

DRAGON'S LAIR

Genevieve Didion K-8

December 2018/January 2019



Highlights from our Dec./Jan. issue:

SCHOOL REGISTRATION

Neighborhood registration for the 2019-2020 school year begins on January 15th.

ONE BOOK, ONE SCHOOL

An exciting, school-wide reading project: *Wishtree* by Katherine Applegate.

STUDENT OF THE MONTH

We're proud of our Didion students chosen for the Elks Lodge #6 - Student of the Month program!

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Dec. 6 HISP Essay Session at 2:50 pm
- Dec. 7 Spirit Day: Wear Didion Colors
- Dec. 11 PACE, Kit Carson IA, and LEAD Essay Sessions at 2:50 pm
- Dec. 12 School Site Council at 2:45 pm
- Dec. 13 West Campus Entrance Exam Session at 1:50 pm
- Dec. 14 Spirit Day: Wear Pajamas
- Dec. 20 High School Specialty Program Application Deadline, 5:00 pm
- Dec. 21 Shortened Day for 1st - 8th Grade
- Dec. 21 Winter Concert for Grades K-3 at 9:00 am
- Dec. 23 - Jan. 4 No School; Winter Break
- Jan. 7 Gotcha Winners acknowledged during blacktop announcements, 8:00 am
- Jan. 9 PTA Meeting in the Library at 6:00 pm
- Jan. 15 - Jan. 29 Kinder/Neighborhood Registration
- Jan. 21 No School in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday
- Jan. 25 Shortened Day for 7th & 8th Grade/End of 2nd Quarter
- Jan. 26 Chipotle Fundraiser, Delta Shores, 5:00 - 9:00 pm



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

It seems cliché to say that this is my favorite time of year... but it is! While this is my first holiday season spent at Didion, I can sense the energy and positivity on campus and in this community this time of year. While we generally associate the holidays and the warm feelings that accompany them with family and loved ones, I LOVE that I get that same sense here with our staff and in our community. Last month's Thanksgiving Concert was a great example of how a school event can truly be a community and family event. We have spent the last month and a half talking about empathy and perspective-taking, and to then hear students sing about kindness, making a difference, and gratitude was truly heart-warming. After the Thanksgiving Concert that day, I joined the 6th graders as they engaged in a lesson about empathy, and I was reminded of the tremendous opportunity we have at school to partner with families to reinforce values and positive traits that will ultimately benefit us all as our students grow and join the adult world. Also, last Friday's spirit rally really helped me to further understand what makes Didion so special. Our middle school students did an AMAZING job of organizing and putting on the rally, and every student in the gym was engaged and having a great time. I even found myself screaming like a kid who just saw Santa when Fireball walked in!

I want parents to know that my door is open to you all and should you have concerns or issues, to please seek me out. Similarly, I want to encourage you to communicate directly with your child's teacher so that you may be aligned in setting goals and working together to provide the appropriate supports for your child. Raising kids and raising achievement is complex and challenging work, but through collaboration and trust – and a whole lot of hard work – I believe that we can continue to create an environment here where all students can feel supported and accepted, and where all students can reach their maximum potential.

Looking ahead, there is a lot going on in the next month or so. December 20th is the deadline for our 8th graders who are applying to high school specialty programs. The upcoming Winter Concert promises to be amazing, as our K through 3rd graders have been working hard to bring the house down on the 21st at 9:00 a.m. I will acknowledge our November/December "Gotcha Ticket" winners on the blacktop during morning announcements on January 7th. GATE screening for all 1st and 3rd grade students will take place between January 14th and February 22nd; letters went home to families this week detailing the process. For more information, [follow this link](#). The registration window for incoming 2019-2020 **neighborhood-only kindergartners** will be from Tuesday, January 15th to Tuesday, January 29th at Didion (*see information later in the newsletter*). Registration for 2019-2020 neighborhood students in other grade levels will take place in April. Also, the K-8 Open Enrollment window will be from Tuesday, February 5th to Tuesday, February 19th. With that in mind, information will be going out in the coming weeks to our 6th grade families regarding visitation days for our middle school. There are many options available to students and families as they consider where to attend middle school, but for all the reasons I mention above (and many others!), I believe Didion is an excellent choice.

Lastly, I want to take a brief moment to thank John Laramie for all of his work in keeping our [website](#) up to date. Thank you, John!!

