



# Foster Flash

Stephen Foster Elementary School  
5223 Bigelow Street, Lakewood, CA 90712  
(562) 804-6518

Mrs. Claudia Castillo, Principal

May/June 2019

Jeana Feolo, PTA President

We have come to the end of our 2018-2019 school year. This year has been filled with adventures and amazing events for our students. For me, being able to become part of the Stephen Foster school community has been a memorable experience. Our students won my heart and admiration from the first day I became their principal. Our students hold their school pledge with pride every day in everything that they do.

*"This day has been given to me fresh and new. I will be prepared, own my actions, lead with character, treat others with respect, and strive for excellence in everything I do."*

Our teachers are also striving for excellence on a daily basis to ensure that our students are learning and achieving academic and social emotional success. I am proud to say that our school is an environment in which our students are being educated always keeping in mind the child as a whole. Our school community is involved and dedicated to ensure that the students are exposed to life learning experiences that will help them grow into well rounded citizens.

It has been a pleasure servicing this amazing school community. I am grateful for all of the support I received from teachers and parents. I am excited and filled with bolting energy to continue building futures for our Stephen Foster students.

Mrs. Claudia Castillo  
Principal

## **Board of Education**

Debbie Cuadros, President  
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Laura Sanchez-Ramirez, Clerk  
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Richard Downing, Member

Ms. Tracy McSparren, Superintendent



*We Build Futures!*

## **Dates to Remember:**

May 21st—24th: 6th Grade Outdoor School  
May 27th: Memorial Day Holiday  
May 31st: Carnival  
June 6th: 6th Grade Promotion 9:00 a.m.  
June 6th: Last day of School  
June 6th: 12:40 p.m. Dismissal

## **School Hours**

8:30am — 2:55pm

## **Remember:**

Every Wednesday is  
1:36pm dismissal

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## President's Message

Congratulations! We have made it to the end of the school year! They seem long and they also seem to fly right on by. As we reflect on the year, my hope is that at the core of that reflection is gratitude for another year's growth.

Thank you to Mrs. Castillo, Terri, Teresa, and the rest of the administration. Thank you to the custodians, counselors, the librarian, the health assistants, and the MANY, MANY others who give countless hours to make our school thrive. Thank you to our remarkable teachers. You are everything. Your guidance, your energy, your lessons, your kindness, your time that goes above and beyond, your high standards, and your creativity are so appreciated. I truly believe Stephen Foster has the VERY BEST teachers!!!

Thank you to all the families and a special thank you to all the children. You have accomplished and learned so much in just one short school year. You were challenged by tests and conquered them. You read countless books, did countless projects, and wrote countless papers. Thank you for your hard work. Thank you for believing in yourself and investing in yourself. You are smarter, stronger, and more capable than you were a year ago. Continue to invest in yourself through education. It is the best investment you will ever make.

Last, thank you to the PTA. I wish I could name every single person and every single thing they did for the school and the kids. PTA events and programs continue to be a cherished tradition at Stephen Foster... all accomplished through a staggering amount of volunteer hours. You are noticed, you are valued, and you will always be remembered for your servitude. We are always looking for help with events and programs. Please contact us on our Facebook Page if you are interested.

Special well wishes and bon voyage to our 6<sup>th</sup> Graders!!!! We know you are ready for middle school. Have confidence in your next journey knowing you are well prepared.

I hope the summer affords you relaxation and abundant blessings.

Kindest Regards,  
Jeana Feolo, PTA President



P.S. Don't Forget to check our Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/sfosterpta](http://www.facebook.com/sfosterpta)

## Testing Update

Quiet Please!



WE ARE TESTING

Whew! Testing is upon us for those students in grades 3-6. If you haven't heard from your child, Stephen Foster students have been working hard and trying to ace the SBAC test since April 22nd. At this point of testing, most students have completed two major tests. These assessments provide your child and the school an overview of their academic growth throughout the school year. Please continue to send your child to school on time daily, so they can be prepared for the test!

*Mrs. Chavez*  
Assistant Principal

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## Teacher Appreciation Week May 6th—May 10th

At Stephen Foster we think our teachers are the best  
and we want to celebrate them!!

We have planned events for each day, if you would like to participate:

**Monday:** Bring your teacher a flower and wear their favorite color

**Tuesday:** Bring your teacher their favorite treat

**Wednesday:** Bring your teacher a gift card

**Thursday:** Bring in a school supply for your classroom

**Friday:** Give your teacher a letter, poem, picture or artwork  
that you created just for them

## 6th Grade Outdoor School May 21st—24th Thousand Pines



Stephen Foster PTA  
invites you to our  
annual carnival  
Friday, May 31st  
4:00—7:00 p.m.

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## How to Avoid the “Summer Slide”

*With Summer coming very soon, I am sure that families are considering looking into summer activities for their students to participate in so they can continue polishing the skills they have begun to develop and work on at school. The following are tips that I have put together gathered from resources that were shared by other educators. I hope you find them useful, and perhaps can practice them with your students this upcoming summer.*

– Ms. White & Mr. Ayala



### Tips to avoid "Summer Slide":

1. **Six books to summer success:** Research shows that reading up to six books during the summer may help a struggling reader with their fluency and comprehension. When choosing the six books it is best for students to choose books within their AR level, that they are not too hard or too easy for them to read.
2. **Visiting the local library:** Ask a librarian for help in selecting books that match your student's age level. Most public libraries have summer reading programs that motivate kids to read.
3. **Keep Reading Aloud:** Reading aloud benefits all children and teens, especially students who are struggling with their fluency and comprehension. One benefit is that you can read books that your child can't, so they will build on their listening and comprehension skills with grade-level and above books.
4. **Writing Journal:** Encourage your child to keep a journal and have your child write stories every week and record special events. Please check their work for: complete sentences and correct structure, capitalization at the beginning of sentences/proper nouns, ending with end marks (.?!), proper spacing between words, and correct spelling of common words.

**Summer Camp:** With a focus on developing the potential of kids, the Los Cerritos YMCA Day Camp Program ensures your child will have a safe positive environment to play, learn, and grow when school is out. A nutritious morning snack and afternoon supper is provided. Full day camp programs require children to bring a sack lunch. Activities include, but are not limited to: swimming, low ropes, rock climbing, summer reading programs, computer lab, and arts & crafts. Hours of Operation: 6:30 am to 6:00 pm, program hours: 9:00 am to 3:30 pm. Also, our local parks offer summer programs; you can check their websites at [lakewoodcity.org](http://lakewoodcity.org) or [Bellflower.org](http://Bellflower.org) for more information.



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May 6th—10th  
Library

May 24th  
4th Grade  
Gold Rush Days



May 31st  
5th Grade  
Reenactment



6th Grade Promotion  
Thursday, June 14th 9:00 a.m.  
Stephen Foster Field

Guests will enter through the gate on Fidler Avenue  
Seating will begin at 8:45 a.m.



The last day of school is  
**Thursday, June 6th**  
School will be dismissed at  
**12:40 p.m.**

Have a safe and relaxing summer!  
School begins in the fall  
on **August 15th, 2019.**



Please sign and return bottom portion of this page indicating that a parent or guardian has read the newsletter for the month of May/June (There will be a drawing at flag salute each month for a special prize.)

I have read the May/June Foster Flash:

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Student's name \_\_\_\_\_ Room Number \_\_\_\_\_