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## Friday Update

1 message

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Alameda Elementary School <mattgoldstein@pps.net>

Fri, Sep 1, 2023 at 4:51 PM

Reply-To: noreply@pps.net

To: echan@pps.net

September 1, 2023

Dear Families,

Welcome to September! Thanks to our students, staff, and families for making our first week of the 2023-2024 School Year a great success. It has been wonderful to see lots of familiar faces, to meet the dozens of new students, and, over the last couple of days, to welcome our incoming kindergarten students. [Check out this ALBUM](#) with a few photo highlights!

The first couple of weeks are always an exciting mix of activities and learning. One important process taking place in all our classrooms is developing classroom expectations. In addition, we have been working with all students to ensure a clear understanding of our community expectations, especially while in the hallway, cafeteria, bathroom, and playground. Our community values of Inclusion, Kindness, Joy, and especially Safety have come up in our conversations.

We have also talked about the importance of being calm, regardless of where we are, and how we can utilize a wide variety of strategies to help bring a greater level of calmness to our minds and bodies. While this work is vital at the beginning of the year, we also know that all our students (and adults too) need to revisit these expectations and continue to learn and grow each day.

**Arrival and Dismissal:** Things seemed to have gone relatively smoothly this week. On several occasions we had students who were unsure of their after school plans. Please make sure your child AND your child's teacher are aware of the after school plan. If those plans change during the day, please make sure to CALL the office and Email the teacher.

**A Reminder from our Neighbors:** Please make sure that you do not block any driveways or park illegally when you are driving to Alameda for arrival, dismissal, or for a school-wide event. Thank you for taking a few extra minutes to ensure that you can find a spot.

**Cafeteria** - First week in the cafeteria has gone well. Students have approximately 20 minutes to eat. If your child needs more time to eat, we have a table designated for kids to stay in the cafeteria for a longer period. I want to make sure all kids have sufficient time to eat. If you are packing a lunch, think of packing a few items that your student really enjoys versus lots and lots of items. Every child has a card which they can use to buy lunch or milk. If your child ever plans to buy lunch or milk you need to make sure there is money on the card or you have gone through the process to qualify for free lunch. You can either bring in a check to school or you can go online and add money that way. For more information, go to [pps.net/nutrition](https://pps.net/nutrition)

**Communicable Disease Update:** There is no longer a required exclusion for an individual infected with COVID-19. Please visit [Multnomah County's website](#) regarding COVID for the latest guidance. Please be sure to follow state and county rules regarding when a student must stay home from school, regardless of the cause of illness. Please visit [THIS DOCUMENT](#) to better understand when your child needs to stay home and how long they need to stay away from school.

**Special Education Overview:** We have a highly talented team of people who support our students who qualify for special education services. If you have concerns about your child's academic and/or social/emotional development, our school (and PPS as a district) has a detailed manner in which we respond to these cases. Not every student who is having challenges will need special education services. Our responsibility is to provide as many interventions as we can to help target any given area(s) where a student is having difficulty. Ultimately, in a small percentage of cases our school based team decides to refer a child for further evaluation. If the parent agrees, we move forward with determining what assessments to give a child, analyze the results, and make a determination regarding eligibility for Special Education Services.

While parents have the ability to bring concerns to our attention, it does not guarantee that our school based team will assess a child for special education. In other words, a parent cannot just request the school perform an evaluation without a thorough examination of what the challenges are, what has been done to help provide interventions, and what

can possibly continue to happen to support the child. Parents' feedback, opinions, and ideas are vital, however, the decision to evaluate a child is made by the entire team.

For more information on Special Education, please feel free to reach out to our School Psychologist, [Will Backner](#).

Upcoming Events:

**Friday, 9/8/23 at 8:50 AM:** Principal's Coffee in the cafeteria

**Thursday, 9/14/23 from 5:30 - 7:30:** Back to School Picnic Extravaganza at Alameda! Live music, food trucks, free cake, prizes, and more!

**Thursday, 9/21/23 from 6:00 - 7:30 PM:** Back to School Night - The event starts in the cafeteria at 6:00 PM and then visit your child's classroom between 6:30 - 7:30 PM to learn about the exciting year ahead. BTSN is the ONE adult only event of the school year. Thanks for your understanding.

**October 2/3:** Picture Day

**October 10th:** Second Annual Move for the Arts Fundraiser

I hope everyone has a great Labor Day weekend. Enjoy time with your family and friends. We will see everyone, including all our kindergarten students, on Tuesday, September 5th!

Warm Regards,  
Matt Goldstein

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