**Principal's News**  It is hard to believe we are in our 6th week of school. We have had an exciting start of the school-year. Tiger Camp, Back-to-School Night, PTA Social, and our first dance is right around the corner. We have also been busy practicing our safety drills. Our students and staff have completed a fire drill evacuation, as well as a lockdown drill and training. We will continue to practice around safety all year. Looking forward to seeing you all around school.

**Counseling Corner**  The start of a new school year is a busy time for Fletcher counselors! Scheduling changes are complete and quick student check-ins are underway. Our Social Kindness program for August and September introduced students to inclusion and diversity, an essential ingredient for a positive Fletcher school climate. During Tiger Camp our 6th graders enjoyed the Developmental Assets How Full Is Your Bucket? lesson helping them become aware of their own assets (positive qualities & strengths). On September 17, our 7th and 8th grade students attended Kaiser Permanente's Nightmare on Puberty Street, an award-winning, live theatre performance for students with follow-up discussions and activities. Talking about your assets and your puberty might be a meaningful and amusing conversation with your students!

**Library**  The Fletcher Library had its first program of the year, its Summer Reading Party, to celebrate reading for pleasure. 110 Fletcher readers--59 more than last year!--turned in their summer reading information and enjoyed a pizza/fruit lunch in the Cafe. How many books were read? 561! That’s 176 more than last year! Do you have questions about the Summer Reading Party or anything Fletcher Library related? E-mail Kristen Lee> klee@pausd.org.

**Students on the Move**  Students seem adjusted to school life and getting to bed earlier! Lunch-time offers activities to connect with others, so encourage your tigers to participate in our student-led activities, pick-up games of ball sports, or maybe it is just a time to relax with friends over lunch? We hope they enjoyed Leadership's donut-on-a-string Spirit Day (earning grade-level points), signing up for Student Council-sponsored Clubs (students may always join), and don't forget the 6th Grade Elections 9/25 (during Advisory).
**English - Social Studies** 6th graders are touching on geography and archaeology before moving onto their first TCI (textbook) unit, Early Hominins. • 7th graders are answering “How do people gain power to make a more just society?” while learning about the Roman Republic. We are also learning to differentiate fact from opinion from reasoned judgment. • 8th graders are learning about America before colonization and moving into the 13 colonies.

**Math - Science** All science teachers are currently piloting textbook materials from Amplify. Ask your 6th grade student about the surfaces of Earth and Mars, investigating the human gut microbiome in 7th grade, and kinetic vs. potential energy or energy inventions in 8th grade. Want enrichment resources? There are many great ones so encourage your student to explore! Take a look at How do Solar Cells Work? (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UJ8XW9AgUrw).

**Physical Education** Let's face it, as much as our kids love intellectual pursuits, PE is often the favorite part of the day for many students. Fresh air, movement, good-spirited competition, and fitness are undeniably fun, but PE is also one of the best places to fail in a safe environment with an immediate opportunity to improve. We have fantastic PE at Fletcher, and PE encourages all our students to find ways to enjoy improving their health for life while also learning resilience. Basketball and football are on deck!

**Visual & Performing Arts** Auditions were just held for the Tri-Middle School Musical, The Addams Family! Cast and crew consist of over 150 students from all three PAUSD middle schools. Musical Theatre students are learning about musicals throughout history. Drama 1A students are studying costume design and doing scene work. Our Choir and Orchestra are looking forward to their upcoming retreats, and don't miss the Choir Festival at Paly on October 2nd. Visual Art students are looking at Post-Modern art forms. The Pinwheels for Peace installation at school was their first interpretation of these concepts.

**Futures, Inclusion, & Special Education** Our Futures class sells coffee and treats to staff each Tuesday during brunch in the staff kitchen. Students have the opportunity to work on their vocational, social, and communication skills while staff enjoys hot coffee and delicious bagels. It's a Win-Win! • **Needed:** Our PTA Special Education/Inclusion Representative is looking for a partner. This position helps connect parents with relevant school and community resources, interacts with the PTA, and promotes inclusion at events and in the classroom. The rep is supported both by the Palo Alto PTA Council Special Education Collaborative Committee (PTAC SECC) and the Community Advisory Committee for Special Education (CAC). Contact Momo at momoyo.yanagihara@gmail.com.
Parent Team  Parents are back in the saddle with our PTA executive board planning the year. We hope you enjoyed our Fall Social, and don't miss our Winter Lodge Ice-Skating Party on Saturday Feb 29! Our Site Council is here to promote a high-quality learning environment which is equitable, safe, and inclusive. See our upcoming and archived agendas on our FMS web site menu, and please reach out with your concerns. You have a voice—use it!

Who's That?  Be on the lookout for the many fresh and friendly faces new to campus: Nerissa Wong-VanHaren (English), Tammy Parke (science), Raquel Rubalcaba (world language-Spanish), Adam Herald (special education), Noel Woodward (English), Lynne Navarro (family & consumer sciences), Suzanne Lowe (school secretary), Christian Mach (counselor), Pieter Dolmans (dean), and Tanya Tchoub (instructional aide). Please take the time to welcome these educators and staff members to our community!

We Appreciate You!  Thank you to all the parent volunteers and staff who helped organize and run our BTS check-in day. It was busy, but we hope it was efficient, with bikes tuned, photos taken, and curiosity over schedules in the air. A special thank you to Judy Velasquez for overseeing our Staff Appreciation supper before BTS night, and to our PTA exec team for their organization efforts on our Fall Social, with support from our parent volunteers, Leadership, and admin. We ALWAYS need and love to meet new willing parents, so check out our VOLUNTEER opportunities on the Fletcher and PTA web pages, and eNews too!

District @ Fletcher  Our Sustainable Schools Committee Compostable Cutlery initiative is rolling out at all our school sites. Do your students sort their waste properly? Our Zero Waste Champion teacher Becky Rea is here to help. PTAC Advocacy needs your voice to overturn the proposed School Meal Cuts. “Comment Now!” by Sep. 23. [link:https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=FNS-2018-0037-0001]. Did you know Shounak Dharap is our Board of Education rep this year?

The Icing on the Cake!  Something special that can't be passed by....We're thankful for all our wonderful custodians Ephron, De, George, and Manuel who support all our BIG school activities by setting up the heavy equipment, and picking up after us. We couldn't have BTS night, Fall Socials, and all our special school events without you! Thank you all for being a part of our team.