



ISSUE NO.5

LAS LOMITAS ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL DISTRICT

DECEMBER 2025

SUPERINTENDENT NEWSLETTER

The Power of Community

As we close out the 2025 calendar year, I find myself reflecting on a year filled with positive energy, real progress, and so much student learning worth celebrating. Our classrooms are alive with curiosity, our staff continues to innovate and collaborate, and our community has shown remarkable partnership throughout a year of important work.

This month, we will present the district's First Interim Budget at the December 10 Board meeting. This update includes new assumptions reviewed by the Superintendent Budget Advisory Committee and reflects a healthier financial outlook as our Balanced Budget Initiative takes hold. We will also begin a transparent conversation about whether—and when—a parcel tax might be needed to prevent deeper cuts in the years ahead.

The encouraging news is that our financial runway continues to lengthen. With careful planning and community partnership, we are buying ourselves time to make thoughtful decisions, protect the programs we value most, and ensure strong support for our students and staff.

I hope you'll tune in on December 10. Your engagement makes our district stronger.

Warmly,
Erik Burmeister
Superintendent



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Message from the Board President



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*This is an
exciting time for
Las Lomitas*

On behalf of the Board, it is my pleasure to report progress in the best school district in the country.

We adopted stricter financial policies and administrative regulations to responsibly manage district funds and prevent misuse. During our November special session, the Board also adopted a corrective action plan to address the county's extraordinary audit recommendations.

This is an exciting time for Las Lomitas, and the Board is honored to be part of the momentum. We are moving forward to focus the district on academic success for every student, a positive school culture, and a dynamic partnership with our families and community.

Sincerely,
Paige Winikoff
President, LLESD Board of Trustees
schoolboard@llesd.org

Transitional Kindergarten Info Night

Date: Thursday, January 8 | **Time:** 6:00–7:00 PM

Location: Cano Hall at Las Lomitas School | [Click here to RSVP](#)

LLESD invites families to learn about our Transitional Kindergarten (TK) program. TK is the first year of a two-year kindergarten program for four and five-year-olds. It addresses language, literacy, and pre-math skills with emphasis on social-emotional development and learning through play.

Credentialed teachers with early childhood training teach the program 5 days a week from 8:15 AM–1:30 PM. Students explore, create, and learn through play-based activities that integrate social-emotional, fine motor, and academic skills to build a strong foundation for kindergarten. To learn more, visit the [TK page](#).



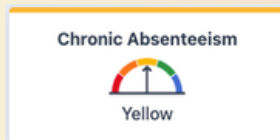
CA School Dashboard

The California Department of Education (CDE) is pleased to announce the public release of the 2025 California School Dashboard and DataQuest Reports.

The Dashboard is available at the [CA School Dashboard site](#). In addition, the following reports are available on the [School Dashboard Additional Reports and Data web page](#)

We have strong positive feedback and two areas of improvement. There are five color bands, red to blue, with blue being the highest achievement and red being the lowest achievement.

Opportunities for Improvement

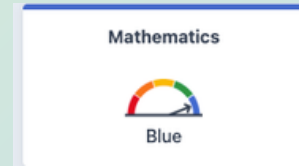


Chronic Absenteeism: Two student groups are in red (students with disabilities and socioeconomically disadvantaged) and two in yellow (white and English learners). Our new attendance monitoring system should reduce chronic absenteeism.

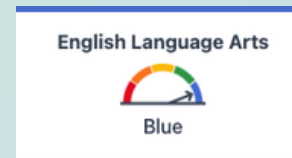


English Learner Progress: We experienced a decline of 7.3% of our ELs making progress towards English Proficiency. This is an area of focus for both sites.

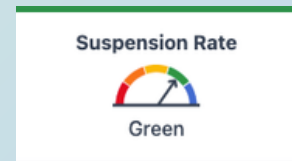
Positive Feedback



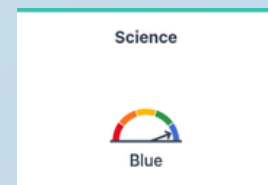
Math: We maintained our blue status with no student groups in red or yellow.



