



Forest Park News

From Principal Cindi Swingen

May 2nd, 2021

Dear Forest Park Families,

Happy May! There's something about spring's longer daylight hours and blooming landscape that inspires hopefulness and new beginnings. This week is Teacher Appreciation Week across the country and here at Forest Park. Our teachers have been so adaptable, resilient, creative and amazing amidst so many challenging circumstances this year. I hope that you will join me in celebrating and appreciating them this week.

As we move into the month of May, I wanted to thank the Forest Park community for your continued support in our shift to Hybrid learning and temporary leadership change. Cindi's return to school is set for May 17th. I know she really misses the students, families and staff and looks forward to returning to her school family.

Cindi and I will continue to be in close communication and partnering on all things Forest Park. I will be at school Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. Please continue to direct any administration-related questions to both of us and include Suzanne Gleeson, our Principal's Secretary. One of us will respond within 24 hours. Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns.

Our email addresses

Suzanne Gleeson sgleeson@pps.net

Wendy Crozier wcrozier@pps.net

Cindi Swingen cswingen@pps.net

Please stay safe,

Wendy

wcrozier@pps.net



Nuts and Bolts

Impact of Memorial Day on All Schedules

Since Monday, May 31st is a no school holiday for Memorial Day, we will be shifting Cohort days for all grades and there will be no Asynchronous day that week. For standard K-5 schedules, students will attend in-person on Tuesday-Friday at their regular scheduled cohort times.

School Facilities Use Reminder:

We are so excited to be back to in person hybrid learning with students in building Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. **In an effort to promote safety for both our students and staff, we want to remind you that school grounds and property are not open and available to the public during school hours, 8:00 am until 2:30 pm. This includes the field and track, playground area, parking lot and all other school facilities.** We know that many of you have enjoyed using these facilities during our extended closure and understand that this may be an adjustment for some of you. We truly appreciate your cooperation and support and welcome you to take advantage of our wonderful facilities outside of school hours.

A Friendly Reminder About Dogs

Just a friendly reminder about dogs on school property. **While we love our furry friends, we just want to remind you that dogs are not allowed on school property during school hours, 8:00 am - 2:30 pm, and must be leash controlled and cleaned up after when on school property outside of school hours.** While many of us love our furry friends, some do not and so we ask you to please be respectful of others and ensure that all dogs are well controlled and leashed tightly when around others. We appreciate your support and cooperation!

Library Books - **Extended Pickup Times Added for All Grades**

At the request of students and families, we will be extending the book distribution days for a few more weeks into May, only on Wednesdays.

Below are the dates for Library Book Exchange:

Book Exchange Hours: 11 - 1:30

- May 5 - 1, 3, 5
- May 12 - K, 2, 4

Book Return Hours: 11 - 1

If you're dropping off books before 11:00, there will be tables out front.

- May 12: RETURN ALL BOOKS 1,3,5
- May 19: Return ALL BOOKS

From PPS Transportation

If you have questions about Hybrid transportation, please use this **link**:

Morning Mug - Fridays: 8:45-9:15

Please join us for Morning Mug on Fridays from 8:45 to 9:15. We welcome your questions and would love to have you join us....

Please see our **school calendar** on our website for dates:

We'll send out School Messenger alerts before each meeting to make sure you're all aware they're happening.

Summer Camps and Learning Opportunities

Cognizart 360 Arts Camp 2021 (ages 6-12) - July 5-9 & July 12-16

PSU Portland Summer Percussion Academy (ages 12-18) - July 19-21

OSU Precollege Programs Summer Reading Skills Programs (ages 4 through 11th grade)



This Week in The Fox Den

Join us on Wednesday morning in The Fox Den to learn from our specialists and teachers. This week is our school wide assembly with our counselors Ms Lizzie and Ms Kristi. Join us to hear announcements about our school, celebrate birthdays, and be a part of our school community every Wednesday for the rest of the year.

Here is the **Link** to Our Weekly Live-stream 8:00 - 8:30 April 28th

<https://stream.meet.google.com/stream/7af5d0e5-3862-4c52-b2c8-ae0e67423bbe>



School Climate & Culture

Assembly

Our next whole school assembly is Wednesday, May 5. Please join us at 8am using the Fox Den link (<https://stream.meet.google.com/stream/7af5d0e5-3862-4c52-b2c8-ae0e67423bbe>), to learn about our May super power!

[Emergency Assistance for Families Facing Extreme Hardships- Open to All PPS Families](#)

If your family is experiencing an extreme hardship and could use some support, please reach out to Ms. Lizzie (lolareary@pps.net). She will be working with PPS to prioritize requests and provide families with gift cards.

Forest Park Library Page

Thank you Ms. Laura for adding the [Anti-Racist Learning Page](#) and [Anti-Racism Bookshelf](#) to the Library Page of our school website. We hope you all take some time to explore these valuable resources!

