

August 15th, 2016

Dear Loma Verde Parents and Families,

I hope each one of you has had the kind of summer that Brian Wilson described when he said, "*Summer means happy times and good sunshine. It means going to the beach, going to Disneyland, having fun.*" With the exception of Disneyland, I took his words to heart and spent most of July enjoying happy times, good sunshine and having fun!

I am so excited to welcome you to a superb school year at Loma Verde. There are some new faces around campus this year. Tracy Pickard is our new Office Manager. Also, Pam McMurphy will be our new Resource Specialist and John Ferber is our Tech II this year. Coincidentally, all our new staff members are joining us from Lynwood. We are thrilled to have all of them join the LV family!

Loma Verde's focus for this school year will be the idea of "Connections." Educational research has shown that the strength of the connection between the teacher and the student has a direct impact on the student's motivation, achievement, and overall well-being. This year, we want to take that phenomenon deeper and beyond the classroom. The following are a few examples that highlight our focus on "Connections."

- Repackaging Homework: All students will be assigned daily reading, math fluency practice, online/individualized learning, and occasional projects. We believe, as research has shown, that the time at home is best spent CONNECTING with parents and siblings in meaningful ways.
- "I AM" Program: We will be expanding the "I AM" Program this year to make students CONNECT with the positive qualities within themselves. This program will also help students CONNECT with each other by celebrating other students' positive qualities.
- School Assemblies: Once a month, the entire LV community will get a chance to CONNECT with each other in celebrating our strengths and achievements and learning about what it means to be part of a larger community.
- Project Based Learning (PBL): With the support of our district, teachers are being trained in delivering instruction using a PBL approach. The PBL approach allows students to learn in a way that CONNECTS content across multiple disciplines. The teachers will also use a rubric that will help assess how well students are developing their skill to collaborate on any given project.
- Cheema Chats: Once a month, I invite all parents to come to school to CONNECT with each other while learning about all the wonderful things that are happening at LV. If you have any questions about any of the highlights shared in this letter, join us at the very first Cheema Chat on September 8th at 8:45 am.

I am grateful for all your support for our school and most importantly for our wonderful students. I look forward to CONNECTING with all of you in the this year. See you on August 18th.

Tehniat Cheema
Principal

TK/Kindergarten Orientation - August 17th @ 3pm

First Day of School - August 18th

Back to School Night - August 25th @ 6pm

College Bound BBQ - September 16th

NEW Website: www.lomaverde.nusd.org Twitter: @LomaVerdeBears FB: Loma Verde Elementary