# j0397995

# August 22, 2019

Dear Room 10 Parents/Guardians:

I am VERY excited to be working with your child this year and to continue to be a part of the Walgrove Elementary School community. Please, read and review this opening letter with your child carefully. It outlines the second/third grade program and our expectations for the year.

For those who do not know me, here is a brief introduction…

I joined the Walgrove family in January 2017. I have been teaching since 2000. Born in Tel-Aviv, Israel, I moved to Los Angeles with my family at the age of 7, but I’m still fluent in Hebrew. I love nature, animals and art. I received my BA from New York University, and my special education teaching credential from California State University, Northridge and National University. I have a true understanding of learning needs and recognize the need to individualize while also making sure my students can participate and feel heard in group activities. I have been trained in the many Lindamood Bell programs (Visualizing and Verbalizing, Seeing Stars, and Cloud Nine to name a few), as well as in the Wilson Reading System. I work closely with students and their families, understanding the importance of communication and creating a rich class environment; one that encourages inquiry, creativity, tolerance and independence. When possible, I love collaborating with the wonderful Miss Lima and Mr. Merrick (gen ed 3rd grade teachers) and am very excited about the 2019/2020 school year.

My goal is to provide our students with an innovative and engaging education this year. I work closely together with 3rd Grade teachers, Miss Lima and Mr. Merrick, to ensure student cooperation and inclusion whenever possible. Our team meets and communicates regularly to plan, assess, evaluate, and brainstorm lessons and activities. We share common goals, and are very excited to be working collaboratively this year.

To ensure a smooth and dynamic school experience, we expect ALL of our students to do the following:

* Follow all school and class norms for safety, respect, and responsibility
* Keep spiral notebooks and folders neat and well organized
* Arrive on time every day with a positive, respectful, and productive attitude
* Try his/her best
* Take risks
* Embrace failure as a part of learning
* Practice collaboration with peers and teachers
* Participate actively and practice what is learned in class

**HOMEWORK**

Homework will be assigned a couple of times a week. Reading however, must be done DAILY.

Each Monday, students will receive a reading response packet that will be due on Friday. Please read with your child or have them read to you and answer a reading response question (if your child is unable to write independently, please write down their thoughts and answers). In our opinion and teaching experience, second/third graders who read for at least 20 minutes daily will be better prepared for the upper grades.

**SPECIAL PROJECTS**

We will guide students through a number of exciting STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) projects, written reports, experiments, and other special, hands-on projects throughout the year. Explicit written instructions for the content and format will be given in advance specifying the due date and what portions should be completed at school and at home. STEAM projects are a week long and will take place three times this year (in October, in February, and in May). They are a great opportunity for students to exercise creativity and inventiveness, as well as to learn how to work cooperatively to problem-solve. We are looking forward to your participation in these as well! More details will follow…

**COMMUNICATION**

Important papers will go home with students on a regular basis. Please, check in with your child daily about this, and sign and return any important papers. Also, please, sign and return any assessments that go home. This is to help ensure that we are on the same page about your child’s progress in school.

**Communication** is absolutely key for us, and sometimes, a quick “heads up” can help us tremendously in better understanding your child. We believe that working as partners is the BEST way to ensure a successful school year for all of us.

E-mail is my preferred form of communication. I am also available for brief conferences before and after school; just let me know ahead of time when you would like to meet so I can better serve you.

**SUPPLIES**

Each student in Room 10 will need the following supplies to begin the school year. Your help in securing them for your child (and donate extras if possible) is appreciated.

1. Several No. 2 sharpened pencils
2. An eraser
3. An ORANGE 2-pocket portfolio (PLASTIC ONLY, PLEASE!) to serve as homework folder
4. A GREEN 2-pocket portfolio (PLASTIC ONLY!) to serve as classroom folder
5. A BLUE 2-pocket portfolio (PLASTIC-ONLY!) to serve as writing folder
6. Six single-subject spiral notebooks (1 yellow, 1 green, 1 blue, 1 red, 1 purple, 1 orange)
7. Personal Headphones for computer

Each student has received a new pencil, a box of crayons, a glue stick, a ruler, and an eraser for classroom use. In addition, your child will need the following items **at home**: additional crayons and pencils, colored pencils, a glue stick, scissors, ruler, and ruled writing paper.

