



Friday Update

1 message

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March 17, 2023

Dear Families,

There was a bit of excitement and plenty of green in the air today! It was a fun end to a busy week. It has been especially nice to see the sun over the last few days. I am hoping that some warmer and drier weather is ahead (of course we did have a snow day last April). I know the students were excited to get back on the field this week!

As you know, Safety is one of Alameda's four community values. As we begin to engage in more conversations with our students regarding safety, several themes have emerged: students want a calm environment; they want time to connect with and be with friends; they want teachers who will unconditionally care for and support them; and they want adults (including parents/guardians and other loved ones) to be there for all the ups and downs.

Our students need to feel a sense of belonging and safety to excel at school. There are times when students struggle with their ability to be calm and mindful. We have seen an increase in some behaviors, especially around impulsivity, being able to control one's emotions, and being kind towards others. Student behavior is complex and presents at school in a myriad of ways. Our response to these challenges rests in our belief that kids (and adults) want to do well at school. Our school team responds immediately and continuously to issues that emerge. If you ever have questions, please connect with your child's teacher, one of our counselors, our AP Britt Kuether, or me.

Both our experiences and research tell us that we cannot impose our will and simply demand (and punish if we see no growth) those who don't comply. Our solution must focus on each individual child and family - building a strong and positive relationship, engaging in collective problem solving, and specifically identifying and teaching the skills that are needed. This is a collaborative and ongoing (and sometime long term) effort, with our staff and families working together.

Spirit Days Are Coming: As we get ready for Spring break, we will have three spirit days next week. Here's the lineup:

- Wednesday, 3/22: Wear your favorite Sports Team/College Team or Alameda Gear
- Thursday, 3/23: Wear your Colors Day: Kindergarten: Purple; First: Blue; Second: Green; Third: Pink; Fourth: Orange; Fifth: Red
- Friday, 3/24: PJ Day!

Foundation Update: From our foundation board: *Thank you, Alameda, for a hugely successful gala last Saturday night! We hope you had as great of a time as we did. We were thoroughly impressed by everyone's attire, energy, and spirit of giving. And who knew we had so many dancing queens amongst us?! Our Auction Committee is still working through final numbers raised from ticket sales, sponsorships, the silent auction, and the live gala. But we're pleased to*

announce that we are very close to \$150,000 raised! What's Next: Classroom Art Projects! Many of you noticed we did not include those in the Silent Auction this year. We'll have a separate event highlighting classroom art later this Spring. If you're interested in helping, please email foundation@alamedaschool.org.

Over the last several years there have been concerns raised regarding the overall position of foundations, including that they perpetuate inequities within our system. This issue has clearly become politicized and has led to strong beliefs around how to best move forward. I know there are a range of opinions that exist throughout PPS and within our own community. My hope is that all sides are able to engage in a conversation that focuses on how to meet the needs of students at Alameda and throughout PPS.

Most would agree that we need holistic reform around how we, as a state and local community, fund our schools. I look forward to joining future conversations where our goal is to work collaboratively on behalf of our students. In the short term, as Principal, my charge is to leverage all existing funding sources to meet the needs of Alameda students. This includes using foundation dollars, as well as money that is donated directly to our school or channeled through the PTA. All of these funds are critical in our ability to serve all students, especially those who are historically underserved or those who need a greater level of academic and/or behavioral support.

Beaumont Choir: The Bluebirds (Beaumont's advanced choir) performed on Wednesday for students in 3rd-5th grade. It was great to see/hear them perform - they are an amazingly talented group. I was lucky enough to see them again on Thursday when they performed for all of PPS's principal's at our monthly leadership meeting. Many of the members got their start while singing with Alameda's SongBird Choir! I hope we are able to continue that program next year.

BIKE BUS: Wednesday, April 19th will be [Bike Bus for Earth Day](#) and marks one year since starting the bike bus. If you would like to help Coach Balto with ideas and support celebrating please email sbalto@pps.net. Students are requesting another bike bus day. If you want to help lead a bike bus on another day please fill out this survey. Depending on interest will determine frequency & route. [Click here to sign up](#).

Connect to Kindergarten: Thanks to those of you who have enrolled your incoming kindergarteners. To enroll, please visit the [PPS Enrollment website](#). We will have an open house for incoming kindergarten parents/guardians on April 12th from 5:00 - 6:00 PM. In addition, on Thursday June 1st, from 5:00 - 6:00 PM, we will have an event for students and families on the Alameda Playground. And finally, there will be a chance to connect with new families in August - be on the lookout for a date later this spring.

I hope everyone has a great weekend!

Regards,
[Matt Goldstein](#)

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