



April / May 2022

Auburn School District #408

Pioneer Elementary

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Message from Mr. Mac, Pioneer Principal

Spring greetings Pioneer families! We are now in the final trimester of the school year. Teachers and staff continue to remain focused on high levels of learning for all students as we head into the final stretch of school.

Please take time to read through this newsletter as it contains helpful information for you and your student. -- I hope you and your family had a wonderful spring break last week!

Paul McKenzie – “Mr. Mac”
Principal



Hello Families and Happy Spring!

As we approach the last few months of school, we want to ask for your help in improving our school tardies.

We have a school initiative where classes can earn a prize for having everyone on time in class. Each day that a class has all students on time, the class earns a letter. Each class is trying to earn the letters ON TIME. Once a class has achieved 6 days of no tardies, they will receive a special prize!

As a reminder, on Tuesdays through Fridays the school grounds open at 8:25 am for student arrival. School begins at 8:45 am. On PLC Late Start Mondays, school grounds open at 9:25 am and school begins at 9:45 am.

Getting to school on time helps your student establish and practice school routines. Your student is able to eat breakfast in the classroom and participate in morning classroom routines.

We thank you in advance for supporting your child and their class getting to school on time! If the school can provide any support with this, please reach out to the school office.

Thank you!

Rachel Collins
Assistant Principal

UPCOMING DATES:

- **Monday, April 11 - 15:** No School - Spring Break
- **Monday, April 18:** PLC Late Start - 9:45 a.m. Start Time
- **Monday, April 25:** PLC Late Start - 9:45 a.m. Start Time
- **Monday, May 2:** PLC Late Start - 9:45 a.m. Start Time
- **Monday, May 9:** No School - Waiver Day
- **Monday, May 16:** PLC Late Start - 9:45 a.m. Start Time
- **Monday, May 23:** PLC Late Start - 9:45 a.m. Start Time
- **Monday, May 30:** No School - Memorial Day Holiday
- **Tuesday, May 31:** No School - Snow Make-Up



LOST AND FOUND!

We have put out **lots** of lost and found items in the Commons Area outside the office doors - jackets, sweaters and sweat-shirts! PLEASE have your students take a look for items they may have left out at recess. If coats are not claimed by the end of the year they will be donated to either Goodwill or Auburn Food Bank.

MASK UPDATE!

Effective March 12, mask wearing for students and staff will be optional on ASD busses and in buildings. Wearing a mask will still be required when students and staff are in the health room or isolation room. There are a few other scenarios when the Department of Health requires a mask to be worn. For example, if you have been symptomatic but choose not to get tested, or if you have tested positive for Covid. If this is the situation, please contact our school Covid health team and they will give you guidance.

Otherwise, wearing a mask will be an individual choice and will be welcome, but not required. We will continue excellent hand-washing and encourage anyone who is sick to stay home.

We will continue to follow the Department of Health guidelines and will keep families and staff updated of any changes.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN FOR THE 2022/2023 SCHOOL YEAR!

If you have a child who turns 5 years old by August 31st of this year, now is the time to register him/her for Kindergarten! Or, if you have a friend or family member whose child will be entering Kindergarten next year, please encourage them to register. Stop by the office for a registration packet today, or you may register online by clicking [here](#). Please keep in mind the following documents are required for registration:

- Original birth certificate
- Immunization records
- Proof of address

If you have any questions, please contact the school office at 253-931-4986.



Parking Lot Safety

When driving through the parking lot, please help us ensure safety for all by doing the following:

- Avoid cell phone use while driving your vehicle
- Follow the 5-mph speed limit
- Drop off and pick up your child at one of the three designated vehicle zones (blue, red, green)

While walking, please use crosswalks and sidewalks and remind your students to do the same. Vehicles cannot always see students, especially if they dart between cars or cut across the parking lot.



COUNSELOR'S CORNER -

What is Social-Emotional Learning?

Social and emotional learning (SEL) is the process through which children and adults understand and manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions.

SEL is more than just a program or lesson. It is about how teaching and learning happens, as well as what you teach and where you learn. It can be used in schools, classrooms, families, and the wider community to educate hearts, inspire minds, and help students navigate the world more effectively.

If you have any questions about how our teachers and school implements SEL, please contact me!