**DONATIONS**

We would greatly appreciate donations of tissue, hand wipes, disinfecting wipes, and a variety of raffle prizes (Dollar Tree, etc.). We are always happy to receive Legos or other building games that promote cooperation.

**ACADEMIC PROGRAM**

The district’s newly adopted **Language Arts** program is *Benchmark Advanced*, although I will supplement instruction in this area daily with core literature, classroom discussions, literature circles, book reviews, and other tools. The language arts instruction will focus on phonemic awareness, phonics, spelling, critical thinking, reading comprehension, grammar usage, and the writing process.

The district’s official **Math** program is called *My Math,* by McGraw-Hill. We will expand our basic computational skills and enhance our critical thinking and problem solving by continuing to use the CGI (Cognitively Guided Instruction) method that we implemented last year. Our goal this year is to enrich our curriculum in this area and provide a more hands-on, enriching experience for students. Please, support your child at home with Math games, discussions about Math, computer programs, and additional activities. We will also differentiate instruction during Math to address the needs of each child.

**Writing**: 2nd/3rd grade will focus on the fundamentals of writing and be taught in units by genres (personal narrative, expository, and literary response & analysis).

**Science**: The state of California has recently adopted a new set of standards called NGSS (Next Generation Science Standards). The new standards allow for greater flexibility for schools, and promote increased collaboration among teachers to deliver more rigorous, relevant, experimentational, and hands-on instruction in this area that more closely align with our 21st century reality. Our district-adopted **Science** program is called *FOSS* and consists of hands-on experiments as well as textbook readings. We will be covering the following themes: Life Science (Structures of plants and animals), Earth Science (weather, climate and water cycle), and Physical Science (Matter and Energy).

**Social Studies**: TCI’s textbook Social Studies Alive! *California Communities* is our district-adopted **Social Studies** resource in the classroom. To supplement that, we will make extensive use of maps, the globe, articles, chapter study guides, interviews, projects, films, and lively classroom discussions. Students will work individually, in small groups, and as a whole class on lessons in History, Geography, Economics, Politics, the Arts and Humanities with a focus on our local, citywide, state, and national communities. Please, encourage your child to keep up with current events of our city, state, nation, and world.

**GRADING**

Most student work this year will be graded according to the following scale:

4 = Stellar work! = 95% to 100%

3 = Proficient work = 70% to 94%

2 = Below-proficient work = 45% to 69%

1 = Unsatisfactory work = 0% to 44%

**TEAMWORK**

I encourage parental participation and input, and approach teaching with a growth mindset. I learn as much from our students’ families and the children themselves as I learn from my mentors and colleagues. So if you ever feel the urge to discuss anything related to your child’s progress and well being, please, COMMUNICATE with me.

I am very excited to be working together and feel confident that we will have a terrific and productive year. I am looking forward to meeting with all of you at **Back to School Night** on September 10th from 5:30 to 7:00pm and to helping your child grow. I firmly believe that each child is capable of succeeding, and understand that children have different styles for learning. I am committed to doing my very best to provide a creative, supportive, and enriching education to meet your child’s needs and our state’s standards, but we need your help and commitment as well. Let’s work together to ensure the happiness and success of every child in this precious community of ours.

Thank you in advance for your partnership. I am looking forward to an exciting 2019-2020 experience!

Warmly,

Mrs. Leeza Legg

leeza.legg1@lausd.net

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Please, tear off this bottom portion completed and return to rooms 10 by Monday, August 26th

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Re: Room 10 Opening Letter and Procedures

Parent’s signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Mom) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Dad)

Parent’s email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Mom) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Dad)

Parent’s phone number: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Mom) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Dad)

Student’s signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*MC900300097[1]*

Parent Notes

Please, feel free to note here anything about your family and/or your child’s socio-emotional-physical health that you believe is important for us to know at this time. Thanks!

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