

April 2024

# The Global Connection

A publication of the Global Education Program at Skyline School



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR GOLD RUSH DAY (FRIDAY, APRIL 26)

It is time again to rustle up a costume and prepare your child to experience Gold Rush California. As part of our continuing study of exploration and migration, we will be studying the westward movement in the United States. We will look at reasons for heading west, routes potential miners took to get to the gold fields, and life in the Gold Rush towns and camps. All of Global Ed. will participate in a day in Gold Rush California. Students dressed in pioneer costume will visit an old-fashioned school, a candle maker, a 'ranch' to rope cattle and tie knots, a mining camp to pan for gold, a saloon, and a theater. After working up an appetite in the morning, the children will gather for a big, Gold Rush luncheon. Specific assignments for food contributions to the luncheon as well as costume suggestions will be sent home in the near future. **GOLD RUSH DAY IS FRIDAY, APRIL 26th.**

## GLOBAL ED. SQUARE DANCE (FRIDAY, APRIL 26: 6:00-8:00 PM)

As part of our Gold Rush celebration, we will be having a square dance complete with a square dance caller and a band the evening of our Gold Rush Day, April 26th. We will be swinging our partners at 6:00 pm in the Skyline Theater. We encourage all of the Global Ed. families to attend. These fun evening events really help to build community in Global Ed., so we hope to see you the evening of Friday, April 26th.



## IMPORTANT DATES

- 4/16: Mrs. Anderson's and Mrs. Mac's classes to Mission San Juan Capistrano
- 4/23 Mrs. Leidy's and Ms. Campbell's classes to Mission San Juan Capistrano
- 4/26: Gold Rush Day in Global Ed
- 4/26 Global Ed Square Dance, Skyline Theater, 6-8 pm
- 5/3: Ms. Courtney's and Mrs. Obie's classes to the Birch Aquarium



## UPCOMING CAASPP TESTING

Students in third through sixth grade at Skyline will be taking the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) during the week running from April 30-May 10. Fifth-grade students will also be taking the California Science Test (CAST) on May 8-9. Both assessments are standardized tests that are administered to all students in our district. While learning how to take formal assessments is a skill to be honed as a student, it is important to note that the test results are just one piece of the picture of your child's learning. The GE teachers work hard to provide instruction that meets your child's academic needs. This focus requires ongoing assessment to ensure that learning experiences accurately build upon existing knowledge while providing opportunities for new growth and understanding. The best test prep for the CAASPP is a child with a good night's rest and a healthy breakfast!



“Assessment cannot be separated from instruction. It is not an ‘add-on’; it is what we do every day as teachers. The cyclical process of triangulating, analyzing, questioning, and assessing is embedded in instruction. It is simply how we teach.”

Clare Landrigan and Tammy Mulligan  
from *Assessment in Perspective*

### ATTENDANCE IS IMPORTANT

Regular attendance is important for students to be successful learners. When students are absent, they miss out on the sequence of instruction, learning activities that are collaborative and hands-on, and opportunities for small group instruction tailored to their educational needs. Most of the learning in the Global Education classrooms is not easily replicated in worksheets, nor is it easy to copy the richness of shared learning that is missed due to absences. So much of what we do in Global Ed. is to set the foundation for becoming lifelong learners. Chronic absenteeism creates a negative precedent for a pattern of nonattendance. Mostly, we just want to convey that we love your kids and want them here at school to learn with us!



# PRIMARY NEWS

## TOPIC SHARING SCHEDULE

- April 8-12 Open sharing
- April 15-19: Tall Tale story map
- April 22- 26 Open sharing
- April 29- May 3: Create a fantasy fish



## TALL TALE SHARING (April 15-19)

As our country grew with the movement of pioneers and those seeking their fortunes in the California gold fields, so did the tall tales about the men and women who faced the hardships of moving west. Your child will be studying the tall tales of famous American folk heroes and the exaggerated tales of characters like Paul Bunyan and Pecos Bill. Your child will need to select one tall tale to listen to or read independently. After reading the story, your child will complete an outline of tall tale elements and a storyboard to recount in illustrations and words what happened in the beginning, middle, and end of the tall tale. Please have your child practice reading the story map.



## CREATE A FANTASY FISH (April 29-May 2)

Primary GE classes will study the biome of the ocean beginning at the end of April. As part of this unit of study, your child will use his/her imagination to create a "fantasy fish". The children should consider the fish's ADAPTATIONS to its habitat (characteristics that help it hide from prey, defend itself, hunt etc.) The three-dimensional fantasy fish should be created from paper and other "found/recyclable" items. Since it is to be three-dimensional, BOTH sides of the fish should be decorated before stapling the two sides of the paper fish together and stuffing the fish with scrap paper before placing the final staples. Your child's fish should have a name. Your child should be prepared to describe the fish's adaptations and the reasons for the adaptations on sharing day.