



# Chief Joseph Elementary School Family Bulletin 10/31/2023

*Translation is done by Google Translate. There may be errors.  
Please call the PPS Language Line at (503) 916-3589 if you  
need support with translation.*

## All-School News

### Resources during the strike

The Portland Public School District and the union representing District educators, Portland Association of Teachers (PAT), are negotiating the union contract. The district has been preparing for a potential strike by the union, in the event that an agreement can not be reached. If there is a strike, teachers will not be available to provide classroom or virtual instruction and the District will have no choice but to close schools to students until the strike ends.

**If a deal is not reached, the strike is scheduled to start tomorrow, November 1st.** In the event of a strike, the school will be closed and students should not be dropped off at the school. The district has posted resources online in case of a strike.

### [Strike Resources](#)

**Meals for during a strike:** PPS will provide grab and go meals at more than half of our school locations\* for free for all kids, ages 1-18 and all current PPS students. If a strike occurs, meals will be available for pick up on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, between 11:30 am - 1:00 pm, beginning on Wednesday, November 1.

**Chief Joseph Elementary School is a school meal pick up location.** Check the [map](#) for other site's you can pick up meals from. You are not limited to picking up meals at your home school, if another location is closer for your family.

**Quick Cards:** Copies of quick cards were sent home with your student earlier this week so they can access pps resources while at home. You can go to

*A strong, diverse  
and respectful  
community where  
we make learning  
creative and fun!*

## Nutrition Services Information

[Breakfast](#)

[Lunch](#)

## Upcoming Events

**November  
Emergency Drills-**  
Fire & Secure the  
Perimeter

**11/3/23 - Teacher  
Planning Day/ No  
school**

**11/8/23 - PTO  
Community Meeting**

**11/10/23 - Veterans  
Day/ No School**

**11/16/23 - Picture  
Retake**

<https://myapps.classlink.com/home>. Pro tip: take a picture of the quick card in the case that your student possibly misplaces it.

**11/20 & 11/21-** Day and Evening Conferences, no school

### **Conferences:**

First quarter conferences will take place on Monday, November 20th and Tuesday, November 21st. If you did not have a chance to sign up for a conference time during the open house, please contact your student's teacher to select a time to come in.

**11/22-11/24** - No school

### **Last Call for Fun-d Run Pledges!**

Thank you to everyone for the support of our school's fundraising efforts. If you still need to turn in your pledges, you are more than welcome to submit through school pay, or by sending a check into the office.

### **Lost & Found:**

Our lost and found is overflowing with lots of sweatshirts and jackets. If your student is missing something, encourage them to check the lost and found in the hallway between the cafeteria and the gym. Small and breakable lost and found items are held in the office, and students are always welcome to swing by and ask if an item is turned in. If parents would like to check the lost and found, you are welcome to stop by the front desk afterschool.

In an effort to try and help students be reunited with their items, we encourage you to write their names so we can get them returned to them. Before winter break the lost and found will be cleared out and all leftover items will be donated.

### **Volunteering:**

Volunteers are a very important part of our school community and we rely on volunteers to help with a variety of events. In order to volunteer with PPS you need to complete the [volunteer application](#) online. Applications can sometimes take a few weeks to process so please submit as soon as possible to make signing up to volunteer easy!

### **Afterschool Changes:**

As a reminder, if your student's after school release plans change please:

- Communicate changes with their teacher
- Let the front office know when:
  - It is a change for the same day, and the teacher might not get a message in time
  - It is a long term, and regular change
  - If it will change their bus riding schedule

We work to try and make the end of day release go as smoothly as possible so knowing plans ahead of time is extremely helpful!

### **School Nurse Needs**

In the office, our school nurse has a variety of extra clothes, jackets and shoes available for students to change into if needed. We currently are in need of gently used clothing in the following sizes:

- Size 6-8 boys/unisex

- Size 8-12 pants all sizes

### **OBOB - 3rd - 5th Grade**

Oregon Battle of the Books (OBOB) at Chief Joseph

OBOB is a statewide reading program sponsored by the Oregon Association of School Libraries. This will be a fun opportunity for 3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> graders to read a set list of books, practice with a team of other students, and then compete against other teams from our school about knowledge from the books. One team from Chief Joseph will then compete against other schools in a regional battle next March.

