



Elaine Chan <echan@pps.net>

Friday Update

1 message

Alameda Elementary School <mattgoldstein@pps.net>

Fri, May 19, 2023 at 4:03 PM

Reply-To: noreply@pps.net

To: echan@pps.net

May 19, 2023

Dear Families,

Weren't we just complaining about how cold and wet it has been? Our sweet 100 plus year old building has heated up a bit this week, but with the help of popsicles and a bit of a cool morning breeze we have made it through the week!

This morning, we were treated to a [beautiful concert by Grant High School's Royal Blues Choir](#). I am always astounded at how professional and incredibly gifted these students are - you totally forget that they are 15-18 years old! By the end of the day, things got a bit crazy when dozens of students got the chance to "silly string" Ms. Brown and me as a part of our American Heart Association fundraising project. The school raised over \$11,000 to support the AHA's efforts.

If you have a child in 3rd-5th grade you know that your child has (and still is possibly) taking the Oregon State Assessments. At schools, including Alameda, we often talk about high achievement - as measured by these tests. While it remains important for our students to meet state benchmarks and perform well (high achievement), I am equally interested in how we cultivate a school culture focused on our holistic selves - our academic pursuits, yes, but also how we live our lives, how we interact with others, and how we hopefully make a positive contribution to our school and wider community.

I recently read an opinion piece in the NY Times entitled [What We Lose When We Push Our Kids to 'Achieve' by Adam Gopnik](#). The piece focused on the subtle, yet critical difference between achievement and accomplishment. One specific line that was eye opening for me was, "Achievement is the completion of the task imposed from outside — the reward often being a path to the next achievement. Accomplishment is the end point of an engulfing activity we've chosen, whose reward is the sudden rush of fulfillment, the sense of happiness that rises uniquely from absorption in a thing outside ourselves." The article really resonated with me because I believe it speaks to what I yearn for here at Alameda, in my personal life, and in my life as a parent.

Upcoming Events and Announcements

Family Dance is TONIGHT: Family Dance (and more) is tonight, 5/19/2023 beginning at 6:30 PM. This event is open to ALL students and families.

Eagle Story Hour Needs You! Do you have a child who loves to sing, play music, dance, or write stories or poems and wants to share their gift with the community? On Wednesday, May 31, at 6:30 pm (on the same night as the Spring Open House), Alameda will host the 2nd annual Eagle Story Hour! We will have food and treats for all participants and attendees. You may [sign up](#) your child to participate at [this link](#). If you are signing up to participate, please also sign up to help set up or clean up. This is a noncompetitive, low-pressure evening--think coffee house, not talent show. Our kids are so creative, and here is their chance to let their light shine!

Field Day will be Tuesday, June 6th! We need a lot of volunteers for Field Day – no experience is necessary. We will have a LOT of kids during each session and would like to have as many games as possible, which means we need a lot of adults to help run the stations. You will be very busy during this time, so please do not bring younger siblings. Field Day Times: K-2: Morning 9:15-10:30; 3-5: Afternoon 1:00-2:15. *Volunteers show up 30 min early. If you are able to help out, please follow this [Field Day Volunteer link](#) to let me know that you are able and willing! If you have any questions, please feel free to email Julie Brown at jbrown5@pps.net

Let's get growing! Help needed watering the Discovery Garden at Alameda now and over the summer. Sign up to do it once in a while, once a week, or more often. Everything helps, plus it is a great way to connect your kids with the garden! Time commitment: 20-60 minutes Contact Bonny for details and to sign up (503) 422-6694 bonnybcushman@gmail.com

PPS Central Leadership/Volunteer Opportunity: In the fall of 2023, we are launching a Family Advisory Council on Education (FACE). This new council is a great opportunity for family members, parents, and caregivers to participate in

conversations about PPS' educational program. The Council is a space to provide input to proposed, new, and/or ongoing academic and instructional initiatives and engage in conversations with Chief Academic Officer Kimberlee Armstrong. If you would like more information or be considered for this position, please email [Matt Goldstein](#).

We are down to our final 3 ½ weeks of school - truly hard to believe. Have a nice weekend!

Regards,
Matt Goldstein

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