



Abbott Middle School

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Joe Hadley, Principal
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Dear Abbott families:

We have almost made it to the end of the school year, and I think everyone is ready for some rest and relaxation. It's been a busy final quarter of the school year, which has included some of the high points of our school year, including outstanding performances by our Abbott actors and musicians. Below, you'll find my take on recent and upcoming events at Abbott.

Mulan Musical and Music Concerts

Last month, Abbott's Drama Club produced four sold-out performances of the musical *Mulan* at Hillsdale's Little Theater. More than 70 student cast and crew members worked for months preparing for this year's show, and the excellence of the show was a testament to the dedication of our student performers and their director, Thaine Sugden. Special thanks go to our new musical director, Thaine, who did an amazing job directing the show. Thank you also to the many parents who provided a range of support for the show, from helping with set and costume design, to helping with ticket and snack sales. Finally, thanks go to the parents who rallied last year to make sure that our musical program continued following the retirement of Abbott's long-time musical director Holly Stone. The *Mulan* musical was truly a highlight of the year for Abbott, and a demonstration of what our students are capable of doing.

Thank you also to Ms. Torke and Ms. Schacht and their respective Orchestra and Band students for their work in preparing students for the spring music concerts, which included some very well-rehearsed and polished performances.

8th Grade Promotion

This week, we have a number of events planned for 8th graders, including the following:

- Tuesday, June 19th: 8th grade dance at Abbott from 5:30-7:30 pm
- Wed., June 20th: 8th grade breakfast from 8:30-10:30; promotion rehearsal from 10:30-12:30
- Thursday, June 21st: 8th grade promotion ceremony at 4 pm in the San Mateo Performing Arts Center. 8th graders will not come to school on Thursday. Students should meet in the small gym at San Mateo HS no later than 3:30. Parking is limited at SMHS, so plan accordingly.



The cast and crew of *Mulan* pose for a photo with director Thaine Sugden.



Ms. Torke conducts the Abbott Orchestra during the Spring Concert.



Students explore a case at the inaugural Abbott Science Mystery Festival.

Thank you to all of the parents on the promotion committee for their help in supporting and hosting these fun, year-end events. We wish well to our promoting 8th graders and their families as they prepare to make the transition to high school.

Retirements

This year, Abbott has three teachers who will be retiring from our district: Ms. Johnston (Spanish Immersion), Ms. Drabkin (Math), and Mr. Haycock (Special Education). Each of these teachers has provided many years of dedicated service to the students in our community. We thank them for their many contributions to this community, and wish them well as they embark on their next adventure.

Staffing

We are currently fully staffed for next year, with the exception of one Special Education teacher and one Spanish Immersion teacher. The Spanish Immersion opening is for the retiring Ms. Johnston, and this has proven to be a difficult position to staff, but we will work through the summer to find a qualified teacher for the opening.

End of year thanks

It takes a supportive community to build a quality environment for our students, and there are many people to thank at the end of this year. First of all, thank you to our dedicated teachers and staff who seek to provide support for all students every day. Thank you also to our dedicated PTA board, and the many hours they devote to service to our community. I can't say thank you enough to our outgoing PTA president, Julie Kaprielian, who was one of two people in our entire district who was recently recognized for exceptional service to their school community. Thank you also to the many parents who have helped in a variety of ways this year, whether it be coaching a team, serving as PTA board member, donating to the PTA's fundraising campaigns, tutoring at homework club, chaperoning a field trip, serving on our School Site Council, or supporting special events like our teacher appreciation week.

Until next school year

We are looking forward to seeing our returning students and families back for the first day of our school year on Tues., August 14th, and we wish you all a happy and safe summer break.

Sincerely,

Joe Hadley, Principal