



SUPERINTENDENT NEWSLETTER

Spring Has Sprung

This month's newsletter highlights several areas of strong momentum across our district: updates on our "Field of Dreams" initiative and the community input shaping that vision; progress on our Food Services RFP process; a recap of our first annual Las Lomas Spelling Bee; and important information about Math Pathways for the coming school year. Each reflects the engagement and collaboration that make this community so special.

I also want to recognize our Board of Trustees for their steady leadership and willingness to make difficult, balanced decisions as part of our budget-reduction efforts. Our preliminary projections indicate that by June, we will present a **balanced budget across the next three years** — no small accomplishment given where we began this year.

I'm also pleased to share that our **negotiations with LLEA** have been positive and productive. Both sides reached a tentative agreement on all items, including compensation. More detailed information will follow in a separate communication.

The future is bright in LLESD, and I'm grateful for the continued support, partnership, and encouragement from our staff, families, and community.

I hope to see many of you at this year's **LLEF Rodeo**— check the newsletter for ticket information.

In partnership,
Erik Burmeister
Superintendent



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Message from the Board President



I'm grateful for the strong community engagement around our Prop 4 "Field of Dreams" grant.

I'm excited by the positive momentum across the district. As we move through interviews for key leadership positions—including the **Director of Curriculum & Instruction** and the **La Entrada Principal**—I'm encouraged by the strength of the candidates and by what it signals about LLESD's direction.

At the same time, our team is working to eliminate the structural deficit and make decisions that position the district for **long-term stability**. One example is the **La Entrada bell schedule redesign**, which will provide greater predictability for students and staff while generating meaningful ongoing savings.

I'm also proud of the community response to our Prop 4 "Field of Dreams" grant effort — your engagement has been inspiring. Find more details below, including how to complete the survey before **April 8**.

In partnership,
Kimberly Legg
President, LLESD Board of Trustees

"Field of Dreams" Update: Community Input Sessions and Survey

Thank you to everyone who attended one of our five community input sessions for the Prop 4 Park Grant application in partnership with the City of Menlo Park. Your voice is a critical part of this process and strengthens our application.

We were encouraged by the strong participation from across our community, and your input is already shaping how we are thinking about both the project and the application.

Our goal is to reach **300** survey responses. We are currently at **240**.

To help us get there, we are extending the survey deadline by one additional week.

If you haven't had a chance yet, please take a few minutes to [complete the survey](#) by **April 8, 2026**.

We are eager to hear what you value most about our current open spaces—and how you would like to see the La Entrada field and surrounding areas evolve to better serve our community.

Thank you for your continued engagement and support.

Design Team Spring Updates

Design Team & Advisory Committee Spring Updates

This year, we launched Design Teams and Advisory Committees to help guide key areas of focus across the district. These groups—made up primarily of staff, along with parent and student voices—have engaged in thoughtful, collaborative work grounded in continuous improvement. Some teams are ongoing and explore broad areas, such as Literacy, while others are more targeted and time-bound, such as the La Entrada Bell Schedule.

Now, eight months in, several teams are moving from ideation to prototyping and recommendation. Below are brief updates on progress and next steps.

MTSS Design Team

The team has been working to strengthen how we coordinate support for students. A key focus is ensuring specialist services are scheduled to maximize students' access to core instruction. The team is also exploring data platforms that give a more complete picture of student progress, supporting stronger collaboration and more timely responses to student needs.



Math Pathways Design Team

Preliminary pathways have been shared with 5th-grade families as students prepare for 6th grade. Summer bridge opportunities (online and in-person) are in development, building on the early success of the morning bridge program, which has already supported 20+ students in moving to compacted pathways. End-of-course assessments for grades 4–8 will be administered this year to support placement and instruction. The Board is expected to act on the prototype at its **April 15 meeting**.

Literacy Design Team

In March, the team gathered broad input through student and teacher focus groups, empathy interviews, and surveys open to K–8 students, staff, and families. A full-day session on March 25 reviewed these findings, which will inform the next steps in building a strong, cohesive district-wide literacy program.

