



# *Hawthorn School of Dual Language*

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Dear Parents:

March 27, 2015

As we close out the end of March and open up the month of April, I wanted to send you a little update on some of the great things that have been happening at the School of Dual Language.

At the beginning of the school year, our School Leadership Team put into place "Taskforce Teams" to work on specific initiatives at our school. The taskforce teams for this year are: Cultural Taskforce, Positive Behavior Taskforce, DL Promotional Taskforce and Resources Taskforce. I would like to share with you a quick update on the work of these teams.

## **Cultural Taskforce Team:**

- With support from PTO, the School of Dual Language was able to bring nationally recognized author, singer and educator, Jose Luis Orozco to our school.
- Organized a Family Night on March 13<sup>th</sup> for the district, which provided a fun-filled evening with a Mexican Folkloric Dance Group and a Potluck Dinner with a variety of foods from around the globe. We had over 500 people attend this event.
- This team has facilitated for each grade level at our school to do an in depth study on a different Latin-American country, studying their culture and customs.

## **Positive Behavior Taskforce Team:**

- This taskforce team has established school wide common language for students and staff. The school wide expectations are to: *Be Safe, Be Responsible and Be Respectful*. This team organized an all-school assembly to communicate these behavioral expectations to our students. Every month, we have an opportunity to recognize students that are exhibiting excellence in the three character traits we are looking to see in our school.
- As a school, we have incorporated Class Dojo, which is a system to monitor individual and whole class behavior.

## **Dual Language Promotional Taskforce Team:**

- This taskforce team has created a trifold brochure in both English and Spanish, which provides a description of our dual language program. This brochure has been distributed to pre-school students in our district as well as to other childcare facilities within our school district.
- Recently, this taskforce has completed a video, which highlighted our dual language program. This video was first shared with the Board of Education. You can view the video at the following link: <https://www.powtoon.com/show/bG4mmJloPpC/boe-presentation/>

## **Resources Taskforce Team:**

- This team researched and worked alongside with our district office staff to select a purchase a new Spanish reading series called, "Maravillas" by McGraw-Hill. This program will enhance our Spanish language Arts curriculum with many online resources and authentic literature. Our staff has already participated in staff development on the use of the program as we look to fully implement the program beginning next school year.

**Other Notes:**

**PARCC:** A “Shout Out” to all our 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students who did a fantastic job on completing the first round of Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) testing. Thanks to our staff and parents for supporting our students in being prepared for these required state assessments. Just a reminder that our students will be taking the “End of Year” PARCC assessments in May.

**Toys to school:** Parents, we have been having a growing and on-going problem with some students that are bringing the latest “toy craze” of Shopkins and Rubics Cube to school. Unfortunately, we have had a number of these toys broken, lost or stolen while at school, which has caused a disruption to the learning environment. We are looking for your support by discouraging your child from bringing these items to school. Thank you for your help with this matter.

**HSDL Website:** Please take some time to visit our new and updated Dual Language website. There you will find the most up to date information about our school and district. You will also find pictures and videos of our great students and staff. The link to our website is: <http://dl.hawthorn73.org>

**Reminders and Upcoming Events:**

- March 30: Spring break begins
- April 6: School resumes
- April 8: PTO meeting at District Office at 6:00 p.m.
- April 13: Board of Education meeting at District Office at 7:00 p.m.
- April 15: PTO Cookie Dough distribution at MSS at 3:00 p.m.
- April 22: Earth Day
- April 24: Middle of 3<sup>rd</sup> Trimester
- April 27: Spring Picture Day
- April 27: PARCC – End of Year Assessment begins

I count it a privilege to be the principal at Hawthorn School of Dual Language and partnering with you and our staff in educating your children. If I ever can be of assistance to you or if you have any questions about our school, do not hesitate in contacting me at the school office at 847-990-4900 or by e-mail at: [tohmej@hawthorn73.org](mailto:tohmej@hawthorn73.org)

Respectfully,

James Tohme

Principal: Hawthorn School of Dual Language