

DRAGON'S LAIR

Genevieve Didion K-8

October 2018



In our October issue:

FALL HAPPENINGS

Didion Dragons have a busy and fun-filled October! Read more about upcoming fall events.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Get to know our new principal, Mr. James Eder.

SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL

We have many annual and ongoing fundraisers you can participate in. Learn more about how.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Sep. 28 School Kine Cookie Sales Begin
- Oct. 1 Storybook Pumpkin Contest Begins
- Oct. 1-2 Grades 6th-8th Basketball Tryouts
- Oct. 10 Walk to School Day
- Oct. 10 PSAT for 8th Graders
- Oct. 12 Fall Festival, 4:00 - 7:30 pm
- Oct. 15 Mixed Bag Sales Begin
- Oct. 26 Spirit/Dress-Up Day
- Oct. 26 Middle School Dance, 3:00 - 5:30 pm
- Oct. 27 SCUSD Middle School Volleyball Championships
- Oct. 29 See's Candy Sales Begin

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

As I reflect on our first month of school, and my first month as your principal, I could not be more enthusiastic about and inspired by our school and community. Last Friday I was moved by how many students and staff members showed their school spirit by dressing in Didion gear and school colors. I have always believed that schools can and should be places of transformation and hope for families and communities, and places filled with passionate and talented adults who believe in creating a place where students can thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. I feel lucky and grateful to be leading a school that is energized and committed to being GREAT. At the end of the day, we want every student to feel like they have been supported and challenged to reach their maximum potential. We want our students to feel welcomed and to feel that they belong. We want our students to feel safe to take risks and stretch themselves. We want our students to excel academically and, ultimately, be ready for high school and beyond. It's been a great start, but we still have a lot of work ahead of us. So...Let's Go!!

October is a busy month at Didion. Our volleyball season is well under way, and our basketball teams begin tryouts and practice. We also have a new flag football team with 4th-6th grade boys and girls who will represent Didion in the new elementary sports league. On October 10th, our 8th graders will be taking the PSAT 8/9 free of charge (for more information on the benefits of students taking the PSAT 8/9, [check out this link](#)). This month also features our annual Fall Festival on October 12th, which promises to be better than ever. Mrs. Rechs, our librarian, is hosting a storybook pumpkin decorating contest, with winners earning a gift certificate to our Scholastic Book Fair in November. Students also will be bringing home information on our biggest fundraiser of the year – School Kine Cookies. The School Kine Cookies fundraiser, along with the Fall Festival, are great opportunities for everyone to show their support for Didion and the programs and field trips that are funded by the PTA. I hope to see everyone at the Fall Festival, and I hope this is our best fundraising year ever!

Lastly, this month we will start up our student recognition and social-emotional learning (SEL) program through our use of "Gotcha Tickets." Each month we will focus on a positive trait as a school, and students will receive lessons and positive reinforcement in their classrooms around the trait of the month. When staff members all over campus witness a student exhibiting the positive trait, they may give the student a "Gotcha Ticket" that will be entered into a class box. Students whose names are drawn from class boxes will be acknowledged during blacktop announcements at the beginning of each month, and celebrated for being Dragons who exemplify that month's positive traits. Please encourage your child to talk with you about each month's trait so that you may reinforce from home and provide them with other out-of-school examples of how they can demonstrate these positive qualities.

Sincerely,

Mr. Eder

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!



WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10th

7:40 AM at all "walking bus stop" locations

Take part in International Walk-To-School Day at Didion on Wednesday, October 10th! The event encourages families to enjoy a healthy lifestyle, improve air quality and the environment by replacing car trips, and create safer routes for walking and biking.

There will be "walking school buses" on the morning of the event. **Students meeting at the "walking bus stops" will begin their journey at 7:40 AM at five different locations in the neighborhood:**

- Frates & Park Riviera (near Riverside)
- Harmon & Pocket Road
- Surfside & Benham
- Lewis Park Playground
- North Point & Grangers Dairy

Pick the walking bus stop closest to your home and drop off your children with the parent volunteers at 7:40 AM. More information can be found at <http://www.walkbiketoschool.org>.



The annual Fall Festival is around the corner, on Friday, October 12th from 4:00 to 7:30 PM. This year's festival will include music, food, games, a bounce house, a cake walk and more! A Didion Cash Card is needed for games and concessions -- **turn in your form by 10/5 to get special preorder pricing.** And don't forget to preorder your dinner, prepared by Paquitas food truck!

Donations are needed to make this event a success. [Sign up by clicking here.](#)

Forms were sent home with your student and can also be found in the front office.