Wellness Design Team

At Las Lomas: new activity bulletin boards are helping students explore play options and connect with peers during lunch recess; student input will shape a planned blacktop refresh this summer; and calming corners are being reinvigorated to support emotional regulation. At La Entrada: expanded seating options are being prototyped for recess, and the team is working to ensure consistent access to menstrual products.

Great Place to Work Design Team

The team is developing a new Employee Handbook — a centralized, user-friendly resource on the district website connecting staff to key information, tools, and contacts. Best practices from other districts are shaping the final product, with the goal of making systems easier to navigate so staff can stay focused on students.

Sustainability Advisory Committee

Composting pilots are launching at both schools in the coming weeks — engaging 2nd graders at Las Lomas and 5th graders at La Entrada — to refine the training, signage, and systems that support student participation and meet state requirements.

La Entrada Bell Schedule Design Team

The team is making strong progress on a seven-period schedule for 2026–27, currently under staff review. Given the complexity of the transition, next year will serve as a one-year pilot with built-in opportunities for feedback and refinement. We appreciate the thoughtful input from staff, students, and families. Board action is expected at the **May 6 meeting**.

AI + EDU Advisory Committee

The committee recommends adopting Google's suite of AI-supported platforms to enhance teaching and learning. The recommendation balances innovation with strong data privacy protections, keeping student information secure. Tools are designed to streamline administrative tasks, expand instructional resources, and support more personalized learning — reflecting the district's commitment to responsible, ethical AI use.



Learning Community Updates

Celebrating Autism Acceptance Month

April is Autism Acceptance Month — a reminder to celebrate the strengths, perspectives, and contributions of students on the autism spectrum, not just this month, but always.

At LLESD, we believe neurodiversity makes our community stronger. That means building classrooms where every student is genuinely included — not just present, but seen, supported, and valued for who they are.

We invite our community to keep learning, listening, and showing up for all our learners.



Register Now: Champions Summer & 2026–27 Care

LLESD's after-school and summer care partner, Champions, is now enrolling for summer programs and the 2026–27 school year.

Summer Camp runs June 15–August 14 (closed July 3) at Las Lomas Elementary for preschool through school-age students. With weekly themes like STEM, creativity, outdoor exploration, and movement, campers stay active, build skills, and have fun—all with flexible full- and half-day options.

[Learn more about summer options here.](#)

Champions also offers before- and after-school care during the school year, including Kinderwrap and elementary programs that support learning and connection beyond the school day.

[Details and registration for 2026–27 programming are available here.](#)



Math Pathways Update

Our work to refine math pathways in LLESD is ongoing — thoughtful, deliberate, and designed to build a system that is clear, rigorous, and flexible for all students.

Thank you to families who joined our January Math Town Halls. If you missed it, the [presentation deck and recording are still available online](#). (Scroll midway down the page for Math Pathways updates.)

The Board is scheduled to review the Math Pathways proposal at its April 15 meeting. Following Board action, we'll share more detailed information. In the meantime, **there is nothing families need to do.**

Students in grades 4–8 will take end-of-year math assessments in May, with **placement recommendations shared in late May or early June**. For most students, the process will feel familiar. The most noticeable shift will be for rising 6th graders entering middle school math pathways for the first time.

For current 5th-grade families interested in the two-year compacted pathway (leading to Geometry in 8th grade), both in-person and online Bridge course options will be available. **More details will follow after April 15.**

Recommendations are flexible, based on multiple measures, and designed to support the right balance of challenge and success for each student. At its core, this work is about making a good system clearer and easier to navigate — *we'll keep you informed every step of the way.*

After School Math Center

The After School Math Center offers La Entrada students a welcoming, low-pressure space to get support in math. Led by **Mr. Anagnostou** — known as **Mr. A** — the center is open to all 6th–8th graders on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays from 3:15–4:00 p.m. in Room 41.

Students can drop in for homework help, lesson reteaching, missed work, and quiz or test retakes. We encourage students to take advantage of this resource to build confidence and stay on track.



Spelling Bee

Las Lomas recently hosted what may have been its first Spelling Bee in many years — a celebration of academic courage, joyful learning, and community spirit.

81 students participated across first through third grade, correctly spelling **253 words** and showcasing remarkable preparation and composure. First and second graders tackled words like *suspicious*, *eccentric*, and *winsome*; third graders impressed with *chartreuse*, *delphine*, and *puissance*.

