

Peninsula Parent Post

September 2, 2022

Week One Down

Peninsula Families,

We had an amazing first week back at school. It was so exciting to see your kids eagerly jumping back into the swing of things. I am constantly amazed by their flexibility and kindness. We welcomed a number of new students this year, and I was proud to see how inclusive our Peninsula veterans have been with our new community members. Check out this week's post for updates and important information.

If you have topics you'd like me to address, please reach out to me: cskelly@pps.net.

-Claire

Important Updates

Upcoming Events

9/5- No School for Labor Day

9/6-PTA hosts donuts and coffee on the front porch for kinder parents (8:00-8:45)

9/22- Back to School night (in-person) 6-7:30

9/23- No School

10/15-Cider Press/ Garden party. Bring containers for cider and baskets for apples (11-1:00)

5th grade Enrollment

I have heard from a few families wondering about our 5th grade attendance. Please see the table below for this week's attendance.

| Peninsula 5th Grade Attendance Count | | | |
|---|------|-----|-----|
| 8/30 | 8/31 | 9/1 | 9/2 |
| 34 | 35 | 35 | 34 |
| *note: All 36 of our 5th graders have attended at some point this week. | | | |

Eating in the Cafeteria

I've had some parents inquire about the reason for eating only in the cafeteria. I had originally planned to continue with choice eating, but I learned from nutrition services that the option is not available without risking a loss of funding for student meals and the staff who serve them. Please see the communication I received from the Nutrition Services department below:

Last year the federal government gave us permission and flexibility in our services to match COVID protocols. Congress did not approve these flexibilities moving into this new school year. This means that our meal services should look similar to how they were in 2019. This includes students eating in a congregate area such as the cafeteria or commons area for lunch and either the classroom or cafeteria for breakfast. All PreK and Head Start classes eat all of their meals (breakfast, lunch, snack) in the classroom.

For those who were looking for the language specifically - Under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act at 42 USC 1753 (b) (1) (A) and 42 USC 1761 (a) (1) (D), and program regulations at 7 CFR 225.6 (e) (15) and 226.19 (b) (6) (iii), child nutrition program meals must be served in a congregate setting and must be consumed by participants on site...Congregate meal service is required (children must be served and eat each meal on site in a supervised setting).

Our outside services for breakfast last year were viewed as a grab and go model allowed only under the March 2020-June 2022 waivers, and would not meet this requirement. NS staff serving outside was bargained with SEIU and was not discussed for this school year. Please note that anything outside of what is permitted jeopardizes our funding that pays for our students' food and our staff. So we truly appreciate your support with these changes this year.

COVID Updates

During the 22-23 school year, masks will continue to be optional. Staff and volunteers are required to be fully vaccinated. We will continue to have three lunch periods so students can

be spaced farther during meal times. Please see the linked slide deck for more detailed information. The newly created COVID self screening checklist is linked here as well.

[COVID/Communicable disease training slides](#)

[COVID self screening checklist](#)

School Safety Measures

In light of recent horrific events, a number of parents have reached out to me to inquire about the safety measures in place at Peninsula:

- We will continue to require that all visitors and volunteers undergo the volunteer background check.
- To enter the building you will need to be buzzed in through the main door, and will only be allowed in if you are scheduled to visit or volunteer. All other doors remain locked and closed during the school day.
- There are cameras on the main door, as well as the door by the parking lot.
- All classroom doors are locked. Most classrooms have a "door duty" student job to open doors for visitors to the classroom.
- We have drills that we practice a few times each year, but because they can be traumatic for students, most of the drill work is adults practicing our protocols, with as little impact to students as possible.
- All gates to the playground and courtyard are locked during school hours.

