

**Harvey L. Lewis Middle School
San Diego Unified School District
5170 Greenbrier Avenue
San Diego, CA 92120-1298**

Lewis e-News (October 16, 2006)

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Dear Parents,

I want to extend a warm thank you to all parents and community members who have helped us in a variety of ways to get our school year off and running this year. Despite the number of new staff due to bumping, promotions or transfers, your patience with us as we work out the kinks, has uplifted everyone and we feel a great deal of community support as we work to educate all children at Lewis. I have listed some events and meetings that are coming up that you might be interested in. On behalf of the students and staff, we appreciate your involvement and support!

Please join us for the Title I Parent Informational meeting at 6pm in the auditorium, Wednesday, October 18 at 6pm.

Our Foundation Meeting will held directly following, at 6:30pm.

Sally Foster fund raiser ends today. Please help our school by buying gift wrap!

As part of our Emergency Procedure Plan, we will be conducting a lockdown drill on Oct. 18 at 9:29am.

The end of the grading period is Oct. 20. Progress reports should arrive at your home within 7 working days.

Our first Character assemblies will be held on Oct. 25, periods 1,2 and 3. The Character trait that we are recognizing is "Respect".

Halloween dance will be held on Thursday, October 26 from 2:15 to 3:15. Tickets are \$1.00. Students are not allowed to leave the dance early unless they have a note from their parent and turned in to their VP principal before the dance.

The Lewis GATE department will be holding a GATE parent meeting in the school auditorium on November 2 from 6:30 - 7:30pm.

Parent conferences will be held on Friday, Nov. 3 beginning at 12:30 - 2:45. Contact your child's teacher if you would like to set up an appointment.

Parent Connect is up and running. Please use this as a tool to work together with your child to monitor their progress. Call Celeb Pierce at ext. 2219 if you have any questions.

Gun Prevention Week

This week, Lewis students in their KBAR classes will be signing The Student Pledge Against Gun Violence. The pledge will be posted in classrooms with student signatures surrounding it. This is a national program that honors the role that young people, through their own decisions, can play in reducing gun violence. This campaign against youth gun violence culminates each year on a

Day of National Concern about Young People and Gun Violence. This year, there are two Days of National Concern, October 17 and 18, students get an empowering sense of solidarity with peers across the country by making a common commitment on a common date.

New Lockers - I have seen them...they are here and they are blue! Gone are the tiny PE baskets that we are all familiar with in school locker rooms. After 47 years, students will now be assigned a long locker, big enough for their backpacks. The work on removing the old lockers began last Wednesday. Students will be issued a locker, with a built in lock, and keep the same locker for the three years they are at Lewis. Students should be able to use the locker room again beginning next week.

Bus Sign on Irwin Street. - Some years ago, our busses also dropped off and picked up students on Irwin street. A bus stop sign still remains. Thanks to Jay Wilson, from Councilman Madaffer's office, I have been in communication with a transportation engineer, who is willing to work with us to get the sign removed. This should provide more space for parents when transporting their children to and from school.

Message from the SSC/Governance Team

Dear Parents:

Over the past few weeks, I've spoken with many of you about your desire to increase parent participation at Lewis Middle School. The middle school years are years of much change for our children. The more we, as parents, can stay involved in their lives, the more we will be able to help them through this time and understand what they are experiencing as they mature. Active parent participation is one of the things being stressed by the District's new Superintendent, Dr. Carl Cohn. Our Lewis administration is interested in finding productive ways for this to be achieved.

Your School Site Council and Site Governance Team (SSC & SGT) have been discussing issues of importance to the school with an eye toward improving the educational experience in every way for our children. Many of you have expressed an interest in looking into ways to broaden and improve the curriculum, improve our fundraising efforts, and increase campus security and safety. We have a wonderful staff of teachers, an experienced principal, an active Lewis Foundation, and many interested and talented parents willing to work together on these tasks. There is no question that improvement is possible, and there is no question whether we can move forward constructively this year.

If you have a particular area of interest or expertise--or if you are just generally interested in your child's experience at Lewis--attending Lewis Foundation meetings and our SSC & SGT meetings are a great way to start. These meetings are open to all parents and you are invited and encouraged to participate.

The school and our children will benefit when our parents become more involved and do everything we can to help the teachers and administration make the school even more successful. If you have questions, or if you would like more information about SSC & SGT meetings, please contact David F. Schwartz, Chairman of SSC & SGT:
DavidFSchwartz@cox.net, or 619.589.2440.

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