



# January 2020

Auburn School District #408

## Pioneer Elementary

### Greetings from Mr. Mac, Principal of Pioneer Elementary

Happy New Year Pioneer Elementary and welcome to 2020! I hope you enjoyed a wonderful holiday season and winter break. We are glad to be back at school with your children, and look forward to continuing a great school year of learning together.



### Auburn Noon Lions Students of the Month



Two of our fantastic students, Cesia and Maricela, were recognized as the Pioneer Elementary Auburn Noon Lions Club students of the month in December. We are proud of Cesia and Maricela for their hard work in school, strong character and positive contributions to our school community.

Thank you to the Lions Club for their partnership and continued support.

### MLK Assembly – January 17

Families are welcome to join us for our Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. assembly, which will take place on Friday, January 17 from 2:30 – 3:00pm in the Pioneer Elementary gym. At this assembly, we will honor Dr. King’s legacy and reflect on how we can learn from his teachings.

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. Day



#### **Principal:**

Paul McKenzie “Mr. Mac”  
[pmckenzie@auburn.wednet.edu](mailto:pmckenzie@auburn.wednet.edu)

#### **Assistant Principal:**

Rachel Collins  
[rcollins@auburn.wednet.edu](mailto:rcollins@auburn.wednet.edu)

#### **Office Manager:**

Patty Ankerfelt  
[pankerfelt@auburn.wednet.edu](mailto:pankerfelt@auburn.wednet.edu)

#### **Office Assistant:**

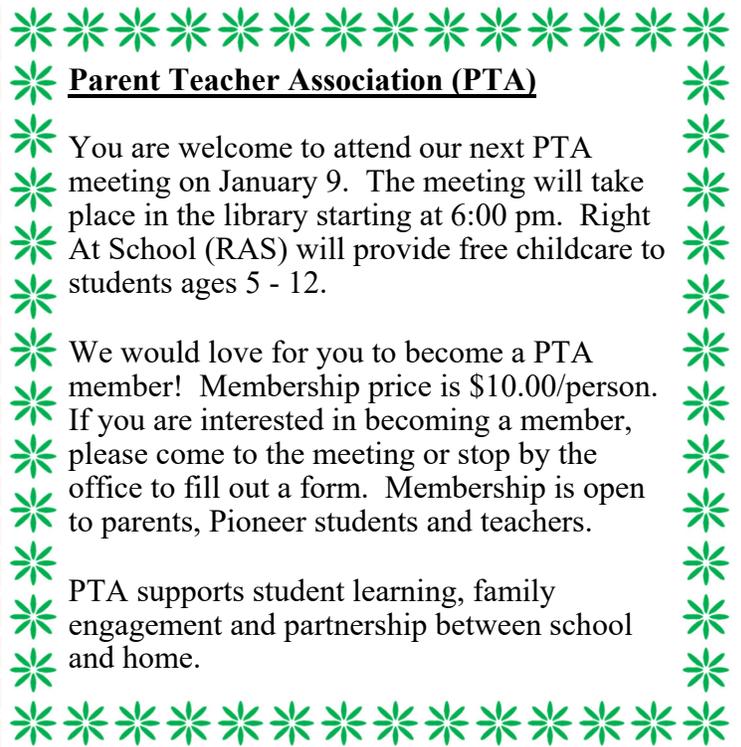
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## UPCOMING DATES:

- **Monday, January 6:** PLC Late Start - 9:45 am Start Time
- **Thursday, January 9:** PTA Meeting - 6:00 pm (Library)
- **Monday, January 13:** PLC Late Start - 9:45 am Start Time
- **Friday, January 17:** Martin Luther King, Jr. Assembly - 2:30 pm (Gym)
- **Monday, January 20:** No School - Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday
- **Monday, January 27:** PLC Late Start - 9:45 am Start Time



## Parent Teacher Association (PTA)

You are welcome to attend our next PTA meeting on January 9. The meeting will take place in the library starting at 6:00 pm. Right At School (RAS) will provide free childcare to students ages 5 - 12.

We would love for you to become a PTA member! Membership price is \$10.00/person. If you are interested in becoming a member, please come to the meeting or stop by the office to fill out a form. Membership is open to parents, Pioneer students and teachers.

PTA supports student learning, family engagement and partnership between school and home.

## Parent Technology Agreement Forms

- Due to changes with Google's Terms of Service, all parents have been prompted to sign a Technology Agreement form. This form is available on Skyward Family Access and provides consent for students to use Google Additional Services (ex: Maps, Chrome Web Store, and YouTube) and any ASD-approved tool that requires permission for under-13s or under-18s.
- You can fill out this form by logging into your Skyward account. If you have questions on how to do this, please call the elementary office.

## Cold Weather at Recess

During the winter months we need help from parents to make sure children are dressed warmly for cold temperatures. When students come to school in shorts and t-shirts or thin sweatshirts, it causes them to be uncomfortably cold during recess. Please make sure your child wears warm clothing and a jacket with a hood to school. Unless the weather is too extreme, students will be outside at recess which provides them time to exercise and socialize. Thank you for your help in this matter.





## Auburn School District Replacement Levies on February 11 Ballot

February 11 is election day for the Auburn School District. The community will have the opportunity to vote on two replacement levies.