Much more information can be found in the attached information document.

If you have additional questions or want to get involved feel free to email me. Thanks!

Kerry Lear

[kerrylear@gmail.com](mailto:kerrylear@gmail.com)

*(parent to a 5th grader and OBOB coordinator for Chief Joseph)*

### **BIZ town Field Trip for 5th Grade!**

Our 5th graders had an amazing opportunity to participate in JA BizTown last week. In Biz town, students are able to interact within a simulated economy and take on the challenge of managing organizations. Students not only discovered the intricacies of jobs and being members of the community, but also discovered the abundance of opportunities available within their cities. See a few highlights from the field trip below:



## Student Health Needs

Children can receive the 2023-2024 COVID-19 and flu vaccines ahead of the respiratory virus season, but where they get vaccinated may depend on which health care coverage they have.

- Student Health Centers offer both COVID-19 and flu vaccines for students in grades K-12 at no cost. Call your nearest [Multnomah County Student Health Center](#) or OHSU's [Benson Wellness Center](#) for an appointment.
- 2023-2024 COVID-19 vaccines are fully covered by all [Marketplace](#) plans and most other private insurance plans at no cost to the patient anywhere the vaccine is offered. It's best to go to an *in-network* provider or pharmacy\*, but if you can't find one, call your insurer *in advance* to arrange full coverage at an out-of-network location.
- Flu vaccines are fully covered by all [Marketplace](#) plans and most other private insurance plans at *in-network* providers and pharmacies\*. Call your insurer in advance to confirm.
- Children age 18 and under who are enrolled in OHP/Medicaid, or those who are uninsured, underinsured or American Indian/Alaska Native, can receive the 2023-2024 COVID-19 and flu vaccines at no cost from providers that participate in the federal [Vaccines for Children](#) (VFC) program. VFC providers can include private doctors and clinics, schools, hospitals, public health clinics, retail pharmacies, community health clinics and Tribal health departments. Search for VFC providers or pharmacies [here](#).
- Eligible children (and adults) in Oregon can also receive vaccines at no cost through OHA's [Vaccine Access Program](#) (VAP). Search for VAP providers or pharmacies [here](#).
- Flu and COVID-19 vaccines are fully covered for those 18 and under who are enrolled in OHP/Medicaid anywhere those vaccines are offered that also accepts OHP, which includes most retail pharmacies.

*\* Oregon pharmacies can administer COVID-19 and flu vaccines (but not other routine childhood vaccines) to children as young as 3 through Dec. 2024. After that, the minimum age for children to receive any vaccines at a pharmacy returns to 7 years old.*

## Oregon Health Plan Open Enrollment:

The deadline to enroll your Family for 2024 Health Coverage by January 15, 2024

Individuals and families will have the opportunity to enroll in, renew, or change their health insurance plan for 2024 during the upcoming Marketplace health insurance **open enrollment** period, which is **Nov. 1, 2023 through Jan. 15, 2024**. Open enrollment is the only time when anyone who is not offered coverage from a job or a public program like the Oregon Health Plan or Medicare can enroll in health coverage through [OregonHealthCare.gov](#), often with financial help.

Health insurance covers essential health benefits critical to maintaining individual health and treating illness and accidents. Health insurance helps to reduce medical and prescription drug costs, making health care more affordable and thus more accessible.

Health coverage also is important for students because:

- Having health insurance is linked to better health (study [here](#)).
- Health insurance coverage helps boost test scores among children from low-income households (study [here](#)).
- Expanded health insurance coverage has led to historic reductions in racial disparities in access to health care (study [here](#)).



Trained community groups, Tribal health organizations and insurance agents are available to help Oregonians enroll in coverage through the Marketplace during open enrollment. There is no cost for their services. Many of them offer services in multiple languages. These “Enrollment Assisters” also can help people transition to private health coverage if they have experienced a qualifying life event. This includes people who are losing Oregon Health Plan benefits as the state works to renew each of its current members. Click [this link](#) to find an Enrollment Assister near you and who speaks your preferred language.

