

Pioneer Elementary



October 2020



Pioneer Elementary Families,

I hope this message finds you happy and healthy! It is hard to believe, but we are already one month into the school year.

Teachers are enjoying connecting with your students in Google Classroom and Meets for online learning each day. We are seeing students and staff use technology in new and innovative ways, which supports learning in a variety of content areas. Technology provides students with a great opportunity to be empowered in their learning, and we love seeing our students engaged in school.

We recognize school looks different this year, and we are here to help. If you have a need or question, or if there is a way we can support your child's learning, please reach out to us.

In mid-November, we will have Parent Teacher conferences, and we hope you will join us for this important time of conversation. Conferences allow teachers to share important information on learning goals and student progress, while also giving parents an opportunity to ask questions and share feedback. Look for more information on conferences soon!

Lastly, we want to make sure we can communicate effectively with you regarding school news. You can help us by making sure the office has your current contact information. If you have a new phone number, email address or home address, please contact the office today at 253-931-4986. This will ensure you receive important updates from Pioneer Elementary.

Sincerely,

Paul McKenzie – “Mr. Mac”
Principal, Pioneer Elementary

Principal:

Paul McKenzie “Mr. Mac”
pmckenzie@auburn.wednet.edu

Assistant Principal:

Rachel Collins
rcollins@auburn.wednet.edu

Office Manager:

Patty Ankerfelt
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www.auburn.wednet.edu/pioneer

Technology Assistance -

While students continue distance learning, information is available to help families with technical issues. Resources are available [here](#), or you may also call the school office at (253) 931-4986 for assistance.



UPCOMING DATES:

- **Monday, October 19:**
PLC Late Start - 9:40 a.m. Start Time
- **Monday, October 19:**
Open House for Full Day
Program - 5:30 to 6:45 p.m. (More information to come)
- **Tuesday, October 20:** Open House for PM
Program - 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. (More information to come)
- **Monday, October 26:** PLC Late Start - 9:40 a.m. Start Time
- **Monday, November 2:** PLC Late Start - 9:40 a.m. Start Time
- **Monday, November 9:** PLC Late Start - 9:40 a.m. Start Time
- **Wednesday, November 11:** No School - Veterans' Day Holiday
- **Monday, November 16:** PLC Late Start - 9:40 a.m. Start Time
- **Wednesday, November 18 to Friday, November 20:** School Conferences - Early Release at 1:10 p.m.
- **Monday, November 23:** PLC Late Start - 9:40 a.m. Start Time
- **Wednesday, November 25:** Early Release at 1:10 p.m.
- **Thursday, November 26 to Friday, November 27:** No School - Thanksgiving Vacation
- **Monday, November 30:** PLC Late Start - 9:40 a.m. Start Time



Applying for Free or Reduced-Price Meals -

Due to a waiver from the federal government, the ASD is providing free meals to all children ages 1-18 through the end of the calendar year. Specific information about times and locations is available on the ASD webpage. Beginning in January, students will need to qualify for free and reduced-price meals.

Families meeting certain household income requirements or currently receiving food assistance should apply **now** for meal benefits. Eligible families are encouraged to submit a new application for free and reduced-price meals now. Once the federal waiver expires, there will be no grace period for applying. Applying now allows time for the application to be processed and correct eligibility established.

As always, if eligibility status changes during the school year, a new application can be submitted. Please note, families who received benefits during the 2019-2020 school year must reapply.

We encourage everyone to apply for free or reduced-price meals! It's easy and quick. Families submit one application that includes all their students. The online application is found in Skyward Family Access and is the quickest way to apply. Paper applications are available in several languages in each school office or can be printed from the Child Nutrition page of the ASD website. Paper applications can be turned in to your child's school or to the Child Nutrition office.

Please note, every family needs to re-apply every year. If you have received a letter of qualification but not all of your children are listed, please contact Child Nutrition. You may reach Child Nutrition at (253) 931-4972 or email childnutrition@auburn.wednet.edu. We are happy to help with any questions.



Contact Information Updates -

Pioneer Elementary sends email messages to families when we need to inform you of important/emergency information. We keep your email address private and will not release it to others. If we do not have an email address on file, please let us know so that we may keep you up-to-date.



Also, please let the office know if you have made any changes to your address or phone number.

Thank you for your assistance!

PLC Late Start Mondays -

Auburn School District has scheduled Professional Learning Community (PLC) Late Start Mondays on the following dates throughout the 2020-21 school year. School will start one hour late during these "Late Start" Mondays:

September 14, 21, 28

October 5, 12, 19, 26

November 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

December 7, 14

January 4, 11, 25

February 1, 8, 22

March 1, 15, 22, 29

April 12, 19, 26

May 3, 17, 24

June 7, 14, 21

For more information about one-hour late start Mondays, please see the *PLC Home Page* of our district website at www.auburn.wednet.edu/plc, as well as school schedules and general information about Professional Learning Communities.

