

Fabulous Foothill Parents,

Welcome to another great school year at Foothill Elementary! It is wonderful to have your children back to school, filling our classrooms and hallways with smiles and happiness. Welcome to new students and families to Foothill. In this message, I would like to highlight a few of the great things happening at our school this year.

Many of you have seen the teachers wearing our Apollo Project lab coats and have wondered, "What is the Apollo Project?" Foothill has been a pilot school for Alpine School District as a STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts, and Mathematics) school. This hands-on, minds-on approach to learning encourages students to solve real-world problems by engineering and creating with their peers. This type of learning helps students not only gain the knowledge they need, but also the skills and dispositions necessary to help them be successful in school and life. The district has been pleased with the things they have seen and learned at Foothill.

The Apollo Project is a collaborative effort between seven elementary schools (Cascade, Foothill, Hillcrest, Northridge, Orchard, Scera Park, and Sharon) to ensure every child is prepared for the 21st Century. Next week, you can learn more about the Apollo Project at our community celebration. This celebration will be held at Orem High School at 6:30 p.m. on September 8th. Please read the letter in this newsletter from the principals of these seven schools that gives more detail about the Apollo Project and this exciting event you won't want to miss.

Last year, in partnership with Todd Pedersen, our PTA, local businesses, and Alpine School District we received a significant grant for technology to accelerate the learning of our students. We have one iPad for every two students and have also purchased Chromebook carts in grades 3-6. These devices are meant to facilitate learning, encourage collaboration among students, improve student writing and communication skills. We are also excited about our Exploratorium Makers Space (previously known as our computer labs) where students will learn their grade level content in an integrated approach of technology. In addition to the full lab of computers, we also have a 3D printer, sewing machines, robotics, Cameo and Curio, and more. Grade-level standards will drive the instruction in the Exploratorium giving students a hands-on, minds-on approach to learning.

We are also pleased to have three new coaches at our school this year that will help our teachers integrate subjects to deepen student learning. Mrs. Wakamatsu is the instructional coach of the school, Ms. Crockett is the technology integrationist, and Mrs. Hall is the drama integrationist. These coaches are a great support to teachers and will help our students learn.

Thank you for sending your children to Foothill Elementary. It is an honor to partner with you as we prepare these students for the 21st Century.

Sincerely,

Joe Backman (Dr. B)