## Library

**You're invited to our**



Our annual Scholastic Book Fair is coming soon! Book Fair will be open during Teacher Parent Conferences on November 20-21 from 8am-7:30 pm and before and after school the week of November 27- December 1st from 8:00-8:35 am and 3:00-4:00 pm. I am excited to announce that Scholastic has added its version of a gift card as an option for parents; it's called E-Wallet! You can learn more about E-Wallet in this [video](#).

**Pennies for Books Class Challenge** starting November 13th - 17th students will be encouraged to bring in their pennies and change, no paper dollars please. Each class will be given a collection tub to collect their change. The class that collects the most change will get to use all the donations to go shopping with me at the Book Fair to choose the books they want to add to the library! The challenge would be for each class to bring in pennies or change and the class that brings in the most pennies will get to use a portion of the money raised (from all the classes) to pick out and purchase books that they want for their classroom library; the remaining of the money will be used to support the Backpack Program in getting books to students who may not be able to shop the Book Fair.

## TAG NEWS:

October TAG News

**The window for data driven referrals begins October 17, 2023. As a parent, you don't need to do anything yet.**

What will happen during the data-driven referral process is:

- Based on OSAS and NNAT scores, the top 10% of students in the district will be referred for TAG identification.
- Parents will receive a postcard telling them to complete the online referral if they want their child to be considered for TAG identification.
- Teachers will receive a notification of students who are referred
- Final decisions must be completed by January 12, 2024

**NNAT Testing for Intellectual Giftedness for 2nd graders this month**

The second graders will take the NNAT test intellectual giftedness. If your child qualifies for this identification, you will be notified by the TAG department directly

Students who don't qualify during the data driven process, can begin referring their child starting in December. There will need to be supporting work samples and assessments to evidence the need for identification, so it would be best to discuss this with your child's teacher during conferences. TAG identification is used to differentiate instruction based on academic need or performance and not a program per se. If you have any other questions about how your child's rate and level are being met, the teacher is your first resource. If you have further questions, feel free to reach out to me at: [rmichels@pps.net](mailto:rmichels@pps.net)

Rose Michels

## PE Update



Students in PE have been refining their team building skills by playing cooperative games and enhancing their health related fitness abilities! Some activities we've played recently include puzzle relays, cooperative math fitness games and a school wide "fastest class challenge." Currently we are working on soccer skills focusing on ball control, dribbling, passing and kicking. Students are working hard on continuing to play and move in a safe environment while exploring a wide variety of different movements and physical activities.

Interested in signing up for a conference with PE teacher Ms. Mazur? [Click here!](#)

## Food Pantry

Due to the strike, all school food pantries and markets located at Portland Public Schools (PPS) buildings will be closed until the strike ends. Food is still available for you and your family. Call 211 or visit the Oregon Food Bank (OFB) Finder: [OregonFoodFinder.org](https://oregonfoodfinder.org), where

you can enter your address and find all the free food markets, pantries and meal sites in your community.

In addition, SUN community partners are hosting food distributions for all PPS families and the public through the duration of the strike. [Distribution details can be found below or from this flier.](#)

**Inner NE: Self Enhancement, Inc.**

3920 N Kerby Ave, Portland OR 97227

Fridays, starting Nov 3, 3pm-6pm

**North/St. Johns: St. Johns Community Center**

8427 N Central St, Portland, OR 97203

Mondays, starting Nov 6, 1pm-3pm

**SE/Lents: Brentwood Darlington Community Center**

7211 SE 62nd Ave, Portland OR 97206

Thursdays, starting Nov 9, 11am-1pm

Chief Joseph families may reach out to [delivery@loudcrows.com](mailto:delivery@loudcrows.com) to arrange delivery if unable to pick up at the designated times above.

## Backpack Program

The Backpack Program is available to connect with families in the community and help with problem-solving around accessing resources during the strike. Email [backpack@chiefjosephschool.org](mailto:backpack@chiefjosephschool.org)

**Community Giving - Backpack Food & Fund Drive!!**

Help us send home extra food this winter for our CJES Backpack Program families by participating in our **Backpack Food & Fund Drive** from November 7th through December 7th. There will be multiple ways to help including purchasing a chance to win 2 tickets to a Trail Blazer home game! We will celebrate our Backpack Food & Fund Drive by hosting a community **Food Packing Event** in December! Please look out for more details about this event.

