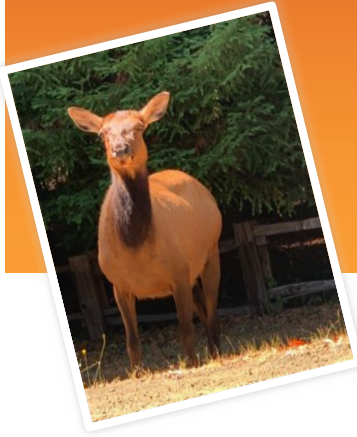


Leggett Valley Unified School District

Home of the Whales and Panthers

August 26, 2021



Dear Leggett Valley and Whale Gulch Staff:

It is a complete honor to serve as your Superintendent and Principal. In trying to improve my communication, I have decided to resurrect a communication strategy from the past: "The Administrator Newsletter." It seems to me that this form of "communication" is a relic from the past, but highly fun. In my attempt to create a newsletter for you it is my goal to convey the information in a fun and humorous way. It's my goal to inform you about all matters going on from my perspective. It will be simple and to the point. Remember, I was born in the Midwest and I see the world from a completely different perspective.

What do you call a herd of Elk? Gangsters!

First off, these Elk! They have to be the most beautiful and majestic animals I have ever seen. When I left Whale Gulch on Tuesday, my car was pointed to drive back the same way I came in. I decided not to turn around, and I ran into this gang of Elk. According to the US Geographical survey, a group of Elk are actually called a gang. This was by far one of the coolest things I have ever seen in my life. Real Chicago Gangsters.

First day of school:

From my perspective, we had a good first day of school. After the COVID testing, students went to class and they started to learn. It was, by far, the most peaceful first day of school I have ever been part of. I noticed immediately that the staff at both sites did a really nice job getting schedules and such things handed out to support all children.

Speaking of Whale Gulch...

One day per week, from this day forward, I will be traveling to Whale Gulch to conduct school district business. I will be available by zoom or phone if we have any behavior issues in Leggett. Whale Gulch started the year in independent study and they plan to be welcoming students back on campus in a week (unless things change).

Mendocino Lake Adult Education Consortium

Great news! We were accepted into the MLACE education consortium. All this means is that we now have the ability to apply for resources from this organization. In the future we will be able to open up a district wide "Adult School" and start serving community members without a high school diploma. Most other Mendocino County school districts have a high school diploma program. Hopefully, in time, we will too.

Mendocino County Youth Project

If you know of any students or families that are "at risk" and who may need emotional support, please let me know. All we have to do is fill out a referral form, which I will share with you soon. The Mendocino County Youth Project is ready to take referrals. I was told that, at some point, they would like to come out and do some presentations in our classes. Any student that participates in the Youth Project will need parent permission.

COVID Testing

I met with the other Superintendents today and the County Health Officer told us that there was an uptick in cases in children in Mendocino County. It may be a good idea to test students every day. We are trying to figure out a way to get more COVID tests but, at this point, we are only testing twice a week. When(if?) we get more tests, we may need to come up with another model for how we test students daily for COVID. Possibly at a different time? Maybe before the students are released to go home? The Health Officer stressed that it's important to test daily.

Masks

Please remember that masks cost money, and please only use what you need. Students do not need new masks 3-4 times a day. All staff, students, and visitors are required to wear a mask while on either of our campuses.

Classroom Visits

Starting 8/26/2019, I will be visiting classrooms daily and conducting "Roll Call." During "Roll Call," I will be checking in with every student by calling their name and trying to have a bit of a conversation with them. We might do a little show and tell, who knows? By seeing each name daily on the roster, I hope to learn all the students' names. Remembering names is something I am not good at. It takes time. Because I will be chatting with them about lots of things, I hope "Roll Call" can also be a little administrative mental health check in with our kids.

Two Pages...that is it... (for now)

My newsletter will never go over four pages. In the future, I will be sharing positive things I see in classrooms and in schools here😊. I might share some articles too. Until next time... Have a happy weekend!

Sincerely, Dr. R.