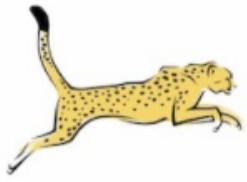


# "Emerson" Celebrations and Recognitions

Shawn Stibbins • about 2 months ago • Wednesday, Oct 5 at 5:00 PM • **Emerson**



**Emerson Elementary**  
Oakland, California  
Every child grows and succeeds



**OAKLAND UNIFIED  
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

*Community Schools, Thriving Students*

Dear Emerson Learning Community,

I hope this letter finds you and your family well. At Emerson we want to create a school community where everyone feels like they belong, are welcomed and are a part of the community. One way to do this is for us to take a look at our practices and reflect to see if what we are doing is serving all of our scholars. We have started to look at our practices to see what educational value they have and if they are something that all of our scholars participate in. Our scholars have been and will continue to work hard in the classroom and we will take time to celebrate their learning, their growth and their accomplishments.

In order to create a more Equitable campus we will be moving away from celebrating holidays. We have many different ethnicities, cultures and religions on our campus. This means that we all don't celebrate the same holidays. If we were to celebrate holidays, we would be excluding some of our scholars and some of our community. Our teachers still have space to teach about different holidays, what they mean, where they originated and why people celebrate. I realize that this will be a change from past practices. This may even be disappointing to some. This news will also bring relief to others. It will bring joy and relief to those that don't have to pretend to celebrate or don't have to sit out of celebrations. It will decrease anxiety for those that may not be able to participate because of financial constraints their family may have. Emerson will now create opportunities for our scholars to celebrate and be recognized for the awesome work they are doing in class. Our Cheetah Champion Monthly Assembly will be one way we celebrate our scholars. Another way we will be celebrating our scholars is when they fill up the Cheetah Chest with Cheetah Wins. Cheetah Wins are a way for our staff to recognize our scholars for doing something positive in the community. When the Cheetah Chest is full we will have a school wide celebration.

This is not to say that there won't be opportunities for our larger community to celebrate different holidays. For example our PTA is sponsoring a Fall Festival with different Fall and Halloween themed activities on Friday, October 28th. This gives our scholars and their families a chance to opt into the event instead of it being forced on them. We will not be doing anything to recognize Halloween during the school day. We will not be doing any recognition or celebrating of any holidays. Please make sure your child comes to school in proper attire. If scholars come to school in costumes we will call you to bring them proper clothes. We will be having a spirit week (no pun intended) the week of October 31st-Nov.4th. More details to come.

In Community  
Principal Stibbins