



# Chief Joseph Elementary School Family Bulletin 1/29/2025

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## All-School News

At CJES, we want to acknowledge there may be students and families that are feeling unsure, anxious and fearful in our community. We want all families to know that we are committed to equity and keeping our students safe.

The PPS district sent out information and resources that we want to share again to highlight our commitment to student and family safety. [PPS Message and Resources](#)- sent on Dec 13th through remind.

## Month of Service in Honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Our school came together to support our community by collecting over 200 cans of food, 20 pet items, 6 large boxes of toiletries, 2 large boxes of socks and underwear, 8 big bags of blankets, and 19 large bags of clothing. These items were organized by students and donated to the Portland Rescue Mission and Rose Haven. Thank you so much for your contribution to this service project that will help support amazing organizations in our community.



## Report Card information:

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

## February Emergency Drills

- **Fire Drill**
- [Summary of Drills](#)
- [Parent Emergency Resources](#)

## [PPS Academic Calendar](#)

## Upcoming Events

- 2/12 - PTO Community Meeting @ 6:30, doors open at 6:00
- 2/17 - No School/ Possible snow make up day
- 2/26 - Early Release day at 11:50am

## Nutrition Services

- [Breakfast](#) & [Lunch](#)

Teachers have been busy working on report cards, and they will officially be live on Monday, February 3rd. At CJES we have decided that in addition to report cards being available online in ParentVUE, we will also be printing report cards and assessments and will send them home with your student. We want to acknowledge that while we are committed to sustainability, we also want families to have timely access to their students academic progress without any barriers.

If you would like to access your students report card online, you can log in and access through [ParentVue](#). If you do not have [ParentVUE](#) set up, or need assistance with access or a password reset please email me ([Ashley Gale](mailto:Ashley_Gale)) or call the front office (503) 916-6255 and we can assist with getting you access. More information on the PPS report card: [PPS guide for K-5 Report Card](#)

### **School Volunteer Needs:**

With the new bell times and the entry procedures changing at our school we have seen a large increase in the number of students coming into the cafeteria in the morning before school. We are in need of a few more adults to help support the cafeteria in the morning and at the lunch hour. Information on what we are thinking of is below:

### **Description of Cafeteria Volunteers:**

Morning:

Time: 7:45-8:05

Duties: Provide general supervision, which includes greeting students, helping with containers, checking in with students to provide a positive start to the day.

Number of Volunteers: 1-2 per day

Lunch:

Time: 11:10-11:40, 11:40-12:15

Duties: Provide general supervision, which includes greeting students, helping with containers, checking in with students to provide a positive redirection if they are getting antsy.

Number of Volunteers: 1-2 per day

Training: Once we have a clear timeline, Ms. Whitaker will schedule a few 30 minute sessions to orient volunteers and give tips for how to be most supportive.

Volunteers in this role would need to be background checked and also need to check in at the office at the beginning of their shift. If you are interested in helping out, please email Ashley ([agale@pps.net](mailto:agale@pps.net)).

### **Attendance Process Update:**

Please note an important change to the PPS attendance process. From the district: To enhance our focus on student safety, automated attendance calls through Remind will now begin at 9:30 AM instead of 10:30 AM. To avoid receiving a call, please report your child's absence to the school before 9:30 AM. Thank you for your cooperation.

### **At CJES, to report an absence you can:**

- Parents/Guardians with PARENTVUE access can update absences online
- [Email](#) front office staff (Ashley and Michelle) and students teacher
- call 503-916-6255 to report your student's absence. Please indicate the reason for absence if you leave a message. Options are: Sick, Vacation, Mental Health Day, Family Emergency. Etc.

## Change in morning class entry!

Beginning January 21st, we are not staffing the 3-5 door (the door between the main hallway and the gym). We are needing to shift staffing around so that we have more staff in the cafeteria since we have had more students entering the school from that entrance.

1st through 5th grade will all enter the library doors. We have found that we need to shift staff to the cafeteria, as there are more students there, and fewer on the blacktop this year. 3-5 teachers, please let your students know about this change.

## Library



This month in Library class students will have the opportunity to Read with The Rip City Remix Basketball Team! The Rip City Remix is the G League affiliate team for the Portland Trail Blazers. During Library the week of January 13-17, 2025, Mrs. Hall will be introducing the Remix Reading Program to K-5th graders and handing out student gameboards. The goal of this program is to encourage North Portland elementary school students to find joy in reading!

