

DRAGON'S LAIR

Genevieve Didion K-8

December 2019/January 2020



The Thanksgiving Program, directed by Mrs. Chambers, featuring 4th - 6th graders

Highlights from our Dec./Jan. issue:

SCHOOL REGISTRATION

Neighborhood registration for the 2019-2020 school year begins on January 14th.

STAR LIGHT, STAR BRIGHT

Didion is helping fulfill the holiday wishes of 81 children through the Sacramento Children's Home!

STUDENT OF THE MONTH

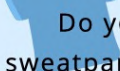
We're proud of our Didion students chosen for the Elks Lodge #6 - Student of the Month program.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Jan. 8 PTA Meeting in the Library at 6:00 pm
- Jan. 20 No School in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr.
- Jan. 23 Middle School Dance, 2:30 - 4:30 pm
- Jan. 24 Middle School - End of 2nd Quarter
- Jan. 24 Minimum Day for Middle School Only
- Jan. 31 Battle of the Books

WE NEED
YOUR

CLOTHING DONATIONS

 Do you have old t-shirts, sweatpants or sweatshirts in kid sizes? With wet weather approaching and playground accidents happening, these items are useful for when our students need them. Please donate these, along with new underwear in kindergarten, 1st grade, and other children's sizes, to the front office. Thanks for your help!

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Didion families,

We have had a busy and exciting end to the calendar year! We capped off 2019 with another wonderful Winter Program, featuring our talented kinder through third grade students. I hope you all have a restful and rejuvenating winter break. I can't wait to see our students, and you all, in the New Year on January 6th out on the blacktop at 8:00 a.m.

Gratitude "Champions" – When we return from break, on Monday, January 6th, we will acknowledge our Gratitude Champions during blacktop announcements. We'll be taking a picture for our website and the February newsletter in front of the gym.

Text Messages from the Principal – If you have NOT received any text messages from me this year, and you would like to be able to receive important text reminders and safety updates, then please email Mrs. Hori at gail-nakamura@scusd.edu. Include your name, your child's name, and the phone number where you would like to receive texts.

2020-2021 Enrollment Notification – If you expect that your child will NOT be attending Didion in the 2020-2021 school year, please notify Mrs. Hori (gail-nakamura@scusd.edu).

Kindergarten Registration – Kindergarten NEIGHBORHOOD Registration begins on January 14th (see the next page of the newsletter). From January 14th to January 28th, incoming 2020-2021 neighborhood kindergarteners may register directly at Didion. After January 28th, neighborhood kinder families would need to register at the District Enrollment Center. OUT OF NEIGHBORHOOD families interested in kindergarten at Didion will need to wait until the Intra-District Permit Window opens to apply for a permit to attend. This window opens on April 1st and runs until May 1st. Please feel free to pass this information along to your friends or extended family members who are interested in Didion. Also, please feel free to call or email me directly with questions.

Middle School Open Enrollment and Visitation Days – At this time, it appears that we will only have OPEN ENROLLMENT spots available for our 7th and 8th grade for the 2020-2021 school year. For families interested in attending our middle school, the window to apply via Open Enrollment is February 4th through February 18th.

GATE Screening – Universal GATE Screening for first and third grade students will take place between January 16th and February 16th. For more information, please contact your child's teacher.

Middle School Basketball – Our middle school (grades 6-8) basketball teams are wrapping up the regular season at the end of January, with the City Championship tournament scheduled for February 1st. We have three more home games scheduled for January 8th, January 13th, and January 15th. Come out and support our Dragons as they make a final push for the playoffs!



KINDERGARTEN NEIGHBORHOOD REGISTRATION for the 2020-2021 School Year

Registration for **neighborhood-only kindergarten** children will begin on Tuesday, January 14, 2020 in the Multipurpose Room starting at 8:00am. Your child must be turning five on or before September 1, 2020. 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. Enrollment packets are distributed in order and must be submitted to and then verified by office staff to determine your child's registration date. Please be prepared as this can be a lengthy process. If you have any questions regarding enrollment or address verification, please contact the office at (916) 395-4575.

After January 14th, registration for neighborhood-only kindergarten children will continue in the main office during normal school hours (7:30 – 4:00) from January 14th to January 28th. Registration after that window will need to be done at the SCUSD Enrollment Center.