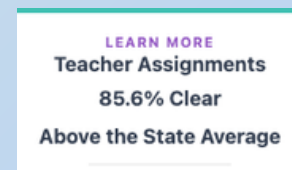
ELA: We maintained our blue status with no student groups in red or yellow.



Suspension Rate: We maintained our green status with no student groups in red or yellow.



Science*: Blue status. We have no student groups in red or yellow.



Teacher Assignments*: This is the new indicator that Mark and Val presented on in October.

**As of this year, this is informational only. Next year there will be comparison data.*

Learning Community Updates

Ladera Creates Neighborhood Portal

LLESD's tenant at the Ladera site, Woodland School, has created a [Ladera Neighborhood Portal](#) on its website consolidating all school-related information for neighbors. It includes a live calendar of community events, athletics, holidays, and major events. Lease, CUP, and MOU documents are available, along with all community communication.

In January, Summer Camp information will be added for Ladera registration. Woodland's goal is housing information in one accessible location. LLESD hopes the website provides what Laderans need. Neighbors are encouraged to provide suggestions directly to Woodland School.



Volunteers Bring *la conversation* Back to French 2

This fall, three amazing volunteers—**Justin Dust Zadeh**, **Christine Arnould**, and **Elena Strelchenko**—stepped forward to support students by facilitating small French conversation groups of 2–4 students each week, bringing energy, authenticity, and **joie de vivre** to our French 2 program. **Un grand merci à vous trois.**

Earlier this year, when our French teacher took a leave of absence, we shifted French 2 to online learning to maintain continuity. While effective, online learning can't fully replace conversation—the heart of language acquisition.

Thanks to these volunteers, students now speak, listen, and connect *en français* with real humans in real time.

Their support exemplifies what happens when a community rallies around learners: stronger skills, greater confidence, and meaningful connection. *C'est magnifique.*





Apple for the Classroom - \$93,934 raised!

Thanks to our generous community, this year's Apple for the Classroom campaign raised \$93,934 by the November 19 deadline—and LLEF's overall Annual Campaign has reached \$850,000 toward their \$1 million goal!

Apple for the Classroom directs the first \$200 of every LLEF investment (per child, per family) straight to teachers for innovation. Teachers across both schools now have resources to bring creative ideas to life—hands-on materials, author visits, science experiments, and field experiences.

Your investment gives teachers flexibility to respond to student needs in the moment. Thank you for supporting teacher innovation and excellence at LLESD.

See how funds are being used: llef.org/apple

We Want to Hear About Your Family's Math Experience

Our Math Pathways Design Team has been working this fall to improve middle school math offerings and deepen engagement and differentiation—both support and extension—across elementary grades. As we shape the next phase of math instruction, your perspective is essential.

The team created a brief [Math Experience Survey](#) that takes about 10 minutes. We encourage all parents and caregivers to share insights. The survey is anonymous and open **through Friday, December 19.**

If you have multiple LLESD children, you may complete the survey for each if your feedback differs. Otherwise, complete one survey with your oldest LLESD child in mind.

Students in grades 1–8 will also complete a student version during math instruction before December 19. Their perspectives are equally important.

Your voice matters in designing math pathways that meet our community's needs. Thank you for your partnership. [Click here](#) to take the survey by Dec. 19!



CONGRATULATIONS

Celebrating Our Language Learners



On November 7, Las Lomitas School celebrated 31 students who achieved Reclassified English Proficient (RFEP) status! Families, ELD teachers, administrators, and district staff gathered to honor this milestone.



Reclassification takes determination and hard work. Students must demonstrate mastery in listening, speaking, reading, and writing—and earn the top score of Level 4 on the summative ELPAC.

Each student has shown what it means to set a goal and achieve it. Because being bilingual (or multilingual!) is a superpower, students received bright red capes with that message.

Special thanks to **Mrs. Webster** and **Student Leadership** for creating the beautiful banner backdrop. Each bubble featured "Congratulations" translated into languages represented in our district—reflecting the diversity that makes our community special.