Questions? Text Elaine at (916) 233-7715 or Nancy at (530) 574-0824.

REMINDER FROM THE LUNCH STAFF

*If your child brings a packed lunch to school,
please remember to pack utensils!*



Storybook Pumpkin Decorating Contest



SUBMISSIONS OCTOBER 1 - 19th
VOTING OCTOBER 22 - 26th
School Library

Fall is fast approaching and your Didion Library is ready to celebrate! During the month of October the library will be hosting a storybook pumpkin decorating contest. **Students are invited to create a pumpkin based on a favorite book. Your pumpkin can look like a character, an important object, represent the theme of the story - your imagination is the only limit!** Pumpkins will be displayed in the library all month.

Please note: real pumpkins cannot be carved - they won't last on display and the moisture would be terrible for our library books - but you can use paint, glitter, feathers, fabric, you name it! You are also more than welcome to use a fake pumpkin.

Everyone who enters will receive a certificate. In addition, one lucky winner from each grade level will be chosen to receive a \$10 gift certificate to the Scholastic Book Fair in November!

Photos of past entries will be on display in the library and on our website <https://didion.scusd.edu/library-happenings>. Pumpkins can be delivered to the library between Oct 1-19th. Voting will occur Oct 22-26th. Additional contest guidelines, entry forms and photos of past entries will be on display in the library and are available by clicking here: [Storybook Pumpkins](#). We can't wait to see what you come up with!



Can you believe it's October already? We hope your family has been feeling settled since the beginning of the new school year. This might be a good time to think about [Didion's Afterschool Programs](#), which focuses on Science, Technology, Engineering, Math, the Arts and Foreign Languages (STEM4AL). We have program options for every day of the week and you still have time to enroll your child! Here's a list of programs available this fall trimester:

FALL PROGRAMS

[CLICK THE TITLES BELOW FOR MORE INFO](#)

Tadena Tang Soo Do (M-W-Th, 6:30-7:30pm)

Fun to Learn Mandarin (M-W, 2:30-3:30pm)

Little Namaste and Sing (yoga): Tuesdays, 2:30-3:30pm

Early Engineers (Tuesdays, 2-3:10pm or 2:30-3:40pm)

Violin (Wednesdays, 2:20-3:10pm or 3:20-4:10pm)

Nature Detectives (Wednesdays, 2-2:50pm)

Honeycode (Wednesdays, 2:20-3:30pm)

One Striped Bee Creative Beginnings (Thursdays, 1-2pm)

Mad Science (Thursdays, 1-2pm)

Chess Academy (Fridays, 2:20-3:30pm)

Better Athletics Yoga: Fridays, 2:40-3:40pm



STAFF SPOTLIGHT PRINCIPAL JAMES EDER

Mr. James Eder recently began in his role as Didion's principal. Prior to this school year, he served as Assistant Principal of Sutter Middle School. Prior to that, Mr. Eder was an Assistant Principal at Rosemont High School and Cal Middle, as well as a hearing officer in the district's behavior office. He began his career in education as a teacher at Sutter Middle School.

ARE YOU SACRAMENTO-BORN AND -RAISED?

No, though I have lived in Sacramento for much of my adult life. I was actually born in Wisconsin, but my stepdad was in the military, so I moved a lot as a kid. By the time I graduated from high school, I had attended 13 different schools and lived in southern California, the Bay Area, the Midwest, and Miami, FL. After graduating from high school in San Diego I came to Sacramento for college.

WHAT SPARKED YOUR INTEREST IN EDUCATION AND SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION?

I believe that there are few things more noble or important than educating kids, and trying to prepare them for their adult lives. I think that we have such an incredible opportunity to positively impact the world and individual lives through this work, and all of us in this business are lucky because even though this is an immense responsibility, it is also FUN and life-affirming. In terms of getting involved with school administration, it truly was never a part of my original plan. I was very fortunate early on to have some amazing people who took chances on me and who mentored me, and encouraged me along this path.

SHARE WITH US ABOUT YOUR FAMILY. HOW OLD ARE YOUR KIDS? DO YOU HAVE ANY PETS?

I have two amazing and beautiful kids – a six year old boy and a three year old girl. They're hilarious and sweet and they keep me very busy and very happy. I do not currently have any pets, though my daughter would love it if we had a giraffe. Or a cheetah.

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE SPORT AND TEAM?

I love all sports and am an avid fan, especially of pro and college basketball, the NFL, and golf. The team I follow above all others is the Green Bay Packers. Go Pack Go!!

