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Pierce Terrace Dragon Digest December 1, 2018

COMMUNITY SUPERINTENDENT

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PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Mark Your Calendars

Dec 3	Pre-K Trimester 1 Reports Issued
Dec 5	Q2 Progress Reports Issued
Dec 7	Fort Jackson Tree Lighting 5:00 PM
Dec 18	Winter Music Program 1:15 PM
Dec 21	Q2 CCRS Training No School Students
Dec 24—31	Winter Break No School Students/Teachers
Dec 25	Christmas Day No School Staff /Students

Parents,

We've already experienced cold temperatures over the past few weeks. Additionally, it seems every commercial is holiday themed. We enter the month of December having dealt with winter temperatures and holiday displays surrounding us. In spite of messages that our winter break is arriving, Pierce Terrace continues to focus on student learning.

The Pierce Terrace faculty has been working diligently to incorporate Do-DEA's Career and College Ready Literacy standards (CCRSL). Our faculty collaborates weekly to prepare for instructional tasks and activities necessary to develop our students' literacy skills, focused on three instructional shifts: complex text, using text evidence, and learning experiences with nonfiction text. Pierce Terrace students have acclimated to our updates standards and new literacy program, Benchmark Advance, very well. As a result, our school is establishing a strong foundation for all of students to apply their 21st century literacy knowledge and skills.

Our annual holiday music performance is scheduled for December 18, at 1:15 PM, in the cafeteria. Additional information pertaining to the time and location will be sent home. Pierce Terrace's program is a great way to kick off the holiday season. We look forward to seeing all our sponsors/parents at the concert.

Additionally, breakfast is served beginning at 7:30 AM. In order to support each student's participation in learning, we ask that all students eating breakfast arrive prior to 7:45 AM, to allow for time to enjoy breakfast and arrive to their homerooms in time for instruction. We appreciate support for this request.

As always, continue to review the monthly newsletter and our school website for updated, school-related information. Pierce Terrace looks forward to working alongside our learning community as we continue to "Raise the Bar" this school year.

Vision Statement:
*"Pierce Terrace Elementary School
Positive, Tech Savvy, Empowered,
Successful
Lifelong Learners*



KINDERGARTEN

Kindergarten for December: Unit 3 in ELA - Essential Question: Why do living things have different needs? This unit consists of primarily informational text dealing with plants and animals.

We will continue to discuss and write key details, determine text importance, connect pictures and text and identify author's purpose. Continue to practice sound and letter connection, blending words and high frequency words! When reading at home please be sure to discuss afterwards to ensure comprehension is taking place. In math we are finishing up our Unit 2. We will begin Unit 3: Addition and Subtraction. Social Studies consists of learning about long ago and today; as well as important events and basic geography skills. Our Life Science unit ends this month and we will begin physical science. Thanks for all you do- we look forward to seeing everyone soon for the winter musical program on December 18th!

Smiles,

Kinder Fab 5 Team



First Grade

In Math Unit 4 we will be introducing place value through adding and subtracting to 20. Students will understand that a “ten” is a bundle of ten ones and that teen numbers are composed of a ten and some ones. We will continue to develop strategies to solve addition and subtraction problems and how they are related. Students will begin adding and subtracting larger numbers and adding 3 numbers together.

In Reading we are working on our Benchmark Advance Unit 3 “Plants and Animals Grow and Change.” In this unit we will build on what we learned in Science by reading informational text about topics such as the life cycle of a frog and the life cycle of an oak tree. We will also explore fiction, fables, and poetry that feature living things that grow and change.

In Social Studies we will begin studying Geography. Students will compare and contrast locations of people, places and environments, and describe their characteristics. Students will locate on maps and globes their local community, state, country, seven continents, and four oceans. Students will construct a map using cardinal directions and map symbols.

MUSIC NEWS

Pierce Terrace Elementary School is excited to host our Annual Kindergarten/First Grade Winter Music Program on Tuesday, December 18th beginning at 1:15 p.m. in the cafeteria.

Kindergarten students will sing and first grade students will sing and play instruments as they perform various holiday and winter-themed songs.

Speaking of the songs, students are encouraged to practice them at home for extra reinforcement. Some of the songs are available on YouTube but keep in mind that sometimes the version that students have learned in class may be slightly different from the version on YouTube.

Kindergarten expects to perform the following songs: Hello Everybody, Quaver’s Choo-Choo Train, Steady Beat Song, Whisper, Talk, and Shout, and Sing, Santa Claus is Coming to Town, Christmas Makes Me Sing, and S!A!N!T!A!

