



## Toyon Elementary School

995 Bard Street  
San Jose, CA 95127

Maria Smith-Molina, Principal  
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The  
**Leader in Me**<sup>™</sup>

great happens here

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Our school is using *The Leader in Me* program as an introduction to personal leadership. *The Leader in Me* is designed to help your children succeed both in and out of the classroom. All students have the capacity to lead in their own lives and affect those around them by making positive choices. *The Leader in Me* provides students with activities that will help them learn practical character and life skills that will lead to those positive choices. These activities will help students reflect on their lives, develop leadership skills, and set goals that will inspire them to succeed.

Through the use of the 7 Habits for Highly Effective People (Covey), students begin to realize that they have control over much of what happens in their lives and can be true leaders. Their choices can affect their day, their relationships, and their future. The 7 Habits will empower even the youngest students to stop and think about their choices and the different outcomes that may come with those choices. Based on timeless principles, the 7 Habits become the “hands-on” tools students can rely on while on their journey to becoming leaders—of themselves and of others. Leadership is the umbrella term to encompass the many character traits and basic life competencies that parents, business leaders, and educators are voicing as the desired skills necessary to thrive in the 21st century. Leadership is a concept we don’t normally consider when thinking of young children. However, young children are very capable of learning leadership skills and using them at home and at school. By developing well-rounded children who know their strengths, we help them to unleash their potential to lead their own lives and to influence others.

As a staff, we are changing the Student of the Month award to focus on the 7 Habits. Each month, we hope to include a habit as a homework assignment to be done as a family. The 7 Habits Student of the Month award has been scheduled as the following:

September: Be Proactive- “You’re in Charge”

October: Begin With the End in Mind- “Have a Plan”

November/December: Put First Things First- “Work First, Then Play”

January: Think Win-Win- “Everyone Can Win”

February/March: Seek First to Understand, Then to Be Understood- “Listen Before You Talk”

April: Synergize- “Together Is Better”

May: Sharpen the Saw- “Balance Feels Best”

*The Leader in Me* process is now being implemented in over 2000 schools worldwide. Schools are consistently reporting:

- Increases in students’ self-confidence, teamwork, initiative, creativity, leadership, problem solving, communication, diversity awareness, and self-directed learning.
- Improved school culture.
- Dramatic decreases in disciplinary issues.
- Increased teacher pride and engagement.
- Greater parent satisfaction and involvement.

**“Leadership is communicating people’s worth and potential so clearly that they are inspired to see it in themselves.”**

– Dr. Stephen R. Covey



# TOYON MONTHLY NEWS

September 2015

Maria Smith-Molina, Principal  
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Visit Toyon's web site at [toyon.berryessa.k12.ca.us](http://toyon.berryessa.k12.ca.us)

**Our Mission:** Berryessa Union School District provides all students the skills to become lifelong learners and successful 21st century global citizens.



We are so excited for this 2015-16 school year! We are implementing *The Leader in Me*, a program that develops leaders in teachers, students, and parents. Toyon was one of two schools in the bay area to receive a scholarship from Panda Cares to implement this leadership program.

During the summer, several bond measure projects were completed at Toyon. One major improvement was that our large blacktop area, which includes the basketball court, was re-paved. This helps with school safety. Kindergarten has a brand new playground. New playground equipment was replaced in the upper grade playground and TK. The network was upgraded in every classroom. We also upgraded one of our computer labs with Chromebases.

We have new staff members that joined the Toyon family: Ms. Marilu Herrera (2<sup>nd</sup>), Mr. Kevin Peckham (2/3), Mr. Hanson Truong (5<sup>th</sup>), Ms. Lourdes Reyes (SDC), Ms. Julie Bell (RSP), Ms. Tanya Bethard (Speech), Ms. Terri Quan-Williamson (Librarian), Mr. Ian Hazdovac (Math/Science Tutor), Ms. Sarah Ornelas (Literacy Tutor), and Ms. Christine Reed (Para).

We know that Toyon can improve every year, so we need to hear from you. Please join me during our monthly coffee with the principal to share your ideas or concerns, and I encourage you to join PTA and School Site Council. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me via email or phone.

Sincerely,

Maria Smith  
Principal



## PERFECT ATTENDANCE AWARDS

Perfect attendance awards for last school year will be awarded during Back to School Night on **September 17, 2015**.

### *Please call the district hotline for Translation*

If you would like to have this newsletter translated for you please contact the district office and someone will get in touch with you.  
**923-1901 (Chinese)** 請利用校區熱線電話923-1901 會有專人與您聯繫為您翻譯解說資料上的重要內容  
**923-1902 (Spanish)** Por favor llame al teléfono de asistencia al 923-1902 y alguien se pondrá en contacto para darle la información esencial del documento.  
**923-1903 (Vietnamese)** Xin gọi số hotline của khu học tại 923-1903 và sẽ có người giúp quý vị để hiểu những điều cốt yếu của văn kiện  
**923-1904 (Tagalog)** Tawagan po ang distrito sa numero 923-1904 kung nais ninyong isalin and ano mang bahagi sa kasalatang ito. Salamat po.

