



**Portland Public Schools
Peninsula K-5
Silvia Asson, Principal**

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August 2016

Dear Families and Community of Peninsula Elementary School,

I want to extend a warm welcome to all of you joining our community for the first time, and for those of you returning! This is my 3rd year as the Principal of Peninsula and I am honored to be a part of such an outstanding and exemplary school and community.

We have some exciting new changes coming this year as we reboot as an elementary with the addition of STEAM/Tech classes, expanding PE and creating Lit Labs and Maker spaces. We have also moved recess before lunch. We are continuing our work as an AVID Elementary school and a CARE school, all students will start the year with planners provided to them and continue to expand on the skills they need to help them stay organized. The staff is also expanding their work as lifelong learners to model a growth mindset, improve instruction, reduce bullying and build stronger classroom communities.

We will continue to have Studio-to-School with Julie Keefe, Saturday Academy (Late Openings), Saturday and Wednesday Support through BEAM and CMB Mentoring. Campfire has expanded at Peninsula, and is now offering childcare services in the morning as well as the afternoon. You can find more information and register here: <http://campfirecolumbia.org/school-year-programs/elementary-school/before-and-after-school/peninsula-elementary/>

Please anticipate some potential changes in the breakfast routine as we accommodate the directives made by Nutrition Services. We will also have water coolers in the school until the lead concerns are alleviated. Students will be able to fill their water bottles in the cafeteria and there will be water in the classrooms. The district will continue to provide information and I will also provide you more information as I receive it. Construction on the gym is not completed but we will be able to use it until they do the major work.

The transition to K-5 as well as other life changes for staff has resulted in having to say goodbye to the following staff members: Cezanne Tyner, Amelia Cates, Kim Altig, Jeff Lane, Moises Flores, Ashley Christophersen, Daniel Aaker, Nicholas Burnett, Ivory Nicholas, Lynette Diller, Jamie Homberg, Nikki Riscal, Anne May, Katie Nations, and Marcos Rodriguez, however, we have an opportunity to welcome new staff members and add them to what is still a strong and impressive community: Erika Schneider - 2nd grade, Nicholas Cassella - 2nd grade, Taleia Monty - 3/4 blend, Andrew Hernandez – PE, Aimee Pell – School Psychologist, Elizabeth Horton - Learning Center (*long term sub for Melody Finamori*). Pam Lyons, SUN School Manager, will be moving on to a new role with Neighborhood House, and we hope to hire a new manager before school begins.

Finally, please remember in your excitement for the new school year to follow the same traffic pattern that we instituted last year. These traffic guidelines are for morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up. If you are new to Peninsula, you will find a map for the expected pattern in your welcome packet. Following this pattern increases safety for everyone and reduces the stress level for the bus drivers dropping and picking up students and the staff out on morning/afternoon duty.

I anticipate that we will be off to a busy start of the school year—please join me in making the start of the year a positive experience for everyone. If you have kudos or concerns, please feel free to communicate them by email, make an appointment for a private time together, or join me at the Principal's coffee to engage more personally in a small group setting. I appreciate your support and feedback.

Sincerely,
Silvia Asson
Principal