



Twain Weekly update for the week of 6/8/2020

Dear Twain Families,

Well, we have made it to the final week of school. The finish line is in sight. This has been such an unusual few months filled with unexpected disappointments but also some unforeseen silver linings. I'd like to take a moment to share just a few of the "blessings" that I have seen in the past few months:

- As the world was forced to slow down, many of us found time to connect with our immediate families in a way we hadn't in a long time.
- Even though we were forced to spend time away from each other physically, we found new ways to connect with our students and families.
- Under the most unusual circumstances, with no real training or time to prepare, our teachers have created extraordinary remote learning opportunities for our students, demonstrating their commitment, passion, and love for teaching their students! We really have the most amazing staff here in Fraser and especially at Mark Twain!
- When so many of our Twain families have been under unbelievable stresses, suffering through financial hardships, and facing deep personal losses, they have continued to reach out to encourage our staff, including myself, in positive ways!

While we know that everyone is ready for these much-deserved months off for the summer, we are also sad for the year to end. More than ever, we have come to appreciate our connections with our Twain Comets, and we know that we will miss seeing their faces these next few months...

These Last Few Days...

Please make sure your students log in to itslearning, complete their last few learning activities this week, and attend their GoToMeetings to connect with and say goodbye to their teachers and friends. They're not going to miss out on these last few days of connections with their classmates!

Virtual Field Day

Great news! Due to their awesome response to the Water Bucket Challenge, our Comets have earned a Virtual Field Day this week! Here is the super fun video with many of the water bucket videos put together: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zdgAlqWvva4> (Students can find a slightly longer version on itslearning.) Mrs. Lipski has posted the Virtual Field Day activities on itslearning, and while this isn't quite the same as our usual Field Day fun, we appreciate Mrs. Lipski giving the students this experience! We hope your students will participate and that they enjoy it!

Last Friday's Item Pick-Up Day – What Happens if You Missed it?

Unfortunately, we still have about 80 bags of student items at Twain. We would hate to throw these items away and want to make sure that you get your kids' belongings before the end of the school year on Friday. If you were unable to come Friday, please reach out to Mrs. Holtyn ASAP to set up a time to come pick up your child's items this week. **Please note: We will be in the building until 5pm on Monday, June 8th. That is the only late day we will be there. Most other days, we will be in the building from 8am to about 2:30 pm.**

Moving or Heading to a New District Next Year?

If you know your child is not returning to Fraser Schools next year and have not yet contacted us to turn in your child's iPad and charger, please contact Mrs. Khoury in the Media Center this week to set up a time for this. If iPads aren't returned, you will be charged for them.

(As a reminder, students who **do** plan to return to Fraser Schools this year are keeping their iPads this summer to allow for optional summer enrichment activities.

Wrapping Up

As we wrap up this truly unusual school year, I just want to share that it continues to be my honor to serve our community as Principal at Mark Twain. Through the good times and the tougher ones (which we've definitely seen this year), I am so thankful for our entire Comets community. We love our students, and we are proud of all that they have accomplished and overcome this year! We especially want to say thank you to our parents for working so hard to help your students with their learning during the Covid-19 school closure. We KNOW this hasn't always been easy, and we really appreciate your partnership to keep your kids learning!

We are looking forward to a successful last week of school! I hope you're continuing to stay safe and healthy.

Take care,

Laura Woods
Principal
Mark Twain Elementary