



Chief Joseph Elementary School Family Bulletin 2/12/2025

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All-School News

Apologies for sending the family bulletin a day late! See below for important information about what's happening in our school.

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. We want to reiterate our commitment to keeping our students safe.

- Chief Joseph is committed to fostering a safe, diverse, inclusive environment in which everyone, regardless of immigration status, can learn and thrive.
- Chief Joseph does not collect information about anyone's country of birth, immigration status, or citizenship status.
- The school does not recognize administrative warrants, subpoenas or other documents issued only by immigration officials.
- The school does not share information with immigration officials unless they have a judicial subpoena or court order.
- Immigration officials are not allowed to enter school premises without a judicial warrant.
- Caregivers should ensure that they have at least two updated emergency contacts on file with the school.

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.

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

- 2/11 - PTO Community Meeting
- 2/17 - No School
- 2/26 - Early Release day at 11:50am
- 3/7 - CJES Talent Show
- 3/15 - PTO Annual Fundraiser

Nutrition Services

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

Our commitment to inclusivity includes our LGBTQ2SIA+ students and families. As a school and district, we remain committed to ensuring our schools are a safe place to work, learn, and belong for all members of our community. You can find more information on available district supports on the [LGBTQ2SIA+ Supports website page](#).

The strength of our community and commitment to supporting each other is what makes our school a truly wonderful place.

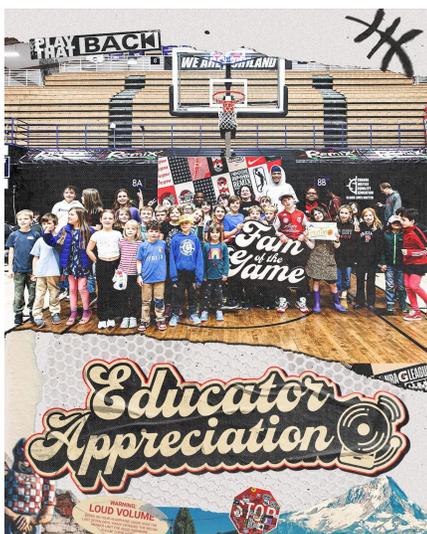
Snow and Extreme Weather - We are possibly expecting snow and extreme weather starting tomorrow. This is a good reminder to let families know that being connected to the school and the district is extremely important for getting timely updates regarding school delays and closures. Please take a moment to make sure you are connected through the [remind app](#) and make sure that your settings are set up in a way that you are able to access information. Any school closure or delays are also often communicated on local news stations.

Another good reminder as we consider extreme weather is making sure you should take time to review your emergency contacts in the system to make sure that phone numbers are still valid, and that the people listed are all still good emergency contacts for your student. You can check emergency contacts in [ParentVUE](#), in the yearly verification settings.

If you need help with remind or ParentVUE, feel free to contact Ashley and she will do her absolute best to help!

WIN Letters for Grades 1-5- This past week, our teachers and staff have been hard at work in data team meetings. In the meetings, they have been reviewing benchmarking data, class work and in class assessments to track progress. We also identify interventions or extensions to ensure students receive the instruction to meet or exceed grade level standards. This important work happens in the background but it really is important in helping support students individualized learning in the classroom and making the most of their WIN, what I need, time. As this important work is happening, letters will be sent home regarding the instruction your student will receive during WIN time. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to your student's teacher. All letters should be home by today. We are committed to communicating with parents and will send updated letters if/when your student changes groups.

Library



Last month in Library class students had 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. In addition to this, players Romeo Weems and James Bouknight and Coach Sergi Oliva were able to come to Chief Joseph the morning of Friday, January 31st to congratulate students and interact with a few library classes. Remix representatives took wonderful [photos](#) that I would love to share with you! Hope you were able to join us last night for the Remix Educator Night, where the team welcomed Chief Joseph's students and educators as well as honored Mrs. Hall for making this event possible!

If you weren't able to make it to last night's game, there is still one more date that students who complete the challenge can receive one free student ticket and discounted adult tickets for the

Hispanic & Latinx Heritage Celebration Game on March 2nd; use the code REMIX.

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:

Families who are uncomfortable seeking medical services for their students (glasses, immunizations, ect.) due to immigration status please reach out to the school nurse at rhedmon@mesd.k12.or.us.

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

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 if you have any questions, or want to connect!

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

PTO Update | 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.

Save the date: our 2025 fundraiser is March 15th, 2025. Tickets link.

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.

Profits Shares - Thank you to all of families who joined us for our profit shares at Double Mountain and also at the Blazer Game! It was so much fun to see so many families out in the community!

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

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!!**

Volunteers Needed! 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

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) battles start this week! Imagine a celebration of reading where two teams “battle” to see who knows the books best! Families are welcome to come watch the battles, which will take place **February 12 & 19 and March 5**, 2:30-4:30 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.

Food donations (including fruit and Girl Scout cookies!) *Help supply CJES families with nutritious food!* The food backpack program always welcomes donations of fresh fruit to offer more variety to families. We also supplement bags with extra food at certain times, especially before long weekends. Your donation of **non-perishable, individual containers** of meals and snacks goes a long way toward creating greater food security for CJES families. Items like macaroni and cheese, canned soup, oatmeal, and granola bars are great! In addition, once each year we include a box of Girl Scout cookies as a special treat. Please keep this *sweet* tradition going by donating cookies. Please bring your donations of food to the office, and thank you!

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 if you're interested in volunteering, or have any questions!