A LOOK BACK

ANNUAL THANKSGIVING PROGRAM



SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

Thank you to all the families who came out to support the library by shopping at our Scholastic Book Fair in November. It was our most successful book fair to date! The library will receive over \$4,000 to spend on books and other needed supplies. 150 new books are on the way that kids will get to start checking out in the new year with more to come! Mrs. Rechs couldn't be more grateful to the parents who helped work during the fair, she couldn't possibly do it without you!

SCHOOL KINE COOKIES

We raised more money than we ever have before! We sold \$31,000 worth of school kine cookies! Congratulations to Mrs. Ewing's 4th grade and Ms. Fung's kindergarten classes for selling the most cookies. Their classes win a class party. Mrs. Marang and Ms. Green's classes were close behind.

1. Nicholas Gee – Mrs. Marang's 2nd grade class
2. Jordyn Chong – Ms. Fung's kindergarten class
3. Knox Tateishi – Mrs. Xiong's 1st grade class
4. Bradley Nakagawa – Mrs. Predmore-Miyata's 5th grade class
5. Deena Salameh – 8th grade



SEE'S CANDIES



Congrats, Didion! We sold \$9,415 and earned \$2,400 for our school! Thank you all for your help in making our See's Candy fundraiser a success! The class that sold the most See's and earned a class party is... Mrs. Searle's 4th Grade Class!

FUN RUN



Our Fun Run was an INCREDIBLE SUCCESS - we raised a grand total of \$55,125!

Thank you all so much for your generosity and support of our school and of our technology goal.

Our Fun Run t-shirts were sponsored by the following families and local businesses:

[Greenhaven Pediatric Dentistry](#)

[Mountain West Financial, Inc. - Nick.Street@mwfin.com](#)

[Turn Key Lending & Realty](#)

[Kids Care Dental & Orthodontics](#)

[America West Medical Transport](#)

[Anthony & Shirley Nguyen](#)

[Love Light Jules Photography - jules@lovelightjules.com](#)

[Jade Fountain Cafe - \(916\) 451-8339](#)

[Thermodynamix, Inc. - thermodynamix1@gmail.com](#)

[Lisa Eldridge, Keller Williams - LisaEldridge@kw.com](#)

[Trevor Fong - State Farm Insurance](#)

[Yamada & Nishio Optometry](#)

[Pocket Plumbing, Inc.](#)

[Kim Lukenbill, Lyon Real Estate - klukenbill@golyon.com](#)

[Cedillo Family](#)

[Matsuo5](#)

[Nakagawa Family](#)



FUN RUN TOP FUNDRAISERS

We'd like to congratulate Didion's top earners!

K-3rd Grade Top Earning Boy: Nicholas Gee - 2nd Grade, Ms. Marang's class

K-3rd Grade Top Earning Girl: Sloane Street - 3rd Grade, Mr. Searle's class

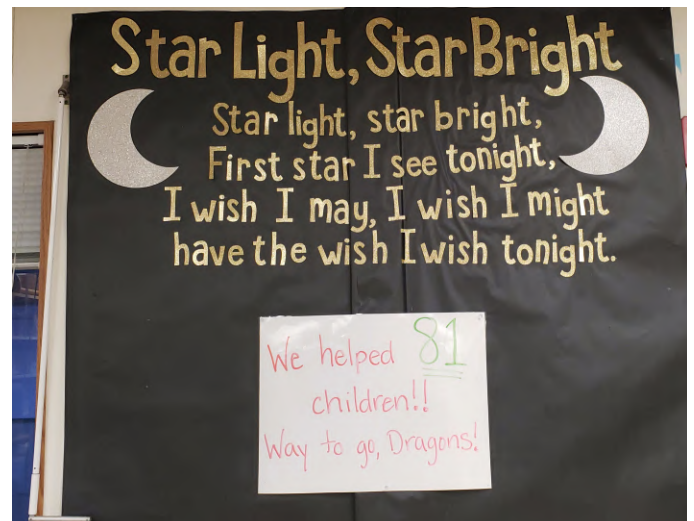
4th-8th Grade Top Earning Boy: Nicholas Ruan - 5th Grade, Mrs. Predmore-Miyata's class

4th-8th Grade Top Earning Girl: Sydney Lin - 4th Grade, Mrs. Searle's class

Top Earning Class: Mrs. Marang's 2nd Grade class

Top Earning Grade: 2nd Grade

WISH WALL: STAR LIGHT, STAR BRIGHT



Way to go Didion Dragons! We were able help 81 children at the Sacramento Children's Home have a brighter holiday season. Your generosity and love was overwhelming! A big thank you as well to Erin Pacheco who organized and ran this charitable event.



