



**JAMES LICK
HIGH SCHOOL**
A NEW TECH
SCHOOL

The Comet Optimist

2019/2020 Monthly Newsletter - Volume 4



PRINCIPAL'S PERSPECTIVE

With six months or one semester serving this community, it has been so inspiring be a part of such an outstanding team. Each month I have had the opportunity to develop a deeper admiration for all that we do to support student learning and success.
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PILLAR OF THE MONTH COLLABORATION

With pending budget cuts and many key decisions needing to be made this month, we will need our focus this month to be all about COLLABORATION. Let's show each other and our community how our James Lick unity shines!



JANUARY HIGHLIGHTS

It has been so great getting back into the swing of things. January had some exciting events to kick off the new year!

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FEBRUARY PREVIEWS

While February has the end of the marking period and another vacation, it is also full of major decisions and key steps to be made.

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PRINCIPAL'S PERSPECTIVE

CELEBRATING COLLECTIVE EFFICACY!

WASC APPEAL GRANTED!!!

It gives me overwhelming joy to announce that our WASC appeal was approved, and we have been granted the full re-affirmation of our accreditation for the next six years!!! The appeal team was able to determine that while we acknowledge areas we will need to improve, we have demonstrated tremendous growth and success with our student learning and achievement. They also determined that members from the previous visiting team from last year demonstrated implicit bias and did not follow the required process for their review of our school. This means that we will continue to work on the areas we identified in our action plan, and we will send WASC a mid-term progress report in our third year of this cycle.

CONGRATULATIONS EVERYONE!!!

Over the past six months I have had the opportunity to dive deep into the institutional and community history of James Lick by reading through hundreds of documents in the archives of past administrations over the past 10 years, engaging in probing discussions with many of you about your experiences with our Comet traditions, and reflecting on all the different changes and developments over the years. I have also been so fortunate to get to know so many families that make up our local community and to hear their perspectives about having us educate and support their children. The more I learn about our history and the more I connect with each of you and our greater community, the more inspired and honored I am to serve this great school.

WITH DEEP ADMIRATION,

Marco

JANUARY HIGHLIGHTS



COLLECTIVELY RE-EMPHASIZING OUR GROWTH MINDSET

We all came back in January rejuvenated and motivated to start off a new decade positively and optimistically.

1. Latinx Mural Unveiling – Thanks to the Google donors, Local Color, the muralists, and our fabulous art teachers, we now have a beautiful mural on display in our Hub for all to enjoy. With each viewing you can see more!

2. Advisors Presentation on MTSS Strategies – Ms. Cabigas and Mr. Rosas gave our entire staff a crash course on strategies for supporting appropriate student behavior and the UBR. We learned about the importance of recognizing positive behavior more frequently than correcting negative behaviors. Great job team!

3. A/B Days PD – We also enjoyed another round of workshops mostly led by our very own Comets! Topics included de-escalation, supporting at risk students, culturally responsive teaching, mindfulness, cornell notes, writing lab reports, supporting students with autism, using the Canvas LMS, and data driven instruction. AWESOME!

Committees Corner

- SSC – Reviewed behavioral data relating to the SPSA and reviewed the plan budget.
- ITL – Reviewed department updates and discussed the master schedule for 20-21
- PD Comm – Reviewed plans for the remaining A/B Days for this semester
- 18.4 – Discussed the structural challenges and benefits of Counseling Tuesdays, the future of iMentor, and the need for gathering more feedback.
- AP Comm – Planned lunch meetings and mock exams; wrote course descriptions;
- CCA – Did not meet in January. Next meeting 2/26.



FEBRUARY PREVIEW

The three weeks this month that we have school are power packed with a lot of important stuff that will drive our COLLABORATION.

- 1. Planning for the next year** – Spread out over a few different shared governance committees, we will begin planning many aspects for the 2020-2021 school year. Topics include a culture campaign, master scheduling, college and career guidance, PD, and Title I funding. We hope everyone will offer their voice in these processes.
- 2. Food Fair & Comet Gala** – Our students coordinated a very successful Food Fair and the first Comet Gala to present a wide range of talent represented in our community. Both events were fantastic!
- 3. Texas New Tech School Visit** – On February 27th, we will be hosting a team from a small district in Texas. They will be given a tour of the school including several classes, hear from different panels of teachers, students, and admin, as well as learn about our approaches to meeting the New Tech outcomes. I'm sure our community will make them feel welcome and inspired!
- 4. 8th Grade Family Night – Thursday, Feb. 27th – 6-8 PM** – It's that time of year when we welcome our future Comet families to our campus and give them a taste of what makes us so special. Let's all come together to show this community how we cast a glow!

IMPORTANT DATES

February				
M	T	W	Th	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28

Mon, 2/3 – All Staff Meeting

Thurs, 2/6 – Anti-bully Rally Schedule

Fri, 2/7 – Comet Gala

Sat, 2/8 – Saturday Academy

Mon, 2/10 – Department Meetings

Tues, 2/11 – 18.4 Committee

Fri, 2/14 – Marking Period 4 Ends

2/17-2/21 WINTER VACATION!!!

Mon, 2/24 – Grade Level Meeting & ITL Meeting

Tues, 2/25 – School Site Council Meeting

Wed, 2/26 – CCA Meeting

Wed, 2/26 – PD Committee

Thurs, 2/27 – Visiting school from Texas

Thurs, 2/27 – 8th Grade Family Night

