



Elaine Chan &lt;echan@pps.net&gt;

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## Friday Update

1 message

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**Alameda Elementary School** <mattgoldstein@pps.net>

Fri, Sep 16, 2022 at 4:02 PM

Reply-To: noreply@pps.net

To: echan@pps.net

September 16, 2022

Dear Families,

As we wrap up our third week of school, I am already witnessing lots of solid routines, instruction, and learning. Here are a [few photos](#) from this morning as I visited several classrooms.

Buddy Classrooms: Every classroom is paired with a buddy class and throughout the year the classes come together for a wide variety of activities - it is a great opportunity for our older students to mentor our younger ones.

It was wonderful to see and meet many of you last night at Back-to-School Night. I enjoyed the opportunity to share some of my thoughts with you and to hear about some of your experiences so far this year. I am always very interested to meet with parents/guardians about anything related to Alameda and our community. If you ever want to talk, please email me at [mattgoldstein@pps.net](mailto:mattgoldstein@pps.net) to set up a time to connect.

I shared a few things last night that I wanted to highlight and share with everyone:

- Here is the article from [Scientific American](#) that speaks about the myth of rugged individualism as it relates to our country's response to the COVID-19 epidemic as well as the power of collective action.
- You can take a look at our new [PPS Instructional Framework](#) that teachers and staff will be using as a tool to improve our overall instruction.
- This fall we continue our work around finalizing Alameda's Core Values. These 3-5 words/short phrases will be at the center of much of our work for the years to come. If you did not have a chance to share your thoughts last night, or you would like to add more ideas, please go to <https://www.slido.com/> and type in code #2985544 to add your thoughts. I look forward to sharing this work with you over the next couple of months as we move to finalize our core values.
- Finally, here is a [link to the complete slide deck](#) from last night's session in the cafeteria.

**Hateful Language:** It has been brought to our attention that a few younger students have been asking one another if they "know the 'n' word." While it may be developmentally appropriate for students to be curious and even experiment with language, it goes without saying that there is no place for racist and language of hate at Alameda. Our school staff is committed to engaging students in a number of ways to combat the racism that exists in our city, state, country and world. It is our responsibility to engage students in lessons that celebrate racial diversity, promote social justice, and provide a space for honest, personal, and on-going conversation.

As I mentioned at BTSN, we need your support as we aim to create a stronger, more inclusive, and caring Alameda. I encourage you to engage in age appropriate ongoing conversations with your child about race and racial equity. As a former Alameda/Beaumont/Grant parent, I can recall some incredible conversations at our dinner table over the years. These talks were learning opportunities for my children, but also for me. There are many good resources to help guide you in this work, here are a few: [PBS](#); [Learning for Justice](#); [Yale News Article](#); [NPR, White Parents talking to their Kids about Race](#)

**Sensory Room Update:** Thank you for donating so many items to our sensory room. If you would still like to contribute, here are some remaining items we could use:

- soft foam balls (approximately 6in)
- play doh
- easel
- small trampoline w/bar

- small bean bags for hopscotch and other games
- watercolor paper

If you have an item, please drop it off in the main office. Thanks again for your support ~ Anna & Molly

**Student Performers are Needed:** Does your child play an instrument, like to sing, or maybe write poetry? During the year we will have six whole school assemblies. A part of the program will be a time for individual students (or a group of students) to perform for the school. If your child is interested, please tell them to let me know. Our first assembly is on 9/22/22. Parents of performers are always welcome to come watch.

**Chess:** If your child is interested in signing up for chess please [CLICK HERE](#) to sign up. Chess is Friday morning, beginning on 9/30/22, from 8:00 AM - 8:35 AM. If you have any questions, please email [Brian Sisk](#).

**Conferences:** Conferences will take place on November 21 and November 22nd. In the coming weeks you will receive an online link to be able to sign-up for your child's conference. Conferences will be available either in-person or virtual.

**Paraeducator** Position: As you may know we have an amazing group of paraeducators who support dozens of our students who are in special education. We are searching for someone to join this incredible team. The position is full-time (40 hours/week, full benefits). If you are interested in the position, or know a possible candidate, please email [Matt Goldstein](#).

**After School Plans:** We all know that plans can change during the middle of the day. If you need to change your child's after school plans please be sure to always email your child's teacher and School Secretary [Beth Minch](#). If the change is last minute and coming at the end of the school day, in addition to sending an email, you should also call the office and let them know. Thanks for your help.

I hope everyone has a great weekend!

Regards,  
[Matt Goldstein](#)

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