Didion students delivering the collection of gifts to the Sacramento Children's Home

IN THE KNOW



GARDEN NEWS

Didion received a grant from the Sacramento Chapter of the California Native Plants Society for the creation of a native plants garden. It will be located next to our vegetable garden. In order to get the soil ready for planting, the first graders spent some time helping with the process. They raked leaves and put them on top of the soil. Then we covered the leaves with cardboard. The hope is to improve the soil before we plant. We would love to find a Didion parent with knowledge of native plants. Please let Mrs. Nancy Keating know if you are that person!

Our winter garden is starting to produce kale and lettuce. It won't be long before we have broccoli, cauliflower, and Romanesco and several other veggies. I've decided that you never know what will do well and what will lag behind the other plants. Every year is different! We are still hoping to have a gigantic salad when we have enough to pick.

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 after winter break:

- [Fun to Learn Mandarin](#) - new session starting on 01/06/2020
- [Young Actors Stage](#) - registration begins 01/28/2020
- [Early Engineers](#) - new session starting on 02/04/2020
- [Chess Academy](#) - new session starting on 02/07/2020
- [Food Explorers](#) - new session starting on 03/02/2020
- [Violin](#) - now taught by Ingrid Peters (Founder & Director of SIMA) pro-rated option available

READ TO SUCCEED

Six Flags Discovery Kingdom is offering a free ticket to school-aged children who read for 6 or more hours between now and April! If your child would like to participate, please see the attached reading log with all the instructions on how to register. This year, unlike previous years, everything will be done online. You will record your child's hours on the Six Flags site and they will email you a ticket in May. Nothing needs to be turned in to the school. The deadline for getting your hours recorded and submitted is April 17th, 2020. The form is attached to this newsletter.



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.

November Recipients

SKYLAR FITT

How many years have you attended Didion?

I've been at Didion for nine years.

What's your favorite memory of your time here?

My favorite memory is of the 6th grade trip to Sly Park. I really enjoyed the hike down to the river. It was also the first time I've been on the school bus, and I liked serving food to the younger kids who were at the camp.

What makes Didion different from other middle schools?

Didion is different because the kids here know what's right. I liked staying for middle school because it's really comfortable since I already knew some of the teachers, and my friends were already staying.

What are some hobbies that you have outside of school?

I did gymnastics for 11 years, and I was a competitive gymnast for 6 years. I was regional beam champion this season.

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

When I first meet people, I'm shy, but when I get to know them, I talk a lot. I also played violin for 6 years. I had to quit because it took up too much time, and I was doing gymnastics.

What high school will you be attending?

I plan on attending the John F. Kennedy PACE Program. What are some activities that you want to get involved in during high school? I'm not sure yet, but I do want to get involved in a sport. I also want to join student council because it sounds like fun, and I want to do something I haven't tried before.

JACOB CHAU

How many years have you attended Didion?

I've been here since 6th grade, and I came from Bergamo.

What's your favorite memory of Didion?

Making new friends after I came from Bergamo. I already knew some people, but I got to meet more.

What are some hobbies that you have outside of school?

I've played piano for 8 years. I do the Certificate of Merit Program. My favorite song to play on the piano has been "What 2 Do" because it's on my playlist. I also love to read, and my favorite book is *The Art of Racing in the Rain* by Garth Stein. I like it because it's a sincere book and it's written from the mind of a dog.

What makes Didion different from other middle schools?

It's diverse and the students here treat each other like family.

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

I've done Kempo for 7-8 years, and I'm going to go for my black belt next summer

What high school will you be attending?

I plan on attending the John F. Kennedy PACE Program or Christian Brothers.



STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

December Recipients

CLAIRE MILLS

How many years have you attended Didion?

I've been at Didion since 4th grade.

What's your favorite memory of your time here?

I like the Fall Festival because it's the most fun event of the year. I like to get food and prizes. I also like to play the kid games for fun.