First grade expects to perform the following songs: Chime In, Jingle Bell Parade, Decorate the Christmas Tree, We Will Jingle, Holiday, Holiday, I Want to be an Elf, Whacky Old St. Nicholas, and Whacky March from “The Nutcracker.”

At the end of the program, all kindergarten and first grade students will briefly join together for our grand finale of Jingle Bells and We Wish You a Merry Christmas. All parents and audience members will be invited to join in for our sing-along as well!



Please mark your calendar for Tuesday, December 18th at 1:15 p.m. We look forward to seeing you at our exciting performance!

PK/PSCD NEWS

Preschool students will begin the Clothes Study the last week in November. Our students will be learning about different kinds of clothes, the specialized purposes of some garments and how clothes have changed over time. We will use children’s interest in clothes to help them explore science concepts related to clothes and weather. The study also helps children use skills in literacy, math, technology and the arts as they investigate. As you talk about clothes at home, introduce descriptive words as rough, soft, warm, silky and color words. Help your child make good choices about what clothes to wear and when. Also, involve your child in sorting laundry. Talk about different categories of clothing and how pieces are alike and/or different. Some of our favorite books for this topic include Caps for Sale, Llama Llama Red Pajama and The Mitten.

A Word from the Nurse

Please have an extra change of clothes in your child's book bag that is appropriate for the weather change. Accidents happen all the time and your child will appreciate it.

In accordance with DoDEA 2942.1, ALL DoDEA students are required to receive the annual influenza vaccine. For your child's continued enrollment, proof of the immunization must be presented to school.

December is Safe Toys & Gifts Month

According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, the ER treated an estimated 251,700 toy-related injuries in 2010 throughout the U.S. 72% were to people less than 15 years of age. Additionally, in 2007 alone, toymakers recalled over 19 million toys worldwide because of safety concerns such as lead paint and small magnets. When it comes to toys and gifts, the excitement and desire to get your children their favorite toys may cause shoppers to forget about safety factors associated with them. Before you make these purchases, it is critical to remember to consider the safety and age range of the toys.

Prevent Blindness America has declared December as Safe Toys and Gifts Awareness Month. The group encourages everyone to consider if the toys they wish to give suits the age and individual skills and abilities of the individual child who will receive it.

This holiday season (and beyond), please consider the following guidelines for choosing safe toys for all ages:

- Inspect all toys before purchasing. Avoid those that shoot or include parts that fly off. The toy should have no sharp edges or points and should be sturdy enough to withstand impact without breaking, being crushed, or being pulled apart easily.
- When purchasing toys for children with special needs try to: Consult the "AblePlay" website at <http://www.ableplay.org/> for more information.
- Be diligent about inspecting toys your child has received. Check them for age, skill level, and developmental appropriateness before allowing them to be played with.
- Look for labels that assure you the toys have passed a safety inspection
- Gifts of sports equipment should always be accompanied by protective gear
- Keep kids safe from lead in toys
- Do NOT give toys with small parts to young children as they tend to put things in their mouths, increasing the risk of choking.
- Do NOT give toys with ropes and cords or heating elements
- Do NOT give crayons and markers unless they are labeled "nontoxic".

Should you have questions, feel free to call Nurse Emory at 803-782-1772 or email at lorraine.emory@am.dodea.edu

STEM

This month in STEM (S=Science, T=Technology, E=Engineering, M=Math), our first lesson was about bats. We listened to the story "Stellaluna" and learned fun facts about bats and birds. We then compared the two and found that they were much more alike than different (which was illustrated in the story). We then designed a bat and discovered how to make it "fly" on a zip line using gravity.

We also celebrated Native American month by learning a little about the people and their symbols. We used the symbols in our next two lessons. The first was to make and play a Native American stick game. We also used the symbols and the Engineering Design Process to create Native Teepees after learning about a variety of Native American dwellings. We will continue to learn, explore and create in STEM class! Nancy Reichert nancy.reichert@am.dodea.edu

ART NEWS

* Students are studying lines using all types of media.

* Help your child learn lines by pointing at horizontal, vertical, diagonal, zigzag, wavy and broken lines.

Don't forget the spiral line you see in delicious cinnamon rolls!

News from the Counselor

Happy December!

In September, students were introduced to our Kimochis program. Kimochis is the Japanese word for "feelings" and students have had the opportunity to discover their own personal emotions through Kimochi characters and Feeling Pillows. For the month of December, students will learn about Clover and Bella Rose, our two final Kimochi characters. During Classroom Guidance lessons, students will explore various feelings along with communication tools and strategies. The Kimochis program is also used within group and individual counseling sessions. In January, students will learn more about being respectful, responsible and safe through our PBIS program. Look out for further details!



