



WHITMAN ELEMENTARY

School Year 2020-21
Monthly Newsletter
September 2020

Hello Whitman Community-

We hope you are all doing well and staying safe during these unprecedented times! Your Whitman staff has been very busy learning all the new platforms for Distance Learning and are here with you to help. We know this is a new and challenging time, and we appreciate your patience and understanding as we chart new waters. A reminder that PPS will make a decision on next quarter on or before October 10th. Please see information below about enrollment balancing in SE. All K-5 schools in SE will be part of the conversation in Spring but they are starting with SE middle schools now.

The Enrollment and Program Balancing process continues as Kellogg Middle School opens in 2021 while a second comprehensive middle school, Harrison Park, also opens in 2022. The focus of this phase of the process is beginning with the Southeast community around:

- **Reopening Kellogg Middle School**
- **Converting Harrison Park from a K-8 to Middle School**
- **Identifying their feeder patterns and engaging the school communities that may be potentially reconfigured from K-8's to K-5's**

Work recently began with a committee called the Southeast Guiding Coalition for Enrollment and Program Balancing to guide the process this fall, with a recommendation to the board of education in early 2021. This committee consists of Southeast community members, school principals and district administrators. They held their third meeting last night.

At that meeting, the coalition received an introduction to data used to evaluate enrollment and program balancing options and began to review a draft springboard presentation of possibilities. This is a starting

point of possible options for the Southeast Guiding Coalition to think about, and they will continue to work together in October to ask questions and develop additional versions of a possible plan.

As a community, you also have opportunities to give feedback and input. Starting October 2, some families will receive a phone call to take a survey to help inform the process. The Coalition is approaching this work through the lens of racial equity and social justice. Therefore, the target segments are grades 5-8, students of color, and students enrolled in dual language immersion.

There will also be an opportunity to take the survey online soon. The SE Guiding Coalition will host Virtual Open Houses on October 22 and December 3, 2020 so you can see and respond to the proposals they have developed. I will share more info next week with details of how to join those meetings and links to the survey.

I will provide regular updates on the SE Guiding Coalition's progress. You can also stay informed by reviewing materials posted on their [website](#) and [livestreaming](#) their meetings.

Please reach out if we can support you in any way!

Warmly,

Stephanie Murdock and Celina Garrido



October 9th In Service-No School

Library: **Let's Get Reading** is a program created by PPS Library Staff to get books out to our kids. Pickup times at Whitman are Mondays and Wednesdays from 8-9 am and 2:30-3:30 pm. Come get a bag of diverse, leveled books, enjoy them for a week or two, then bring them back when you're done and trade for another bag. My plan is to keep this going until we're all back in school. I'm also keeping our **Little Free Library**, in front of the school, stocked with books. Another school community sponsored Little Free Library just went in at the Lexington Court Apartments on 72nd. There will be a story time there at 3:30 on Tuesdays, with guest readers. If you have **library books from last year to return**, you can do that when you get your books bags, or leave them on the cart in front of the school during school hours.

My classes will be posted in Seesaw beginning in October. If you click on your student's name, you can find all of the classes. If you have questions, comments or ideas, I'd love to hear from you!

Grace Butler, Whitman Teacher-Librarian
gbutler@pps.net

SUN:

Hello Whitman Wildcat Family! This is Laurelee Wells with SUN. I hope your back to school experience is off to a good start.

If your family has needs such as a food box , coat or energy assistance please email, call or text me. 503-290-8058
lwells@impactnw.org

Have a beautiful day and give your kids a big hug from SUN!

Counselor Corner



Hello Whitman Community

We know virtual learning, the pandemic, and the recent wildfires have been stressful for children and families. We hope you are all staying healthy and safe. Please don't hesitate to reach out to our School Counselor, Jenny Locarno, if your student has been experiencing stress or loneliness or if your family is in need of any resources.

Jlocarno@pps.net

Virtual Recesses are starting and I couldn't be more excited to see all of our students! I will be using google meets, the codes and times are listed below. Please remind your students that they will not be able to log on until the designated time. I will also include a link in their seesaw announcements.

1st: 11:30 Tuesday code 1strecess

2nd: 12:30 Monday code 2ndrecess

3rd: 11:45 Monday code 3rdrecess

4th: 12:30 Thursday code 4threcess

5th: 2:15 Thursday code 5threcess

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT MEAL BENEFITS

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

- To ensure eligible students who qualify for free and reduced-price meals continue to receive meals at no cost for the entire school year (past December)
- Families approved for free and reduced-price meals may be eligible to receive future potential government assistance such as Pandemic EBT benefits.
- Families may be eligible for other benefits such as school related fee reduction or waivers, low cost internet and health coverage.

Families have the following options to submit a meal application:

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.

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

- A meal application has been submitted and approved for the 2020-21 school year.
- The household received a 2020-21 Direct Certification Approval letter.
- 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.
- The household does not meet the Oregon Expanded Income Guidelines

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

Whitney Ellersick, Senior Director, Nutrition Services

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