WHAT'S YOUR REGULAR STARBUCKS ORDER?

Grande Americano, no room.

WHAT DO YOU LISTEN TO ON YOUR COMMUTE HOME?

If the kids are in the car, it's probably Kidz Bop! LOL! If they're not, it's any combination of R&B/hip hop, something acoustic, NPR, or sports talk radio.

NOTES FROM THE PTA

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

IN SEARCH OF VOLUNTEER ORGANIZERS

The PTA is looking for volunteers to chair the following:

- **FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE**
Help plan and organize various fundraising events throughout the year
- **FATHER-DAUGHTER DANCE**
This fun and memorable winter event is a favorite among families. Head a committee with support from previous event organizers

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.

- **NOVEMBER 7TH**
- **JANURARY 9TH**
- **MARCH 6TH**
- **MAY 1ST**

To keep the general PTA informed, minutes from the September 19th meeting are attached to the school newsletter.

DIDION FUNDRAISERS

Upcoming & Current Ways to Support our School

- **SCHOOL KINE COOKIES**
One of Didion's most successful fundraisers is back! These delicious cookies make great gifts and treats. Deadline to submit order is 10/17. Cookies will be distributed 11/18 from 12:00 - 3:30 PM in the cafeteria.
- **Z-BEST COUPON BOOKS**
Purchase a Z-Best Coupon Book at the front office for \$20 and support the Middle School Catalina Scholarship Fund.
- **MIXED BAG SALES**
Start your holiday shopping with our hugely popular Mixed Bag Sales! Catalogs and forms will be sent home, with sales running October 15th - 29th.
- **SEE'S CANDIES**
These classic chocolates make the perfect holiday gift! Sales run October 29th - November 9th.
- **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.

Genevieve Didion K-8 PTA Fall 2018 Fundraiser

Please Help Us Raise Money For Important Needs And Activities That Benefit all of Genevieve Didion School

1. Shortbread
2. Chocolate Chip
3. Cornflake Butter Crunch
4. Chocolate Chip Mac-Nut
5. Chocolate Coconut (Haupia)

We've decided to sell School Kine Cookies for our Fall Fundraiser because they're well-known for their great taste and quality. These delicious bite-sized "nibbles" are freshly baked and made with the best ingredients, like real AAA butter, fresh whole eggs, and premium brand chocolate. People familiar with these cookies will wait all year for the local school to have their annual School Kine Cookies fundraiser and many order extra bags to hold them over until the next fundraiser and to share with family and friends.

HAWAII'S FAVORITE



Parents/Students Pick-Up Cookie Orders On Thursday, November 8, 2018
And Deliver To Family And Friends That Purchased To Support Our Fundraiser

SHOPPING to EDUCATE

**Loehmann's Plaza & Lake Crest Village
Want To Help You Earn Cash For Your School!**

It's Easy! Every time you, your family, and your friends shop at Loehmann's Plaza and Lake Crest Village, just turn in your receipts to help your schools get closer to winning valuable prizes. Your school can win prizes ranging from \$250 - \$2,000!

Receipts must be dated between August 1st, 2018 and May 21st, 2019.

Submit receipts online at **MarketingGuru.com/Receipts**.

*See back for more details on submitting receipts online.

Or drop your receipts at the drop boxes inside **Pinkberry** located at **Loehmann's Plaza** or the **Marshall's Courtyard** at **Lake Crest Village**.

TRIPLE POINTS will be awarded for receipts submitted online in **August & September!**

Plus earn TRIPLE POINTS in August and September when you shop or dine at:

Bath & Body Works, Cookie Connection, Hair Forte, Jamba Juice,
and Nothing Bundt Cakes at Loehmann's Plaza

AND

Games Workshop, Jimboy's Tacos, Marshall's,
Payless Shoesource, and Subway at Lake Crest Village

For a full list of the **2018-2019 Participating Schools** visit **www.ShopLoehmannsPlaza.com** or **www.ShopLakeCrestVillage.com**

Every School is a Winner!

1st Place: \$2,000 2nd Place: \$1,500 3rd Place: \$1,000 4th Place: \$750
5th- 9th Place: \$500 each 10th - 14th Place: \$375 each 15th-20th Place: \$250 each

Loehmann's Plaza
The right place. Anytime.



Lake Crest **VILLAGE**



www.shoploehmannsplaza.com • www.shoplakecrestvillage.com • www.marketingguru.com • 800.762.1641



SUBMIT SHOPPING EDUCATE RECEIPTS ONLINE NOW!

Simply follow these steps to have your receipt count.

1.

