A huge thank you to all of the volunteers who came together to make that event a beautiful and fun reality. By the time you read this, you will hopefully have eaten your fill of delicious fried rice at Didion's Fried Rice Breakfast and Egg Hunt on April 6th. Again, we are so grateful for the parent and community volunteers who devote so much time to put on events like this one. Special thanks go to Cathy Rechs, Erin Pacheco, Kris Matsuo, Julianne Ratanasen, Nancy Street, Kellie Morioka Sato, and Nicole Harada Galang for their efforts in making these events so special and so successful.



Spring time is a great time to focus on fitness and health (and hopefully the weather will start to cooperate!). We recently introduced the STRIDES running program to our 1st-6th grade students, and they've been out in force running laps during lunch recess. We also started the Kids Heart Challenge, which raises money for the American Heart Association and culminates in jump rope events on the 25th and 26th of April.

We also are in the midst of our biggest spring fundraiser, the APEX Fun Run. The actual run will take place on Wednesday, April 10th. The APEX team has been visiting classes and pumping up our students and teaching them valuable character traits in the process. Our hope is that this will be an extremely successful fundraiser for Didion as we continue to try and boost our technology infrastructure and support our library as well as other programs on campus. Thank you in advance for your generosity and continued support!

CAASPP testing (3rd-8th grade only) will begin late this month, starting with 8th graders taking the CAST Science exam on April 30th and May 1st. 3rd-8th grade teachers will be sharing their specific testing schedules with their classes. Make-ups will occur during the week of May 20th. Please make sure that your student is coming to school well-rested and nourished and ready to do their absolute best on their tests. Also, we ask that whenever possible students bring their own headphones or earbuds to school for their testing days as we have a limited number to loan out and they are needed for some sections of the test. For more information on CAASPP testing, as well as access to practice tests that students can do at home, please follow this [LINK](#).

Lastly, we all know that the looming strike is on everyone's mind. The majority of the communication regarding this is to come from central office, but I did want to acknowledge that I know these are trying and challenging times. School will be open on April 11th, buses will run, and food will be served in the cafeteria. Our entire staff and community are family, and we will move forward together and remain committed to making Didion a place where we all work together to give every student the opportunity to reach their maximum potential, regardless of the outside influences and obstacles that lay in front of us. I am confident of that.

A LOOK BACK

6TH GRADERS AT SLY PARK



FATHER DAUGHTER DANCE



FRIED RICE BREAKFAST & EGG HUNT





The winner of the Fried Rice Iron Chef competition was 5th grader Nathan Lee! Congratulations to all our chefs and thank you for sharing your culinary creations with us!

IN THE KNOW

2019-2020 PTA BOARD

At the March PTA General Meeting, members in attendance elected several board members for the 2019-2020 school year.

Our President will be Elaine Austin, Vice President Nicole Harada, Treasurer Kelvin Gee, and Historian Kristi Morioka. Congratulations to our incoming board!

If you are concerned that you missed your chance to serve on next year's board, don't worry - you still have an opportunity. Three other board positions are yet to be filled: Secretary, Parliamentarian, and Treasurer II (future treasurer in training). If you are interested, come to the May 1st PTA meeting, or email current PTA president Jeff Fletcher at jefgel@hotmail.com.



DIDION GARDEN

We will be planting our summer crop in the next few weeks. We could use some volunteers to help. Please let Mrs. Keating know if you have some extra time to get your hands dirty! Email her at Nancy-Keating@scusd.edu

DIDION'S APEX FUN RUN

Fundraising through April 10th

Didion's Apex Fun Run, previously known as the Jog-a-Thon, is sure to be an exciting event for our students. The goal of this fundraiser is to raise money to support Didion's technology needs, such as additional laptop carts, LCD projectors, and document cameras, as well as our amazing library. Through Apex's online pledging system, sponsors can pledge per lap, (\$1/lap will max be a \$36 donation), or pledge flat donations. For more information, see attached flyer.



KIDS HEART CHALLENGE

Fundraising through April 25th

We have officially kicked off our Kids Heart Challenge program and our school's big event is right around the corner! Last year, we jumped rope for heart and this year we're kicking off the all-new Kids Heart Challenge! It's a totally reimagined program with more ways for kids to get heart healthy, more incentives for participating schools like ours and an easier to manage experience for parents. That's a lot of "MORE!"

Information on how to register on the Kids Heart Challenge website was sent home with your child. Activate your child's account for online fundraising. Thank you for supporting this cause!

MOTHER-SON DANCE

Friday, May 3, from 6:00 - 8:00 pm

This year's dance celebrates the special mother-son bond through the theme, "Isn't She Lovely?" Presale tickets go on sale soon, so be on the lookout for a flyer sent home with your child.

DIDION'S TALENT SHOW

Friday, May 17th at 6:30 pm
in the Gym

Save the date on your calendar now as we are sure to have a wonderful show, filled with

singing, music, dance, martial arts and more. This year we hope to have a special act featuring some of our teachers' talents. This is a wonderful chance to get together with friends, family and teachers while you support all of Didion's talented performers. For more information, contact Nicole Makram at nicolemakram@yahoo.com.



