

# Rosa Parks Elementary Newsletter

A Publication of the Rosa Parks PTA

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Welcoming Schools Guide,  
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## Important Message About Attendance:

*In order for students to achieve at the highest levels, they have to attend school consistently ready to learn when class starts. The average attendance in Berkeley's elementary schools this past year was equal to each BUSD elementary student missing about 9 out of the 180 school days. As a result, the school district lost over \$2,000,000 in revenue.*

*If your child must be absent for a doctor or other critical appointment, please try to make it for the afternoon. In addition, please avoid taking vacations during regular school time. Lots of learning happens each school day. Join us in making daily attendance and punctuality priorities for this school year!*

**\*\* Mark Your Calendar!! \*\***

Rosa Parks Family Camp Out: October 7-9. More Details Soon

## Principal's Message

Dear Rosa Parks families,

Welcome back! It is wonderful to be starting another great year together. The PTA newsletter is a great way to keep up with what is going on at school and to discover ways to get involved. This year promises to be exciting, filled with learning, new friends and new experiences.

We are very proud of last year's academic accomplishments. As a whole the school increased over 4 percentage points in reading and 10 percentage points in math. Our school continues improve every year and it is thrilling to see our new programs and teaching techniques in both reading and math having such positive impacts on learning. Thank you, teachers, students and parents for all your good work.

We start the year with three new staff members. Kate Kirkhuff has been promoted from her position as a fourth grade teacher to our Literacy coach. She brings a wealth of expertise in literacy and teaching and we look forward to her leadership this year. Her replacement in the fourth grade is Torina Carter. Torina is in her fifth year of teaching and has experience in both the Richmond and New Mexico school districts where she experienced a great deal of success. Finally, Lisa Abregu will be joining use from the SEEDS Restorative Justice Program in a new

position as our Restorative Justice coordinator. Please join me in welcoming these staff to their new positions.

Rosa Parks will benefit from several grants this year that will bring more incredible experiences and services for kids. We received a \$15,000 Dean Witter principal discretionary grant this past summer to help support after school literacy programs and, in combination with a separate \$5,000 grant, to hire our new "Restorative Justice" coordinator. Lisa will work with students on conflict resolution skills and creating community. With a \$30,000 two year grant, we will partner with Mills College to conduct teacher collaborative inquiry to improve our craft.

As a school we will continue to build our students' literacy skills with our new TCRWP reading program, and improve our abilities as a school to communicate with parents and the community. Finally we will continue to focus on making Rosa Parks a safe and welcoming place where all students and families feel like they are a part of our community.

Best wishes,

Paco