

Good Morning Parents,

There have been two separate surveys sent to you in the month of May. The first survey focused only on two questions prepared to give us information regarding our Julian Curtiss Parent Engagement Goal. We received responses from approximately 90 families. That survey is now complete. We have summarized the goal and the results of that survey below.

The second survey sent to you by the district by e-mail from "The Panorama Education Team" is open until May 31st. You will see "2017 GPS Family Engagement Survey" in the subject line of your e-mail. It will come from [support+greenwich@panoramaed.com](mailto:support+greenwich@panoramaed.com). Please complete this survey as well.

Look for an email with the following information:

From: **"The Panorama Education Team"**

Subject: **"2017 GPS Family Engagement Survey"**

From address:

[support+greenwich@panoramaed.com](mailto:support+greenwich@panoramaed.com)

The survey deadline is Wed., May 31.

What if you can't find the email/survey link?

Please contact:

[support+greenwich@panoramaed.com](mailto:support+greenwich@panoramaed.com)

#### Julian Curtiss Parent Engagement Goal:

On an end of year survey, 90% of parents will respond, "Yes" to the following two questions,

1. "Have you received an update regarding your child's progress outside of the report card conference and report cards?"
2. "Have you had an opportunity to visit the school for "academic performances/celebrations" this year?"

#### Rationale:

On an end of year survey provided in May of 2016, 79% of families surveyed indicated that they had received updates regarding their child's progress outside of report cards and scheduled conferences. This fell short of our goal of 85%. For 2016-2017, we chose to focus on the same question, as well as adding a question to gauge our success at making parents feel welcome at school and involved in their children's education. In order to increase agreement to the first question, parents were reminded both at Open House and their child's fall report card conference that they were able to request a parent conference at any time during the year. Several grade levels sent home progress updates between marking periods. Many teachers also sent home "good news" notes and emails throughout the year. Specialists wrote comments for individual students across all grade levels. All classroom teachers - whether as individuals or as grade levels - as well as many specialists began using Smore as a communication tool to send home periodic newsletters detailing curriculum units being covered in class, tips for helping with homework, and special events. Despite these efforts, of the parents that responded to the May 2017 survey, only 78% reported that they received an update regarding their child's progress outside of the report card conference and report cards.

Over the past two years, we have been working diligently to actively involve parents in our Julian Curtiss school community. This year, in order to continue these efforts, we have held school-wide events such as Curriculum Nights (literacy, math, inquiry), general PTA meetings geared toward topics of parent interest (PBIS and Home Strategies for Expected Behaviors, Stress and Anxiety, How to Help Your Child in Math, Introduction to the Innovation Space, Building Friendships and Self-Advocacy Skills), and a special math parent presentation with renowned expert Greg Tang. We also held our annual community-building events such as Ringing In and Ringing Out ceremonies, UN Week, International Night, Family Fun Night, and Grandparents' Day. These events are typically very well attended, but we wanted to find ways to increase parent involvement in day-to-day school happenings.

As a school, we set a goal that 90% of parents would report that they had the opportunity to visit the school for an academic performance/celebration this year. Different grade levels and departments went about this in a variety of ways. Some invited parents in on a monthly basis for an "Open House" so they could see and participate in morning routines and activities. Others held celebrations for things like poetry readings, Reader's Theater, and various social studies and science presentations. There were gymnastics open houses and "March Madness" basketball events, as well as the ever popular art show, multiple concerts, and theater performances.

When surveyed, 87% of parents said that they had the opportunity to visit the school for an academic performance/celebration this school year. Given that many events were still upcoming at the time of the survey, it is reasonable to expect that the 90% goal on this question will be met by the end of the school year. Going forward, it is obvious that there is still work to do on ensuring that parents feel well-informed about their children's progress in school. We will continue to work on systematic ways to communicate with parents about individual academic and social/emotional progress, as well as overall information regarding curriculum and what is being covered at each grade level and in each subject area.