Ms. Narwhal
Janice Nordland, MSW
School Counselor

Auburn School District's Outstanding Staff Member For the Month of March -

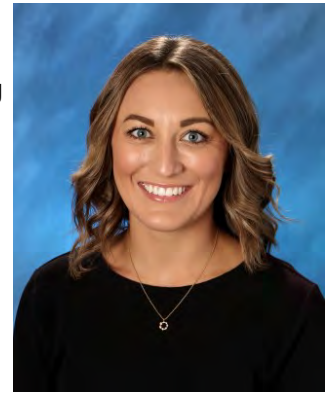
Congratulations to Stephanie Peterson for being nominated as the ASD Outstanding Staff Member for the month of March! Mrs. Peterson does an amazing job as our SLC (Structured Learning Center) teacher. The SLC classroom is a special education program for students with high needs. She has worked in the Auburn School District for eight years. She spent six years at Washington and moved to Pioneer two years ago when the program moved.

Mrs. Peterson loves working at Pioneer and feels very supported by Pioneer teachers, staff and administrators. "I love supporting students with special needs," she said. "I love what I do. It's challenging but so rewarding."

A colleague of Mrs. Peterson concurs that she loves what she does. He said, "She is so caring and loves these children so much. In talking to her you can see that she deeply cares for them and works so hard to make them successful."

Mrs. Peterson grew up in a farming family in Prosser. She graduated from Eastern Washington University with a bachelor's in developmental psychology and a bachelor's in special education. She was inspired to work in special education because her older brother went through a special education program.

She lives in Sumner with her husband, Sean, and their two daughters, Peyton and Rylee. She spends her leisure time at her kids' sporting activities and coaches her daughter's soccer team.



Hello families,

This is an exciting time for our students. It's time to show what they know! Beginning April 19th, students in grades 3 - 5 will be participating in the Smarter Balanced Assessment, SBA.

Smarter Balanced Assessments are Washington's statewide summative assessments in English Language Arts and math. Summative assessments determine students' progress toward college and career readiness in English language arts/literacy and math.

State test results are used to make improvements in teaching and learning. It allows teachers, families, and students to:

- follow student progress.
- Identify strengths, weaknesses, and gaps in curriculum and instruction.
- Fine tune curriculum alignment with statewide standards.
- Identify students who may need additional help.

In addition to the SBA, 5th graders will be taking the WCAS, Washington Comprehensive Assessment of Science.

Parents and families can support their children in the following ways:

- Ensuring your child has at least 10 hours sleep each night.
- Making sure your child is at school and on time each day.
- Making sure your child eats breakfast at home or at school.
- Encouraging your child to do his/her best.

If you have any questions or would like to find out more about testing, you can go to: OSPI - <https://www.k12.wa.us/student-success/testing/state-testing>.

Testing Dates for Pioneer: **SBA** - April 19, 20, 26, and 27
WCAS - May 3, 2022 (5th grade only)

Thank you,
Dani Rowe
Instructional Specialist



Pioneer Teacher of the Year!



Congratulations to our Resource Room teacher, Rod Powell, for being chosen as Pioneer Elementary teacher of the year for 2021-2022!

Mr. Powell’s goal as a teacher is to see each of his students’ needs met and to support their growth as learners and people. His greatest joy is the “look of wonder and excitement” that students experience when they learn!

Students are positively impacted by Mr. Powell’s belief that each of them can succeed, and at high levels. He pushes his students to succeed in school and life, and he couples these expectations with high levels of support. Because of this, students believe they can learn, and they do! Students are willing to do their best because they know Mr. Powell truly cares. He is skilled at building positive relationships, even with the most challenging students, and he frequently reflects and strategizes to make a connection with each student.

People who know Mr. Powell, know that he welcomes every student, remains positive and calm, and looks for solutions when students experience learning challenges. He shares ideas, asks good questions, and willingly takes time for others. He has mentored student teachers and new resource room teachers. This year, Mr. Powell has collaborated on a daily basis with teachers (especially those of our youngest learners) to support students’ needs as we have returned to full-time, in-person instruction.

When not at school, Mr. Powell can be found running Silver Aspen Ranch in Enumclaw with his wife, LaRae, which specializes in training and showing Arabian and Half-Arabian horses. They have owned and operated Silver Aspen Ranch since 1986. Under Mr. Powell’s guidance, Silver Aspen Ranch has produced over 300 National and Reserve National Champions!



Every Kid Healthy Week 2022

Every Kid Healthy™ Week is an annual observance created in 2013 to celebrate school health and wellness achievements. Recognized on the calendar of National Health Observances and observed the last full week of April each year, each day of the week shines a spotlight on the great actions schools and families are taking to improve the health and wellness of their kids and the link between nutrition, physical activity, mental health and learning - because healthy kids are better prepared to learn and thrive!

