



Palouse Prairie School

of expeditionary learning

Tuesday Times

Our Weekly Newsletter

Kindergarten Experiences Community

Drum roll please...

Thanks to Chris LaPaglia all the kindergarten students have made for the school. Chris cut the drum bases, students painted them and laced antelope hide tops, creating beautiful drums. In addition, Chris and Mark Lesko have been teaching the students how to play the drums each week. Thanks, Chris and Mark!

Community Expedition

The kindergarten students have moved into learning about their local Moscow community. They have had the opportunity to listen to a guest speaker from Mary Jane's Farm. They used a map to walk downtown twice last week. They visited City Hall and spoke with the Mayor. They have also visited Moscow COOP, Police Station and Pritchard Art Gallery. The focus of each visit was to learn about other community members jobs and responsibilities and what the kindergarten students can do to help in the community. At each stop, they sketched in their fieldwork journal on what job they can do in the community. We will also have a parent who is a firefighter come in this week. Our completed project will include a walking tour map created by the kindergarteners to be used for families. It will be housed in the Chamber of Commerce. Look for it after the Holiday Break. Students are all transforming their understanding of personal jobs in their different communities into a self focused pop-up book.



A Well Deserved Shout-Out

The kindergarten students have had the opportunity to have some wonderful experiences because of our parent volunteers! Andrika Kohl has spent several hours helping in and out of our classroom. Lahde Forbes, Susan Egan, Judy Sobeloff, and Traci Haselhuhn volunteered during our fieldwork. Thanks to those parents and again thanks to Chris and Mark!

Design Principles & Spotlights

This Week's Design Principle: Collaboration & Competition – We work to join individual and group development, so that the value of friendship, trust, and group endeavor is made manifest. Students are encouraged to compete not against each other but with their own personal best and with rigorous standards of excellence.

That completes our 10th and final design principle. To recap, they are:

- The Having of Wonderful Ideas
- Responsibility for Learning
- Diversity & Inclusion
- Success & Failure
- Service & Compassion
- Empathy & Caring
- Solitude & Reflection
- Collaboration & Competition

The Primacy of Self-Discovery

The Natural World

Ask your kid(s) about the PPSEL Heifer International Giving Drive. This is ONE way for our kids to be of service during this time of year. Please, parents, don't GIVE money. We ask that kids earn it and choose to give it.

This week's spotlights are on:

Jaston McClure for noticing and discovering signs of animal life at the UI Arboretum	The Natural World	A direct and respectful relationship with the natural world refreshes the human spirit and reveals important lessons. We must learn to be stewards of the earth.
Isaiah Murphy for picking up trash on the Kindergarten walk downtown	Service & Compassion	We are crew, not passengers, and are strengthened by acts of consequential service to others. We are continually asking the question, "How can I make a difference?"
The 4/5 CREW for partnering so well with their first grade buddies to make science and social studies observations with them	Empathy & Caring	We take care of all those in our community and learn best when there is trust, sustained caring, and mutual respect

Exploring Throughout the Fall

The Nature Explorers after school program is in full swing! So far, the Nature Explorers club has visited Robinson Park, Idler's Rest, Phillips Farm County Park, and the Palouse-Clearwater Environmental Institute (PCEI) Nature Center. Each day brings a new adventure. As one current participant said, "This is how much I like Nature Explorers: A lot! I like it because we get to go in a cool van to really neat places where we hike and observe."

The next session begins Tuesday, January 12, and ends on February 11. Nature Explorers operates Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:00 to 5:30pm. PCEI staff members meet participants at the Palouse Prairie School and transport them in a PCEI van to the day's site, and parents pick up their children at the PCEI Nature Center between 5:00 and 5:30pm.

The cost of the winter session, 10 days of programming including a snack, is \$100 (\$10/day). Please

review the Nature Explorers Parent Handbook for program details and enrollment forms. This handbook can be found on the Palouse Prairie School website or hard copies at the office. Registration (maximum 13 participants) and payment is due by Friday, January 8. If needed, a payment plan can be set up. Please contact Jenica Wood-Beauchamp, PCEI Education Program Manager, with any questions at jenica@pcei.org or (208)882-1444.

We Are Crew, Not Passengers

Hello, fellow Palouse Prairie School parents! As the parent in charge of the Parent Action Team (PAT) group I have asked to have my thoughts on giving and volunteerism included in the Tuesday Times. I am sure that you are all aware that PPS is a public charter school. However, I know that not everyone is aware what that really means. Traditional public schools have two main sources of funding. The first is money given to schools, by the state, based on student enrollment. PPS receives this state money just like traditional public schools. However, traditional public schools also receive tax money in the form of local levies which are typically used to pay for things like buildings, repairs, and large technology projects. Charter schools receive none of this money. This means that charter schools must operate more efficiently and rely heavily on volunteers and donations in order to cover these costs.

To me, as a parent, being a part of a charter school community means being a full partner in my children's education and giving more of myself in terms of time and resources than I might otherwise. After last month's student led conferences, I heard many, many parents expressing gratitude for the positive experiences and wonderful education their children are receiving. I ask that we all reflect upon the *value* of these experiences to our children and to our families. The teachers and staff of our school work very long hours to insure that our children get the best education possible. Often this means giving up their free time and their time with their own families. In the face of their sacrifice, I ask that *we all* sacrifice what we can to help them educate our children.

There are many ways to help:

- 1) If you are in a position to do so, please respond to the recent letter from the board of directors and send a donation to the school. Even a small donation buys books or materials for our classrooms!
- 2) Volunteer your time at the school. There are many jobs to be done at the school and limited staff to do them. Please ask what you can do to help out!
- 3) Come to PAT meetings or join one of the committees set up by our board of directors. We need your ideas, we need your energy, and we need your help!
- 4) If you upgrade the technology that you have at home please consider donating your old items to the school. PPS is in need of items such as cameras, televisions, and color printers. Please check with the school before you recycle or dispose of your old technology!

I know that time is precious to all of us. I know that money is extremely tight for many of us. I only ask that each of us really think about the value of the quality education our children are receiving and do what we can to help support it. If PPS is going to continue to grow and thrive, we as parents must give generously of our time, energy, and resources. Finally, on behalf of the PAT, and as a parent, I would like to thank everyone who is currently volunteering at or donating to PPS. Your efforts make such a difference and are truly appreciated.

Amy Ball

PPS Parent Action Team

Dates to Remember

- **Board Meeting – Thursday Dec. 10, 7:00**
- **Winter Break – December 21- Jan 3**