This year's top spellers:

- First Grade: **Ved**, and **Devan/Clara** (tie)
- Second Grade: **Rhea**, **Selina**, and **Augie**
- Third Grade: **Nika**, **Soomin**, and **Selina** (2nd grade)

Beyond the results, the event reflected something bigger: students embracing challenge, taking risks, and cheering one another on — a reminder that learning can be both rigorous and joyful.

A heartfelt thank you to parent **Nick Lum**, who spearheaded the event from start to finish, and to student volunteers **Anya**, **Finn**, **Haruto**, **Ian**, and **Phoebe** and parent volunteers **Keh-Li**, **Brandon**, and **Ashwini** for making the day run smoothly.

We hope this marks the beginning of a renewed tradition. Interested in helping next year? Reach out to **Nick** at gnicholas@gmail.com.

Friends Conference

On March 7, LLESD hosted the “**Friends**” **One-Day Conference** — a meaningful gathering for children and adults who stutter, their families, allies, and speech-language pathologists. Now in its second consecutive year at Las Lomas, the event was made possible through the leadership of **Annick Tumolo**, LLESD Speech and Language Pathologist, whose expertise in fluency and stuttering continues to strengthen our district and the broader professional community.

The day featured keynote presentations, panel discussions, and small group sessions tailored for children, teens, parents, and professionals, with continuing education units available for SLPs and graduate students. Nearly **100 participants** attended, including **29 families** and adults who stutter, sharing their experiences.

Keynote speaker **Nina G** — a nationally recognized comedian, stuttering advocate, and person who stutters — brought humor, insight, and lived experience to the day. University partners from CSU East Bay, San José State, and CSU Monterey Bay participated alongside graduate student volunteers who supported children's programming.

We're proud that Las Lomas served as host for such an impactful event, and deeply grateful to **Annick** and everyone who helped make it possible.



District Updates

E-Bike Policy Update

As e-bikes and scooters have grown rapidly in popularity, particularly among middle schoolers, LLESD is updating its approach to campus safety and transportation policy.

The Governing Board will consider updates to its Safe Routes to School Policy (BP 5142) at its June 4 meeting, including potential restrictions on Class 2 and Class 3 e-bikes, e-motos, e-scooters, and e-boards for students under 16.

Families are encouraged to review the [San Mateo County Office of Education's E-Bike Toolkit](#). Questions may be directed to Wellness Coordinator Nell Curran at ncurran@llesd.org.



Food Service Update: RFP Process Underway

LLESD is currently engaged in a Request for Proposal (RFP) process to identify a food service vendor for the coming school years — an important opportunity to ensure high-quality meals within the constraints of school nutrition programs.

School food service is highly regulated, particularly for small, basic-aid districts like ours, and a limited number of vendors are equipped to meet federal and state requirements. To increase competitiveness, LLESD partnered with three other small districts on a joint RFP — and we're encouraged that six qualified vendors submitted proposals, including our current provider, **The LunchMaster**.

A regional taste test hosted by San Carlos School District included LLESD staff and parent representatives, ensuring student experience — alongside nutrition and cost — is part of the evaluation. Our goal is to bring a recommendation to the Board before the end of the school year.

For families wanting more context, LLESD has developed a [Food Service FAQ](#) covering our program, nutritional requirements, and the RFP process.



Community Survey on Potential Parcel Tax

LLESD's political consultant and polling partner have begun surveying residents and taxpayers to gather input on a potential parcel tax. Polling will occur between **March 30 and April 21**.

This feedback will help inform the Board as it considers whether and when to pursue a parcel tax as part of broader efforts to balance the budget while sustaining strong programs and long-term financial stability.

If you receive a text, call, or email, we hope you will take a moment to participate—*your input matters.*

To learn more about the Board's ongoing discussions, please review this year's Board meeting agendas, minutes, and [videos](#).



LLEF Community Campaign Launch

A heartfelt thank-you to the hundreds of families who have invested in the LLEF Annual Campaign — your generosity directly supports the programs that make this district exceptional.

We're still aiming for 100% participation; if you haven't yet, please consider investing at www.llef.org/invest.