STAFF SPOTLIGHT

YARD DUTY STAFF

Michele Brown, Stephanie Mark, Sheryl Aguilera, Lily Tang-Vaughn



NOTES FROM THE PTA

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

ELECTION RESULTS FOR 2019-2020 BOARD

President - Elaine Austin

Vice President - Nicole Harada

Treasurer - Kelvin Gee

Historian - Kristi Morioka

Unfilled:

Secretary

Parliamentarian

Treasurer II (treasurer-in-training for next school year)

If you have interest in these unfilled board positions, please contact Jeff Fletcher at jefgel@hotmail.com.

UPCOMING PTA MEETING

PTA Meetings are held every other month, on the first Wednesday of the month at 6:00 PM in the library. Childcare is provided.

- **MAY 1ST**

DIDION FUNDRAISERS

Upcoming & Current Ways to Support our School

- **APEX FUN RUN**

Join in the fundraising leading up to the Fun Run on April 10th! Pledges can be made online.

- **KIDS HEART CHALLENGE**

Our annual fundraiser with the American Heart Association encourages healthy habits and activity.

- **SEE'S CANDIES**

These classic chocolates make the perfect holiday gift! Sales run October 29th - November 9th.

- **NUGGET SCRIP CARDS**

Nugget scrip cards are now available in the Didion front office! Pick up yours today so you can donate to Didion when you shop at the Nugget.

- **DIDION GEAR**

Support our school AND sport your Didion gear every Friday! Available for purchase at the front office.

- **AMAZON SMILE**

A simple and automatic way for you to support our school every time you shop on Amazon. [Click here to start.](#)

- **SHOPPING TO EDUCATE**

Do you shop at Lakecrest Village? Help earn cash for Didion by turning in your receipts to the front office.

- **BOX TOPS**

From Cheerios to Kleenex, Ziplock to Fruit Roll-ups, save your Box Tops and turn them into your child's teacher.



Apex Fun Run is coming to Genevieve Didion on April 1st!

Dear Parents,

Thank you for your support of Genevieve Didion and the investments you make in your children's lives. **We are so excited to announce that our school will be participating in the Apex Fun Run Program as our major Spring fundraiser!** The Apex program will last for 2 weeks and will kick off with a Pep Rally on Monday, April 1st at 11:20pm for kinder and 1:00pm for 1st-8th if you'd like to come check it out. Please look for your child's Apex Pledge Kit they will receive on that day and for e-mails coming from your teachers.

Apex Fun Run is an interactive leadership program that helps schools all over the country raise funds, while promoting leadership, good character and fitness. This year's theme is Apex STRONG! Students will join the Apex Squad on an exciting journey as they learn what it means to find your inner strength.

- ➔ **S**elfless
- ➔ **T**rustworthy
- ➔ **R**efuel
- ➔ **O**vercome
- ➔ **N**ext Level
- ➔ **G**rateful

During the Apex Fun Run program, students are challenged to get pledges for the laps they will run on **Wednesday, April 10th** to help our school. Students will run for 30 minutes and will run an average of 26-36 laps around the Apex Raceway. The maximum amount of laps is 36 and each lap is 1/16th of a mile. Through Apex's top-notch online pledging system, sponsors can pledge per lap, (\$1/lap will max be a \$36 donation), or pledge flat donations. Students can get pledges from anywhere in the world!

This year, we're raising funds to pay for chrome books, projectors, and the library. Help us further our technology at our school. Every little bit helps!

Thank you again for your continued support – we're so excited to begin this journey with you!

Mr. Eder, Principal and Genevieve Didion PTA

ALL STUDENTS INCLUDED

All students will receive Apex wrist bands, an Apex t-shirt, and team awards. All students will experience Apex Fun Run's world class character program and have access to additional character lesson videos on the free Apex Fun Run App!

The Thirst Project

Our company has partnered with the Thirst Project to help give back to people all over the world who do not have access to clean drinking water. When a student reaches \$10/lap or a total of \$300 donated, Apex gives a family 4 years of access to clean drinking water. Last year, with the help of our schools, we were able to help 2,200 people.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

Connect your child to potential sponsors and help acquire pledges for the number of laps they will run on Fun Run day. Every student will get a pledge kit to help get online sponsors and an envelope for those who prefer to donate using cash or check. The easiest way to let people you know about the school's fundraiser is to use the SHARE WIZARD. Input emails or phone numbers of people that you know or post on your Facebook, Instagram or Twitter to help get the word out.

Help volunteer for the fun run! We need a few parents to help cheer on students and mark laps. Contact Didion PTA to help!

FUN RUN DAY INFO

Wednesday, April 10th

K-2nd @ 9:00am

Middle School @ 10:00am

3rd-6th @ 1:10pm