Every Kid Healthy Week 2022 is April 25-29 this year and I'd love for all students to participate. For the past 2 years we have had to participate at home because of the pandemic. This year, I'm excited to announce that we get to participate **AT SCHOOL!** May 2nd to 6th your student will be invited to participate in a different activity during their recess. Participation is completely voluntary and each activity will take no more than 5 minutes. If your child participates in that day's Every Kid Healthy Activity they will earn a fun prize to bring home.



Mrs. Benshoof
School Nurse

School-wide Expectations - Pioneer PATH

Throughout the school year (in classrooms and around the school), we place an emphasis on following the Pioneer PATH. The PATH is our school-wide behavior expectations, and it provides a way to talk about the positive choices and behaviors we desire to see in school and life.

Pioneers

Are

Trailblazers

Here we are RESPECTFUL, RESPONSIBLE and SAFE.

At school we discuss examples of respectful, responsible and safe behavior. We take time to recognize positive behavior, and correct behavior that does not align with the Pioneer PATH expectations. You can support your child's learning at school by engaging them in conversation regarding what respectful, responsible, and safe behavior looks like at school and at home.

Phones, Devices, Toys, Etc.

Please remind your child that cell phones and electronic devices *are not allowed out in class, at recess or during lunch*. Students who bring these items to school must leave them in their backpack (stored in their locker) and turned off during school hours. The school is not responsible for loss or damage to personal items. Students using cell phones or electronic devices on school grounds and during school hours will have their device(s) confiscated by staff and brought to the office. A parent will be asked to pick up any cell phones or electronic devices that are used by a student during school hours.

Because of the danger of loss, students are requested not to bring more money to school than is needed during the school day. Valuable jewelry, toys, and items of value should be left at home rather than being brought to school. The school is not responsible for loss or damage to personal items.

Please also help by making sure your student leaves toys at home. Toys, or other items, which cause disruption to the learning environment will be confiscated, with the items being returned at the end of the day.



Playground, Field & Campus

The Pioneer Elementary playground, turf field, grass areas and benches are designed to be enjoyed by Pioneer students, as well as community members during non-school operating hours.

Our pedestrian gates have recently been fixed, which means we can now open these areas to community use. To access the playground/field area, use the pedestrian gate which is located on the north side of the playground (behind the gymnasium).



Hours of Operation:

- Monday - Friday: The playground/field is closed before school, but is open after school hours until sunset.
 - * If a Pioneer event or sports program is using the playground/field, then it will be open for public use after the conclusion of the event or program.
- Saturday - Sunday: The playground/field is open 8:00am - sunset.

Playground/Field/Campus Expectations

Students, families, and community members are expected to treat the campus with respect and follow all school rules when using these spaces. School rules still apply when school is not in session. Following these rules will ensure stakeholders can enjoy these spaces for years to come.

Parents are requested to read/review these rules with their children.

- Playground equipment is used properly
- Garbage is put in garbage cans
- Turf field is clean and free of damage
- No tackling or slide tackling.
- No metal cleats or spikes are allowed on the turf field or playground
- No bikes, scooters or wheeled vehicles or toys of any kind are allowed on the turf field
- No gum or shelled seeds of any kind are allowed on campus
- No graffiti or damage to property
- No loitering or camping
- Use of alcohol, tobacco, cigarettes, e-cigarettes, nicotine delivery devices, marijuana or drugs is strictly prohibited
- No hanging/climbing on or over fences, trees, light/flag poles, basketball hoops or building structures
- Pets and other animals are not allowed on the playground or turf field at any time
- Community members walking pets on grass areas or sidewalks around the school will pick up and dispose their pet waste

We hope you enjoy using this wonderful new space. Thank you for keeping Pioneer clean and in good condition for the students and community to enjoy!

Mission Statement

At Pioneer we dedicate ourselves to students and their families, to inspire and empower children to achieve their greatest academic and social potential.



Pioneer Elementary

Welcome to Kindergarten Event



Kindergarten registration has begun for the 2022-2023 school year! Please let parents in our neighborhood know that we are accepting applications Monday to Friday from 8:30am-3:30pm. A certified copy of their child's birth certificate, proof of immunizations and verification of address is required to complete the application process.

A Welcome to Kindergarten Event is scheduled for Tuesday May 3, 2022 @ 4:30 pm in the gym. There will be a Spanish and a Marshallese interpreter for parents needing assistance.

Bring your Kindergarten student and come meet Pioneer's Kindergarten teachers!

