



Elaine Chan <echan@pps.net>

Friday Update

1 message

Alameda Elementary School <mattgoldstein@pps.net>

Fri, Oct 13, 2023 at 10:25 AM

Reply-To: noreply@pps.net

To: echan@pps.net

October 13, 2023

Dear Families,

I hope you are enjoying the start of a three day weekend. Looks like we have one more day of sunshine.

A little rain and a bit of wind did not slow us down...thanks to our students, volunteers, and the hundreds of donors who made our 2nd Annual Move for the Arts a great success. Check out these [PHOTOS](#) from the event! We have already raised close to \$13,000! If you have not had a chance to donate, any amount can help. [CLICK HERE](#) to make your donation.

While we focus on trying to improve our students' educational experience at Alameda, it is very difficult to not be reminded about our level of fortune and stability. It is hard to escape the truly horrifying events taking place in our world. For all our families, friends, and loved ones who are impacted, in any way, by what has recently (and continues) taken place in Israel, our thoughts and positive spirits are with you.

The tragic loss of life, especially the lives of children, is hard to stomach and hard to imagine. With the internet, social media, and phones/devices, events taking place around our world, as well as close to our very homes, has, at times, become all consuming. This reality is increasingly becoming a part of the lives of our children. Having healthy conversations about these really challenging topics can be helpful. Here are a few links to articles to help guide parents during these difficult times:

<https://childmind.org/article/helping-children-cope-frightening-news/>

<https://www.commonsemmedia.org/articles/explaining-the-news-to-our-kids>

<https://www.npr.org/2019/04/24/716704917/when-the-news-is-scary-what-to-say-to-kids>

Quite a few Updates and Announcements:

School Photos: You should have received login information from your child's teacher to access the photographs that were taken at school. If you are interested in ordering pictures you can do it directly from the photographers website. If your family needs financial support we can help. All you need to do is either email your child's teacher or either of our counselors, [Molly Clark](#) or [Anna Tofel](#).

Halloween Costumes: Earlier this week I was handed a petition to allow costumes during a part of the school day on 10/31. Compliments to Hazel and Sadie, two fourth grade students, who gathered over 130 student signatures and 17 staff signatures. After conversation with staff and several community members, we have decided to allow students to wear costumes for a small portion of the day. In most cases this will be the last hour of the day, however, each grade level might make some adjustments - they will communicate directly with families.

Speaking of Costumes...Reminder: Alameda's first Halloween Costume Exchange! Drop off clean, gently used costumes in the box outside the office through October 17th. Then come find your child's new look on Thursday, October 19th from 3-6pm in the gym. No costume donation is required to participate. See here for more information: [Alameda's 1st Annual Costume Exchange](#)

We do have the following guidelines so everyone can have a safe and joyful time: No masks, excessive gore/blood, or weapons of any kind. Students should be able to easily put on/take off their costume - perhaps it will be a scaled down version of what they intend to wear in the evening.

School Foundation Update: As many of you know, the PPS School Board is considering making changes to local school foundations. These changes would likely reduce funding at Alameda. On Wednesday evening, the PPS Board Policy Committee met and chose not to bring anything to a vote. Their plan is to slow down the process and spend time

gathering more data and input from the community. There will be a board "work session" on this topic on 10/17, and invite anyone interested in learning more to [tune in](#).

Two members of our school community, Ella Robinson (1st grade teacher) and Katie Day (3rd grade parent) provided [testimony](#) at the meeting. We thank them for advocating on behalf of Alameda and all PPS Students. While I recognize this issue has become somewhat polarizing, I want to thank the many community members who have reached out to the school board to express their thoughts and opinions. It makes a difference and will ultimately provide a better experience for all students. Our hope is that Board members and PPS Leadership will make sure that all students in PPS receive enough funding for a quality education.

Winter Gear Sale: Get ready to embrace the winter season in style with Alameda Elementary School's [Winter Gear Sale!](#) Discover cozy sweatshirts, long sleeve tees, hats, and more to showcase your school spirit. Hurry, the sale ends on October 20th, so visit our gear [website](#) today and help us raise funds for educational initiatives while keeping your students warm and ready for the chilly months ahead!

Earthquake Drill: I wanted to let you know that we will have our annual earthquake drill on 10/19/23 as a part of a state-wide preparedness program called the [Great Oregon Shake Out](#). During this drill, students will practice "Duck, Cover, and Hold On" while in their classrooms. Although Alameda is over 100 years old, the school received a significant seismic upgrade in 2013. If you want more information about work that has been performed at Alameda over the years please let me know and I can connect you with someone from the facilities department.

Site Council: The first Site Council Meeting of the year will take place on Thursday, 10/19 from 5:30 - 7:00 PM. The meeting is virtual and is open to anyone interested in joining the conversation. You can join the meeting using [THIS LINK](#).

Apple Sale: Beaumont Middle School is having their [annual Apple Sale](#) next week. \$15 for 10 pounds of apples. Help support the BMS PTA!

I hope everyone has a great weekend. See you on Monday!

Regards,
[Matt Goldstein](#)

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