

THE EXCELLENCE REPORT



NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2021



THE PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

'Tis the holiday season, and it is sometimes difficult to believe that we are about to enter a new year in a couple of months. Not too long ago, we were all hoping to move past the year 2020. There was so much happening that was without our control. We spent this past year, regaining a sense of normalcy. While we are not all the way over this pandemic hump, we are moving in the right direction.

As a school, we have overcome some major obstacles and now find ourselves humming with the same sense of purpose and commitment that we had before the pandemic. I venture to say we are even more committed to our values of community and resiliency after experiencing devastation, political turmoil, and personal loss. Our scholars really needed to feel normal again. We all did.

We see evidence of the return to normalcy in our solid attendance record. Scholars arrive to school on time and our scholars are completing homework assignments every day.

We know that the remote setting did not afford our scholars the fullest learning experiences. As a result, there were some missed learning opportunities. We must, therefore, assess the needs of our scholars and support them in working toward mastery. To that end, we ask that you ensure scholars read EVERYDAY. When scholars read every day, their vocabulary increases and they become better communicators when speaking and writing.

I would like to take this time to remind you of the learning opportunities embedded in our program and external to it.

CHESS

This program is offered to our 2nd-5th grade scholars after school on Fridays from 12:00 pm-2:00 pm. Please have your scholar sign up by informing his/her teacher.

CHANGEMAKER PROJECTS:

It is that time of year again when all La Cima scholars learn about a changemaker. Scholars will learn more about what it means to fight for a cause or idea you believe in. Please plan to have conversations with your scholar about their changemaker. Projects are due the first week in January and will be presented in mid-January.

THE HUMMINGBIRD PROGRAM:

La Cima scholars embody the spirit and drive of the hummingbird in the folktale that inspired Wangara Maathai to protect her native Kenya from the deforestation of its land. The hummingbird was doing its part to put out a forest fire and was mocked by the larger animals (the elephant, the hyena, the tiger etc.) for being too small to have any impact. She replied by saying that although she is small and she can only carry a little water, she is doing her part. Our scholars do their part to create art from recycled materials. This way the earth is spared the hardship of having its resources further depleted.

NYS ASSESSMENTS:

2nd-5th grade scholars had their first experience with the NYS mock assessments in ELA, Math, Science (4th grade only). These simulated testing sessions allowed scholars to understand the rigor and stamina that is required of them to be successful when the actual assessments take place in March and April.

Thank you, families, for attending our recent workshops on Early Literacy and Understanding Math Instruction at La Cima. We appreciate your input and feedback. Let us continue to strive to make La Cima better every day.

Thank you for uniting with us.

In Partnership,
Principal Belle