I hope you all have a wonderful holiday season and winter break. I am excited for everything that 2019 has in store for us as a school and community.

Mr. Eder



KINDERGARTEN NEIGHBORHOOD REGISTRATION for the 2019-2020 School Year

Registration for **neighborhood-only kindergarten** children will begin on Tuesday, January 15, 2019 in the Multipurpose Room starting at 8:00am. Your child must be turning five on or before September 1, 2019. You must bring the following documentation with you:

1. **Photo identification**
2. **ONE** of the following: **CURRENT** mortgage statement (within 30 days), **CURRENT** property tax bill, **CURRENT** rental/lease agreement with Landlord's Information (If the lease is older than one year OR is month to month, the current month rent receipt is required), **CURRENT** employment pay stub (within 30 days), Government agency letter (within 30 days), or **CURRENT** voter registration
3. **CURRENT** utility bill (SMUD, PG&E, or WATER) with correct name and address (within 30 days, NO PAST DUE BILLS WILL BE ACCEPTED)
4. **Immunization record**
5. **Proof of birth** – original COUNTY ISSUED birth certificate or non- expired passport
6. **Individual Education Plan (IEP)** if your child is receiving special education services
7. **Guardianship/Custody papers** (if applicable)

We would like parents to complete the enrollment packet at school and have it immediately verified by office staff. Please plan on being here for up to one hour. Enrollment packets are distributed in order and must be submitted to and then verified by office staff to determine your child's registration date. If you have any questions regarding enrollment or address verification, please contact the office at (916) 433-5039.

After January 15th, registration for neighborhood-only kindergarten children will continue in the main office during normal school hours (7:30 – 4:00) from January 16th to January 29th. Registration after that window will need to be done at the SCUSD Enrollment Center.

A LOOK BACK

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

A huge thank you to everyone who shopped at our Fall Book Fair. Despite the less than ideal conditions and shortened week, it was still a huge success. 75 books were donated by Didion families to classrooms and the funds raised during the fair will go towards many new titles for the library! Thanks so much for coming out, see you in March for the next fair!

SCHOOL KINE COOKIES FUNDRAISER

Didion Dragons, you are amazing Cookie sellers! **We sold more cookies than we have EVER sold before!** Congratulations goes out to Mrs. Nann's 5th grade class and Ms. Fung's kindergarten class! They earned class parties for selling the most cookies in the entire school in primary and intermediate. Shout out to Mrs. Xiong, Mrs. Keating and Mrs. Nowack's classes who were not far behind – next year!

The top seller in the whole school was Brandon Lim in Mrs. Nowack's 6th grade class!

Our **Top 10** school wide School Kine Cookie sales people are:

1. **Brandon Lim** – Nowack 6th Grade
2. **Dylan Ng** – Nann 5th Grade
3. **Bradley Nakagawa** - Ewing 4th Grade
4. **Sienna Ratanasen** – Searle 4th Grade
5. **Kai Bradford** – Nann 5th Grade
6. **Nicholas Gee** – Xiong 1st Grade
7. **Corey Ohara** – Nann 5th Grade
8. **Knox Tateishi** – Fung Kindergarten
9. **Kasey Ohara** – Howe 2nd Grade
10. **Audrey Winn-Ledbetter** - Fung Kindergarten

ANNUAL THANKSGIVING PROGRAM

Due to the school cancelation on the original program date, our Thanksgiving concert for 4th - 6th graders was rescheduled to the last Friday in November. Mrs. Chambers conducted a beautiful and resounding program around the themes of gratitude and connection, spanning musical genres and ending with a rocking medley of 'Lean On Me' and 'Don't Stop Believing'. The morning was concluded with a special rendition of 'Happy Birthday', sung by every student, parent and staff in the room, to our beloved Mrs. Chambers. [Give the concert a listen by streaming audio tracks on the Didion Dropbox here.](#)



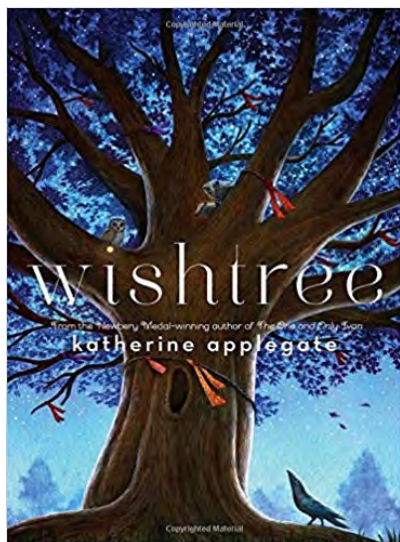
SPIRIT RALLY

The Didion Spirit Rally on Friday, December 7th was a blast! We celebrated our flag football team with our cheerleaders, staff, teachers and students. Check out these pictures from the rally.



