

Chabot Elementary School Celebrates Annual Oakland Day With Workshops Celebrating the City's Diversity and History

November 2017, Oakland, CA- On November 16, 2017, Oakland Unified School District's Anthony Chabot Elementary School will celebrate the diversity and history of its city so that its students can make connections to the past, present, and future of their home of Oakland, California. Chabot Principal Jessica Cannon explains, "We started Oakland Day because we wanted Chabot students to understand that they were part of something bigger than this one school and the immediate neighborhood. Over 40% of our students come from neighborhoods outside of Rockridge; it is important to us that our school speak to the experiences of all of this wonderful city. Oakland has so many amazing and diverse stories that speak directly to the values we want our students to learn: perseverance, standing up for what you believe in, and working with others."

The 2nd annual Oakland Day celebration will take place from 12:00 to 2:50 PM on November 16th, and will kick off with an assembly led by Principal Cannon and a performance by The Fruitvale History Project, which tells the story of how one neighborhood organized to create better conditions for the people living there. "Their story empowers our students to know that they have the ability join together with others and make a difference. It also celebrates the resilience of a part of Oakland that is home to some of our students and that others have never even visited," explains Cannon.

Over 20 workshops will be made available to children, and they will be able to choose those that suit their personal interests. Highlights include the Oakland A's leading a "Fun at Bay" whiffle ball activity and on-campus appearance by A's mascot, Stomper; a poetry workshop with Oakland poet Matthew Zapruder; a social justice workshop with Abundant Beginnings; fabric painting with textile designer Koko Toshima Larson; and an exploration into music from the Arab world with musician Faisal Zedan. Additional workshops include map making, piñata creation, sculpture, and hip hop dancing. The afternoon will conclude with a keynote by Mayor Libby Schaff.

Chabot PTA President Courtney Jones explains, “As a proud Oakland native, I hope that Oakland Day will show the children that there is so much history in our city, like how Dreyer's Ice Cream was founded here in 1928 or how Children’s Fairyland gave inspiration to Walt Disney for Disneyland, or how Oakland was the headquarters for the Black Panther Party. I hope that our Oakland Day celebration gives the children a sense of pride about their community as well as a hunger to learn more about the city and what it has to offer.” Oakland Day’s interactive workshops are curated to engage students of all ages in hands-on, inquiry-based learning. It is open to all students, staff, faculty, and registered volunteers of Chabot Elementary School.

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