

WELCOME TO  
Alvarado Elementary



Incoming Kindergarten  
School Year 2019 - 2020

# Welcome Incoming Kindergarten Families!

We are so excited to welcome you to Alvarado Elementary!

Alvarado Elementary is more than a school; it is an amazing community. We are a community that values languages, arts, cultures and social justice.

Our mission is to reach and teach the heart and soul of the child through a fertile language experience, Reader's and Writer's workshops, differentiated math and an emphasis on the arts and sciences. We believe community, equity and the transformative power of a challenging education help our students reach their potential.

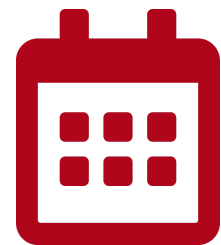
The beginning of the school year is an exciting time full of anticipation, enthusiasm and even some trepidation for both you and your student. We hope that the following pages provide useful information to help ease your child's transition to kindergarten.

Enjoy the journey and welcome to the Alvarado community!

## Important Dates

Beginning for School Year 2019 - 2020

- Welcome New Families Spring Social, Friday, May 10 at 5:00pm to 6:00pm
- Summer Playdates are currently being planned. Specific dates and times will be posted on the school website and our Facebook Page soon!
- New Family TK/Kindergarten Orientation, Friday, August 16 at 8:00 am
- **First Day of School, Monday, August 19 at 7:50 am**
- Back-to-School Night is a few weeks after the start of school. Back-To-School night gives you a chance to see you child's classroom, meet their teacher and hear about what's ahead during the kindergarten year. Date and time will be posted at a later date.



# 1st Day of School

It's a full day! School starts at 7:50 am and the kindergarten day ends at 1:45 pm. On the first 3 days of school (Monday - Wednesday) your child will skip community circle and head straight to a kindergarten classroom. They will spend time in both classrooms depending on their pathway (Spanish Immersion or General Ed), so the teachers can get to know the students and find what will be a good balance for the benefit of all students. On day 4 (Thursday), teachers will post class assignments on their doors and school entrances.

**Immediately following drop off on the 1st day of school, all parents are invited to a PTA welcome coffee with parents and our principal Dr. Laurie Murdock in the cafeteria.**

## Community Circle

Every morning at 7:50 am we start our day in the upper yard. Our PE teacher leads the entire school in a 10-minute exercise session with music! Following exercise, our principal, Dr. Murdock shares announcements, songs and recognizes students' achievements. We encourage parents to stay for community circle. Kindergartners are led to their classroom by their teacher at the end of community circle.

## Kindergarten Daily Schedule

- 7:50 am Community Circle in the Upper Yard
- 9:00 am Morning Recess followed by Daily Snack
- 10:50 am Lunch followed by Recess
- 11:35 am Back to Classroom
- 1:45 pm Kindergarten Dismissal

# Daily Snack

Kindergartners have daily snack in the morning after morning recess. Parents provide the snacks for their child's entire class, approximately 22 students. There will be a sign-up sheet in the classroom the first week of school organized by the room parent. You can sign up for any two weeks of the school year at your convenience. Your teacher will have an area in the classroom to drop off snacks for distribution.

**Alvarado Elementary is a nut free school!**

# Kindergarten Teachers

## General Education

- Ms. Z (Zwemer), Room K2
- Ms. Samocha, Room KL

## Spanish Immersion

- Maestra Herrera, Room K1
- Maestra Sapper, Room KR

# What to Bring to School

Your child will need a backpack big enough to fit an 8" x 14" folder, plus a sweater/jacket and lunchbox (if they bring their own lunch). For kindergarten all other appropriate materials will be provided at school.

# Weekly Enrichments

Thanks to our PTA community and fundraising efforts; our kindergarteners have many enrichment opportunities throughout the week.

The schedules vary per classroom but every week the students get dedicated time in the Art Studio for Art, Reading with 4th-5th grade Book Buddies, Computers and

Technology, Motor Skills and PE. On a bi-weekly basis, the students have Science Class and Library Time.

## Daily Procedures

### Drop Off

- Yard Supervision begins at 7:30 am but our school day begins at 7:50 am when students, parents and staff gather on the upper yard for community circle.
- We offer a curbside morning drop-off at the 22nd Street entrance. Our Safety Patrol, made up of 4th and 5th graders supervised by an adult(s) open and close car doors, and direct traffic.
- You can also enter through the main entrance on Douglas Street or the lower yard entrance on Eureka Street.

