



# PRINCIPAL SALINAS' WEEKLY MESSAGE

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Week of October 17, 2021

Dear Tara Hills Families:

Many exciting activities have been occurring at our school this past week. Students continued to learn about Hispanic/Latinx heritage and culture as we continued our celebration of Hispanic/Latinx Heritage Month by doing various activities. Ms. Marina, our amazing SCOW, created the Tara Hills' Hispanic/Latinx Heritage Month Showcase which includes pictures of in-class activities, bulletin boards, and students' art pieces in celebration of Hispanic/Latinx Heritage Month.

**Please click on the link to view- <https://bit.ly/THLatino-HispanicHeritageMonth2021>**

This upcoming week is Digital Citizenship Week where students will be engaged in various activities which will help show them how to be good citizens while utilizing electronic devices and how to use them appropriately. The theme for Tara Hills Social-Emotional Learning for the months of October and November is Peer Relationships. Teachers and staff will be focusing on peer relationships in their classes and on the playground and in the after school program and are utilizing the Sanford Harmony curriculum. Students will have the opportunity to earn Kindness tickets as they are observed doing something kind for others. Every Friday, we will have raffles by grade levels with these tickets. The more tickets that a student receives, the more opportunities that they will have for earning a prize.

## **Rainy Day Schedule**

As we enter the fall season, there will likely be some rainy days that will require some adjustment to our daily procedures. On a rainy day, pickup procedures for Kindergarten will remain the same. 1st-3rd graders will be picked up by the main doors by the office. 4th- 6th graders will be picked up by the cafeteria doors where students are dropped off in the morning. If it is raining in the morning, students will enter through their normal entrance to the school and then be directed by staff to sheltered areas (covered walkways, overhangs, the cafeteria, and/or hallways) to wait until school begins. Similarly, at the end of the day, students will wait under shelter for their parents to pick them up. Students will eat one grade level at a time in the cafeteria if it is raining during lunchtime, and we will take appropriate precautions as possible under the circumstances to maintain ventilation and Covid-19 safety. Please also be sure that students have warmer jackets and clothing on rainy and cooler days.

## **Tara Hills Spirit Week- October 25-29**

We will be having a Spirit Week for students October 25-29. Please view the following link for further information- [Tara Hills Spirit Week](#)

## **End of Trimester**

Friday, October 29 is the end of the 1st Trimester and is a minimum day for students. Grades 1-6 will be dismissed at 2:05 pm. Kindergarten students will be out regularly. Monday, November 1 is a non-student day and teachers will be making appointments for parent-teacher conferences on Monday, November 1. For the remainder of the week, students will have minimum days to allow for parent-teacher conferences in the afternoon. All conferences will be virtual.



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## Pick up and Drop Off Procedures

Thank you to all parents and caregivers for continuing to pull all the way up and either pulling over or parking when picking up your child. This allows for pickup to go smoothly for everyone.

## October Reading Log

Thank you for continuing reading with your child or independently for [30 minutes every day](#).

The last day for your children to turn in the [October Reading Log](#) is Tuesday, November 2. Remember that the Reading Club Log is not homework or in-class lesson reading, but instead leisure/bedtime reading. Also, parents/guardians remember to date and initial the log for every 30 minutes of reading. Please encourage your child to participate in the Reading Club.

## Community Resources and Events

Please continue to periodically check the school website for updated community resources and events: Parent Workshop with Dr. Mary Bacon, Fall Family Day at the Richmond Art Center, and other resources you don't want to miss out on and be a part of. Click the following link to learn more [Tara Hills School Website - Parent/Community Resources](#)

## Tara Hills Canned Food Drive

Tara Hills will be having a canned food drive from October 18-November 19. Please see the link for further details- [Tara Hills Canned Food Drive](#)

## African American Parent Advisory Committee (AAPAC)

The next AAPAC meeting will be held virtually on Tuesday, October 19 at 5 pm. All subsequent meetings will be held virtually on the first Tuesday of the month at 5 pm.

## English Language Advisory Committee (ELAC)

The next ELAC meeting will be held virtually on Thursday, October 21 at 9 am and 6 pm. All subsequent meetings will be held virtually on the first Thursday of the month at 9 am and 6 pm.

## COVID-19 Weekly Testing

We have weekly Covid testing at school which happens every Thursday. We want to encourage *all* parents/caregivers to register their children for Covid testing. The more students that are tested, the better we are able to minimize the chance of Covid infections among our students, teachers/staff, and their family members. Please see Covid testing sign-up information further below.

**UPDATE: Covid Test Scheduling Change:** The District testing provider is requiring that parents/caregivers log into their student's [online Covid testing account](#) and schedule another test one time again in order to agree to the updated consent form. If you logged in and scheduled a test on September 26 or later, then you have already met this requirement and no further scheduling is necessary for your student to be automatically tested each week. Please see the links to the registration and scheduling instructions below:

[Covid Testing Registration and Scheduling Instructions \(English\)](#)

[Covid Testing Registration and Scheduling Instructions \(Spanish\)](#)

A few tips when registering and scheduling testing for your students:

- If you are having difficulty scheduling your child online for testing, then the Covid testing staff are available in person from 8 am to 9 am on Thursdays at the school office to help you register and schedule your child.
- If the only option online to schedule a test is 4:00 pm, please go ahead and schedule for that time. However, students will actually be tested during the regular school day.



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## **Independent Study**

If your student will miss school for 5 consecutive school days or more, then there is an option in limited circumstances for the absences to be excused IF a student completes an independent study contract during the period they are away from school. Short-term independent study is for situations when a student needs to miss school for exceptional reasons that can't reasonably wait until a regular school vacation period (i.e. for an urgent family trip to see a very ill relative). It is not for "home school" purposes and it is intended for short durations (usually for 5 to 10 days). The school requires at least two weeks' notice if a parent/caregiver would like to request the short-term independent study contract for their student. The independent study work needs to be done while the student is away and needs to be returned the first day the student returns to school in order for credit to be given. The work also will require parent support and/or monitoring of the student while they are doing the work. Thank you for your understanding and request for independent study only when absolutely necessary. If you believe you need to request short-term independent study for your student, then please email your student's teacher.

Thank you,

Mrs. Salinas  
Principal