If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to stop by and visit!

Dr. Quintana

Professional School Counselor

SAFETY AND SUPERVISION

Parents,

Please help us to keep you, students and staff members safe by not parking illegally in the lower parking lot of Pierce Terrace Elementary School. The buses cannot safely enter and exit when cars are parked along the curbs and in other illegal locations in the parking lot. Please remember that students, staff members and parents are also attempting to safely walk to the crossing guard location.

1. Please only use the designated parking spaces. Do not park along the curbs.
2. Please do not "block" any of the buses by parking behind or too close to them (designated parking spaces only).
3. Do not move any of the safety cones.

Arrival and dismissal times can be hectic. Your patience is appreciated in advance. Thank you for helping with our safety concern.

Additionally please do not allow your student(s) to come to school (car rider or walker) before 7:30 AM daily. Staff members are not available to provide supervision until this time. Breakfast service begins at 7:30 AM. Students who are not eating breakfast go to the cafeteria at 7:30 AM., where they will be supervised by staff and their teacher will go down and pick them up to take them to the classroom at 7:55 AM. All students will need to arrive to school by 8:00 AM. Those arriving after 7:55 AM will not have access to breakfast.

Early dismissals are granted until the last thirty (30) minutes of the school day. School ends at 2:45 PM on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, so early dismissals are granted until 2:15 PM. **The school day ends at 1:40 PM each Thursday and early dismissals are granted until 1:05 PM.**

Please ensure that you have listed several persons who can pick up your child in the event of an emergency. The school cannot release students to persons who are not listed as emergency contact/pick-up for your child. For the safety of your child, the school cannot take changes in transportation by phone. However, parents may send a not with students or an email to either felicia.greer@am.dodea.edu or karen.young2@am.dodea.edu

PARENT FORUM—FAQ

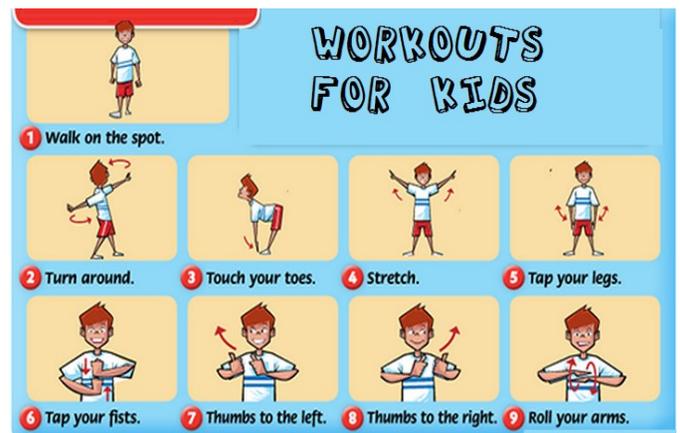
The Commissary gate is not open at the correct time?

The Commissary gate, which provides access to Pierce Terrace from the Commissary parking lot, is scheduled to be opened for thirty (30) minutes during arrival and dismissal. For example, school begins at 8:00 AM for PreKindergarten students. The gate will be open fifteen (15) minutes before arrival time, and fifteen (15) minutes after arrival time, which equates to the gate begin open from 7:45 AM to 8:15 AM. The office will review the gate times to ensure sponsors/parents have access to our school.

Why are First Grade walkers being dismissed so late?

Pierce Terrace will address the issue with our walker monitors. Our goal is to have students exit the building in a safe and positive manner, which means single file is the most effective strategy. Incidentally, we understand that students may be standing in the cafeteria for an extended period of time prior to being released. Dr. Burk will discuss this issue with all parties, but requests that sponsors/parents update the office regarding resolution to this concern.

FITNESS CHALLENGE



Traveling for the holidays? Probably going to be in the car for a while then. Don't fret! You can counter the effect of all that sitting! A recent analysis of data from more than 1 million people found that 60 to 75 minutes of moderately intense physical activity a day countered the effects of too much sitting. Get up and move!

25 Speech Strategies we use in therapy room, that you can use at home to support and encourage early language development:

Self-talk – Talk out loud about what you’re doing

Add 1 word – Use 1 more word than your child is using

1 at a Time – Given only 1 so they ask for more

Be Silly – Get attention with unexpected actions

Wait – Pause and give time to respond

Parallel Talk – Talk out loud about what your child is doing

Model – Tell them what you want them to say (“You could say …”)

Give 2 Choices – “Do you want _____ or _____?”