### Pick-up

- At 1:45 pm (kindergarten dismissal time), teachers will typically open their classroom doors for pick-up.
- Parents or guardians pick-up their child directly from their child's classroom.
- Teachers will release their students to those listed on their emergency cards only.
- Mission Graduates After-school Program comes to the classroom door to bring the children to their designated classrooms every day.
- Note: It is important to let your teacher know how your child will be getting home. If there is a change, please let your child's teacher know in person or call the school office and have them notify the teacher.

## School Bus

A very limited school bus service is provided at Alvarado Elementary through San Francisco Unified School District.

For more details on utilizing the school bus service and to see the schedule for Alvarado Elementary, visit

<http://www.sfusd.edu/en/transportation/overview.html>



Students are directed to the upper yard at morning bus drop off through the cafeteria. Kindergarten teachers will walk students to their buses at afternoon dismissal time. If your child is taking the bus, make sure they have a bus tag on their backpack that contains: child's name, bus #, bus stop and parent's cell number.

## After-School Program

The 2019 - 2020 On-site Program is administered by Mission Graduates Extended Day Program:



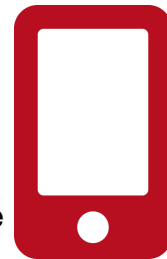
- Extended Day Program Hours: 1:50 pm to 6:00 pm
- Mission Graduates Main Office: 415.864.5205
- Erich Wieland: Extended Day Program Director, [erich@missiongraduates.org](mailto:erich@missiongraduates.org)

For more information on Mission Graduates and additional After-school Program options visit: <http://alvaradoschool.net/about/afterschool-programs/>

## School Communication

### Sign-up for ParentSquare!

ParentSquare is the school wide communication platform and tool for staff, teachers and parents to communicate updates, i.e., class events, class newsletters, photos, schoolwide events, sports sign-ups and more.



Once you register your child at Alvarado Elementary, please take the time to sign-up and download the ParentSquare app to your phone.

ParentSquare is also accessible via desktop.

To sign-up; send an email with the subject line "2019/2020 Kindergarten," your full name, preferred email address or cell phone number and your child's full name to [communications@alvaradoschool.net](mailto:communications@alvaradoschool.net), and we'll get you set up!

## Join our Facebook Page!

Search for Alvarado Elementary School or @alvaradoschool and join our community page!



## If My Child is Late to School

If you are running late, please have your child check into the Main Office first. You will sign your child in and then walk your child to class.

## School Attendance

Your child should come to school every day of the school year, but if they are ill or there is an emergency; please call 415.263.6884, if your child is to be absent from school.

## Important Forms

You will receive several important forms to fill out the first week of school:

- Emergency Card
- SFUSD Meal Forms
- SFUSD Multipurpose Form
- K2College Consent Form



If you need assistance on any of these forms, please see Melissa or Heriberto in the main office.

## Labeling Personal Belongings

With so many young children, things are often misplaced or forgotten. Please mark names and room numbers on ALL coats, sweatshirts, backpacks and lunch boxes.

# Reading & Homework

The only true homework for our kindergarten classes is reading. Reading to and with your child daily is the single most important thing you can do to ensure literacy and success in school. We ask that you read with your child for a minimum of 15-20 minutes each day. Most homework at this age will require some guidance, but please encourage independence in your child to do his/her best!

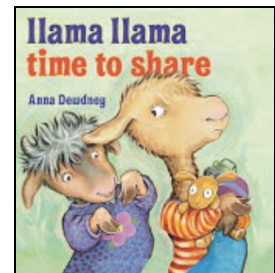


## Favorite Books for Kindergarteners

We asked our kindergarten teachers to share a few of their favorite books for 5-6 year olds. Here's what they shared!

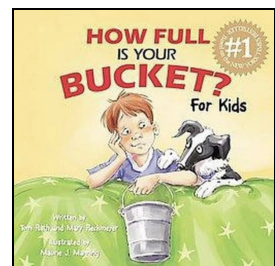
Ms. Z (Zwemer), Room K2

- No David, David Shannon (David series)
- Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse, Kevin Henke
- Owen, Kevin Henke
- Monsters Love School, Mike Austin
- Don't Let the Pigeon Stay Up Late, Mo Williams
- Llama time to Share, Anna Dewdney



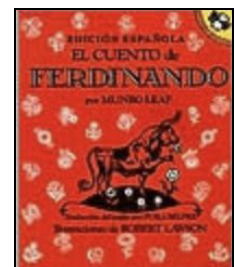
Ms. Samocha, Room KL

- How Full is Your Bucket?, Tim Rath
- So Much, Trish Cooke
- Bunny Money, Rosemary Wells
- How Do Dinosaurs go to school?, Jane Yolen