CURRENT & UPCOMING

ONE BOOK, ONE SCHOOL



This month we are trying something new and exciting at Didion! Our entire Didion family - teachers, staff and students in every grade - will be sharing the experience of a truly beautiful book, *Wishtree* by Katherine Applegate. *Wishtree* is the story of a 200-year-old oak tree named Red. Every year on May 1st the whole town visits Red and makes a wish for the year. They write their wish on a piece of paper, scrap of cloth (or even an old gym sock once!) and tie their wish to Red's branches. Red has always quietly observed their dreams and hopes for something better and never intervened in the lives of the wish-makers, until now. Samar is a child who has moved to the neighborhood and not everyone has been welcoming. Desperate and lonely, Samar wishes for a friend and Red decides that after 200 hundred years of quiet, she's going to try to make this wish come true...

Every class will spend the next few weeks reading and discussing the book while participating in *Wishtree* related activities in the library. We'll be talking about empathy, kindness and acceptance, creating a beautiful whole-school work of art and telling some tree jokes (How many oranges grow on trees? All of them!). We will celebrate our shared experience the last week of school in December by transforming the trees lining the hallways into our very own wish trees, decorating them with our hopes for our family, community and world. Families are encouraged to talk about the book at home, or even read it along with us! A few copies are available for parent check-out from the school library and it's available from the Sacramento Public Library as well. This website <http://wishtreebook.com/> has more information about the book, the author, a book trailer and some activities you can do at home. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Rechs in the library or at catherine-rechs@scusd.edu. Happy reading!!

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

With the holiday season just around the corner and our winter break quickly approaching, don't forget to secure your child(ren)'s spot in many of our enriching afterschool program classes. For more detailed information about all of our afterschool offerings, please visit [Didion's website here](#). Highlighted below are sessions starting during the first week of December or immediately after our winter break include:

- [Nature Detectives](#) - session started on 11/28 but pro-rated option available
- [Fun to Learn Mandarin](#) - new session starting on 01/07/2019
- [Little Namaste Yoga](#) - new session starting on 01/08/2019
- [One Striped Bee](#) - new session starting on 01/17/2019
- [Violin](#) - now taught by Ingrid Peters (Founder & Director of SIMA) pro-rated option available

Also, **Save-the-Date: January 11th, 2:30 -3:30pm, FREE *Happy 2019 Family Yoga* session** with Gary Austin at Didion, **Room 19**. In a world where parents and children are so busy, family yoga provides a wonderful place to spend healthy and happy quality time together. No mobile phones, no iPads, no other screens, and no other duties...It's just you and your children. Gary hopes to see you there. Namaste!

BATTLE OF THE BOOKS IS BACK!

Battle of the Books is an exciting reading challenge for 6th, 7th and 8th grade students. It's designed to get kids reading great new books and having fun while competing with their peers. 6th, 7th and 8th grade students are invited to form battle teams of 2-5 people. Each team will divide up responsibility for reading and knowing the 6 books in the competition. After reading and studying, teams will gather for a game-show style trivia contest on February 28th, 2019 to show off their knowledge! The winning teams will receive crowns and gift certificates to the bookfair and ALL participants will celebrate afterwards with a pizza luncheon hosted by the Didion PTA.

We already have 70 kids signed up but there's always room for more. If your student is interested, they simply need to form a team and turn in a registration form to Mrs. Rechs by January 18th. [Here is a link to the reading list and registration form.](#)

Genevieve Didion Library wishlist



The Word Collector
by Peter H. Reynolds (Hardcover)
★★★★★ (100)
\$14.23 ✓prime
87 Used & New from USD 9.80



Nathan Hale's Hazardous Tales: The Underground Abductor (An Abolitionist Tale about Harriet Tubman) by Nathan Hale (2015-04-21)
by Nathan Hale (Hardcover)
★★★★★ (92)
\$9.61
50 Used & New from USD 9.22