## School Picture Day Is September 16<sup>th</sup>



## CALENDAR EVENTS

Sept 2	School Site Council Mtg.	4:00 PM
Sept 2	PTA Meeting	6:00 PM
Sept 4	Vision Screening TK, K, 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 5 <sup>th</sup> & SDC	
Sept 7	Labor Day Holiday – NO SCHOOL	
Sept 9	Science Camp Fundraiser Begins	
Sept 11	Coffee with the Principal	8:15 AM
Sept 15	Board of Trustees Mtg.	7:00 PM
	1376 Piedmont Road	
Sept 16	Picture Day / Día de fotos	
Sept 16	Student Council Meeting	2:30 PM
Sept 17	Back to School Night	6:00 PM
	Noche de regresar a la escuela	
Sept 22	Latino Family Literacy	8:15 AM
Sept 24	Spirit Day – Tiger Pride	
Sept 24	Street Smarts Assembly	8:30 AM
Sept 24	Panda Express Night	6:00 PM
Sept 30	Student Council Meeting	2:30 PM
Oct 6	Latino Family Literacy	8:15 AM
Oct 7	School Site Council Mtg.	4:00 PM
Oct 7	PTA Meeting	6:00 PM

## BACK-TO-SCHOOL NIGHT – SEPT 17th

We look forward to seeing all of our wonderful parents on Thursday, September 17, 2015 at our annual Back-to-School night from 6:00 – 7:30 PM.

El 19 de septiembre de las 6:00 a las 7:30 PM se llevará acabo la noche de currículo (llamada en inglés "Back-to-School Night"). Por favor venga, visite la escuela y conozca al maestro de su niño.

Đêm Trở Lại Trường (Back-to-School Night) sẽ là vào Ngày 19 Tháng 9 từ 6:00 to 7:30 PM. Xin hãy ghé qua để làm quen với giáo viên và trường học của con em quý vị.

### VOLUNTEERS or PARENTS WHO VISIT DURING LUNCH

In order to volunteer in the classroom or chaperone on field trips, you must have a current TB test on file in the Toyon office. If you visit your child during lunch, you must have a TB test on file. Due to state health guidelines, parents may not have lunch with their children in the cafeteria. You will need to wait outside until your child is released to play during lunch recess. You are welcome to sit at our blue picnic tables across from the cafeteria. We ask that you do not interfere with the noon duty supervisors' responsibilities and to respect school rules and procedures for student safety. Have you turned in your TB form to the Toyon office? Please see Doreen Cook in the front office if you have any questions. TB tests are good for 4 years. THANK YOU!



### Come and Chat with our Principal

#### Coffee Break with our Principal, Maria Smith

Toyon families are invited to chat with our principal, Maria Smith, on **Friday, September 11<sup>th</sup> at 8:15 AM** in the Toyon library. This is a great opportunity for you to meet Ms. Smith, and it will be a great time to get answers to any questions you may have or to share ideas.

Café con el Director – Biblioteca 8:15 AM  
Café với Hiệu Trưởng – Thư viện – 8:15 Sáng

## Student Safety First!

In order to protect the students and community of Toyon School, the following rules are being implemented by the San Jose Police Department.

1. **No dropping off or picking up students in the Toyon staff parking lot. This is for buses and staff parking only.**
2. **No double parking while dropping off or picking up children.**
3. **No U-Turns!**
4. **No parking in or on the crosswalks.**
5. **No parking in the Red Zone areas.**
6. **Please respect our Toyon neighbors and their surrounding property by not blocking their driveways.**

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### REPORTING ABSENCES: **Call (408) 923-1965**

Every day your child is absent from school, you MUST call the office to report the absence at 923-1965. If you are calling the office after school hours regarding an absence, please leave the following information:

- Your child's first and last name
- Room number and teacher
- Briefly state the reason for the absence
- State your name and relationship to the child

### CELL PHONE POLICY

Students may bring cell phones to school if they have their parents' permission, and as long as the cell phones are kept in their backpacks and are not used during school hours. **If a cell phone is seen or heard, it will be confiscated and released only to the parent of the student.** The school is not responsible in any way for the loss, damage, or theft of the phone.