If you have any further questions, please reach out! cskelly@pps.net

Important Links

- [Daily procedures](#): Arrival and dismissal procedures.
- [Link school year calendar](#)

A Message from your PTA (linked here)

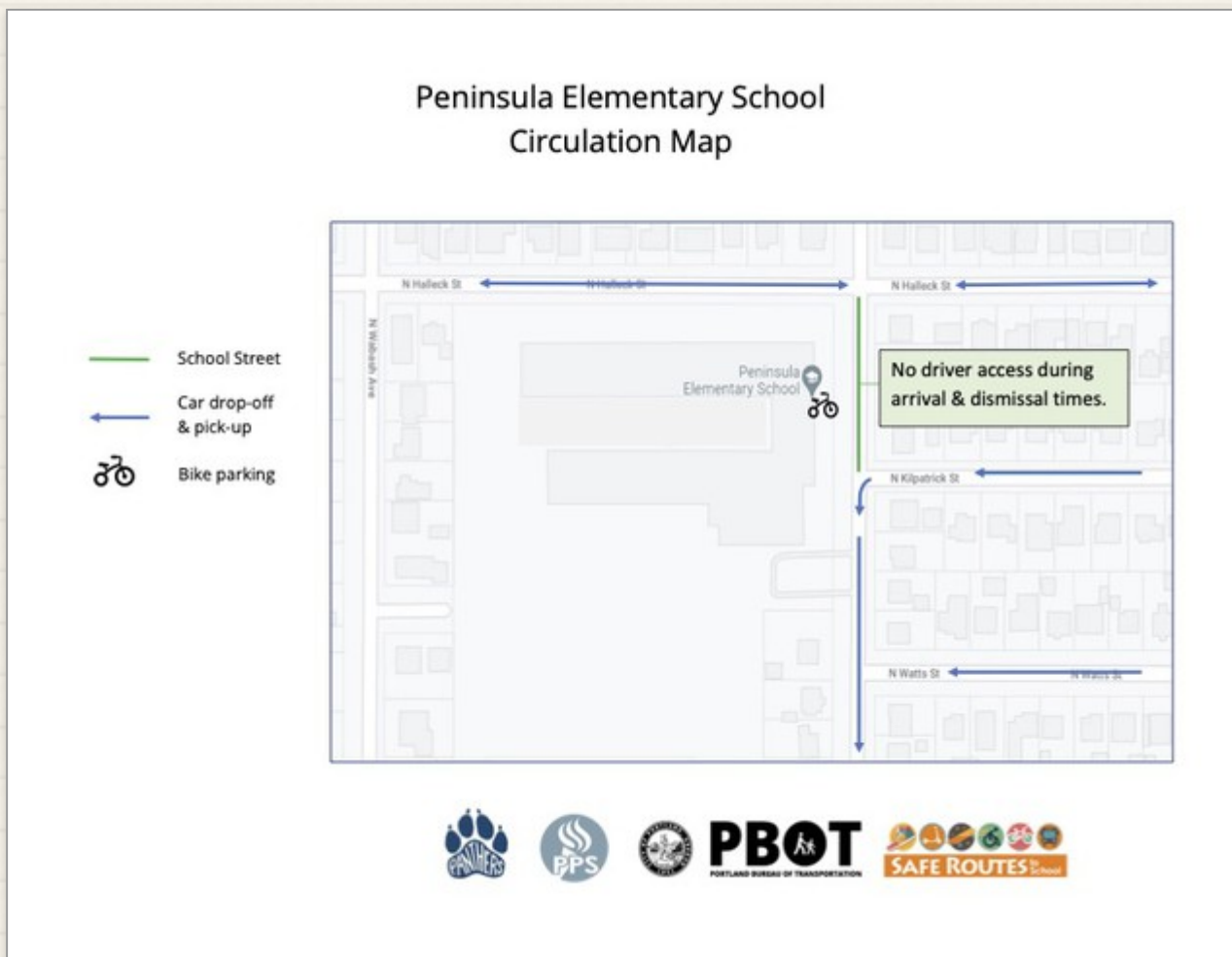
Join us for the first PTA meeting. September 14th at 6pm in the Peninsula library.

A Message from our School Social Worker

Welcome back to school Peninsula Panthers! My name is Kate Lefco, and I am the school social worker here at Peninsula. Each week I will be sharing a resource with you in this newsletter. You can always reach out to me directly if you or your family needs access to additional resources (energy assistance, mental health, childcare, food boxes, clothing, etc.) via phone or text at my work cell 971.276.1759 - hablo español. I work part time and I'm in the school Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. In addition to supporting caregivers, I also work directly with students who need additional social emotional support individually or in small groups. You can view a list of past resources [here](#).

Safe Routes

Please look at the map below for safe drop off and pick up procedures.



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