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Pierce Terrace Dragon Digest November 1, 2018

COMMUNITY SUPERINTENDENT

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PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Mark Your Calendars

Nov. 1-2	Parent Teacher Conferences No School Students
Nov 7	LIMS Field Trip to Riverbanks Zoo and Gardens
Nov 9	Veteran's Day Event 8:15 AM—9:15 AM
Nov 12	Veteran's Day Holiday No School Staff/Students Veteran's Day Parade 11:00 AM
Nov 15	Flu Shots Administered Pierce Terrace Elementary 8:00 AM—12:00 PM
Nov 16	Thanksgiving Luncheon Pierce Terrace Cafeteria 10:15 AM—1:00 PM
Nov 19	School Board Meeting CC Pinckney 12:30 PM
Nov 21-23	Thanksgiving Break No School Staff/Students
Nov 22	Thanksgiving Day Holiday
Nov 27	Make-Up Picture Day
Nov 30	Principal's Forum Pierce Terrace 9:00 AM
30 Nov	Trimester 1 Prep Pre-K No School Pre-K

Parents,

We can't believe it is already November! Pierce Terrace experienced a great opening of the school year and completion of our first grading period. With that said, our successes at Pierce Terrace are a result of our students' supportive and responsive parents and learning community. Our sponsors/parents continue to create productive and positive relationships with Pierce Terrace faculty members. The end result is a commitment towards all students learning.

As mentioned during open house, Pierce Terrace's instructional day begins at 8:00 AM. Students dropped off at 8:00 AM, and who eat breakfast, will arrive to the classroom several minutes after the instructional day begins. As a result, students are missing important instructional experiences that support their entire day. We ask that our parents/guardians assist us with student arrival in the event your child(ren) eat breakfast. Breakfast begins at 7:30 AM. Students eating breakfast need to arrive to school as early as possible so that they may enjoy their breakfast prior to returning to their classrooms by 8:00 AM. Our teachers must accomplish many tasks, such as attendance, before the start of our instructional day, which is 8:00 AM.

Parent conferences are scheduled for the first two days (November 1 and 2) of the month. Parent/Teacher conferences are vital to each student's academic, behavioral, social, and emotional progress. Conferences promote sponsors/parents' understanding of their child(ren)'s individual growth towards grade level benchmarks and targets. We look forward to seeing all our sponsors/parents during Parent/Teacher conferences.

We invite our sponsors/parents to several wonderful activities this month. Pierce Terrace will honor our veterans on November 9th and November 12th. During the morning of November 9th, our students and faculty will recognize, through a variety of activities, our current and former military members who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. Also, Fort Jackson schools, along with our students and their parents, will march in downtown Columbia's Veteran's Day parade on Monday, November 12th. This is an exciting opportunity for our entire learning community to represent Fort Jackson schools. Lastly, our annual Thanksgiving Luncheon will take place on Friday, November 16th. More information will be forwarded to families regarding this event, which offers families the opportunity to enjoy a delicious lunch with the Pierce Terrace faculty.

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"*

MUSIC NEWS

Kindergarten and first grade students at PT are continuing to develop important foundational musical skills including the “four voices”, singing on pitch, keeping the steady beat, and reading/performing rhythm patterns. Students have also learned about playing instruments including the drums, key-boards, rhythm sticks, and tambourines. First graders recently completed a unit on meters (how beats are organized) and kindergartens are completing a unit on basic rhythm patterns. Through Quaver Music, Pearson Interactive Music, and other curricular resources aligned with the DoDEA College and Career Ready Standards for the Arts, students have enjoyed learning new songs, playing instruments, games, and other activities. In addition, students have learned about and have shown how they can Be Safe, Be Respectful, and Be Responsible during music workstations. Speaking of music workstations, students have done a wonderful job working in small groups and rotating among the various stations around the classroom. November and December will be devoted to practicing and preparing for our winter music program in December (exact date and time TBD). Please stay tuned for more information!



First Grade

In literacy we will be studying characters in fairy tales and folktales. In math we will continue to practice addition and subtraction strategies. In science we will complete our life science study of plants and animals.