Go to MarketingGuru.com/Receipts & choose Shopping to Educate.

2.

Write "VOID" on your receipt.

Receipts submitted online without VOID written on them will NOT be accepted.

3.

Take a photo or scan your receipt on your phone/computer.

4.

Complete the form and upload your receipt.

If you have any questions email the Shopping to Educate Program coordinator at ShoppingtoEducate@gmail.com or call 800-762-1641.



Loehmann's Plaza
The right place. Anytime.

 *Lake Crest* VILLAGE



Walk to School Day Wednesday, October 4

Take part in Didion's International **Walk-To-School Day** on Wednesday, October 4th! The event encourages families to enjoy a healthy lifestyle, improve air quality and the environment by replacing car trips, and create safer routes for walking and biking.

There will be "walking school buses" on the morning of the event. The "walking bus stops" will be located at five different locations in the neighborhood:

- 1) Frates & Park Riviera (near Riverside) at 7:40 am
- 2) Harmon & Pocket Road at 7:40 am
- 3) Surfside & Benham at 7:40 am
- 4) Lewis Park Playground at 7:40 am
- 5) North Point & Grangers Dairy at 7:40 am

Pick the walking bus stop closest to your home and drop off your children with the parent volunteers at the designated time.

If you would like to help as a "bus stop" volunteer or have any questions, please contact Stephanie Seelig at Sdseelig@aol.com.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR

2018 Fall Festival

DIDION

featuring

PAQUITAS
food truck



FRIDAY
OCT 12

sign up link on website & app
4:00~7:30
DONATIONS NEEDED!

music food games bouncehouse cake walk & more



buy now
and SAVE

FREE entry

DIDION use for food/games
CASH preorder pricing:
CARDS BUY 2 GET 1 FREE



family FUN

QUESTIONS? text Elaine Austin (916-233-7715) or Nancy Street (530-574-0824)

Fall Festival

ORDER FORM due 10/5

name: _____

teacher: _____

total enclosed: _____

Return with payment to teacher or office by Friday, Oct. 5th



You will need Didion Cash Cards for games & concessions, valued at \$10 each.
Preorder special - buy 2 (for \$20) get 3 cards (worth \$30 total). Didion Cash Cards also available for purchase at event (face value).

I want:

- 3 cards ... \$20
- 6 cards ... \$40
- 9 cards ... \$60
- other amount (specify) \$ _____



Preorder dinners prepared by Paquitas food truck. Choice of: 3 carne asada street tacos with beans & rice OR chicken fajitas with tortillas beans & rice OR super bean, cheese, rice burrito.

I want:

- taco plate \$10 each
- fajita plate \$10 each
- bean, cheese, rice
- super burrito ... \$6 each

2018-19
Didion Boys & Girls Basketball
Grades 6-8th



Tryouts

Monday, October 1nd

Tuesday, October 2rd

Times:

2:30 - 4:00 Girls

4:00 - 5:30 Boys

Team announced

Friday, October 5th

2:30 front office window

First practice week

Practice schedule TBA

Coaches:

Lauren Oto (Boys)

Dennis Austin (Girls)

Principal: James Eder

Questions: mike-carras@scusd.edu

Before trying out, players will need to complete the following documents required by SCUSD. This packet is available in the front office or online at <http://www.scusd.edu/post/student-sport-and-team-activities>

Give all forms to the coach.

1. Tryout policy (signed by player & parent)
2. Team Participation form
3. Concussion form
4. Physical form



Genevieve Didion K-8 PTA- General Meeting Minutes

Date of Meeting: September 19, 2018

Meeting Adjourned At: 7:35 PM

Minutes Compiled By: Nicole Harada (Secretary)

1. **Call to Order-** 6:00 PM
2. **President's Report-** (Jeff Fletcher)
 - Board voted Kristi Morioka as Historian.
 - Parliamentarian position is OPEN. It is a non-elected position.
 - President to appoint a bylaws review committee of 3-5 people chaired by the Parliamentarian. **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED.**
 - Position is part of the PTA Board and person is in charge of the rules of order.
3. **Principal's Report-** (James Eder)
 - Behavior assemblies for primary, intermediate, and middle school were conducted.
 - Safety on campus
 - There are two locking gates that limit access and entry onto the campus.
 - Provides controlled and safe exits
 - Use of crosswalks is reinforced
 - Traffic officers may be a presence in near future.
 - Intruder training for staff will be in late October.
 - Waiting for District maintenance to install locks on the classroom doors to allow teachers to lock from the inside.
 - In the meantime, lockdown magnets will be ordered for the campus.
 - Possible training for after school staff (i.e. non-4th 'R' staff) re: lockdown procedures.
 - Communication with parents
 - Robo calls
 - Mass e-mail was sent for the first time
 - Text blast service
 - Monthly newsletter (by Julienne Ratanasen)
 - Spirit Day (Friday, September 28th)
 - Students to wear Didion gear or red/white/blue colors
 - District is looking at data points from SBAC scores, student grades, discipline, attendance, etc, to come up with resources and interventions.
4. **Treasurer's Report-** (Kelvin Gee)
 - About \$61K in our account at beginning of 2018-19 school year.

