

Mark West Elementary May 29, 2020 From the Principal's Desk

Dear Mark West Families,

We have had a whirlwind year together! Especially the last nine weeks. I know the most gratifying moments for me have been: the student item and chromebook pickups when I have been able to chat and check-in with parents, joining student Zoom meetings, checking in with students, just saying "hey, and the wonderful parades in April and May!

I find myself filled with such gratitude towards you, our parents, towards the staff, both teachers and classified, and towards the kids.

First, I would like to thank all of you parents. You have all stepped into your co-teaching/teaching assistant roles, in addition to everything else that you have on your plates. This co-teaching involved learning new technology platforms, in some cases an entirely new language: cvc words, r- controlled vowels, box method... need I say more? You have done this with grace and fortitude! **Mark West parents rock!**

I also extend my thanks to all of our staff who have worked under such changed circumstances, not batting an eye when a lizard is introduced during a Zoom meeting, answering emails late into the evening, researching new apps, new resources that will continue to engage students. They have poured their hearts into trying to make sure each child's needs are met, while understanding that every family has a different set of circumstances. **Mark West Staff Rocks!**

And finally, I want to thank all of our students. They have been so resilient! They are diligently working online, or completing paper packets. They are playing, being silly, and learning, all at home! **Mark West Kids Rock!** Together we were **#MARK WEST STRONG**

Have a wonderful summer, stay safe, and see you next year!

Congratulations to our Sixth Grade Students! Fri., 5/29 12:00 6th

Virtual Promotion This group of kids is so special! We will miss their leadership, their fun loving spirit! I am sure it is so difficult to have missed so many end of year activities,

yet the kids have persevered and are moving on into seventh grade with the same Mark West Pride that they have always exhibited. Well done, sixth grade!

Tiger Tales

Report Cards The District Office will be mailing report cards home this week. As I had explained in the beginning of our journey with Distance Learning, students will be held “harmless”, and will not receive a lesser grade than their Trimester 2 grade as a result of engaging in distance learning during this unprecedented time. This aligns with the State Superintendent of Public Instruction's statements that assessments should not be used during this time as a summative measure but rather as a formative measure to gauge instruction and identify where students need support. Students may, however, be able to earn a higher grade as a result of engaging in distance learning.

6/3 Chromebook Return On June 3rd we will be collecting the school chromebooks and any instruments that are still out. At this time, you may also return any library books, and if you were unable to pick up your child's items from class, you can pick those

up. Come to the gym for this return of items.

If your last name begins with: A through G- Please come at 8:30am

If your last name begins with: H through P- Please come at 9:15am

If your last name begins with: Q through Z- Please come at 10:00am

When you arrive please pull up to the yellow curb in your car, stay in your car and staff will come to the car to take the chromebook, library books, and instruments. **8/13 First Day of School**

SUMMER FUN Enjoy summer music from the Mark West Staff playlist! [Dance Party Play List](#)

From the Garden

Greetings Mark West families students and staff..Nancy Johnson garden teacher sending a last message for the end of the school year and what a year it has been!!! I can't tell you how much I

have missed the students!!! After spring break, when I returned to the garden and saw the beautiful spring unfold, I missed their happy faces and their excited questions; so many questions...about insects and worms dug from the ground...bird watching expeditions...literature and puppet shows in the willow house....building forts and fairy houses in the forest...nature journaling...watering the baby plants in the greenhouse..digging digging digging!!!! Harvesting washing and tasting fresh veggies . I missed their end of the year picnics and picking bouquets of spring flowers to take home!! I sent out some videos live from the garden (got tech support thanks Ms.Tantarelli and Ms.Bissiri) and what I really wanted to let the students know was that the garden was living and growing and waiting for them to return!!! Nature has always been such a healing,comforting, and restorative force in my life and I do my best to share that with the students. Families I hope you get to spend time in nature with your children and to that end I want to let you know that I am working with our executive director Kristin on planning some family nature exploration days in the garden this summer!!! The garden would be set up with learning stations and families would explore as a family or household unit in accordance with Sonoma county shelter in place guidelines (we will of course submit our plans to the county) We have yet to set a date because we need to wait to see how these next weeks unfold. As much as we are excited to offer this program we have to be patient and be sure it is safe. I will be working with teachers to get the word out and posting on Mark West PTA Facebook page or you can just stop by the garden and we will post the dates and times on our gate. Have a fabulous relaxing start to summer vacation stay safe and healthy and I can't wait to meet you in the garden.