Hello Pioneer Families!

We miss you and hope you all are staying healthy. The flu season is fast approaching. With all of the talk and worry over COVID-19, we don't want anyone to forget about the flu and how serious and dangerous the flu can be, especially in young children. Flu symptoms are so similar to COVID-19 symptoms and only a test can determine the difference. While there is no available vaccination for COVID-19 yet, we do however, have a vaccination for the flu. We highly encourage families to get the flu vaccination this year. This upcoming FREE event also offers opportunities for other wellness screenings such as blood pressure, diabetes, and dental health. There will also be help available to enroll in health insurance, ORCA bus passes, and food assistance.



A separate FREE event is also available for those students who still need updated vaccinations. More information for both clinics is available on the last two pages of this newsletter.

We hope you are able to attend one, or both, of these events. Don't forget your face masks!

Kelly A. Benshoof, RN, MSN - School Nurse
Trinity Tenorio-Guzman - Health Technician

No Costumes at School Please

We recognize some of our families celebrate Halloween and others do not for religious or personal reasons. In order to respect the variety of beliefs and practices surrounding this day, Pioneer Elementary does not celebrate Halloween at school.

Families can help us by ensuring their children do not wear a costume to school around Halloween as this is disruptive to the educational process.

Thank you for your help!

Distance Learning Kits & Videos

Distance Learning Kits were distributed to students who attended picture day on October 13. If your child has not received a kit yet, please visit the office so you can pick it up.

Mr. Mac created videos that describe the distance learning kits and how to organize them at home. You can view those videos by visiting the Pioneer Elementary Facebook page at www.facebook.com/asdpioneer.

Attendance Reminders -

Hello Families,

This is Mrs. Collins, the assistant principal here at Pioneer Elementary.

I have recently met with all of our classes to remind students about the importance of attendance. Here are the two things I have reminded students in every class about:

1. Please attend your Google Meets on time, every day. This includes attending every Google Meet scheduled for the day and not skipping any.
2. If you know you will be absent from a Google Meet, have your adult reach out to the teacher and let them know. Then do any missed work and share with your teacher. This way you are not marked absent.

If you have any questions about your child's attendance, please feel free to reach out to the school for support.

Thank you,

Mrs. Collins
Assistant Principal

School Deliveries

Bus drivers for the Auburn School District are helping schools by making home deliveries. If you see an ASD bus driver drop off a package at your door, you can know it is coming from Pioneer or ASD and likely includes learning material or school items for your child.



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.



FREE Flu Vaccine and Health Screening Event

Saturday, October 17, 2020

10am-2pm

Auburn Valley YMCA

1620 Perimeter Road

Auburn, WA

Gym and South Parking Lot

Update!
New Date



FREE Flu Vaccines

- Drive up, no appointment needed
- Adults and children ages 4 and up
- Bring your insurance card if you have one

Free Enrollment

For those that qualify

- Free or Low-Cost Health Insurance
- ORCA Lift Reduced Bus Fare Card
- Basic Food Benefits

Free Health Screenings

No appointment needed for:

- Blood Pressure
- Body Mass Index
- Cholesterol
- Dental Screenings and Education
- Diabetes
- HIV

facebook.com/skcfamilyhealthsafetyfair

Please wear a face mask at all times during this event. Free masks will be available. Thank you!



COMMUNITY HEALTH PLAN
of Washington™



Breast, Cervical & Colon
Health Program



Walgreens

SWEDISH MEDICAL CENTER



Public Health
Seattle & King County

Tacoma-Pierce County
Health Department
Healthy People in Healthy Communities



RESCHEDULED DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER

DRIVE-THRU VACCINATION CLINIC

**ShoWare Center
625 West James St, Kent 98032
Near bus lines 150, 166, and 180**

DATE CHANGE!

Saturday, October 17, 10-4PM



**Offering all vaccines required for K-12 school & flu vaccine
(while supplies last).**

Free for kids, no insurance required. Open to ages 4-18.

Bring your family's vaccination records, wear short sleeves, and make sure everyone ages 2 and older wears a face covering! Please stay home if sick. No appointment required for K-12 vaccines, but please be prepared to wait in line.

Adult flu vaccine available from the Seattle Visiting Nurse Association. **If coming for flu vaccine only, you must register in advance: schedule.seattleвна.com**

For accommodations or accessibility information, contact: ggustavson@kingcounty.gov
More info: kingcounty.gov/findaclinic



Seattle Visiting Nurse Association

Public Health
Seattle & King County



KENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
EQUITY | EXCELLENCE | COMMUNITY