

**A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL****WHO ARE WE AND WHAT ARE WE ABOUT?**

Identity crisis? No, I wouldn't go that far, but I have wondered what defines us at Sinsheimer? What is our mission, our purpose, as we work with kids each day? What is it that you as parents expect as you entrust us with the little ones you treasure most in life?

This is my fourth year as principal and I think, no... I know, we have accomplished great things in that time, and that we are a great school. However, I have grappled with that lingering question: What is it that defines Sinsheimer? What makes us a great school? I can point to several things including a wonderful community minded group of parents, a truly committed group of staff members who put children first, and of course, a group of kind, hard working, students. However, unless you are here and a part of it you won't necessarily know these wonderful Sinsheimer assets.

I had a very candid conversation recently with one of our kindergarten mom's - an honest conversation that I really appreciated. She told me when she was considering whether or not to send her child to Sinsheimer, her neighborhood school, she wasn't sure she wanted her son to go here. She had heard good things about the school, but there was nothing that called out to her, or provided any clarity about what she could expect for her son if he was to call himself a Sinsheimer Stinger. That really resonated with me and has since been a call to action.

As principal, I see it as one of my main responsibilities to share the story of our school. It is a great story to share. However, I think it needs a little more focus and definition. This leads me to asking for your help. I want to revise our current mission statement. My goal is to get input from our parent community, our students, and staff in order to craft a mission statement that reflects our purpose. The statement would embody who we are, and what we are striving to accomplish for our students.

Our [current mission statement](#) is a positive one that is hard to argue with, yet it lacks some of the attributes we currently see within our school. With so many shifts in the educational landscape over the past few years, the time is right for us to take a close look at where we are, and what we want to achieve. From adopting new standards and curriculum, to shifting our teaching methods, and incorporating higher levels of technology, and student centered activities, we are now better able to chart a focused and defined course for our future. Doing so will allow us to experience a heightened level of success while sharing and building upon it with others beyond our school walls. Please click on the following link to share your input on 3 important survey questions that will help guide our work toward crafting a new mission for Sinsheimer: [Who Are We and What Are We About?](#)

Thank you to those of you who responded to last month's survey questions about Homework and Communication. The feedback was positive overall, and our staff is using your input as we evaluate our own approaches to homework and communication. Here is a summary: [Survey Results](#)

Together, let's make this leap year February a fantastic month! Enjoy What's Buzzin'!

Jeff Martin
Principal

2nd graders make snowmen as part of a "repeated addition is multiplication" unit.

**SAVE THE DATE****February 2**

Dental Screening Grades K, 3, 5, & SDC

February 2, 9, 16

Love and Logic Class- Continued

February 4PTA Meeting
6 PM- Library**February 8**

Lincoln's Birthday- No School

February 10

CPK Day

February 12

Valentine's Parties

February 15

President's Day- No School

February 25 - 26Early Dismissal Days 1:00PM
Teacher Work Days**February 26**Asset Assembly 8:45am Featur-
ing 5th Grade**February 29**Kinder Registration/Open
Enrollment Begin



COUNSELOR'S CORNER PROBLEM SOLVING STRATEGIES AT SINSHEIMER

Does your child complain of problems at school? Conflict with a friend? Feeling worried about work? There are many ways children at Sinsheimer can access assistance to help themselves!

1. Each teacher has a blue form that a child can fill out if they have a problem with another student and would like peer mediators to help them resolve it. Two specially trained 6th graders will sit down with willing parties and find some solution.
2. The library now has a "Smart Start" section where kids can go and check out books that might help learn about how to handle their problem. The sections include, "Friendship", "Handling Anger", "Feeling Different" and more! Mrs. Cramer can help them or they can look through it themselves. (There is also a shelf of books for parents!)
3. During recess there is a "Buddy Bench" available for kids who might be having problems with friends or perhaps their friend is absent. Sitting on this bench alerts other kids that they are feeling lonely or want to make new friends. Our student counsel kids watch over the bench and are ready to offer friendly faces when needed.
4. Each teacher has a yellow form that a child can fill out to talk with the counselor who can help them resolve a problem.
5. Every student at Sinsheimer is trained in our Peace Helper Program. This means kids can turn to each other to offer help as needed in difficult situations. The questions the Peace Helper asks is, "Do you want my help? What happened? How do you feel? How can you solve this problem?"

