Our Open House last Friday was a celebration of learning. Thank you to both teachers and parents for making it meaningful and fun! It is one of my favorite events because students demonstrate so much pride and enjoyment in sharing with their friends and families what they've learned and accomplished.

Coming up next week and continuing through April and May our students in grades 3-8 will be taking the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP). The testing window is 4/11-5/27; dates and times for specific classes are available from your child's teacher. This administration includes the Smarter Balanced computerized assessment, the Science assessment (for students in grades 5 and 8) and alternative assessments. I encourage you to take a practice test and to review the information for families on SJUSD's website. The Smarter Balanced test is designed to evaluate knowledge of our Common Core State Standards and it is completely different than STAR, our previous state test. The website includes parent guides by grade as well as suggestions for preparing and supporting your child. http://www.sanjuan.edu/Page/337

OVO has many committees and teams who contribute to our program. Minutes/notes are posted regularly on our website from the monthly Technology Committee Meetings, Site-Based Management Team Meetings, Steering Meetings and PTSO Meetings. See the links below under OVO Resources.

The OVO Technology Committee meets monthly. Members are teachers who represent their grade levels. Parents and interested community members are welcome to attend. This year our remaining meetings are at 7:45 a.m. on April 19 and May 17 in the Family Resource Center at 7:45 a.m.

The OVO Steering Committee meets monthly. Members are teachers and Class Coordinators. Parents and interested community members are welcome to attend. "The purpose of the Steering Committee is to provide a forum for any issues concerning Orangevale Open. The Steering Committee defines and assesses the purpose and direction of the philosophical base for Open education at Orangevale. The responsibilities of the Steering Committee include initiating and interpreting policies for Orangevale Open. The Steering Committee promotes a team effort among the classes and provides continuity from year to year. It is a locale for dialogue between parents and teachers from classes other their child's. The Steering Committee is a vehicle for voicing ideas or concerns regarding the total program, but it also generates new ideas from parents and teachers. Teachers are welcome to present their calendar of plans at Committee meetings, promoting communication of activities among classes and providing a vehicle for teachers to communicate with parents about new ideas. The Steering Committee serves as a vehicle through which issues discussed at the classroom level may ultimately reach the Site-Based Management Team for discussion, and also as a vehicle through which issues discussed at the Site-Based Management Team meetings are funneled back into the classrooms." (Taken from the Orangevale Open K-8 Site-Based Management/Open Program Guidelines document.) This year our remaining meetings are at 3:15 on April 26 and May 31 (if needed) in Sharon's room, #18.

Orangevale Open K-8 benefits students in many ways. We depend upon parent investment in the program, including direct involvement in conversations, problem solving and planning. We count on you to stay informed and lend your energy and expertise where you can.