



Elaine Chan <echan@pps.net>

Fwd: Friday Update

1 message

Beth Minch <bminch@pps.net>
To: Elaine Chan <echan@pps.net>

Mon, May 1, 2023 at 1:50 PM

Beth Minch
School Administrative Assistant
Alameda Elementary School
(503)916-6036
bminch@pps.net

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Alameda Elementary School** <mattgoldstein@pps.net>
Date: Fri, Apr 28, 2023 at 4:01 PM
Subject: Friday Update
To: <bminch@pps.net>

April 28, 2023

Dear Families,

Sunshine! The last few days have been delightful. We took advantage of yesterday's sunshine and had our April fire drill. This week we also enjoyed seeing an incredible collection of science fair projects. It has been great to see/read some of the writing that is going on throughout the school - from kindergarten to 5th grade, it is really incredible. It is especially cool to see the growth our kindergarten and first grade students have made with their writing. Really great stuff!

Our 3rd - 5th grade students are busy with the Oregon State Assessments. We hope to have most, if not all, our assessments finished up by the end of May.

Language at School: Over the last couple of months there has been an uptick in inappropriate language, including two reports of the "n" word being said. While most of this language is not directed towards a person, it remains critically important for our community to take a strong stance in denouncing all forms of hate speech.

One critical way to combat all forms of hate speech (mild to extremely severe) is to engage in developmentally appropriate conversations about race, inclusion, neurodiversity, and empathy. Our students, your children, are sponges. We cannot waste or miss the opportunities we have to help coach, guide, and nurture our students in a manner that allows for learning, reflection, and growth.

Below are some resources to help guide you and your family as you engage in these critical conversations:

- [PPS Racial Equity and Social Justice Page](#): There are quite a few good resources linked on this page.
- [Developing Empathy](#)
- [How Parents Can Cultivate Empathy in Children](#)

In addition, Please know that our staff continues to engage in discussions in the classroom on a regular basis. Through class meetings, literature studies, and curriculum based discussions, teachers continuously generate ongoing and impactful learning opportunities for our students.

Class Placement: If you have a child heading into K-5th grade next year and would like to provide input around class placement, please [complete this FORM](#) by Monday, May 1st.

Morning Drop Off: Each week we see several dangerous “drop offs” taking place on NE 27th, between Klickitat and Fremont. I recognize there are times when folks are running behind, but we would prefer if you arrive a few minutes late, then have a student (or adult) placed in an unsafe situation. If you are unable to park, please consider dropping off your child on the North side of Klickitat, between 27th and 28th. Ideally, no cars should be driving on NE 27th between Fremont and Klickitat 8:35 - 8:45 AM. Thanks for your help.

Attendance: Our goal is for all students to attend school at least 90% of the time. This means that students should be missing less than 17 days in the school year or, on average, less than 2 days a month. We know that illnesses throughout the year are unavoidable and often families take vacations during the school year. Currently, close to 20% of Alameda students are attending school less than 90% of the time. Please help us to improve our school attendance rate by limiting the number of days missed between now and the end of the school year. We are open to all student & family voices, and encourage feedback in regards to your student’s attendance to create a better school environment. If you need support in any way, do not hesitate to reach out.

The kids behind [SuperChill Ice Cream Bike](#) will be starting a new fundraiser called Fruity Friday! They will be selling fruit popsicles on Fridays (weather depending) afterschool in Harvard Square for \$3. All profits will be donated to support Alameda!

I hope everyone has a lovely weekend and a great final couple days of April. See you on May 1st!

Regards,

[Matt Goldstein](#)

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