



D. A. Grout Elementary School

THURSDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS

503.916.6209 www.pps.net/grout Facebook: facebook.com/GroutSchool Twitter: @Grout_School
February 6, 2020

Calendar

Feb 6	STEAM Night 6-7:30 pm 2020-2021 KG Connect 6-7:30 pm	Feb 10	Enrollment Balancing Policy Feedback Night 7-8:30 pm
Feb 7	NO HEADSTART \$1 Popcorn Friday Drama Performance Rm 211 6:30 pm	Feb 11	Grades K-2 Field Trip to Kinderkonzert 9-10:30
		Feb 12	PTA's "Be Internet Awesome" Workshop 5:30-7:30

Important Information:

K-5 STEAM Night and KG Connect

Please join us for our annual STEAM Night and Kindergarten Connect Night **tonight, February 6th from 6-7:30 pm**. STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) activities for all ages will be in the cafeteria and Gym, and Principal Annie will be presenting to incoming kindergarten families at 6:15 in the auditorium. This is a great chance to get to meet the teachers, see the school, and meet other Grout families. We hope to see you there!

*PPS Successful School Survey: Family Feedback

We encourage you to participate in our annual Successful Schools Family Survey. Your responses will help your school understand your experience and use them to set goals and plan for next year. The survey will cover topics on school safety, school climate, barriers to family engagement, and how well your school fits your student's needs. Please be honest and thoughtful, and take your time to read and respond to the questions. Please visit the link below on a computer, tablet, or smartphone and select the school your child attends. If you do not have access to a computer or internet, please contact your school office so we can provide a way for you to take the survey. Thank you so much for your time and feedback!

<http://surveys.panoramaed.com/portlandor/ppsfamily>

Attention 4th Grade Families:

As you are planning your spring break and summer vacations, remember that **all 4th graders are eligible for a free national park pass**. To help engage and create our next generation of park visitors, supporters and advocates, Federal Land Management agencies, launched the Every Kid in a Park initiative. The immediate goal is to provide an opportunity for each and every 4th grade student across the country to experience their federal public lands and waters in person throughout the school year. Every year, beginning September 1, all kids in the fourth grade have access to their own Every Kid in a Park pass at www.everykidinapark.gov. This pass provides free access to national parks across the country and is good for the 4th grade school year, until August 31, 2019.

February Harvest of the Month – Pears!

Every Thursday in February, all PPS kitchens will be featuring our Harvest of the Month - Pears. We will have a variety of recipes showcasing our Oregon state fruit. Fun facts about pears:

- Pear trees can be 40-50 feet tall! For comparison, the Tyrannosaurus rex was about 40 feet long!
- Pears are rich in Vitamins C and K as well as dietary fibers!
- For more information and activities about pears - visit www.foodhero.org

Dear Grout Community,

On February 9th and 10th, 2020, community members are invited to attend Community Feedback Sessions on PPS Enrollment Policies under review. As Portland Public Schools focuses on orienting our school system towards providing every student with an equitable, inspired, intellectually rigorous educational experience, the Board of Education and the Superintendent will launch an enrollment and program balancing process to optimize the use of facilities within the school district while supporting our efforts to reimagine the school experience for students - particularly at the middle grades. During this process, beginning in the spring, staff will develop recommendations for enrollment and program balancing in Portland Public Schools based on identified goals.

Why is PPS facilitating an enrollment balancing process?

1. To help support the eventual Redesign of PPS Middle School programs that includes reconfiguration of identified K-8 neighborhood schools to K-5 elementary schools and 6-8 new comprehensive middle schools while maintaining regional K-8 school options to support program pathway continuity (for example: IB PYP to MYP and dual immersion language pathways).
2. Optimize Use of Facilities at PK-12 to address under-enrollment and over enrollment, and to begin phasing out portable classrooms when possible to create connected, safer schools.
3. Minimize Program Co-Locations of facilities between co-located programs and neighborhood schools at K-5, K-8 and 6-8 schools

Prior to the Process:

Prior to beginning this process in the spring, PPS will review enrollment and student assignment policies to infuse a lens of racial equity & social justice, and review the legacy “sibling preference” rule after hearing reflections from the community. During the month of February, focus groups, public sessions, and scheduled Board of Education Policy Committee Meetings are opportunities for interested stakeholders to provide feedback in the process.