Students participating in the program will track their progress of reading for 20 minutes a day for five days starting January 20th through January 31st; one of the five days will be completed at school during Library class so students will only need to read four days outside of school. Students who complete the challenge will receive one free student ticket and discounted adult tickets for either the Educator Appreciation Game on February 10th or the Hispanic & Latinx Heritage Celebration Game on March 2nd. Mrs. Hall will be at the February 10th Educator Appreciation Game, where participating teachers will be recognized at the game and any participating students will be able to access post-game photos with Remix players. In addition to this, a few players will be coming to Chief Joseph the morning of Friday, January 31st to congratulate students and interact with a few library classes. Unfortunately, not all classes will get to participate on January 31st, as the players' schedules are pretty tight.

## TAG Referrals

The Family and Teacher TAG referral window is now open and will remain open until January 10th, 2025. The goal of this second referral round is to identify students who may not have been referred during the Fall data-driven referral window. This includes but is not limited to, those students in K-2 who do not participate in MAP and OSAS testing, as well as those in 3-5 for whom computer-based assessments present a roadblock in demonstrating their academic level and need. Families of 2nd grade students who have scored at or above the 95th percentile on the screening assessment for intellectual giftedness (called NNAT) will be notified in January 2025 that their student will be evaluated for TAG identification based on that assessment.

The referral process this year has changed from previous years. Families interested in referring their student for TAG should contact their classroom teacher during this window to discuss their student's needs. Teachers submitting a referral will complete a reflection about their experience with the student in the classroom and consider several things, including:

- How quickly does this student master new concepts and skills?

- Is the student providing insights and thinking about topics in a way that is different from most students?
- In what ways (if any) does the teacher already need to differentiate for this student to support their success?

Once this reflection is completed, additional work samples and assessment data will be collected before the Chief Joseph ES TAG team meets to make a final decision. Once a decision is reached, parents will be informed via email, prior to April 24, 2025.

The TAG website has more information on evaluation and identification, TAG services, and opportunities for parents to provide input and feedback through the TAG Advisory Council (TAGAC).

Sincerely,  
Julia Fogg, CJES TAG Coordinator  
jfogg@pps.net

## School Nurse

**From our School Nurse:** As many of you are aware, we are seeing increased cases of contagious diseases in our area such as Norovirus, RSV (a respiratory virus), and the flu. If your child is sick PLEASE keep them home from school and if they are diagnosed by a doctor, please inform us of their diagnosis.

We just want to remind you that in order to come to school, students must be without a fever for 24 hours without medication (medication masks symptoms but kids are still contagious). They must be without a cough for 24 hours and without vomiting and or diarrhea for 24 hours. Please be diligent and help us protect all of our students!

Our student health assistant **Zoe Eberspecher** works from 8:30 to 2:30pm. If you have any student health questions or needs please don't hesitate to reach out. You can reach Zoe by phone by calling the main office, or by email [zeberspec@mesd.k12.or.us](mailto:zeberspec@mesd.k12.or.us)

Exclusion guidelines for this year have changed, please take a moment and review the guidance ([Available in English and Spanish](#)).

## Counseling Program Update:

At Chief Joseph Elementary, we value cultivating a sense of safety, belonging, and inclusion for every student. As the School Counselor, I support those values through counseling lessons in the classrooms, school-wide programming, restorative justice practices in small group and classroom settings, and through skill-building with students. These values are also represented strongly by our Caring School Community SEL Curriculum, which our students engage in daily.

In January and February, I am delivering classroom lessons focused on Social Justice, including topics such as Diversity, Social Identities, Understanding Race and Racism, How to be a Changemaker, and How to Interrupt Hate Speech. Additionally, I will be working with our GSA student group to deliver school-wide programming that promotes the [ODE Standards for Supporting Gender Expansive Students](#), as well as grade-level standards in the [Learning for](#)

[Justice Anti-Bias Framework](#). Be on the lookout for more information about that in our Family Bulletin next month. As always, feel free to connect with me at [sweed@pps.net](mailto:sweed@pps.net) if you have any questions, or want to connect!

Take care,  
Shoshana Weed, LPC (*she/her*)  
CJES School Counselor

## PTO Update | [www.chiefjosephschool.org](http://www.chiefjosephschool.org)

### PTO Meetings | Join us!

**Our next meeting is on February 12th, 2024 at 6pm in the Chief Joseph cafeteria.**

Dinner, childcare, and Spanish translation will be provided. The doors to the cafeteria will open at 6:00pm with time to eat and mingle. The meeting will start at 6:30pm with lots of important information for the CJES community.

### Volunteer/Fundraising Update:

The PTO is in need of volunteers to help with planning the **annual fundraiser** which will take place **March 15, 2025**. The ways that families can contribute are vast and can be done at home, by attending meetings, or by helping on the day of the event! If interested please reach out to our volunteer coordinator by emailing [volunteer@chiefjosephschool.org](mailto:volunteer@chiefjosephschool.org).