Nathan Hale's Hazardous Tales: Donner Dinner Party
by Nathan Hale (Hardcover)
★★★★★ (92)
\$11.66 ✓prime
96 Used & New from USD 7.00



Raid of No Return (Nathan Hale's Hazardous Tales #7): A World War II Tale of the Doolittle Raid
by Nathan Hale (Hardcover)
★★★★★ (55)
\$10.31 ✓prime
91 Used & New from USD 8.00

Best Seller



Lafayette! (Nathan Hale's Hazardous Tales #8): A Revolutionary War Tale
by Nathan Hale (Hardcover)
★★★★★ (15)
\$9.79 ✓prime
39 Used & New from USD 9.23

LIBRARY SEEKING DONATIONS

If you would like to donate a book to the school library this holiday season (or any day!) here is a link to our [Library Wishlist](#) on Amazon.

And remember, you can also support Didion by using setting our school as your Amazon charity by using this [link](#).

Thank you for supporting our library and your readers!

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

The Elk's Lodge #6 has a Student of the Month program that recognizes one high achieving student 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.

LONDON YEY *selected for October*

How many years have you attended Didion?

I started in the 7th grade and came from Bergamo.

What's your favorite memory of Didion?

I enjoyed the D.C. trip last summer. The best part was going into Thomas Jefferson and George Washington's houses because it felt different being in a president's house from 200 years ago. It was a pretty cool experience.

Why did you decide to attend Didion?

A lot of other students from Bergamo came to Didion.

What high school do you plan on attending next year?

I want to go to JFK, and I'm applying to PACE and MAD.

How would your friends describe you?

They would say I'm smart, funny, weird, and that I talk a lot.

What is something that not a lot of people know about you?

I own 12 chickens. There used to be nine chicks but one froze to death and the other was eaten by a cat. In the summer, we get two or three eggs a day.

What's your favorite book?

I've read a lot of books and I've liked all of them. I can't really choose a favorite one. Rick Riordan is my favorite author, and I've read all of his books.

What would you consider the perfect meal?

A hamburger by itself. No fries or soda.

GISELE MATOCQ *selected for November*

How many years have you attended Didion?

I've been here since kindergarten.

What's your favorite memory of Didion?

The fundraiser for the Leukemia and Lymphoma society because I get to help others and it makes me feel really good. I like knowing that the money will go to kids that need it.

Why did you decide to stay at Didion for middle school?

The amazing teachers, the old principal, my friends, and the amazing memories.

What high school do you plan on attending next year?

I want to go to Christian Brothers because my brother went there and my whole family loves the school. Ever since my brother went, I've wanted to go, and I don't want to look at any other high schools. I'm also doing the junior cheer program for the

junior football players, so I know a lot of the cheerleaders there.

How would your friends describe you?

My friends would say that I talk a lot, I'm really kind and caring, and that I'm a really good friend.

What is something that not a lot of people know about you?

Not a lot of people know that I'm adopted. People are also usually shocked when they hear that I have a brother.

What's your favorite book?

I just started the book Remember Me by Christopher Pike, and I like it because it's very mysterious.

What would you consider the perfect meal?

I am very picky, but my favorite foods are pasta, tofu and soup.



NOTES FROM THE PTA

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

IN SEARCH OF VOLUNTEERS

The PTA is looking for volunteers for the following:

- **VIDEOGRAPHER**
Help film the Winter Program and Talent Show
- **FATHER-DAUGHTER DANCE**
This fun and memorable winter event is a favorite among families. Head a committee with support from previous event organizers

Contact Jeff Fletcher at jefgel@hotmail.com or (530) 306-0037.

UPCOMING PTA MEETINGS

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

- **JANUARY 9TH**
- **MARCH 6TH**
- **MAY 1ST**

DIDION FUNDRAISERS

Upcoming & Current Ways to Support our School

- **CHIPOTLE**

Grab dinner at Chipotle on Saturday, January 26th from 5:00 - 9:00 pm. Present the attached flyer and 33% of proceeds will be donated to the Didion PTA.

- **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.

DO GOOD WITH BURRITOS



Join us at our restaurant for a fundraiser to support Genevieve Didion K8 School PTA. Just come in to the Chipotle at **8124 Delta Shores Circle** in Sacramento on **Saturday, January 26th** from **5:00pm to 9:00pm**. 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 Genevieve Didion K8 School PTA.



MEXICAN GRILL

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.