

Peninsula School News



Dear Families,

Welcome back to another exciting year! It's been great seeing lots of friendly faces in the hall this month. I wanted to write to let you know about a few changes that may impact you.

1. After much consideration, our School Climate Team has decided to disband the self-manager program. The program had several benefits, including being a great opportunity for kids to get positive feedback for good behavior. However, the program also had downsides. Most notably, it rewarded kids for something many already knew how to do. This did not fit into our philosophy of teaching kids to have a growth- instead of fixed-mindset. Also, it was difficult to administer objectively, and there were always a significant number of kids who felt left out. We continue to have the highest regard for your child's social-emotional development and will continue to teach them a love of learning and intrinsic motivation through a variety of other avenues.
2. Another big change this year was to the lunch and recess routine. Recess is no longer attached to lunchtime. Instead, students have a 30-minute lunch in the middle of the day and two 15-minute recesses, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. So far, we have found this to give students more time to eat and a more evenly balanced number of "breaks" throughout the day.
3. Despite some last minute schedule changes, it appears that we will once again be able to offer our popular garden/nutrition program. Twice a month, students will get to work in our courtyard garden with Grow Portland and participate in a cooking class with me. Last year, we picked apples, made banana pancakes, and created an herbal salve from gathered plants, to name a few of the activities. Kids love this time, and we are fortunate enough to have a master scheduler in Ms. Asson to create these opportunities!
4. At Peninsula, we have five character traits that we think it important to instill in kids during their time with us. These are perseverance, respect, integrity, dependability, and empathy and together make up the acronym PRIDE. Each quarter, we talk and teach about one of these traits. Toward the end of the quarter, we have a school-wide recognition assembly to celebrate these values. When you have a chance, point out examples of these traits in others and encourage your child when he or she demonstrates Panther PRIDE.

As always, thanks for your ongoing support! Please don't hesitate to contact me by phone, email, or in person if you have any questions, comments, or concerns.

Sincerely,

Trevor Parker, School Climate Coordinator.



Don't forget to have your student bring headphones to stay in their classroom, for use with our new TechSmart literacy program.

Upcoming Events:

Wed. 9/20

2 hr. Late Open

Fri. 9/22 - Mon. 10/2

PTA Fundraiser: *New Dates!*

9/ 19, 26, 27 & 29

3/4 Classes visit Sauvies

Mon. 9/25

Library Author Visit- 3/4

Thur. 10/12

Picture Day

Fri. 10/13

No Classes

Wed. 11/1 - Thur. 11/9

Book Fair



*Mark your calendar with the
2017-2018 days with*

Two Hour Late Opening

Sept. 20th

Oct. 18th

Jan. 17th

Feb. 21st

Mar. 21st

Apr. 18th

May 16th

On these days, the breakfast doors will open at 9:45, teachers will pick up at 9:55 and the tardy bell will ring at 10:00am.