The Educational Program and Operations (EP&O) Replacement levy will replace the 2016 levy that expires in 2020. This levy provides 10 percent of the ASD budget. Funds from the levy are used for: all athletics and activities and transportation to these events; special education programs and transportation; college and career readiness activities, staffing not funded by the state including nurses, security officers, school resource officers, psychologists and health room staff; and extended learning opportunities.

The levy will collect \$36.6 million in 2021, \$41 million in 2022, \$45 million in 2023 and \$49.2 million in 2024. The district will collect no more than \$2.50 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation in each of the levy years. The overall school tax rate will remain stable.

The Technology Replacement Levy will replace the 2014 Technology Levy that also expires in 2020. The 2014 levy provided 1:1 technology for students in grades 2-12, expanded the wireless network and other infrastructure upgrades, and improved instructional technology. The replacement levy will continue these efforts and expand 1:1 technology K-12, provide for additional computer science instruction and more.

The Replacement Technology Levy will collect, \$5.8 million per year, for a total of \$35 million over six years.

The election is all-mail and ballots must be postmarked by February 11. **Please remember to vote!**

Detailed information about both replacement levies is available on the ASD district website at [www.auburn.wednet.edu/levy2020](http://www.auburn.wednet.edu/levy2020). If you have questions, please email [levy2020@auburn.wednet.edu](mailto:levy2020@auburn.wednet.edu).



### Referrals open December 2, 2019 through January 17, 2020 for Highly Capable Programs

The Auburn School District is now accepting referrals for the 2020-2021 Highly Capable Program, a program that serves exceptionally intelligent, intellectually gifted students whose needs may not be easily met in the general education setting. Once a student is identified as highly capable, he/she is entitled to Highly Capable program services from the date of eligibility through graduation; annual testing is not required. Nominations close January 17, 2020.

Screening considers nominees who are currently enrolled in grades Kindergarten through eleven. Selection for highly capable programs reflects state guidelines for identifying intellectually gifted students. If you feel your child should participate in further testing, but doesn't meet screening criteria, you may nominate your child. Nomination forms are school counseling offices and are available online by selection the For Families menu, Highly Capable, and then Highly Capable Forms.

Direct questions to your **child's school counselor** or to:

Adam Ladage Director of Student Learning 8-12  
aladage@auburn.wednet.edu (253) 931-4950



## Counselor's Corner -

These first few weeks in January provide an opportunity for students to get back into the routine of school. You play an important role in ensuring consistency and structure at home for your child. Below are ideas of things to include in daily routines for children:

- *Morning routine* (put clothes on, brush teeth, eat breakfast – at home or school)
- *After school routine* (eat a snack, complete homework, show parent school folder/papers, play with siblings-friends-family, eat dinner)
- *Night-time routine* (pick out clothes for next day, tidy up bedroom, prepare backpack for school, brush teeth, take a bath/shower, read)
- *Limiting screen time* (...for TV, computer, tablet and phone use. Screens should be turned off 30 minutes before bedtime and not allowed in children's bedrooms.)

Routines and consistency support students' health and learning. Thank you for partnering with us to ensure your child is set up for success at school!

Janice Nordland, MSW  
(aka Ms. MacN'Cheese)  
School Counselor



## Inclement Weather and Emergency



As winter weather approaches, Auburn School District will announce information regarding operation of school during snow/ice/emergency conditions through a variety of tools such as:

- School Messenger
- ASD website: [www.auburn.wednet.edu](http://www.auburn.wednet.edu)
- FlashAlert: <http://flashalert.net/news.html?id=4203>
- ASD Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/AuburnSchools](http://www.facebook.com/AuburnSchools)
- ASD Twitter page
- Radio and TV stations

### Sign-up Today

Make sure your e-mail and telephone number are up-to-date so you do not miss out on inclement weather/emergency notifications or other important school information.

- Sign up for FlashAlert (see link above)
- Email Address Request (see message below)

### Home Emergency Plan

Each family should have a plan covering what to do when children arrive home early due to an emergency situation. For example:

- What is the best route home if your student cannot be delivered to the normal bus stop?
- Where would they go if you are not at home?
- Who would care for him or her until you arrived?
- Is there someone your student could call to receive help?

For more information on Inclement Weather and Emergencies, [CLICK HERE](#)

Dear Families,

On December 6, we held our first Attendance Assembly of the year.

Twenty seven (27) students were recognized for Perfect Attendance for September through November. This means these students were at school, all day every day for those 3 months. They didn't come late and they didn't leave early. These students were recognized with a special notebook and pencil, as well as a free pizza coupon to Papa John's Pizza.

Some highlights of our attendance efforts so far are:

- 143 students had Perfect Attendance in September.
- 106 students had Perfect Attendance in October.
- 125 students had Perfect Attendance in November.

At the close of the December, there have been 74 school days possible. This means if your student has missed 7 or more school days, then your student has missed 10% of the school year so far.

- Research shows that missing 10% of the school year can make it harder to read and that missing just a day or two every few weeks can cause students to fall behind.

Here are a few ways to support your student with attendance:

1. Talk with your child about the importance of attendance and attending school every day.
2. Set a reasonable bedtime, so your child gets enough sleep and is ready to start the morning.
3. Lay out clothes and backpacks the night before.

Please know that your student's school is an excellent resource for attendance support. Feel free to contact us with any questions.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Collins  
Assistant Principal



### ***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.