This spring, LLEF is expanding its reach for the first time with a broader Community Campaign launching in early April. A direct mailer will go to all residents, businesses, and community members in the LLESD area. District families are invited to serve as ambassadors — spread the word with neighbors and local businesses to help make this first-ever expansion a success.

You Made the Book Fair a Success

Thank you to our incredible LE community for making the Used Book Fair such a success. The generosity of families who donated books, volunteered, and came out to browse and purchase created a bookstore's worth of opportunity for our students and community.

The event, led by parent **Rosemary Hintz** and the LE PTA, reflects what makes our community special — giving books a second life promotes a love of reading while supporting recycling and reuse.

Proceeds will support **Rise Against Hunger**, a global nonprofit dedicated to ending hunger through nutritious meals and sustainable food systems. Unsold books have been donated to local education nonprofits, further extending the impact.

Thank you to everyone who made this event so meaningful.





APRIL 18

LLEF Donuts & Donations for Auction



Join us at Las Lomas on **Saturday, April 18th, from 9:00–10:30 am** for a fun, family-friendly morning of donuts, coffee, and community connection. This is a great chance to meet other families, enjoy a treat, and support the LLEF Auction in a meaningful way.

We're inviting families to bring an auction item valued at \$100 or more. To make the event even more exciting, here are some high-impact items we're hoping to feature this year:

- **Getaways:** ski weekends, beach vacations, wine-country escapes, cabins
- **Experiences:** zipline adventures, sailing excursions, guided hikes, tours
- **Tickets & Access:** Giants or 49ers tickets, concert tickets, theater passes
- **Hosted Events:** themed dinners, cooking classes, mixology nights
- **Lessons & Services:** music lessons, sports coaching, photography sessions

To donate an item for the auction, use this link [here](#), or email us at auktion@llef.org



TUES, APRIL 21

Ready, Tech, Go!

How do we raise kids thoughtfully in a screen-filled world? Join fellow Las Lomas and La Entrada families for Ready, Tech, Go! — a peer-to-peer program developed by National PTA and AT&T that helps families navigate screen readiness, digital safety, and healthy device use together.

The event is designed around conversation: attendees break into small groups to share questions, swap strategies, and tackle the real challenges of parenting in the digital age.

Made possible by a \$1,500 National PTA grant awarded to La Entrada PTA.

When: Tuesday, April 21, 2026, 6:30 @ La Entrada (room TBD)

Who: All district families invited (LL& LE), as well as community members, are invited



MAY 16

LLEF Rodeo & Auction



Dust off your boots and join us for the Annual LLEF Rodeo & Auction on **Saturday, May 16th, from 5:30–9:30 pm** at Las Lomas. This beloved community event brings the LLESD parents, staff, and community together for an evening of fun, dancing, great food, beer, wine, cocktails, and philanthropy in support of our schools.

Tickets can be [purchased here](#). Early bird ticket prices are \$125 per ticket through **April 15**.



Stay Connected

Important Dates

Wednesday, April 1

LLEF Community Campaign Launch

Friday, April 3

End of 3rd Quarter

Monday-Friday, April 6-10

Spring Break

Wednesday, April 15

Board Meeting

6:30-9:30pm at LE MUR

Saturday, April 18

LLEF Donuts & Donations

9:00-10:30 at Las Lomitas

Tuesday, April 21

SBAC Staffing Meeting

3:15-5pm at District Office Conf. Room

Tuesday, April 21

Ready, Tech, Go!

6:30pm at La Entrada

Wednesday, May 6

Board Meeting

Saturday, May 16

LLEF Rodeo & Auction

5:30pm at Las Lomitas

June 22 - July 17

Summer School Program

Resources & Links

La Entrada Field Community Input
[Online survey](#)

LLESD LinkedIn Profile
[Link to LinkedIn](#)

Las Lomitas Education Foundation
Auction tickets: [Link here](#)
Donate an item: [Link here](#)
Invest: llef.org/invest

Board Contact
schoolboard@llesd.org
Kimberly Legg: klegg@llesd.org

Superintendent Contact
eburmeister@llesd.org

District Website
<https://www.llesd.org>

Las Lomitas PTA
<https://www.laslomitaspta.org>

La Entrada PTA
<https://www.laentradapta.org>



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