

MAYER'S MONTHLY MEMO – CHABOT ELEMENTARY

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER, 2008



Hello Chabot Families

Welcome and Welcome Back to Chabot! This is going to be a great year at Chabot. I hope that your school year has gotten off to a great start, in spite of the close quarters and construction. I see our students coming to school every day ready to learn, and our fantastic teachers are ready to teach them.

I hope you all had a great Back to School Night and have been able to spend time in your child's classroom learning more about the specifics of their curriculum. We are really looking forward to a great school year, as we have put together our most holistic approach to teaching and learning ever. Our program takes a look at the **development of the entire child**, addressing academic success, leadership and citizenship, arts and music, and physical education and activities. With all students being supported by a terrific, dedicated staff, we are poised to make this one of Chabot's best years ever.

This year we have refined and improved our master calendar. We are now supporting and funding **art and music weekly**, for the entire year. Additionally, we are providing enrichment classes for computer (for grades 3, 4 and 5) and Spanish for all Kindergarteners. This rich program helps create more well-rounded students while allowing our teachers more time together and integrate more thoroughly into the curriculum. This is the result of our tremendous **partnership with the Chabot PTA**. We are fortunate to have such an incredible PTA to support our school in numerous ways, and especially with helping support enrichment classes. Even more importantly, our PTA understands the importance of working with our School Site Council to tie these enrichments to our academic goals and objectives and ensure we are using the teachers' time effectively. The partnerships on art and music are excellent examples of this special community working together to support all of our goals.

Accelerating all our Learners

We have identified a number of students who can benefit from additional academic support, so this year we've added before- and after-school acceleration support with **Ms. Bermeo** and **Coach Jason**. With this free program, we hope to provide all students the necessary support to become academically proficient and on grade level. The program is specifically designed to accommodate students from working families.

We've also added **Jessica Cannon** to our staff. Ms. Cannon is a teacher on special assignment (TSA) from the district. She will work with all of our teachers, and especially our leadership team as we continue to build our professional learning communities. Ms. Cannon and I will work closely to provide coaching and professional development to all our teachers. One of her key jobs will be to ensure that we are supporting teachers to make sure all our students learn the key "Power" standards that they will need to know to be successful in class and at the next level. Additionally, she is coordinating all of our SST's (Student Success Teams) to make sure all students have the support they need to be successful. Finally, she is working with Mr. Bergman and our teachers to make sure we are providing differentiation and challenging our high performing students who need to be pushed beyond the core curriculum. (I will discuss this more in a future newsletter).

New Faces

There are some new faces at Chabot this year. We have five wonderful new teachers on our staff. Please welcome **Ms. Flanagan** who is teaching first grade and was with us last year but now is an official member of the Chabot staff; **Ms. Hood**, fourth grade, and a whole new fifth grade team – **Ms. Barloga**, **Ms. Griffin** and **Ms. Whinfrey**. Each of them brings impressive credentials and we are honored to bring them in to the Chabot learning community.

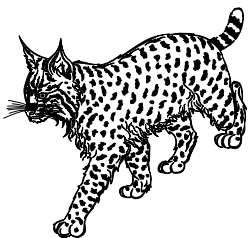
Student Leadership Opportunities

We're taking our goals to the playground, where we are **creating leadership opportunities** for our students. Even this early in the year, we are seeing many of our students step into leadership roles that will benefit them and our community well into the future. Our fantastic group of **junior coaches** help to set up game areas, distribute equipment, teach games, such as four square, and lead activities, like red-light green light, hula hoops, jump ropes. These coaches are third, fourth and fifth graders who have indicated their desire and have taken the training to step up and help out other classes during recess. Our goal is that Chabot students can lead and train other students in recess and lunch-time activities ensuring as much positive structures. No student should be standing unengaged on the sidelines at recess, and our junior coaches are a big part of making this goal a reality.

Of course the Chabot community is even safer and more efficient in the morning and afternoon thanks to **the Chabot Safety Patrol**. This stellar group of young leaders works hard to keep pedestrian and automobile traffic running smoothly and safely every day. We owe special thanks to **Karen Sternstein**, the mother of alumnus **Jenna Sternstein** for keeping this important initiative going, even though she no longer has a student at this school. Karen's continuing commitment to our safety patrol is just one example of how we as a community embrace our responsibility as responsible citizens.

Student council elections will take place in late October. While we encourage all students to participate in elections, our overriding goal is that **all students participate in Chabot leadership**. We have a limited number of elected spots on the student council, but we have unlimited opportunities for all students to continue participating in making our school a great place. If your child has the energy to run for office, regardless of the outcome of the election we would love to harness that energy on the student council to make a difference. Chabot students have an amazing capacity to find and nurture projects that make a difference beyond just their Chabot days. Past student councils have led efforts for food drives, toy drives, recycling and the Good Cents Coalition. We hope all students will participate in efforts to make our world a better place – locally and beyond.

Thanks for all your support and continued support. It is a pleasure to watch our students learn and grow. Feel free to come by and visit my office if you have questions. You can always set up an appointment through Margaret in the office.



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Home of the Chabot Bobcats