## PTO Update:

**Community Meeting - November 8th**

Our community meeting is scheduled to take place on November 8th at 6:30pm. This meeting will only happen if school is happening as planned. If there is a teacher strike, we will not be able to have a community meeting. We will make sure to communicate with families to keep you posted.

**Upcoming Profit Shares**

The PTO has partnered with three local businesses to raise funds for our community. If dining out fits within your family's budget and schedule, please consider adding these dates to your calendar:

- Monday, November 13th: [Atlas Pizza](#), Killingsworth location (4-10 pm)
- Monday, December 4th: [The Old Gold](#) (3-11 pm)

## PTO Community Meetings

We have all of our PTO Community Meetings on the schedule, so please add these to your calendar:

Nov 8, 2023

Jan 10, 2023

Mar 13, 2023

Apr 10, 2023

The doors for our community meetings will open at 6pm, and the meeting will start at 6:30pm. We are working to have childcare provided for the remaining meetings, but will confirm prior to each meeting.

## PTO Volunteers Needed!

The school and the PTO are in need of volunteers for many things throughout the year. You should have received information regarding volunteering in the welcome packet that was sent home with your student. Please refer to the handout, or this website <https://www.pps.net/volunteer> to start the process of getting cleared to be a volunteer for the school. Just a reminder that clearance does expire, so if you have questions about your volunteer status please contact Ashley in the office: [agale@pps.net](mailto:agale@pps.net)

## Current Volunteer Needs

- Fundraising Committee Members - please contact [fundraising@chiefjosephschool.org](mailto:fundraising@chiefjosephschool.org)
  - Currently seeking volunteers to help with donation procurement for our annual fundraiser. This would include contacting businesses and community members to inquire about in-kind or gift card donations.
- [Playground Project](#) Committee Members - contact [chiefjosephplayground@gmail.com](mailto:chiefjosephplayground@gmail.com)

Contact Mandy at [volunteer@chiefjosephschool.org](mailto:volunteer@chiefjosephschool.org) with questions or to express interest in volunteer opportunities.

## Stay Connected with the PTO!

If you haven't already connected with the PTO through remind, please sign up to receive timely updates and to stay in touch. You have to opt-in online to receive communications:

<https://www.remind.com/join/cjpto>.

## Ockley Green Plant Sale



## Community News:



## **Tinker Camp in No Po**

Please include me as a resource. I have a 10,000 sq. ft. maker space in St. Johns that I am opening to provide support for our NoPo families. Our first day will be Nov. 1, and we will remain open until the strike ends. We are located down at the edge of Cathedral Park in the old Columbia Sportswear building, the Workshop St. Johns. Go to [www.tinkercamp.org/register](http://www.tinkercamp.org/register) to sign up. Since we are a non-profit, our services are offered on a sliding scale.

## **Playground Project Update**

You may have noticed that some new plant babies went into the 3 tree wells near the gym last weekend! This is the work of the Playground Committee, and the first step in our goal this school year to dial up the vitality and functionality of the “4 Trees” areas. A gigantic thanks goes out to HABITAT (@cultivateyourhabitat) for the most generous donation of plants, soil amendment and overall botanical expertise!!

Now that we’ve accomplished this initial round of planting and soil amendment (more of that will happen throughout the year as needed and seasonally appropriate), we’ll be turning our attention towards finalizing the design of permanent structures to surround the wells (trellis fencing, benches and educational signage) and securing the funding to make those happen. Please let us know if you want to be involved, particularly if you have fundraising experience/skills to offer!

In the longer term and bigger picture, we still need people to take the lead on developing such projects as the sports field, asphalt art and murals, and nature playgrounds. Again, fundraising is a huge component of making these larger dreams a reality, so please let us know if you can help find and apply for grants, or if you have connections or leads on partnerships that might enable us to move the larger projects forward. All ideas, questions, skills and levels of involvement are always welcome! Email us at [chiefjosephplayground@gmail.com](mailto:chiefjosephplayground@gmail.com).

**Please note:** We’re adding a November meeting on the 16th from 6:30-8:00pm at Arbor Beer Lodge. Come join the conversation on how to make our playground awesome!