

**December 2, 2022**

**Dear West Sylvan Families,**

We have just two weeks left with your Scholars before Winter Break, and the second quarter is well underway! The semester ends at the conclusion of January, at which time report cards will be mailed home for final semester and second quarter grades.

This week, we had our Sparrow Project Assembly (which had been postponed), and our Drama Club and our Band and Choir Musicians are gearing up for their Winter Play and their Winter Concert. We are excited to be able to resume these in-person performances again, and we look forward to having families and community members join us to see the talents of our WSMS Scholars! Please consider joining us for these events!

Congratulations to **Stella Cafiso** (Alto Sax), **Clea Drasen-Pellicier** (Trombone), and **Kane Chen** (Flute) on being selected to participate in this year's All-City Honor Band! All-City participants will collaborate with other selected musicians from all around the district for two days, ending with a performance. This is a great opportunity for musicians to refine their craft, interact with students from other schools and have fun! We are proud to have these three students representing us for this event!

### **Appreciations?**

If you would like to share a kind note of appreciation with any staff member, please [share here](#).

### **Canvas Tips for Families:**

If you are unsure about how to navigate Canvas to stay updated on assignments and progress for your Scholars' classes, some links and tips are here to help. Canvas provides a pretty comprehensive support library for Observers that answers most technical questions. A linked library is below. Additionally, there are some [home grown videos](#) and [documentation](#) to help support our families to become Observers of their student's account. [Canvas Observer/Parent Guides](#)

### **Winter Weather Clothing:**

With the weather changing, please help your Scholar bring warm clothing to school along with a jacket on days when it rains. Often Scholars still want to play outdoors in the rain, and we want them to have warm clothing for the elements. Our WSMS Foundation is also starting a WSMS Clothing Closet. Should your scholar need to visit the Clothing Closet, they can see their Counselor for items. We are also accepting donations for lightly used or new clothing items that can fill the WSMS Clothes Closet.

### **West Sylvan Winter Warmth Drive:**

An announcement from Ms. Melanie's Ethics Class –

*Dear West Sylvan Parents,*

*The Winter Warmth Clothing Drive has begun! The drive started on November 28<sup>th</sup>, and will continue until December 16<sup>th</sup>, the day before we leave for Winter Break.*

*Sixth graders are donating new socks, Seventh graders are donating like-new or new warm hats or scarves, and Eighth graders are donating like-new or new mittens or gloves.*

*This school-wide competition will support the Salvation Army West Women's and Children's Shelter for women and children struggling with domestic violence and the Portland Public Schools Clothing Closet helping students in need.*

*As of the end of this week, donation collections have put the Seventh Graders in first place, closely followed by the Sixth Graders in second place. Eighth Graders are quite a bit behind in third place, but we still have two weeks to bring in more items for those in need during the coming months of cold and rain!*

*This season is a great time to go through your closet for scarves, hats, or gloves -- still in good condition (clean and intact) -- that your Scholars no longer wear or have outgrown!*

*Ms. Melanie's Ethics class thanks you for your support of these two very worthy causes. Go Wolves!*

### **Run a club! Family Volunteers to Run Clubs on Fridays!**

We are looking for PPS-approved volunteers to help run clubs with Students during Advisory period on Fridays. If you are interested in volunteering from 3:15PM-3:45PM on Fridays to run a club, [please complete the form here](#).

### **Marking Attendance through ParentVue**

Families are now able to record future absences for their Students directly in ParentVUE without needing to contact the Main Office. Please remember, if a student is going to miss multiple days, it is up to the Student and/or Parent/Guardian to communicate absences with each teacher and make a plan for missing work and assignments.

#### If your Student is going to be Absent for a **FULL DAY**:

Log in to the ParentVUE website or download and open the phone application. In either case, look for the 'Report Absence' button to the right of your Student's photograph. Select start date, end date, and a reason from the drop-down list. Remember to click SAVE, and you should receive a popup confirmation.

#### If your Student is Absent for a **PARTIAL DAY**:

Send an email to [westsylvanoffice@pps.net](mailto:westsylvanoffice@pps.net) with the date, times, and reason.

No internet access? Call West Sylvan's main line at 503-916-5690 and select the Attendance option.

### **WSMS 2022-2023 Yearbook Orders:**

Each year our Yearbook class, with Educator Mr. Gilley, creates the school yearbook. [To order a school yearbook](#), go to [yearbookordercenter.com](http://yearbookordercenter.com), and enter code **6339**. All sales of the yearbook will be pre-ordered directly through an outside company and will not be available for purchase through the school at the end of the school year. Don't miss your chance to get this keepsake for your scholar!

### **Family Activities:**

If anyone is looking for a fun family activity this holiday season, the [Portland Panto Players](#) will be performing Peter Pan - the Musical Panto at the Alberta Abbey theater between December 10<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Current West Sylvan 8th Grader Lily Mather and West Sylvan Alum Noah Clark** are both part of Portland Panto Players. Panto is a British holiday tradition and hugely popular in the UK with lots of popular songs, audience interaction and some "wink-wink jokes" for the adults. This will be their fourth show and they are fast becoming a new holiday tradition for Portland audiences, having sold out almost all prior shows. Tickets and more information available at [Portlandpantoplayers.com](http://Portlandpantoplayers.com).

West Sylvan families and friends can use promo code - WestSylvan - to get a \$3 per ticket discount.

Hope to see you at the show!