Maestra Herrera, Room K1

- El cuento de Ferdinando, Munro Leaf
- Tu mamá es una llama, Deborah Guarino





- Gato Splat va a la escuela, Rob Scotton
- La vaca que decía oink, Bernard Most
- El Punto, Esther Rubio

Maestra Sapper, Room KR

- Pequeno azul y pequeno amarillo, Leo Lionni
- Puedo jugar yo tambien, Mo Willems
- Presiona aqui, Herve Tullet
- Como son buenos amigos los dinosaurios, Jan Yolen & Mark Teague
- Pequeña Mancha, Lionel Le Neouanic



## Parental Involvement

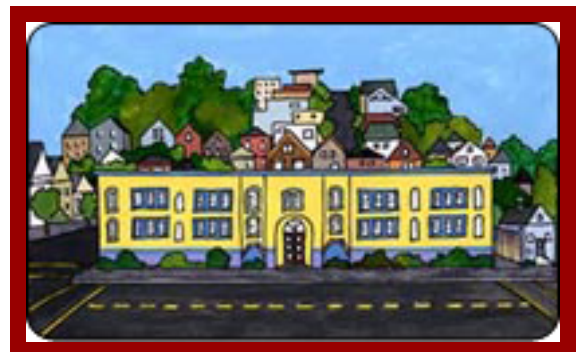
Parental Involvement is crucial to success in school.

How to Help Your Child at Home:

- Read, read, read and model for them!
- Limit TV, video games and iPad time
- Put them to bed early; children this age need 10-12 hours of sleep
- Attend all literacy workshops and practice strategies with your child
- Talk to your child about the classroom rules and ask about their behavior daily
- Be enthusiastic about the homework/projects your child brings home
- Try to attend at least one or two class field trips or schoolwide events (Day of the Dead, Science Nights, Open Art Studio, Gardening Day, etc)
- Arrange playdates with classmates in your child's classroom or other kindergarten classes

## Classroom Rules

- Be Respectful
- Be Responsible; Make Good Choices
- Listen Attentively
- Use Your Words to Communicate
- Raise Your Hand to Speak



- Be Kind

## Parent Teacher Association

The Alvarado PTA works hand-in-hand with the school's administration to organize programs and raise the funds necessary to support enrichments. PTA funds are used to offer art, music and science classes that reinforce and augment the core curriculum. They also pay for literacy, math and emotional support.

First, become a member. Membership must be renewed every year and costs \$10 per person (fees can be waived if needed). Visit <http://alvaradoschool.net/pta-membership/> to learn more. Become a voting member of the PTA today!

Second, join a committee. There are several committees focus on our school and enrichments. We depend on parent engagement to keep these programs thriving. There will be committee sign-up opportunities at the TK/Kindergarten orientation, so please consider getting involved!

Questions about the Alvarado PTA? We are happy to answer them! Contact the co-presidents at [president@alvaradoschool.net](mailto:president@alvaradoschool.net).

## Volunteer Opportunities

### Classroom Volunteers

Volunteering in the classroom and on field trips is an important way to support your kindergartener. Your child's teacher will provide information about volunteering at Back-to-School night. There will be opportunities to volunteer in class and with special projects with your child's teacher, i.e., Art class and Science class helper, science sack organizer, photocopying helper, book bag organizer and much more.

### Room Parent

Within the first two weeks of school, each classroom will have a room parent who will coordinate snacks and tasks. If you are interested in volunteering for this job, please contact our room parent coordinators at [room\\_parent\\_coordinator@alvaradoschool.net](mailto:room_parent_coordinator@alvaradoschool.net). This is a great way to get to know the

students and families in the Alvarado community!

## Alvarado School Song

Some mornings we get into the school spirit by singing the Alvarado School Song during community circle. Get to know the lyrics below!



*Alvarado, dear old Alvarado  
Reading and writing and math to learn  
Sharing and waiting to take a turn  
Learning is fun we like to say  
All of our teachers make it that way  
That's why... I ride the bus and I walk each day  
To dear Alvarado School.*

*Alvarado, have you heard our motto?  
Everyone here has a job to do  
Children and parents and teachers too  
Homework is done without a fuss  
'Cuz we want you to be so proud of us  
That's why... I walk each day and I ride the bus  
To dear Alvarado School.*



## Alvarado Elementary School

625 Douglas Street  
San Francisco, CA 94114

Telephone: 415.695.5695  
Fax: 415.695.5447

Dr. Laurie Murdock, Principal  
[murdockl@sfusd.edu](mailto:murdockl@sfusd.edu)

Parent Teacher Association Contact  
[president@alvaradoschool.net](mailto:president@alvaradoschool.net)