- Checks have been written for about \$12.5K.
 - Assemblies
 - Teacher allotments (\$250 per teacher)
 - Yearbook check from 2017-18 for \$5700 was never cashed.
 - Current balance in account is about \$54K after deducting above expenses.
5. **Secretary's Report-** (Nicole Harada)
- Minutes will be distributed to PTA members within a week of the meeting date.
6. **After school Programs-** (Andrea Garvey)
- Programs offered this year:
 - Exploring Yoga
 - Violin
 - Mandarin
 - Nature Detectives
 - Chess
 - Possible art program
 - Cooking program in the Spring for 4th grade and up
 - Andrea will update the programs on the website and the Didion app.
7. **PTA Programs-** Volunteers needed:
- Walk to School Day
 - A few more VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED for 30 minutes to hand out stickers to students and walk them to school. (5 parents volunteered; Selina offered to print Walk to School stickers).
 - Fundraising Committee
 - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED to solicit for items to be donated as auction items at our events.
 - Safety Committee
 - Committee of parents who voice concerns and provide suggestions/ideas to Admin and PTA regarding safety issues. (5 parents volunteered- including 4th 'R' Director, Jake).
 - Talent Show- scheduled for May 2019
 - Melissa Johnson volunteered to coordinate the event. There are notes from previous coordinator.
 - Father/Daughter Dance
 - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED to coordinate event.
 - Planning is "not bad." Set-up and clean up is the most work.
 - Coordinator will have freedom to make the event however they choose.
 - Science Fair Committee
 - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED to help pass out flyers, buy prizes, order medals, and advertise to teachers.
 - Jason Leung volunteered to help on the committee.
 - Membership
 - Nicole Harada will compile PTA members onto an Excel or Google Sheet and will help tally the PTA Survey responses.
 - Fall Festival- (Elaine Austin and Nancy Street)
 - Date: Friday, October 12th
 - There will be pre-sale for tickets.
 - A kinder parent volunteered to take photographs of the event.
 - Flyers will be sent home with students.
 - Mother/Son Dance- (Kellie Sato)
 - Date changed to May 3rd
 - See's Candy Fundraiser- (Taji Sperber)
 - Corporate catalog is available if businesses want to order- contact Taji.
 - Sales start the end of October.
8. **2018-19 PTA Budget**
- Discussion of expenses to be added and amended.
 - Principal Eder discussed a needs assessment he conducted with staff and found that the cords from the LCD projectors were a safety hazard for students in the classroom.
 - Contractor (from the District) came out on 09/18 to assess cost of mounting LCD projectors in each classroom.
 - Principal Eder is waiting for a bid, but initial estimate is \$500-600 per classroom.
 - About 20 classrooms need LCD projectors mounted.
 - Principal Eder asked PTA to allocate money in the budget to mount the LCD projectors.

- Kristi Morioka initially motioned to allocated \$13.5K to mount the LCD projectors as a one-time expense item in the budget. Jeff Fletcher discussed possibly waiting until we find out the actual cost of to mount the LCD projectors before voting it into the budget. Motion was discussed by the PTA.
- Elaine Austin motioned to increase the allocation to \$14K for the mounting of the LCD projectors. Kellie Sato seconded. Motion passed.
- Kristi Morioka motioned for the following amendments to the budget:
 - \$0 for Zumba
 - \$1K for Didion Gear expenses
 - \$14K for School Kine Cookies
 - \$5K for Mixed Bag
 - \$9K for See's Candy
 - \$6K for Yearbook expense
- Stephanie Mark seconded motion as amended. Motion passed. Budget for 2018-19 approved.

9. **Other Items:**

- Discussion of videographer to record events (i.e. concerts, Talent Show, etc) throughout the school year and sell copies to parents/families. (Kim Tsumura will look into it.)
- Encourage parents to use receipts from Nugget (in Lakecrest Shopping Village) as “double bucks” for Shop to Educate.

MINUTES APPROVED: As written _____

As corrected _____