Japanese Cucumber Salad Kale
Salad with Shallot Vinaigrette
Greek Salad

Before Spring Break, students were planting a sweet pea garden. Enjoy the “fruits of their labor” in these wonderful photos:

Mark West Students, Staff, and Parents: Distance Learning

Happy

Goodbyes!

2020 SUMMER READING PROGRAM

Research shows that students can drop up to half a grade level when they do not read during Summer Vacation! I would like to challenge each Mark West Tiger to continue reading for pleasure over the next 9 weeks. Any student that reads **1000** or more minutes, completes the attached log and returns it signed during the first week of school will:

***Start the year with either 10 super tigers or an equivalent prize!**

*** Be recognized at our first school wide assembly or over the loud speaker/ marquee!**

*** Book Faire \$ for top readers in upper and lower grades!**

*** Feel pride that you accomplished 1000 minutes and know you are ready for the year!!**

All types of reading counts! As long as it is at your child's level. Comic books, parent share reading, graphic novels, the newspaper, chapter books, instructions, cookbook.....it all counts! Don't forget to talk about what your child read. Ask questions, make predictions, when the book is finished talk about the sequence and your child's favorite part. Compare and contrast the story to your child's own life or other books he/she has read. Suggested reading in First Grade is 30 minutes or more a day, adding 10 minutes per grade level.

If you have any questions or need suggestions, I will be checking my email over the break: jpardo@mwusd.org

Have a great Summer~filled with

reading!

Please note: This year we will only accept a log with book titles, times and parent signatures, *No notes saying you read will count.* So keep this in a safe place and return it during the first week of school.

Make sure you sign up for your local Sonoma County Library Reading Club. It is free and has some fun incentives as well as engaging hands on activities. Starting June 1-August 8, Sonoma County Challenges all students to collectively read 2 Million Minutes! More Info can be found at:<https://sonomalibrary.org/summerreading2020>

Programa de Lectura de Verano 2020

La investigación muestra que los estudiantes pueden bajar hasta la mitad de un nivel de grado cuando no leen durante las vacaciones de verano! Me gustaría desafiar a cada Tiger Mark West para continuar la lectura por placer en los próximos 9 semanas. Cualquier estudiante que lee 1000 o más minutos, se completa el registro adjunto y lo devuelve firmado durante la primera semana de la escuela:

*** Comienza el año con 10 súper tigres o un premio de misa oferta!**

*** Ser reconocidos en nuestra primera asamblea de toda la escuela o sobre bulletin o message por marque!**

***Dinero para los dos mejores lectores en los grados inferiores y superiores!**

*** Tengen orgullo por su trabajo y sabiendo que esta listo para proximo ano!**

Por lo tanto, encontrar un lugar seguro para el registro de libro y empezar a leer hoy! Todos los tipos de cuentas de lectura! Mientras está en el nivel de su hijo. Comic books, lectura comparten los padres, novelas gráficas, los periódicos, libros de capítulos, instrucciones, libros de cocina todo cuenta! No se olvide de hablar de lo que lee su hijo. Hacer preguntas, hacer predicciones, cuando el libro está terminado hablar de la secuencia y la parte favorita de su hijo. Comparar y contrastar la historia

de la propia vida de su hijo o de otros libros que él / ella ha leído. Lecturas sugeridas en el primer grado es de 30 minutos o más al día, añadiendo 10 minutos por nivel de grado. Si usted tiene alguna pregunta o necesita sugerencias, volveré a mirar de correo electrónico durante las vacaciones: jpardo@mwusd.org

Usted puede escribir en español. Ha un gran Verano ~ Lleno de Lectura!! *Tenga en cuenta: Este año sólo aceptaremos un registro con los títulos de libros, los tiempos y las firmas de padres, No hay notas que dicen leer contará. Así guarda esto en un lugar seguro ☺!*

Asegúrese de inscribirse en el Club de Lectura de la Biblioteca del Condado de Sonoma. Es gratis y tiene algunos incentivos divertidos, así como también actividades prácticas. Del 1 de junio al 8 de agosto. Se puede encontrar más información en: <https://sonomalibrary.org/summerreading2020>

1000 MINUTES OF SUMMER READING RECORDING SHEET ~ENJOY YOUR READING~ This form is due the first week of school. Please total your minutes and return to Mrs. Pardo's box in the office. Make sure you have a parent signature and have completed the back. *Esta forma tiene que estar entregada la primera semana de la escuela. Denos los horas completas y regresen a maestra Pardo. Seguerense que tengan la firma de sus padres, , y complenten la pagina completa.*

DATE BOOK TITLE PAGES READ TIME TOTAL Example: 6/1 Henry and Mudge
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