What makes Didion different from other middle schools?

It's small, so you know everyone in your class. I'm also familiar with the teachers because my siblings attended.

What are some hobbies that you have outside of school?

I used to play the piano for a few years, and I used to play soccer.

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

I have four siblings, and one of them is a two-months-old baby brother.

What high school will you be attending?

I plan on attending the McClatchy HISP Program or West Campus.



MICHAEL YEE

How many years have you attended Didion?

I've been at Didion for nine years.

What's your favorite memory of Didion?

Well, a memorable moment is when I went down the slide in the quad and almost got a concussion because I accidentally went face down into the ground.

What are some hobbies that you have outside of school?

I love soccer, and I'm on a club at SSA (Sacramento Soccer Alliance). A lot of my friends from Sutter and Cal are on the team, so I get to hang out with them there. I also like decorating my room with anime, and of course I have to clean up around the house.

What makes Didion different from other middle schools?

It's smaller and people can experience different electives. I wanted to attend middle school here because most of my friends were staying, and I'm very comfortable here.

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

I'm an introvert, and I get really obsessed with my interests like anime and Transformers. I like collecting the G1 Transformers toys from 1984-1987, and I also like to watch the old cartoons. Transformers Beast Wars is my favorite.

What high school will you be attending?

I plan on attending the John F. Kennedy PACE Program.

NOTES FROM THE PTA

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

UPCOMING PTA MEETINGS


PTA Meetings are held every other month, on the first Wednesday of the month at 5:30 PM in the library. Childcare is provided.

- JANUARY 8TH
- MARCH 11TH
- MAY 13TH

Introducing

AmazonSmile is a program that donates 0.5% of your purchases on Amazon to a charity of your choice with no extra cost to you. As we enter the holiday shopping season, remember to use the AmazonSmile link below to benefit Genevieve Didion K-8 School. It's easy! Just click on the link below and follow the instructions.

<https://smile.amazon.com/>

1. Access the link and sign in as you normally would into your Amazon.com account.
2. Once you are signed in and you see the AmazonSmile logo () in the top left corner, select Genevieve Didion PTA as the charitable organization.

That's it! You don't need to access or register again. Simply bookmark the page, start shopping, and Didion will benefit from every purchase you make. It's that simple and easy!

What is AmazonSmile?

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop on Amazon, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization.

How do I shop at AmazonSmile?

To shop at AmazonSmile simply go to smile.amazon.com from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. You may also want to add a bookmark to smile.amazon.com to make it even easier to return and start your shopping at AmazonSmile.

Can I use my existing Amazon.com account on AmazonSmile?

Yes, you use the same account on Amazon.com and AmazonSmile. Your shopping cart, Wish List, wedding or baby registry, and other account settings are also the same.

How do I select a charitable organization to support when shopping on AmazonSmile?

On your first visit to AmazonSmile smile.amazon.com, you need to select *Genevieve Didion PTA* as the charitable organization to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. We will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at smile.amazon.com will result in a donation.



2019-2020 READING LOG

GENEVIEVE DIDION

Read To Succeed is a free program that allows students in grades K-6 to earn tickets to **Six Flags Discovery Kingdom** just by reading six hours for fun.

Here is how your child can earn a free ticket to Six Flags:

1) Register this fall using this link:

Visit: sixflags.com/books

Use Genevieve Didion's code: **1JFQK**

2) Your child may read any books they choose.

3) Keep track of your child's reading using the form below.

4) Record your child's reading at our website.

5) Receive a free **Six Flags Discovery Kingdom** ticket from Genevieve Didion in May.

Students can *optionally* earn bonus awards by reading more than six hours such as discounts on additional tickets for family members, Season Passes or Memberships.

Date	What I Read	Time (minutes)
Total Amount of Time Read (Must be at least 6 hours or 360 minutes)		

Please use the back of this sheet or additional sheets, if needed.

DO NOT return this sheet to your teacher. Log your child's reading using the link above.

I am aware that the one free admission ticket that my child will receive is valid only at the park listed a on **select dates** during the 2020 season. Valid dates will be included on the tickets. I also understand that late entries will not be accepted, and tickets are NOT valid for anyone over age 13, are not for resale and cannot be replaced if lost, stolen or damaged.