### **Bus Expectations for Success:**

Several school bus drivers are submitting referrals for Scholars due to inappropriate behavior on the school buses. The bus ride to and from the campus is considered part of the school day, and all PPS Conduct and Discipline policies apply during those periods while on the bus.

If Scholars receive bus referrals and are creating an unsafe environment on the bus, they may be suspended from riding the school bus. Families would have to transport Scholars if bus rules cannot be respected. While we want everyone to have a transportation option to school, the ride experience must be safe for all. Families are being contacted if bus safety is compromised to discuss next steps for their individual Scholars. There are video cameras on each bus, and we request videos to investigate misbehavior so that Scholars and Families can be involved in correcting the issues.

### **School Volunteers:**

We sincerely appreciate all family members who have been volunteering in our Main Office, our Library, and joining us for school lunch periods and recess to help with supervision! The additional adults around campus really help with these busier spaces and the busiest times of the school day! If you are already an approved PPS volunteer, you are welcome to come to campus any day of the week when your schedule permits, and we will find a way that you can help on campus! The periods from 11:15AM-1:30PM and 2:30PM-3:45PM are most needed for Lunch recess help and Office assistance! **[Sign up to Volunteer! We want your help \(especially during Lunches or in the Main Office in the afternoons\)!](#)**

### **Student Supports**

<b>6th Grade:</b>	Counselor:	Ricky Almeida [ <a href="mailto:ralmeida@pps.net">ralmeida@pps.net</a> ]
	Administrators:	Jill Hunt [ <a href="mailto:jihunt@pps.net">jihunt@pps.net</a> ] Ben Keller [ <a href="mailto:bkeller@pps.net">bkeller@pps.net</a> ]
<b>7th Grade:</b>	Counselor:	Kandice Abney [ <a href="mailto:kaabney@pps.net">kaabney@pps.net</a> ]
	Administrator:	Ben Keller [ <a href="mailto:bkeller@pps.net">bkeller@pps.net</a> ]
<b>8th Grade:</b>	Counselor:	Rebecca Cohen [ <a href="mailto:rcohen@pps.net">rcohen@pps.net</a> ]
	Administrator:	Jill Hunt [ <a href="mailto:jihunt@pps.net">jihunt@pps.net</a> ]

### **MYP and WSMS:**

Our MYP Learner Trait for December is “Balanced.” Scholars are spending this month discussing and demonstrating that trait. Our Educator team submitted our application to become an authorized Middle Years Programme (MYP) Middle School, and we are waiting on feedback for a possible authorization visit this Winter! To find out more about the WSMS International Baccalaureate MYP authorization journey, [please visit this website!](#)



### **Boundaries for Future High School Students:**

If you are unsure which High School your scholar will attend based on your current residence, please visit [this site and enter your address](#) or [here](#). Below is a website to apply to your “choice” High School if a High School is outside of your normal neighborhood boundaries. Applications need to be submitted by the deadline for consideration for any school outside of your normal PPS neighborhood boundary: <https://www.pps.net/schoolchoice>. There is a deadline for applications, so please apply early if you are requesting a high school outside of your address boundaries.

### **8th Grade Families Interested in Benson High School?**

**Applying to Benson Lottery for the 2023-24 School Year** - We will be accepting applications for Benson from Tuesday, November 15<sup>th</sup> to Friday, December 16<sup>th</sup>. Students only have to complete one on-line application. The online application will be on the Enrollment website:

<https://www.pps.net/schoolchoice>. Students are usually informed of acceptance by the end of January/beginning of February. We will have an in person and online forecasting nights about mid February for students who have been accepted.

### **Reporting Safety Concerns:**

We continue referring scholars to Counseling and mental health providers when needs are identified. [The SafeOregon](#) reporting site is another way to report concerns so that they are investigated.

### **Reminder to Bring Charged Chromebooks and Chargers:**

We have a very small supply of extra Chromebooks to loan out for individual class periods when our Scholars forget their devices at home. We currently have a lot of Chromebooks out for repair, and prioritize those students' need for loaners. Please remind your scholar to bring their charged device to school each day.

Visit our Counseling Corner [here](#)

### **Opportunities for Family Connection and Scholar Extended Activities:**

- [Sign up to Volunteer! We want your help \(especially during Lunches or in the Main Office in the afternoons\)!](#)

### **General Questions:**

Office Email: [westsylvanoffice@pps.net](mailto:westsylvanoffice@pps.net)

Jerda Solonche, Administrative Assistant: [jsolonche@pps.net](mailto:jsolonche@pps.net) (Staff, financial)

Kirsten Crombie, Administrative Assistant: [kcrombie@pps.net](mailto:kcrombie@pps.net) (students, attendance, enrollment, withdrawals)

### **Here are some dates to save on your calendar now in preparation:**

- ★ **Band and Choir Winter Concert:** Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup> from 7:00-8:00PM at WSMS
- ★ **8th Grade Visit to LHS:** Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup> \*Students will be bused to Lincoln during the school day [\(link of campus\)](#)
- ★ **Drama Performance:** Friday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at WSMS Lower Gym Stage (donations for admission)
- ★ **Winter Break:** Monday, December 19<sup>th</sup> - Monday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023
- ★ **No School:** Monday, January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023
- ★ **End of 1st Semester (2nd Quarter) and Final Semester Grades are submitted:** Thursday, January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023
- ★ **No School:** Friday, January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023 - Planning day for Educators

### **Enjoy your weekend, and go Wolf Pack!**

Jill and Ben