



Friday Update

1 message

Alameda Elementary School <mattgoldstein@pps.net>

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November 3, 2023

Dear Families,

In many ways this has been the tale of two very different weeks. On Monday and Tuesday there was great excitement and energy in the building, culminating with a joyous celebration of fall - full of costumes, sweet treats, games, and community. Less than 24 hours later, there were a total of 5 people inside Alameda and an eerie sense of emptiness has enveloped the school.

I know these last few days have been a true challenge, on multiple levels, for our entire school community. I also know that within Alameda and throughout PPS, there are a wide range of opinions and beliefs around the strike.

Teaching, like parenting and raising a child, is incredibly complicated and challenging, and requires a great deal of energy, patience, and unconditional love and care. Yes, this strike is about the need for real investments in our schools, and yes, it is also about fair and competitive levels of compensation, which all professionals deserve. It is also about our state's chronic underfunding of our K-12 public schools. But this strike also seems to be about something more, something that has been building for a decade or more - a recognition that our students and our families need more now, than perhaps ever before.

Regardless of your position on whether the decision to strike is "right" or "wrong," I do hope we use this time, this pause in the action, to recognize that each of us has a critical part to play in caring for our students, in connecting with our families, and in building a stronger Alameda. Our teachers, regardless of the size of their raise, the amount of planning time they have, or the number of students in their classroom, cannot do this work alone. We all have a responsibility to work together to create the best possible experience for all our students and our families.

While we don't know when, we are certain that a settlement will be reached and soon after, the hallways will once again be alive. Until then, here are a few announcements and updates:

- **Progress Reports:** Yesterday was the end of the 1st quarter and today was slated to be the day teachers worked on progress reports. Clearly, these will be delayed. As soon as school reopens, district leadership will announce an update

regarding the timing of 1st quarter report cards.

- **Conferences:** If you have not signed up for conferences, please make sure you email your child's teacher once we return to school to get the link. At this time, conferences are still scheduled for Monday and Tuesday, November 20th and 21st.
- **Lost and Found:** We have a large amount of all sorts of clothing and accessories in our lost and found. Some of these items will be on display in the hallway over the next few weeks, including during conferences. After conferences, all unclaimed items will be washed and donated.
- **OBOB Update and Information:** My name is Brianne Zogas and I am helping to organize OBOB (Oregon Battle of the Books) this year. If you have a 3rd-5th grader they may have come home from school last week asking about joining an OBOB team! This is because I went around to the classrooms and talked about what OBOB is and how to get involved. On Wednesday November 15th there will be a virtual parent meeting that will be especially helpful to any new participants' families. Parent info meeting on zoom on 11/15 at 7:00. Join meeting here: [OBOB parent meeting](#). The [OBOB website](#) is a great resource. It has the reading list (make sure to scroll down to grades 3-5). It is never too early to start reading!!
 - Deadline for team registration- 12/8
 - Pool play (OBOB battles for all teams)- 2/10
 - Practice battles and final battles dates are TBD
- **No School on Friday, November 10th** - Veteran's Day Holiday
- **Picture Retakes:** Picture retakes were supposed to take place yesterday. They have been rescheduled for November 28th.
- **Save the Date:** Music teacher Lisa Engleman, is excited to announce some upcoming student musical events. More details will be announced as the performance approaches. Performances will begin at 6:30 PM on the following dates:
 - Grades K/1: May 21, 2024
 - Grades 2/3: April 23, 2024
 - Grades 4/5: February 20, 2024

If the strike extends into next week, please do not hesitate to contact the office if you have any questions or have any needs. We are here to support. You can reach [Elaine](#) or [Beth](#) by email or phone (503-916-6036) and you are always welcome to email [Britt](#) or me as well.

I hope you have a nice weekend and that we see each other soon.

Regards,
[Matt Goldstein](#)

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