Additional Family Resources

- May is [Asian-Pacific Heritage Month](#), an opportunity to celebrate the rich history and culture of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) in the U.S.
- Ramadan and Eid: Ramadan students and families began celebrating the holy month of Ramadan Monday, April 12th, and continues through Wednesday, May 12th. [Click here](#) to learn more!
- [A Kids Books About](#) series just released a new title, A Kids Book About Anti-Asian Hate by Kim Pham. You can click on this [link](#) to download the book for FREE.
- Black Students, Black Dreams, Black Futures, Black Lives Matter
 - District-wide Crisis Recovery Group for Black students: [Link here](#)
 - [Black Mental Health Providers](#)
 - [Culturally Responsive Mental Health Providers](#)
 - [Suffocated Grief & Supporting Black Youth](#) podcast episode- Dr. Tashel Bordere
 - [Practicing Radical Self Love](#) from Sonja Renee Taylor
 - National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)—[Resources for African Americans](#)
 - [Loveland Therapy Fund](#)- The Loveland Therapy Fund provides funding for Black women and girls to receive therapy support.
 - [Harvard Faculty of Arts and Sciences—Anti-Racism Resources for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color \(BIPOC\)](#)- A list of Black-led resources for mental health, free emotional well-being resources, and mindfulness and guided meditation resources.
 - [How Do We Protect Our Emotions During the Chauvin Trial](#)- Interview w Resmaa Menakem



CDL

Our CDL teachers are in communication with families on a daily basis. Please be sure to address your question to them and they will do all they can to support you and your children. The focus of CDL continues to be synchronous lessons for Math, Literacy, and Social Emotional Learning (SEL). Lessons in Science, Social Studies, Library, and Health are provided asynchronously. Music and PE teachers offer one synchronous and one asynchronous lesson for each grade each week. We hope you are back in the rhythm of CDL with your new teachers and classmates!



Hybrid

It is so nice to have students back in the building and to see their excitement as they create, learn and grow together. Our hallways and classrooms continue to transform and come to life with amazing art projects, writing, literacy and math. Our first fire and earthquake drills went really well, and kids continue to amaze me with their ability to adapt to things.

Please continue to send full water bottles every day and help us reinforce proper mask wearing hand-washing expectations and talk about distancing at home. We are so happy to see your students and are having so much fun being back at school with them!

Arrival and Dismissal

Please remember to wait until you pull up in front of the school to drop off and pick up your children. It's not safe for them to load and unload at or before the portables or in the fire zone.

Please remember there is no parking in the car line! If you feel like you need more time to load and unload your students, especially our youngest students, please park and walk to pick

up your students from their teacher.

For kindergarten and 1st grade students please pull forward to the corner/2nd grade sign, or as far as you can to help with traffic flow during drop off and pick up.

- **3rd grade** and **Trincherro's** students should still get picked up and dropped off in the back car line.
- For **K, 1, 2, Bannon, Robbins,** and **5**, please continue to pull up past the front door of the school for arrival and dismissal. **The more we spread out, the faster things seem to go.** Big kids will meet their cars past the school along the sidewalk. This is helping with traffic flow.

Thank you for working with us as we establish new routines and systems. Please keep your feedback coming if you have ideas for improving things for our students.

If you have a change in pickup plans, please either send a note with your student to give to the teacher or call the office so that we can write a note for your student. It is extremely important that we know with as much advance notice if there is a change in plans for that day!

Lunches Updates

FOOD AND SUPPLY SUBSTITUTIONS

The impact on the national supply chain due to COVID, restaurants and other businesses reopening, and the back up at the Port of Los Angeles have all impacted our ability to receive food and supplies as we have menued and ordered. For these reasons, families may see changes in packaging - how foods are packaged and the style of bag that we serve the meals in or how foods are packed may be different between schools based on what they have on hand to use. Families may also experience substitutions on the menu. With these impacts, we are still committed to offering all students breakfast and lunch for free. We appreciate everyone's patience and understanding during this time. If you have questions, please feel free to contact our department - nutritionservices@pps.net.

Updated Information on Meal Applications

While meals are served at no cost to children ages 1-18 at several Portland Public School sites this year, there are several benefits for eligible families to submit a meal application this school year.

- Families approved for free and reduced-price meals may be eligible to receive future potential government assistance such as Pandemic EBT benefits (*please note that Oregon has not been approved yet for expanded Pandemic EBT benefits; we will alert families when we learn more and if it is approved).
- Families may be eligible for other benefits such as school related fee reduction or waivers, low cost internet and health coverage.

Families do not need to submit a meal application if any of the following apply:

- All students in the household attend a Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) school (list located online: <https://www.pps.net/Page/2088>) where students eat meals at no cost.
- A meal application has already been submitted and approved for the 2020-21 school year.
- The household received a 2020-21 Direct Certification Approval letter.
- The household does not meet the 2020-21 Federal Income Guidelines

Eligible families who would like to submit a meal application have the following options:

1. Online at www.schoolcafe.com/pps.
2. Print, complete and mail back a paper meal application (<https://www.pps.net/Page/2464>) to PPS Nutrition Services, 501 N. Dixon St., Portland, OR 97227.
3. Request a paper meal application be mailed home from mealbenefits@pps.net or call 503.916.3402.

For meal benefits related questions, please email mealbenefits@pps.net or call 503.916.3402.

Durrett and Miller Intersection Parent Help

Thank you to Friends of Forest Park Elementary volunteers for signing up to help with heightened safety measures at the intersection of Durrett and Miller, and in the area of the driveway into our school's parking lot to direct foot and car traffic at both arrival and dismissal

times. Please **Sign up** if you are available to help.

**BLACK
LIVES
MATTER**

Forest Park Community Fights Racism!