If your child is reporting issues or concerns about something happening at school, please encourage them to access one of these strategies! Their ability to advocate for themselves and find tools to help them solve their own problems will serve them well in life!

Daina Catlin
Counselor

STINGER NEWS: COACH CAMPA'S CORNER

"How do we fit it all in?" This is a question that resonates with all teachers. Teaching quality instruction in multiple areas can be challenging. To top it off, new curriculum, projects, and holidays add to the the lives of teachers. Luckily, here at Sinsheimer, our staff has a can-do attitude and an integrated approach to teaching.

Every Sinsheimer staff meeting's agenda is driven by teacher feedback and input. As of the new year, teachers have asked to wrap their brains around integrating units of instruction. Wouldn't it be powerful if our reading, writing, social studies/-science and/or math aligned? For example, what if students worked on an informational/expository unit around topics that met our Next Generation Science Standards? They would not only learn about the science, but would be reading grade level texts and writing about grade level topics. Talk about fitting it in! Or, what if students used their math skills to learn more about how economies run today and how they ran long ago?

Our teachers have been working hard this year to integrate as much as possible to provide our students with rich instruction each and every day. Our learning as educators will progress as we move forward with this work during our bi-monthly staff meetings. I am excited to learn alongside our amazing teachers and staff so that we can continue to innovate instruction for our students! Please feel free to contact me with any questions or comments you might have.

Warmly,

Kayla Campa,
Instructional Coach
kcampa@slcusd.org



FEBRUARY 2 IS DENTAL SCREENING DAY

On Tuesday, February 2 students in grades K, 3, 5 and room 23 will be screened by local volunteer dentists. This is a screening only. If you do not wish your child to participate, please send a note addressed to the school nurse the day of the screening.





PTA BUZZ

SAVE THE DATE, March 5, 2016, SATURDAY evening for our 3rd Annual Dinner Auction, CINCO DE MARZO at the ELKS LODGE. There will be an exciting Silent & Live Auction that you will not want to miss!!! (Sinsheimer Teacher Sponsored items, Disneyland tickets, Gilroy Garden tickets, gift certificates to local restaurants, a private plane ride over the Central Coast, and more!) Come out for an evening of festivities that will benefit our kids and school, give you the opportunity to meet other parents and Salsa the night away!

Reservations for this Fiesta can be made through the Sinsheimer School website or a check can be made to Sinsheimer PTA and dropped off at the school office. Don't miss the Early Bird discount and reserve before FEBRUARY 19th. Invitations will be sent out shortly. Mark your calendar and we hope to see you all there!!!

Attention new Sinsheimer Families: we are having a meet and greet on February 1st between 5:00 and 7:00 in the staff lounge. There will be pizza, drinks, and desserts. Come and meet all the new families.

Great Job fifth grade parents and students on a fast start to fundraising and making donations for the sixth grade outdoor camp.

CPK reminder, second Wednesday of every month is our CPK Day. The flyers will be sent home in the Monday morning envelope the Monday before the second Wednesday of the month. The flyer is also on the PTA website, Sinsheimer School website, and the school's and PTA's Facebook page.

The next PTA meeting is Thursday, February 4th, 2016 at 6:00 in the school library. Hope to see you there.

Jeff Garris
Sinsheimer PTA President

INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS REVIEW COMMITTEE SEEKS PARENT INPUT

San Luis Coastal Unified School District has formed an Instructional Materials Adoption Panel (IMAP) to review Kindergarten – 5th grade English Language Arts materials for possible adoption. Parents and community members are encouraged to preview and give input regarding these materials, which will be on display at Sinsheimer from February 9 to the 18th in the library.

ATTENTION SUN N FUN PARENTS

There will be special procedures for registering for before and after school care on minimum days for the remainder of the school year. Stay tuned for more information from the Sun N Fun program director.

HELPING HANDS

PTA would like to thank the following parents and teachers who attended the December and January PTA meetings:

December PTA Meeting

Teachers:

Deannie Greenelsh
Jeff Morgan

December Parents:

Laurie VanKleeck
Irish Turnage
Malia Johson-Slawik

January Parents:

Erin Martin-Elston
Laurie VanKleeck
Malia Johnson-Slawik
Wendy Forester
Lalena Daigneault
April Dean
Liliana Hernandez

January PTA Meeting

Teachers: Glenda Green, Greg Parsons

REMINDERS FROM THE OFFICE

Absences

The school must be notified when a student is absent. We ask that parents call the school and tell us why their child is absent; otherwise parents will receive a call from the office requesting information regarding the absence. If an absence extends beyond three consecutive days, a doctor's note may be required. If a student is absent or tardy due to a doctor or dentist appointment, a note from the doctor or dentist office must be presented to the school for the absence/tardy to be excused. Absences due to confirmed illness, death in the immediate family, and religious holidays are considered excused.