We celebrate our students and the families, teachers, and staff who supported them. Congratulations to our newly reclassified students—your success inspires us all!



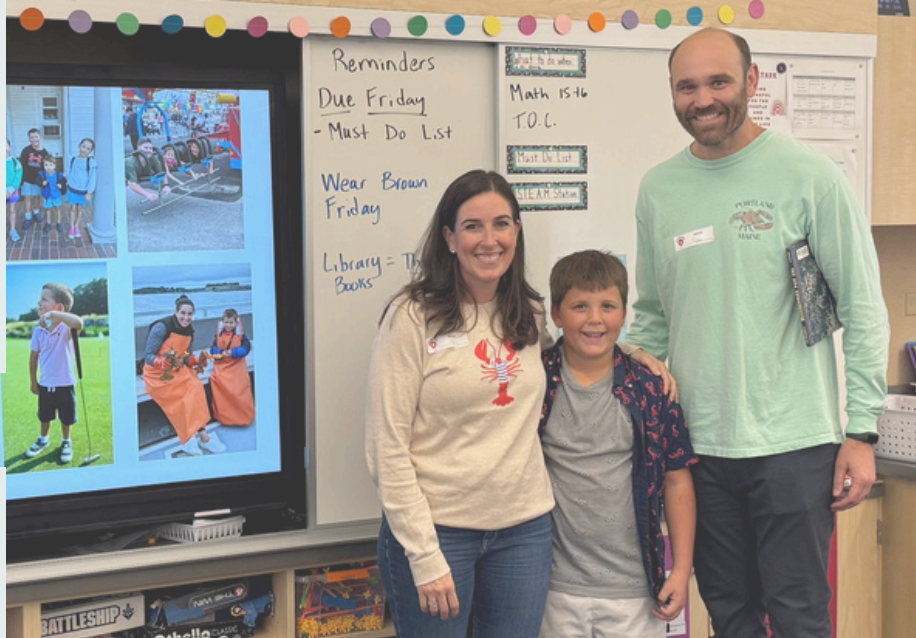
Operations & Tech Updates

Fresh Water, Healthier Staff, Greener Schools

This fall, our MOT team installed water-filtration systems in staff lounges and nurses' offices at both schools, plus the District Office and Bus Yard/Shop kitchen areas.

Look for new placards above designated sinks marking where filtered drinking water is available. Why? To give staff easy access to clean, filtered water and eliminate plastic bottles on campus.

Our MOT crew will regularly check and replace filters. Clean water supports wellness. Fewer plastic bottles support the planet.



AI Advisory Committee

Our Superintendent's advisory committee on Artificial Intelligence has also been showing the power of community. It brings diverse perspectives on our future from teachers, paraeducators, non-credentialed staff and management.

Juan Lopez, the Support Technician for La Entrada, hopes AI will help reduce the administrative burdens of the start of the school year, allowing the community to focus more on students' excitement to learn and see their friends.

Joanne Lepech (1st grade teacher) and **Megan Scatena** (middle school electives), set out a vision of AI as powerful tool that we will embrace for students' academic, college and career success.

All of these ideas and excitement were invested into the first draft of **LLESB's AI policy**, which will be further refined by Superintendent Burmeister and the Board.

The AI committee, powered by its diverse community, has been dreaming big!



Stay Connected

Important Dates

Wednesday, December 3
Staff Meeting

Friday, December 19
Minimum Day

December 22 - January 2
Winter Break

Monday, January 5
Professional Development
*No students

Thursday, January 8
TK Info Night
Time: 6:00 - 7:00 PM
Location: Cano Hall on the Las Lomitas
School campus
[Click here to RSVP](#)

Get Involved



Take the [Math Experience Survey](#)
by December 19th

Join a design team or committee:
Contact eburmeister@llesd.org

Volunteer at our after-school math center:
Email aanagnostou@llesd.org

Resources

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

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

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

Las Lomitas Education Fund
<https://www.llef.org>

CA School Dashboard
<https://www.caschooldashboard.org/>



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Inclusive. Engaging. Inspiring.