Follow their Lead – Talk about their interests

Make Comments – More statements than questions

Repetition – Repeat words over and over

Imitation – Teach them to copy you

Sabotage – Set it up so they need your help

That’s New! – Explore something new

Open-Ended Questions – Use Wh instead of yes/no questions

Increase Opportunities – Target the same word all day

Visuals – Show objects or pictures when talking

In Sight - Out of Reach – Let them ask for what they want

Verbal Routines – Use the same words/phrases in daily routines

Pacing Boards – Tap or clap to add more words

Simplify – Use short phrases and sentences

Sign Language – Teach early sign language

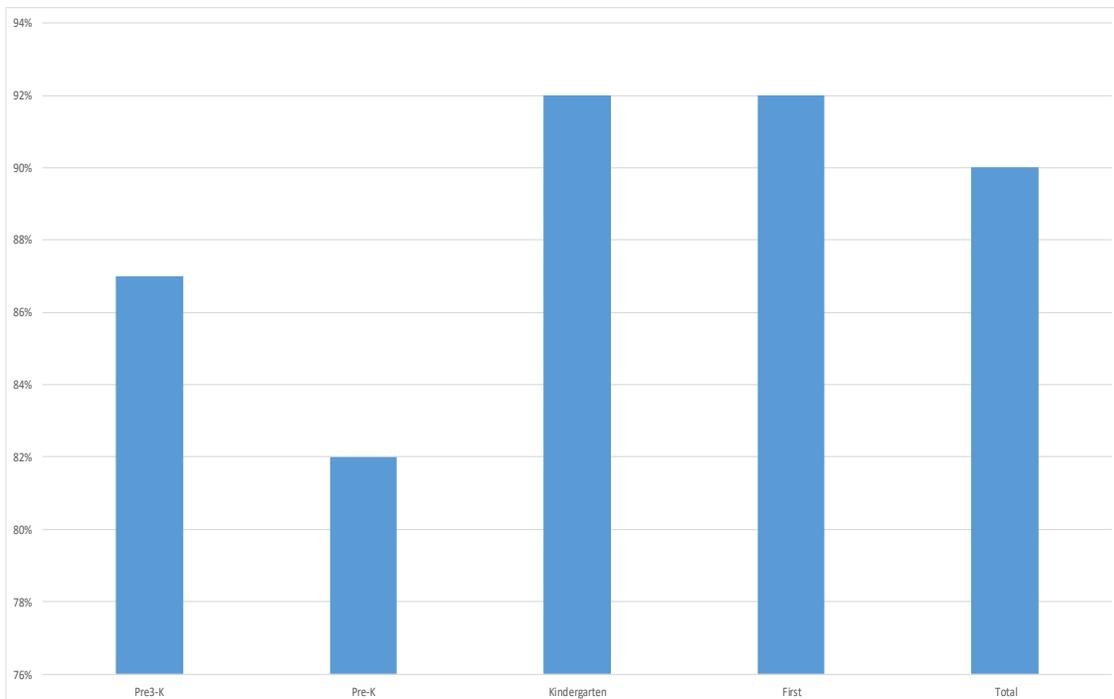
Be Forgetful – Let them ask or remind you what they wanted

Sing – Teach language using songs

Say it Back – Repeat back with stress on correct word



PIERCE TERRACE ATTENDANCE DATA



November 1—November 30, 2018

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Provide doctor/parent notes to clear any unexcused absences.
- Student contact information changes can be made directly with the Registrar during school hours.
- Sponsor duty phone number and unit changes can be made directly with the Registrar during school hours.

School Improvement Goals:

Math

- * By June, 2020, Pre-kindergarten students will increase their identification of numerals to 10 and show one-to-one correspondence from 29% to 40% scoring proficiency as measured by a teacher made assessment.
- * All students in kindergarten will increase their Operations and Algebraic Thinking on the PARCC Benchmark Assessment from 5% to 10% scoring proficient (80% or higher) as measured by end-of-the-year PARCC Benchmark Assessment.
- * All students in first grade will increase their Operations and Algebraic Thinking on the PARCC Benchmark Assessment from 4% to 9% scoring proficient (80% or higher) as measured by end-of-the-year PARCC Benchmark Assessment.

Reading

- * All students in pre-kindergarten will increase their retelling achievement on the pre-Kindergarten Teacher-created Assessment Tool from 80% to 85% scoring proficient as measured by pre-kindergarten grade level expectations for SY 2017-2018 to SY 2019-2020.