### SCHOOL SITE COUNCIL BALLOT

Please vote for a parent/community member to serve on Toyon School Site Council (SSC). We currently have one open SSC position. Voting for our new SSC member will take place at our Back to School Night on September 17, 2015 in the multipurpose room. You may cast your ballot anytime between 6:00 -7:30 PM. Please make sure to come and cast your vote. The SSC is our school leadership team that is comprised of staff, parents and community members. The primary function of the SSC is to develop the school plan, including academics and budget. The SSC meets the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of every month at 4:00 pm. All parents are encouraged to attend.

# TOYON STAFF LIST

## 2015/2016

Staff Name	Grade/Position	Email Address
Elizabeth Barber	Teacher 3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade	<a href="mailto:ebarber@busd.net">ebarber@busd.net</a>
Julie Bell	RSP Teacher	<a href="mailto:Jabell@busd.net">Jabell@busd.net</a>
Tanya Bethard	Speech Therapist	<a href="mailto:tbethard@busd.net">tbethard@busd.net</a>
Chelsea Burnham	Teacher SDC – 2-3	<a href="mailto:cburnham@busd.net">cburnham@busd.net</a>
Meghan Chiechi	School Psychologist	<a href="mailto:mchiechi@busd.net">mchiechi@busd.net</a>
Mary Cho	Teacher TK	<a href="mailto:mcho@busd.net">mcho@busd.net</a>
Linda Clements	Music Teacher	<a href="mailto:lclements@busd.net">lclements@busd.net</a>
Doreen Cook	Administrative Assistant	<a href="mailto:dcook@busd.net">dcook@busd.net</a>
Heather DuBose	Teacher TK	<a href="mailto:hdubuse@busd.net">hdubuse@busd.net</a>
Joan Hagan	Teacher Kindergarten	<a href="mailto:jhagan@busd.net">jhagan@busd.net</a>
Galib Haswarey	Social Worker	<a href="mailto:ghaswarey@busd.net">ghaswarey@busd.net</a>
Ian Hazdovac	Math Tutor	<a href="mailto:ihazdovac@busd.net">ihazdovac@busd.net</a>
Marilyn Herrera	Teacher 2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade	<a href="mailto:mherrera1@busd.net">mherrera1@busd.net</a>
Nadya Houston	Teacher 4 <sup>th</sup> /5 <sup>th</sup> Grades	<a href="mailto:nhouston@busd.net">nhouston@busd.net</a>
Lynn Kinney	Para-Educator	<a href="mailto:lkinney@busd.net">lkinney@busd.net</a>
MaryEllen Langan	Teacher 4 <sup>th</sup> Grade	<a href="mailto:mlangan@busd.net">mlangan@busd.net</a>
Katrina Menchaca	Teacher Kindergarten	<a href="mailto:kmenchaca@busd.net">kmenchaca@busd.net</a>
Yolanda Montoya	Night Custodian	
Julie Mudarri	Counseling Enriched	<a href="mailto:jmudarri@busd.net">jmudarri@busd.net</a>
Vicky Nguyen	Teacher 1 <sup>st</sup> Grade	<a href="mailto:vnnguyen@busd.net">vnnguyen@busd.net</a>
Sarah Ornelas	Literacy Tutor	<a href="mailto:sornelas@busd.net">sornelas@busd.net</a>
Mimi Park	Teacher CEP	<a href="mailto:mamutan@busd.net">mamutan@busd.net</a>
Kevin Peckham	Teacher 2 <sup>nd</sup> /3 <sup>rd</sup> Grades	<a href="mailto:kpeckham@busd.net">kpeckham@busd.net</a>
Penny Phillips	Teacher 1 <sup>st</sup> Grade	<a href="mailto:pphillips@busd.net">pphillips@busd.net</a>
Terri Quan-Williamson	Library Media Tech	<a href="mailto:tquanwilliamson@busd.net">tquanwilliamson@busd.net</a>
Joel Real	Custodian	
Christine Reed	Para-Educator	<a href="mailto:caeed@busd.net">caeed@busd.net</a>
Lordy Reyes	Teacher SDC – 3-5	<a href="mailto:lreyes@busd.net">lreyes@busd.net</a>
Carolina Rossman	School Clerk/Attendance	<a href="mailto:crossman@busd.net">crossman@busd.net</a>
Janet Shull	Para-Educator RSP	<a href="mailto:jshull@busd.net">jshull@busd.net</a>
Maria Smith-Molina	Principal	<a href="mailto:msmith@busd.net">msmith@busd.net</a>
Janet Thomas	Para-Educator SDC	<a href="mailto:jthomas@busd.net">jthomas@busd.net</a>
Yu-Ting Wang	Music Teacher	<a href="mailto:ywang@busd.net">ywang@busd.net</a>
Frank Yparraguirre	P.E. Teacher	<a href="mailto:Fyparraguirre@busd.net">Fyparraguirre@busd.net</a>

