



May 29, 2020

Distance Learning Parent Newsletter, Issue 9

English Learner Support Division
California Department of Education (CDE)

Opening Letter

DEAR PARENTS,

This issue of the Distance Learning Parent Newsletter is the **last weekly edition** of the newsletter. Starting with the June issue, the newsletter will be released **monthly rather than weekly**.

This newsletter focuses on a different topic in each issue and provides information and resources for parents on that topic. This week the topic is science. Science learning in school leads students to become engaged citizens with confidence, ability, and inclination to continue learning about issues that affect their lives and communities. Students need repeated opportunities for meaningful, engaging, and successful learning experiences in science.

Ending the School Year

As the school year draws to an end, please remember to check in with your child's school and teacher(s) to make sure that your child has completed all distance learning activities. It is important to check that all distance learning activities are complete to ensure that your child is ready to move onto the next grade level and prepared to be successful! You child's school and teacher(s) may also have suggestions of activities that your child can complete over the summer to help them get ready for the next school year!

Summer Learning

Many school districts will offer summer school opportunities this summer. Please contact your child's school to find out what opportunities are available for your child!

If your child participates in the local Migrant Education Program (MEP), please contact the MEP staff directly for questions regarding summer school opportunities. If you are unable to reach MEP staff, you may contact the migrant regional director to find out about summer services available to migratory students. The contact information for the migrant regional directors can be found on the CDE Regional Offices and Direct Funded Districts web page at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/me/mt/regions.asp>.

New Informational Resources

First 5 Parenting through COVID-19 with Young Children

First 5 California published a page on parenting through COVID-19 for parents of young children. This web page was written by a child psychologist and provides practical tips for parents about supporting their children's social, emotional, and educational needs.

First 5 California Parenting through COVID-19 with Young Children web page at <https://first5california.com/services-support.aspx?id=33&sub=164>

CDE Science Resources for Families

The CDE Science web page includes a tab titled "Families/Students" that provides information and resources to families explaining the science instruction used today and providing suggestions to parents on how to support their child's academic success.

CDE Science web page at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/pd/ca/sc/>

Informational Resources Included Every Week

School Lunch Information: CA Meals for Kids

Parents can still pick up school lunches during COVID-19 related school closures. Use the "CA Meals for Kids" mobile app to find meals or you can contact your school district directly for more information. Some districts now offer home delivery for school lunches. Parents should contact their child's school to see if the school has opted into this optional program.

CDE News Release: CA Meals for Kids App Update at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/497627>

Getting Internet Access

If you do not have access to the internet at home, there are several companies offering service to families. Contact the companies listed on the link below on the CDE web page to discuss available plans.

Getting Internet Access: Available Plans at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/498321>

Home Learning Resources

Below are free recommended resources that you can use with your children at home or they can use on their own.

Science Experiments

The websites below offer simple science experiments that can be done with everyday household items. Parents can do these experiments with younger children and can supervise older children as they do the experiments themselves!

Science Fun for Everyone

This website offers exciting science experiments you can do at home. Have fun trying experiments like creating your own lava lamp to learn about density or making homemade play dough!

<http://www.sciencefun.org/kidszone/experiments/>

Exploratorium Science Snacks: Family Friendly Snacks

The Exploratorium, a public learning laboratory located in San Francisco, published this web page. This page offers mini science experiments, or "science snacks," that can be done at home. Learn about electricity and magnetism by making a remote-control roller

out of an empty soda can and a balloon or learn about sound by making a simple musical instrument with a straw and some scissors!

<https://www.exploratorium.edu/snacks/collection/family>

Science Experiments for Kids

This web page offers fascinating hands-on experiments that are a great way to enjoy the world of science. Learn interesting science and technology facts by making a parachute from a plastic bag or creating a volcano using vinegar and baking soda!

<https://www.sciencekids.co.nz/experiments.html>

Science Lessons

Mystery Science School Closure Planning: Free, Easy Science for Remote Learning

This website offers free, easy science lessons for kindergarten through grade five students. The mini lessons are short videos that students can watch to learn about a science concept. The full lessons include interactive elements. To view the directions in Spanish, click “en español” at the top of the page.

<https://mysteryscience.com/school-closure-planning>

Social Media and Email

To stay up to date with new resources and information, follow the CDE English Learner Support Division on Twitter [@MultilingualCA](https://twitter.com/MultilingualCA).

To subscribe to the English Learner Updates Listserv, send a blank email to join-english-learner-updates@mlist.cde.ca.gov.