



Rising Star News

On behalf of the Joseph Sims learning community, we would like to wish you and your family a joyous holiday season.
Shelly Hughes & Chris Nugent

Principal's Message

Holiday Greetings Parents!

I hope you enjoy a wonderful Thanksgiving break with your family and friends. Today, we say good-bye to our B Track friends until 2012 and we will welcome back A Track on Monday, November 28th.

I would like to invite you all to meet me for our first Parent Coffee Chat of the school year. This year, we are trying an earlier format in hopes of reaching more working parents. We will meet on Wednesday, November 30th from 7:15am-8:15am in our Staff Lounge. The agenda will be updating parents on Transitional Kindergarten beginning in the 2012/2013 school year, school budget, and the National Common Core Standards that California has recently adopted.

Of course, parents are always welcome to add to the agenda with items they would like to discuss. If you have something in particular, feel free to email me the topic so I may add it to the list. We do our best to adhere to a thirty minute chat but often run over if folks have questions or suggestions. It is through this venue that our Parent Cross Walk Program was initiated three years ago—great ideas from great parents! So, come and join us.

In the spirit of Thanksgiving, I would like to thank you all for finding ways to support our school either through Cross Walk, making copies, helping in the classroom, attending our VAPA performances, giving your children assistance with homework, attending conferences, etc. It is truly a blessing to be in a community who cares and supports their school with such vigor. Our teachers, secretaries, custodians, support staff, and administration all recognize how special it is to be part of the Joseph Sims' community and how largely we are all impacted through your generosity of time, talents, and resources.

Fondly,
Shelly J. Hughes
Principal
Shughes@egusd.net

Calendar of Events

11/21—11/25

- Thanksgiving Break No School Office closed

11/30

- Coffee Chat 7:45 – 8:15 in Staff Lounge

12/2

- Holiday Gift Night 5:30 – 8:00

12/8

- Choir Performance 7:00 in MP

12/13

- PTO Meeting @ 7 PM Office
- Orientations for Parents Harriet Eddy 6:30 in MP

12/15

- VAPA Evening Performance 6:30 PM

12/16

- Minimum Day Track A

12/20

- Minimum Day Track C & D

12/22 – 1/3

- Winter Break No School Office closed

Track Change Schedule

Track change days are minimum days! Please see schedule below for the minimum day times.

All 1-6 grade students	8:00 a.m. – 12:40 p.m.
Kindergarten schedule	8:00 a.m. – 11:31 a.m.

Please remind daycare providers, grandparents and anyone else that pick up your children that 12/16 is a minimum day for A track only and 12/20 is a minimum day for C & D. Joseph Sims' office will close at 1:30 p.m. on Dec. 21st.



Transitional Kindergarten (TK)

On September 30, 2010, Senate Bill 1381, named the "Kindergarten Readiness Act," was signed into law by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. This new law changes the birth date for kindergarten eligibility from December 2nd to September 1st over the next three years.

- The new eligibility requirement for **KINDERGARTEN** will be phased in over three (3) years as shown in the chart below:

School Year	Child Must Turn 5 By:
2012-2013	November 1, 2012
2013-2014	October 1, 2013
2014-2015	September 1, 2014

- This law created a new program entitled Transitional Kindergarten (TK). Beginning in 2012-2013, EGUSD will offer Transitional Kindergarten to students who will turn 5 between November 2 and December 2, 2012.
- Transitional Kindergarten is a two-year program which will build a bridge between early learning and kindergarten, using a modified kindergarten curriculum that is age and developmentally appropriate. It will follow the same calendar as a kindergarten class and have the same number of instructional minutes per day.
- The new eligibility requirement for TRANSITIONAL KINDERGARTEN will be phased in over three (3) years as shown in the chart below.

School Year	Child Must Turn 5 Between:
2012-2013	November 2-December 2, 2012
2013-2014	October 2-December 2, 2013
2014-2015	September 2-December 2, 2014

- Elk Grove Unified School District's PreK-6 Education Department is working with other departments to develop curriculum and select the 2012-2013 locations for the Transitional Kindergarten classes.

Facts

- Q: My child is turning 5 before the November 1 cut-off date which makes him eligible for kindergarten. However, I don't feel he's ready. May I enroll him in TK instead?
- A: No. At this time, TK is only for those students born between November 2-December 2.
- Your school will contact you sometime after April 1, 2012 with the locations of the TK classes and you can decide then if you'd like your child to participate.
- District Transportation will **NOT** be provided for Transitional Kindergarten.

Vice Principal's Message

Dear Parents,

Tracks B, C & D (grades 2-6) recently completed the Mid-Year Progress Assessment of Standards (MYPAS) and Track A will complete the MYPAS assessment the week of Dec 5th – 9th. The results of the MYPAS assessment will provide specific information to help teachers design classroom instruction to meet the individual needs of our students. A track students will participate in the same testing upon their return in December.

I know that it may seem early but I want all of our families to have a heads-up that the California Standardized Testing (CST) or STAR assessment window for Tracks C & D will be April 16th – 20th and STAR testing for Tracks A & B is scheduled for May 14th -18th. As you schedule appointments for your children, please keep in mind these assessment dates and how important it is for your child to be at school every day and on time. As we get closer to the STAR testing windows, we will be sending further information home.

Have a great holiday season,

Christopher Nugent, Ed.D.
Vice Principal