Fairy Tales



KINDERGARTEN

Happy November! Kindergarten is on the move! We are looking forward to seeing all of our parents at conferences on November 1 and 2! This month we will be starting Unit 2 in our ELA Reader's Workshop. We will continue to focus on practicing being a strong listener and retelling key events from a text, identifying and describing characters, comparing and contrasting characters, genres and adventures. We will also begin learning how to draw inferences about characters, forming plural nouns, understanding and using question words and reading with expression. In writing we will continue to practice response writing and process writing both in workstations and Writer's Workshop. We will write opinions, narratives, comparisons, and descriptions. We will write about key events, characters, and story endings. We continue to practice the process of brainstorming, planning, drafting, revising and editing, and then sharing our writing pieces. In math we will begin Unit 2 - Shapes. We will be learning all about 2-dimensional and 3-dimensional shapes. Science continues with isopods and finishing up the Life Science section of our standards. Please watch your child's take-home folder and your email for additional information from each classroom. We are thankful you are all here!



PK/PSCD NEWS

Pre-K students are learning about trees. Thanks to parents for helping your child collect items to share with the class about trees such as twigs, pinecones, pine straw, acorns, bark, etc. We appreciate you taking your child on a nature walk. Our discussion is currently on “Who Lives In Trees”. We will continue to further investigate and explore about trees.

Our Pre-K students love outdoor time! The weather is getting colder. Please dress your child warmly! Please assist your child in putting on coats, jackets, and sweaters. Important coordination skills are learned while putting on outerwear. Working with buttons, zippers, snaps, toggles, and even Velcro helps children become more coordinated and self-sufficient. Children feel such a sense of accomplishment when they can dress themselves!

STEM

This month in STEM (S=Science, T=Technology, E=Engineering, M=Math), Kindergarten and First-grade students became “Marine Engineers” and used the Engineering Design Process (Ask Imagine Plan Create Improve) to build a boat in our lesson “Sink or Float, Build a Boat”. We first discovered which materials would float and which would sink; then the students used the materials to build a boat that would float. In our next lesson, we learned about “Water: What is it? Who needs it? Where does it come from?” The students learned about water and the water cycle, which was reinforced by making a water cycle bead bracelet. Our latest lesson was about whales and dolphins. After learning fun facts about whales and dolphins, we compared the two and found out that they have a lot in common. We then learned the parts of both and made an origami whale, to which we added details such as the blowhole and flukes. We will continue to learn, explore and create in STEM class! Nancy Reichert nancy.reichert@am.dodea.edu

SPEECH NEWS

November is a great month to practice language at home every day with some fun quick language building activities. It seems that November and December are filled with vacations and family get-togethers, which is a perfect time to play with language together. Here are some ideas to make language and communication development a fun daily routine that everyone can enjoy:

Monday:

MLU Mondays:

MLU stands for Mean Length of Utterance. This is the average number of words a child puts together when they are speaking. This changes and increases as your child grows and develops. On Mondays encourage your 2-3 year olds to request using 2-3 word sentences and give them a model if they need help. Encourage 3-4 year olds to request using 3-5 word sentences. If your child is 5+ years old, encourage 5+ word sentences to request or share ideas, helping them to increase the sentence length with interesting details.

Wednesday:

Wacky Direction Wednesdays:

Have your child follow wacky or weird 2-3 step directions, or according to his/her ability level. For example, “Touch your toes, then hop three times and clap your hands.” or “After you put your finger on your nose, close your eyes and smile.” Then have them think up some wacky directions for you to follow.

Saturday:

Silly Speech Saturdays:

Parents use incorrect grammar/vocabulary/etc. *on purpose*, and let your child spot the errors and correct you. For example, “Andy rode to school on his pillow” or “Wilma the Whale likes to swim in the sink.” After they get the hang of it, encourage your child to make up silly sentences for you to correct.

ART NEWS

K and 1st grade have been practicing their color mixing skills, including making shades and tints, over the past few weeks.

During this upcoming week these young artists will be utilizing these painting skills to create beautiful red and blue painted messages to the veterans of this country.

These messages will be displayed on the Ft. Jackson Schools float in this year's Veteran's Day Parade in downtown Columbia.

Help us celebrate the service of our veterans by joining us in this important celebration!
Happy Creating!

FITNESS CHALLENGE

The month of giving thanks. It should be more than just a holiday. Gratitude has been linked to positive attitudes, mental and physical health and overall well-being. Look around and help your children see all the good in their lives. It will pay itself forward with more even more things to be grateful for!

