

Flora CUSD #35 Newsletter

Children are our most precious possession.

January 2016

Are You Tech Savvy?

The other night at a school event, I watched a group of students gathered around mobile devices. Although the students were young, they effortlessly moved from one game to the other, searched for a new game they wanted to download, and navigated with ease the device and the games they were playing. At a workshop I attended recently, the presenter discussed uses of social media in education. The information focused on how we can effectively use technology and social media in our district. During the presentation, he showed a statistic of the most used social media by students and the majority of the people in the audience had not heard of many of the apps on the list. This emphasizes the gap that can sometimes exist between what motivates our students and how they learn versus what we utilize in our curriculum.

One of our district goals is to continually evaluate technology needs in order to stay current with equipment and teaching of technology. To enhance the education we provide to our students as well as increasing the students' interest in the material, it is imperative that we integrate as much technology as possible into the curriculum. This process is most effective when we use the tools that are part of our students/sons and daughters' everyday lives. To assist in guiding the technology plan for the district, we have a district technology committee that meets three times a year. The goal of this committee is to discuss current technology uses and resources as well as the direction for the future. Over the past few years, we have been fortunate to increase the amount of technology in our district through grants. Please let us know if you have thoughts, suggestions, or input on ways we can more effectively use technology in the district.

Thank you for everything you do to make our school district great!! Happy New Year!!

Important Upcoming Dates:

- January 4th**-Teacher Institute Day-No school for students
- January 5th**-Students return for 2nd semester
- January 8th**-Grade Cards/Grade Slips Issued
- January 11th**-District Technology Committee Meeting-2:30-Unit Office
- January 12th**-Food Committee Meeting-FHS-11:15
- January 15th**-School Improvement Day-12:30 Dismissal for students
- January 18th**-Martin Luther King's Birthday-No School
- January 20th**-Board of Education Meeting-Unit Office-5:30 p.m.