Absences for family trips that are 5 or more school days long, may be eligible for academic and attendance credit. Please contact the school office for more information regarding an Independent Study Contract at least 10 school days prior to your trip. More information is available on the Sinsheimer website

Interruption of Class Instruction Time

We need your help cut down on the number of interruptions to instruction caused by the office calling into the classroom during the school day. You can help by:

1. Scheduling doctor, dentist and other appointments after the **end of the school day.**
2. Leaving for trips **after the end of the school day.**
3. Having your student check his/her backpack before coming to school to be sure they have everything they need for the day: lunch and/or snack, homework, reading folder, library books, etc...

Thank you for your help in keeping our classrooms focused learning environments for our students.





LIBRARY CORNER: LIBRARY RESOURCES

Ever wonder what books we have in our library? Want to know which order to read books in a series? How many words has my student read for the Sinsheimer AR Olympics? Are there AR points for the book my student is reading? You can answer those questions and many more by accessing our school library homepage.

Log onto <http://si.slcsd.org> and click the library link. By clicking the Home tab, you will see many links you can access. Ask your 4th-6th grader for their Renaissance Home Connect username and password and see which books they have read for the AR Olympics. If your student has a research project, World Book Online is a valuable resource for information. Students can practice their typing skills with Dance Mat Typing, connect to the SLO County Library and search for books, read a book or watch a video on TrueFlix (user name: sistingers password: student) and they can practice their math skills on Cool Math.

Enjoy researching!

Mrs. Cramer

BOX TOPS

Congratulations! During the last Box Top contest, Sinsheimer school brought in \$289.30. Let's see how much we can make for the next one. The deadline will be February 16th, so please have your child bring any Box Tops your family has collected into their classroom. Whether they are attached to a full, or partially filled, collection sheet or placed loosely in a baggie, just send them our way!

Are you a Box Tops member? Sign up at www.BTFE.com to stay updated on our school's earnings and find a full list of hundreds of participating products. Members also receive exclusive coupon offers and recipes and can learn about extra ways for our school to earn more cash.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at zandski@hotmail.com.

Thanks for your help!

Karin Zeltmann (Box Top Coordinator)

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT ENROLLMENT INFO

The California Department of Education, in partnership with Covered California and All In-Health Care for all families have provided a template for information on health insurance coverage.

Please visit: <http://www.slcsd.org/announcements-details.php?id=583> to access the information template.

Kindergarten

February 29 – March 20 is Open Enrollment and Kindergarten Registration. Kindergarten registration and acceptance of open enrollment applications will be held from February 29 through March 20. If you have a child, or know of a child, who plans to attend kindergarten at Sinsheimer, please register your child and/or encourage friends, family and neighbors to register their children. The Kindergarten Readiness Act is a law that sets the age of entrance into kindergarten in California. Children must be five years of age by September 1st for the 2016-17 school year. For questions, please contact the school office. Please be aware that due to the new Immunization law, SB277, effective July 1, 2016, incoming students who are not up to date on their vaccinations will be unable to enroll or attend school. Open enrollment forms (for transfers to other schools) can also be found in the school office during the same time frame.

STUDENT COUNCIL

Greetings from Student Council!

This month we will be doing a fundraiser to help an organization called the Starfish Educational Fund. This is a local nonprofit that helps raise money for a school in Uganda, Africa. It is an all volunteer organization, which means that every dollar we spend goes straight to the school! Your class will get a box for donations, and student council will be sharing some fundraising ideas.

We hope everyone had fun at the assembly watching students participate in our Sinsheimer Minute to Win It. Let a student council member know if you have an idea for Minute to Win It, a Spirit Day, or anything else that you think would make our school a better place. Remember, you can make a difference at your school and in your community.



SEARCH SINSHEIMER ELEMENTARY ON FACEBOOK



@SLCUSD



FACEBOOK.COM/SINSHEIMER PTA

PTA EMAIL: SINSHEIMERELEMENTARYPTA@GMAIL.COM

PTA WEBSITE: SINSHEIMERPTA.ORG

