



Elaine Chan <echan@pps.net>

Friday Update

1 message

Alameda Elementary School <mattgoldstein@pps.net>

Fri, Oct 20, 2023 at 4:44 PM

Reply-To: noreply@pps.net

To: echan@pps.net

October 20, 2023

Dear Families,

Happy Friday! I hope everyone's week has gone well. Last night we had our first Site Council Meeting of the year. A big thank you to those community members who have volunteered to be a member of this group. Our conversation focused on a number of topics including our School Wide Improvement Plan (a few highlights on [these slides](#)) and the value of educating and supporting the whole child. We also discussed the importance of paying close attention to the social/emotional and behavioral needs of our students. This is a big lift and calls for collaboration and strong connections between school, families, and students.

We also touched on the possibility of a strike, which as of today, appears to be more likely than not. As I said during our site council meeting, our teachers work incredibly hard to support our students and their work is increasingly challenging and never more important. It is my hope that PAT and PPS are able to reach an agreement that honors the complexities of being an educator in 2023. You should received information from PPS via email regarding other details about the possible strike.

Teachers and other staff have recently been speaking with students about the importance of safety/well-being on the playground. The climate and "feel" on the playground, at times, is overly competitive and exclusive. We are hearing and seeing critical language, chanting/taunting, and other comments that are not kind or inclusive or kind. In order for all students to feel the joy of recess, our students need to pay more attention to their interactions (and reactions) and how they are treating one another. These are critical lessons for our students and we thank you in advance for extending these important conversations beyond the school day.

On Wednesday we had our second fire drill of the year. Our students safely exited the building and proceeded to the field, which is our designated meeting area. We followed up our monthly fire drill with an earthquake drill on Thursday.

One final important safety note: Please DO NOT use NE 27th, between Fremont and Klickitat as a drop off area for your child, especially when the buses are still there. It becomes a very dangerous situation for families on bikes, on foot, and in cars. If you want to drop your child off, please use the North side of NE Klickitat, between NE 27th and NE 28th. There is less traffic and students can easily walk on the sidewalk as they make their way towards the doors.

Updates and Announcements

Counselor Corner: Counselors are wrapping up Stop, Walk, Talk lessons and in grades K, 1, 2 we will be moving toward learning about emotional regulation and understanding feelings in ourselves and others. We will be focusing on specific feelings as well as [The Zones of Regulation](#), which helps children first identify their feelings and then work to use coping strategies to get back to the green zone (the learning zone).

3rd and 4th grade lessons are focusing on empathy - what empathy looks like at Alameda and in our community. Lessons in 5th grade will focus on [Growth Mindset](#), [Grit](#) and neuroplasticity. Please ask your child about these topics!

As always, please reach out to your child's counselor: [Molly Clark](#) (grades K,4,5) and [Anna Tofel](#) (grades 1,2,3) for support with social/emotional concerns for your child. If you would like your counselor to attend your child's conference please let us know.

Winter Gear Sale! Discover cozy sweatshirts, long sleeve tees, hats, and more to showcase your school spirit. Hurry, the sale ends on October 31st, 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!

Move for the Arts Update: We have raised close to \$14,000 to help fund art residencies throughout the year. It is not too late to [make a donation of any size](#). Most residencies cost between \$2500 - \$3000, so to ensure all grades have at least one opportunity we need to raise a few more thousand. Thanks!

5th Grade Back to School Night: Our newly formed 5th grade classrooms are excited to welcome parents on Tuesday, 10/24 for a Back to School Night Open House. Classrooms will be open from 5:30 - 6:30 PM. Stop by and meet your child's teacher, other families, and to hear more about the year ahead. Thanks for your patience and flexibility over the last few weeks.

TAG Informational Evening: If you are interested in learning more about Talented and Gifted (TAG) in PPS, please come to the library on Wednesday, 10/25 from 5:30 - 6:30 PM. Abby Largo, 2nd grade teacher and Alameda's TAG Coordinator and PPS Administration will be on hand to talk more about the nomination/identification process as well as what it means to be a TAG student in PPS. There continue to be considerable shifts in the TAG department, so please stop by to learn the latest information.

MOVIE NIGHT: Quick reminder that the PTA is bringing back the Fall Halloween Family Movie Night! Mark your calendars for October 26th at 6:30 PM to watch the animated Addams Family! Admission and popcorn are free for all and concessions for purchase-cash only please. This is a PTA sponsored event and we need volunteers to help with concessions and clean up. Sign up [HERE!](#) We still need more help to make this one happen.

Picture Retakes: If your child was absent or would like a retake, the photographer will be at school on November 2nd. We will also take class pictures of our "new" 5th grade

classrooms

Alameda will be participating in Oregon Battle of the Books (OBOB) again this year. Any third through fifth grader is welcome to participate. Organizer Brianne Zogas will be visiting classrooms spreading the word and answering questions this coming week. In November we will hold a parent info meeting on zoom, and have a participant kickoff meeting afterschool. Exact dates for these meetings are coming soon.

Wrestling! Grant youth wrestling is starting on November 14th! Practices are Tuesday and Thursday from 6-7:30 pm at Grant High School. Boys and Girls wrestling are both official high school sports in Oregon. Now is the time for your kids to get involved in the world's oldest sport. The coaches want to create a fun environment where kids can learn wrestling technique, get in great physical shape, and make some more friends! No experience is needed to participate. You can sign up by clicking on this [link](#).

I hope everyone has a great weekend.

Regards,
Matt

Portland Public Schools would like to continue connecting with you via email. If you prefer to be removed from our list, please contact Portland Public Schools directly. To stop receiving all email messages distributed through our SchoolMessenger service, follow this link and confirm: [Unsubscribe](#)

SchoolMessenger is a notification service used by the nation's leading school systems to connect with parents, students and staff through voice, SMS text, email, and social media.