



Pacifica School District

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Preparing Students for an Evolving World

www.pacificasd.org

MEMORANDUM

Office of the Superintendent

Meeting of: October 4, 2017

TO: Board of Trustees
FROM: Will Lucey, Executive Director of Educational Support Services
SUBJECT: **Constitution Day Activities**
(Information)

Background

Constitution Day is an American federal observance that recognizes the ratification of the United States Constitution and those who have become U.S. citizens. It is observed on September 17th, the day the U.S. Constitutional Convention signed the Constitution in 1787.

The law establishing the holiday was created in 2004 with the passage of an amendment by Senator Robert Byrd to the Omnibus spending bill of 2004. Before this law was enacted, the holiday was known as "Citizenship Day". In addition to renaming the holiday "Constitution Day and Citizenship Day" the act mandates that all publicly funded educational institutions provide educational programming on the history of the American Constitution on that day. Since September 17th occurred on a Sunday, schools observed the day during the prior week.

Pacifica School District observed Constitution Day in various ways:

- ★ School-wide/classroom discussions and activities: Integrated the observance with Family Day by integrating the entire school within a United States flag that is now hanging in the front hall; Listened to the School Rock Preamble over morning announcements
- ★ Student developed and led announcements- Trivia for the day was about the Constitution; Interesting facts about the Constitution to share during the Morning News program;
- ★ Opportunities for classroom lessons: Writing activities focused on key concepts such as freedom, the symbolic nature of the flag; Viewed Brain-pop video on US symbols and the Constitution (primary grades); Made Pledge of Allegiance Book; Watched CNN news segment on the Constitution and took a quiz (intermediate grades); Created a Classroom Constitution (middle school grades) applying the democratic process of voting to decide which to display;

In closing, Constitution Day and Citizenship Day provided an opportunity to highlight the Constitution with each school developing activities and lessons that integrate into their work to support the development of global citizens.