Upcoming Opportunities

1. Mini-Community Summit

February 9, 2020 | 11:00am-2:00pm
Louiza PDX | 2808 NE Martin Luther King Jr Blvd, Suite B, Portland, OR 97212

2. Community Feedback Night, co-sponsored by Southeast Uplift

February 10, 2020 | 7:00pm-8:30pm
Grout School (cafeteria) | 3119 SE Holgate Blvd, Portland, OR 97202

In addition, a survey is open for public input on the policies. [Click here](#) to participate, and review a 1-pager summary of the policies under review [here](#). Please reach Shanice Clarke (sclarke@pps.net) with any questions you may have.

Thank you,

Shanice Brittany Clarke
Director of Community Engagement
Office of the Superintendent
Portland Public Schools

Grout PTA News:

KG Connect and Steam Night on Feb. 6 from 6-7:30 pm

- Please stop by our PTA table and say hello! We'd love to chat with you, listen and learn how we can continue to improve our engagement with you to provide the most inclusive parent/guardian teacher association ever!

Auction Committee Meeting at Starbucks on Powell and 28th Feb. 9 from 4:30-6 pm

- Stop by for a beverage or snack and join us.

Be Internet Awesome (BIA) Family Workshop and Dinner on Feb. 12 from 5:30-7 pm in the Grout Cafeteria

- Raising children in the age of smartphones and social media brings new challenges and concerns for all families. That's why we are inviting you to join Grout PTA and guest speaker Collin Robinson to our **Be Internet Awesome Family Workshop** (sponsored by Google), which promotes safer and more responsible use of online technology among children and families.
 - **When: Wednesday, February 12 from 5:30-7 pm** for a free taco **dinner** and **family workshop** (parents and children encouraged to attend together).
 - **Where:** Grout Cafeteria
 - **Samsung Chromebook Giveaway: Each family who attends will receive 1 entry for chance to win a Chromebook purchased by Grout PTA**
- During this event we will have a parent to parent discussion about how to help our children use apps and social media responsibly, how to make safe choices in the face of online security threats and why being open about online activity with your family is important. You will walk away with tools and new resources to help your family make better choices online.
- **In order to get a gauge on how much food to order for the night, please sign up for the event here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/grout-pta-be-internet-awesome-family-workshop-and-free-dinner-tickets-91364653137>**
- About our guest speaker: Collin Robinson is serving his second term on the National PTA Board of Directors. He has been an active PTA parent leader at the local, regional, state and national levels and served as president of Oregon PTA from 2015-2017. Professionally, Robinson is a freelance web developer where he often focuses on the human experience, assesses issues from a various perspective and produces usable solutions to complex problems. Because of his experience in the digital space, Robinson was named PTA Connected Ambassador in 2018 and he uses his expertise to educate families on how to use digital spaces safely and effectively.
- Please contact Julie Bolstad if there is anything, we can do to make this event easier for you to attend (interpreters, etc.) at groutpta@gmail.com.

Did you miss our Jan. 15 PTA meeting?

- [Click here](#) for the recap, presentation link and next steps.

Are you getting excited about the Grout Auction? Us too!

Grout Auction, April 4, 2020 from 6-9 pm at Oaks Park Dance Pavilion!

Event proceeds to benefit baseball diamond, field and running track improvements!

- Classroom Art Project Volunteers Needed for Upcoming Grout Auction! [Click here for more info](#), or contact Kristen Larsen at Klarsen30@gmail.com
- Do you have any questions, comments, concerns or ideas? We'd love to hear them. Please send to groutptauction@gmail.com

Are you reading this and have input how we can make it easier for you to become more involved at school?

Please email us groutpta@gmail.com.