### Profit Share @ Double Mountain

On Tuesday, January 29th CJES took over the Double Mountain on Killingsworth! As with all of our profit shares, it was awesome to see so many families out enjoying a meal at a neighborhood business. The PTO really appreciates your support of our profit sharing events with local businesses and always

look forward to seeing the kids having fun with their families outside of school. We will report back on how we did with raising funds with this awesome event!

### CJES Takes over the Moda Center | Event + Profit Share!



Join us for an exciting night of basketball in support of the Chief Joseph Elementary PTO as the Portland Trail Blazers take on the Sacramento Kings at Moda Center on **Thursday, February 6, 2025**. A portion of the proceeds will directly benefit Chief Joseph School.

Purchase your tickets through the provided link to enjoy savings on tickets. Plus, everyone who buys a ticket will have the opportunity to enter Moda Center early and sit in the lower bowl to

watch the players' pregame warmups. Tickets must be purchased through the link to be eligible for this special fan experience.

There are a variety of ticket prices available. Many families are sitting in the red section — [get your tickets now!](#)

### **Chief Joseph Playground Renovations:**

The Chief Joseph Playground Project, a committee of the PTO, is recruiting volunteers for some key roles this year. Parents, guardians, and other community members with interest in helping create a more vibrant outdoor play and learning environment are encouraged to reach out to our volunteer coordinator by emailing [volunteer@chiefjosephschool.org](mailto:volunteer@chiefjosephschool.org)

The committee is currently in need of volunteers to assist in the following roles:

- Committee lead to coordinate with the PTO and the school
- Fundraiser to continue pursuing resources to transform the school grounds
- Communications support to take notes at committee meetings and provide updates to the school Family Bulletin

The Playground Project has a lot of exciting work planned for the upcoming year. To learn more, see recent [committee meeting notes here](#) or visit [our website here](#).

### **CJES Talent & Art Show!**

We're looking forward to CJES's 2nd Annual Talent & Art show **March 7th, 2025!!**

Interested in volunteering? Learn more and sign up here: <https://signup.com/go/JuQhMso>

The organizers are looking for 1-2 parents of kinder-4th graders to help out this year so they can carry the tradition on next year and years to come!!

Please contact Skye via Ashley Gale (at her PTO email address) - [info@chiefjosephschool.org](mailto:info@chiefjosephschool.org)

Details for participants coming soon. Please mark your calendars and spread the word to your kids to start thinking about an act they want to perform or a work of art they want to display!!



### **OBOB Update:**

OBOB (Oregon Battle of the Books) participants are hard at work reading books and preparing for book battles. School battles will happen after school on **February 12 & 19 and March 5**. The school winner will progress to the Regional OBOB competition on March 15!



### The PTO is on Remind!

I just wanted to let families know that you can opt into getting messages from the PTO in Remind! We promise not to spam you with too much information .. but it is a good way to stay in touch and get reminders! As people make decisions about staying on social media platforms or leaving, I hope we can all stay connected!

## Backpack Program - Join us!

The Backpack Program supports our community by providing food bags for weekend days to families experiencing food insecurity.

**Donate Girl Scout cookies!** Every year, we include a box of Girl Scout cookies in food bags as a special treat. Please keep this *sweet* tradition going by donating cookies. Bring your boxes to the office!

**Help pack food bags!** Every Thursday morning we pack the food bags with fresh fruit (and sometimes extra items like those cookies). **We'd love you to join us!** It's an easy and fun way to contribute to our wonderful CJES community. We kick things off just after the morning bell, and are typically done by 8:30am.

Please email [backpack@chiefjosephschool.org](mailto:backpack@chiefjosephschool.org) if you're interested in volunteering, or have any questions!

## Community News -

### Join us for June Bee's Jamboree



On Saturday, February 1st at McMenamins Edgefield there is a fundraiser for one of our students at CJES, June Bee! We hope that if you are able to support this event by buying a ticket and attending the event, or by sharing with your community it would be much appreciated!

**Event Details:**

Saturday, February 1 2025 6:00PM doors, show at 7:00PM.

Blackberry Hall at McMenamins Edgefield  
2126 SW Halsey St, Troutdale, Or 97060  
21 & over event

[Tickets and more information here](#)

**North Portland Library News:**

There are a few updates for access to library services in North Portland. The Kenton Library will be closing for a remodel on February 14, 2025. The Kenton library is projected to reopen this summer. In addition, the St. John's library is also closed at this time.

In exciting news, the North Portland library branch will reopen following a very extensive remodel on February 8th, 2025. There is a reopening ceremony that the community is invited to attend!

**Please join us for the reopening ceremony!**

- Saturday, February 8, 2025, 9:30-10 am
- North Portland Library: 512 N Killingsworth Street, Portland, 97217
- DJ and photo opportunities before the event, beginning at 9 am
- Dignitaries' remarks
- Ribbon-cutting ceremony

Thanks to your continued support, Multnomah County Library is becoming a library for the 21st century!