



The Viking Press



November, 2021 Newsletter

Hello PMES Families,

As we enter the Fall the kids are in the full swing of school and we're seeing a lot of growth. We're moving ahead with our new reading program, Wonders. It has been a challenge for everyone involved but we're seeing kids making big improvements. We are looking forward to achieving amazing things this year! We know how important reading is for our children and one thing that's beneficial in creating a love of reading is finding books that are engaging and of interest to them. Kids are no different than adults in that they don't want to read books that are not of interest to them. As we enter the holiday season kids will be away from school, it's important that they have access to engaging books or magazines to continue reading. One thing that we do know is that parents play a critical role in the success of their kids becoming successful readers. **What you can do at home to help with reading:**

- Make it possible for your child to read each night in a quiet and comfortable location.
- Ask the teacher about your child's reading abilities and things that you can reinforce at home.
- Read aloud to them, model quality reading for them.
- Use reading examples outside of books. Signs when in the car, signs and packaging in the store. When watching television you can turn on the closed captioning so they are reading the dialogue.
- Dig deeper into the story, discuss what it's about, what happened. Who are the characters, what are the details about them. Have them retell the main parts of the story.
- Take your kids to the library, they will love it!

You can listen to your child read as you are making dinner, driving in the car, or sitting at practice. When you are listening to them, and something doesn't make sense or sound correct, ask them to go back and try again. If they are stuck on a word, please tell them the word. If they don't understand a word, give them a child friendly explanation to help them understand the story. This can make a tremendous difference in their life.

A huge thank you to our families and PTO for amazing support with our Fall Fundraiser, it was extremely successful and the kids seemed to really enjoy the entire process. The PTO worked really hard to make it a huge success and to help provide rewards for the kids.

The Halloween parties and festivities were a huge success! It was amazing weather for the parade and we had some really creative costumes. The kids always love wearing their costumes the entire day and all the fun activities associated with Halloween. Thank you for all your support and have a great month!

Warm regards,
Mike Andrews

Our School

effective when and adults. As a such a culture. Our providing funding for role in ensuring the can be an important



Resource Officer: Sam Johnson

Learning is most schools are safe and welcoming environments for all students principal my first and most important responsibility is to create school board has continued to help us make this a priority by a School Resource Officer. In addition to playing an integral physical safety of a school building and all inside, our SROs resource to welcome, counsel, and mentor students. Our new SRO is providing all of these services for the students at PMES. Our new SRO is Lasalle Police Officer Sam Johnson. Sam has been a police officer since 1999, he enjoys hunting and the outdoors. The rumor is that he's an amazing cook as well. Sam has made a tremendous impact in the short amount of time that we've been in school this year. He is great at building positive relationships with the kids and most mornings you can find him out greeting the kids as they arrive for school. Throughout the day you can find him interacting with the kids and helping them solve problems. If you ever have any questions for him stop in and see him. We feel really lucky to have Sam on staff!

Cell Phones & Kids

As a parent I understand the added safety that a cell phone can bring to a child, the ability to reach them and have that added communication piece. Like many things there are good and bad, so while a cell phone can give you a sense of security it brings these negatives if not supervised. The following is from a national research project.



Kids are glued to their cell phones for a full 2 days a week (30 plus hours) and parents are letting them! 42% of Kids are spending 30 hours a week on cell phones! 42% of parents admit to letting their child spend 3 hours + a day on their cell phone! Kids are spending more than 1500 hours on cell phones a year!

How do cell phones affect children's behavior? Preliminary data from an Adolescent Brain Cognitive Development (ABCD) study found that increased screen time, including time spent on cell phones, is not just bad for the brain but can affect a child's psychology, thinking patterns, sleep cycles, and behavior, shortening their attention span. That's not even touching all the negative and inappropriate content that they are exposed to. Plus the exposure to cyber bullying, even at the elementary level.

November 15-19th is American Education Week

Public schools are the cornerstone of our communities. We welcome students of all backgrounds, abilities, and incomes. We each play a role in ensuring our schools are open to all. During American Education Week, we celebrate public education and show our appreciation for the men and women who make a difference in students' lives every day. Please help me recognize and celebrate the amazing people that work tirelessly at PMES to provide an engaging, nurturing, and enjoyable learning environment for our children. This includes teachers, office staff, classroom assistants, support staff, kitchen staff and our awesome custodial staff. Together with our families we provide a great place to learn and develop. You can rest assured that when you send your kids to school they are cared for, loved, and being taught in a way that will be engaging and impactful!



The Viking Pledge: This is the foundation of everything we do at school. We say it every morning after the pledge of allegiance.

Today my best is what I will do
By being respectful and responsible too
I will be safe and I will be kind
I will work hard to grow my mind
I will be a learner and find success
I am a hard-working student at PMES

Communicating with the School

Communication is very important for our School Community. There are several ways to communicate with the staff at PMES:

School website for school information and announcements. You will also find the school calendar that lists monthly events so you are able to stay involved and participate. We also have our monthly newsletter on the website.

Class Dojo is the best way to communicate to your teacher and see what's going on in their classroom. I also post whole school updates and information on a regular basis on Class Dojo.

On Fridays Mr. Andrews will provide a week at a glance on Dojo to provide any important information or updates for families. This will be sent out on Friday.

PTO Facebook the PTO also has a page to keep the community updated on their meetings and events that they are involved in for the school.

Lastly, you can always contact your teacher, our counselor, and the principal through Dojo, e-mail, phone, or set up an in person meeting.

School Number: 970-350-4201 option 5

Mr. Andrews: 970-350-4162 andrewsm@wcsdre1.org

Student Drop Off/Pick Up Procedures

Our main student drop-off and pick-up is located in the West parking lot. When you enter the parking lot there are two lanes:

Right Lane - This lane is for those dropping off students.

- To make the process more efficient we ask that you please pull forward to the ***dumpster***. This will allow more cars to enter the drop off lane and keep 4th Street from being so congested with traffic.
- If the lead car pulls all the way forward multiple cars can unload students at the same time.
- Before entering the drop off lane it will help speed up the process if your children have their coats on and their backpack ready to exit the vehicle.
- Please do not park in this lane to walk your child to their classroom or playground. This stops the entire process.

Left Lane - This lane is for the following:

- Special education buses
- Parents dropping off students in the special education classrooms
- Staff parking in the designated staff parking spots
- People utilizing our handicap parking
- Those parking in non staff parking spots to enter the school



-If your student is eating breakfast at school please drop them off at the playground. The breakfast doors open at 7:30am. They will enter through the doors on the playground closest to the cafeteria. There will be a staff member there to provide access to the building.

***If your child is not eating breakfast please don't drop off before 7:45 a.m.**