News From the Nurse

November is Diabetes Awareness Month – Talk to your health care provider about the risk factors in your family, take precautions, & support the people you know with Diabetes!

Continue to say “BOO” to the Flu! – This year, the Centers for Disease Control advises everyone 6 months of age and older to get a flu shot. Flu Vaccinations are available at Moncreif Army Health Clinic on the first floor Monday-Friday 1000-1900. A flu clinic will set up at Pierce Terrace ES on November 15th 8-12. Please be sure to turn in paperwork to the school of your child’s vaccination.

Please keep all sick children home from school especially if they are exhibiting respiratory and stomach symptoms! If you are unsure – stay home and call your health care provider.

We can protect and strengthen our own immunity by eating nutritious foods, taking daily walks, sleeping 8 –10 hours a night, reducing stress and smiling daily :)

The American Cancer Society sponsors the Great American Smokeout which takes place on November 15 this year. The American Heart Association states that, “studies have shown that children of smoking parents have more lung illnesses (bronchitis and pneumonia) than children of parents who not smoke.”

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

Lorraine Emory BSN, RN

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

Why do I receive alerts from the school through text, phone, and email?

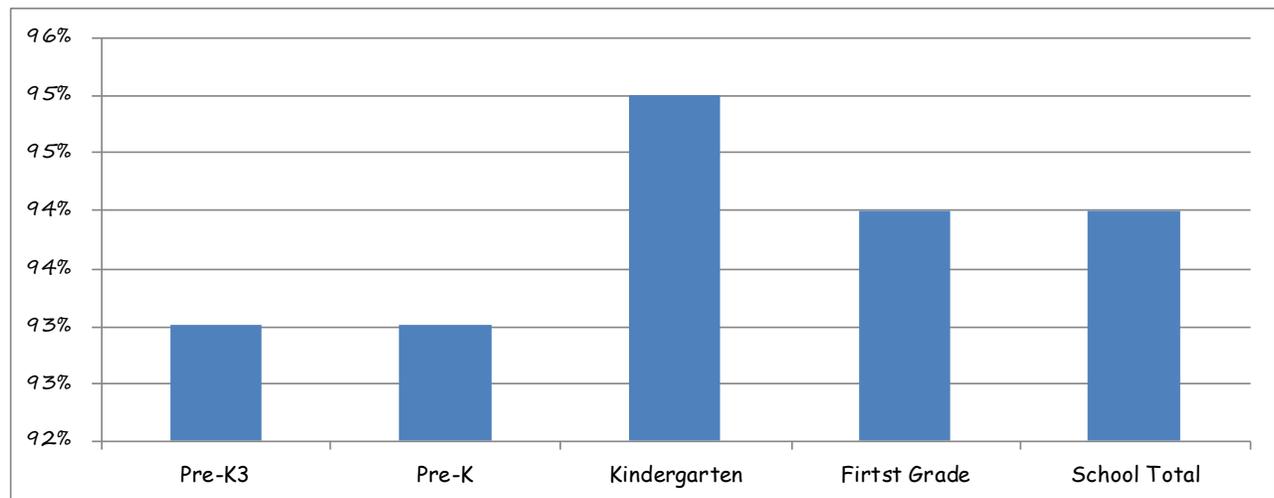
Our AtHoc system provides messages to be sent via multiple pathways. In addition, all contact information is pulled from our ASPEN student management system. With that said, the cell phone number listed will receive the emergency contacts. Recently, a training was provided to office staff concerning updates regarding the AtHoc system. As a result of this training, messages will only be sent out by this school through text and email.

How do I volunteer?

All sponsors/parents who want to volunteer at the school will need to complete a volunteer packet. Our volunteer packets can be picked up at the main office. Please ask either office personnel for the packet, and return the completed forms to the office personnel. Once packets have been processed, contact by the school will be made to our sponsors/parents.



PIERCE TERRACE ATTENDANCE DATA



AUGUST 22, 2018—OCTOBER 25, 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.
- * All students in kindergarten will increase their reading achievement on the Benchmark Assessment System (BAS) from 77% to 80% scoring "At or Above" as measured by kindergarten grade level expectations for the "Independent Level" from SY 2017-2018 to SY 2019-2020.