PARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT #1

Community Link

Excellence in Education .....Every Student.....Every Day

March /April 2021 Edition

April 2021 Events

- ⇒ 2: No School-Offices Closed
- ⇒ 9: V Girls Soccer (3pm)
  JV Boys Soccer (3pm)
  JV Girls Soccer (5pm)
  V Boys Soccer (5pm)
- ⇒ 10: Varsity Track Invitational (9am)
- ⇒ 13: School Board Meeting (6pm)
- ⇒ 15:Varsity Track Quad (4:15pm)
- ⇒ 16: V Girls Soccer (12pm)
  V Boys Soccer (2pm)
- ⇒ 21: KG Registration Drop Off at SSB (9-am3pm)
- ⇒ 23: V Girls Soccer (3pm)
  JV Boys Soccer (3pm)
  JV Girls Soccer (5pm)
  V Boys Soccer (5pm)
- ⇒ 24: V Girls Soccer (12pm)
  JV Boys Soccer (12pm)
  JV Girls Soccer (2pm)
  V Boys Soccer (2pm)
- ⇒ 27:Girls 7/8 Grade Soccer (4pm)
  Boys 7/8 Grade Soccer (5:30pm)
- ⇒ 29: V Girls Soccer (4pm)
  JV Boys Soccer (4pm)
  JV Girls Soccer (6pm)
  V Boys Soccer (6pm)
- ⇒ 30: PHS V Golf
  7/8 Grade Tennis (2:30pm)

May 2021 Events

- ⇒ 1: MS Track Invitational (9am)
  PHS Prom (8pm)
- ⇒ 7-8: PHS Spring Drama Production (7pm)

For the latest on events, updates, and cancellations, please visit pcsd1.org

Superintendent's Message — Mr. Jay Curtis

School Funding Conundrum

Another session of the Wyoming Legislature has come and gone, and if we thought this session would be exciting, it certainly delivered. We had drama, suspense, cliffhangers, and an ending that was, well… pretty much a fizzle. Our legislature truly had one job this session, which was to solve the issues surrounding funding our schools. Except, they didn't. Funding Wyoming schools has largely been a one-trick pony for decades. That pony is known as the mineral industry. With several facets of that industry failing, it is apparent that the pony is getting quite tired. It really is time to do the dirty work of diversifying school funding streams. Faced with a $300 million-dollar structural deficit, the legislature toyed with several options that included cuts, additional revenue in the form of a ½ penny sales tax, and diverting existing streams of revenue to education rather than savings. The Senate largely insisted on deep cuts with zero revenue or diversions, while the house wanted a more balanced approach that included all three. In the end, a lack of agreement ended the process in a stalemate. This means we potentially go another year under current law, with the exception of a few minor adjustments that occurred in the budget bill. I am not sure that is the best outcome for our district, as it means another year of financial uncertainty as we look to the future. It also means that if the cuts do come, the legislature will likely inflict deeper cuts if the funding deficit continues to grow. We as a district will move cautiously forward in preparation for those deep cuts in the same manner we have been. We will continue to prioritize students and staff, no matter what the legislature might throw at us. We will do everything we possibly can to insulate our students from those reductions. However, it would be beneficial to all if our legislature can make some compromises and address school funding through a reasonable, balanced approach once and for all. We, as a district, stand by ready to help them in that process, to ensure that the students of Park County School District #1 continue to get the educational opportunities that they deserve. There is no more important function of a society than to educate its citizenry. As Benjamin Franklin said, " An education is the investment with the greatest returns."

Please enjoy this edition of the Community Link that covers the events and happenings in the District during the month of February.

February's Staff Recognition

Rachel Holmes

PCSD#1 Math Teacher at Powell Middle School

Recognizing 6 years of above & beyond service to the District

Mrs. Holmes has worked in education for thirteen years. Originally from Williamsport, Ohio, she received her Bachelor's Degree in Middle Childhood Education with concentrations in ELA and Math from Kent State University. She earned her Master's Degree in Science Education from Walden University. She has a variety of teaching experience as a substitute, para-educator, middle school language arts teacher, and middle school math teacher.

The biggest part of her job is working with students to overcome a lack of confidence in math and getting students to engage with the material.

"By far the best part of my job is seeing the growth that students make throughout the year. Whether it's academic, behavior, or just an improved attitude, it's so exciting to see those positive changes!"

Alison Pindell

PCSD#1 Counselor at Southside Elementary

Recognizing 6 years of above & beyond service to the District

Mrs. Pindell is the School Social Worker at Southside Elementary. She is originally from Powell and a proud graduate of Parkside, PMS and PHS! She has worked in education for sixteen years. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and a Master of Social Work from the University of Wyoming. She is also a LCSW. She was a classroom teacher/Title I teacher for seven years before returning to school for her master's and has been a school social worker for nine years. She taught overseas for one year in Romania.

On a day-to-day basis she gets to provide classroom guidance K-5 at Southside. She works with small groups as well as individual students on behavior and social emotional learning to help them be successful in a school setting. She is also the McKinney-Vento Liaison for our District.

"The day-to-day interactions and time with elementary students is humorous, rewarding and challenging which ultimately makes my job incredibly engaging. In addition to time with students, collaborating with my colleagues is incredibly valuable and continually helps me learn and grow as a social worker."

February's Staff Recognition

Tim Wormald

PCSD#1 Principal at Powell High School

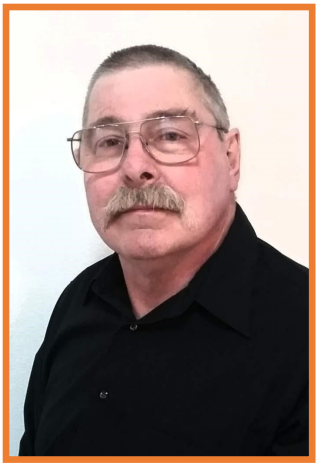
Recognizing 11 years of above & beyond service to the District

Mr. Wormald has worked in education for twenty-one years. Originally from Cody, he earned his Bachelor's Degree in English with an emphasis in education from Montana State University–Bozeman. He earned his Master's Degree in Educational Leadership and Administration from the University of Phoenix. Before moving to Powell, he was a teacher and administrator in Colorado for nine years.

Prior to assuming the Principal duties at PHS in 2019, he served as the assistant principal and activities director for ten years. Some days, his job is best described as herding cats. The rest of the days are spent supporting the PHS staff as they work to support the students. For the most part, he tries to stay out of the way so that PHS staff can help the students prepare for life after high school.

"I get to work with some of the best people in the world. I love seeing our students excel. They consistently amaze me with what they are able to accomplish, both academically as well as in their extracurricular pursuits."

Meet the Board



Don Hansen

The PCSD#1 Board of Trustees includes seven elected members, each serving a four-year term. Board members volunteer their time to oversee the management of the District's schools, including the use of public funds, curriculum, employment, facilities, and serve as the policy-making body within the District.

Originally from Iowa, Mr. Don Hansen visited Wyoming in his twenties and fell in love with the area. He moved to the state shortly after and has owned several businesses around the region. In 2014 he knew changes were coming to the District, and decisions would need to be made. He was elected to the Board and began his first term in December 2014. Mr. Hansen chose to run for re-election while he was battling Stage 3 COPD. His sense of service to the community inspired him to continue on the Board, despite the personal health challenges. Mr. Hansen received a double-lung transplant and lives each day as though he has looked death in the eyes.

His three children have gone through the District and now the next generation is attending elementary school. He is extremely proud of the elementary school system that we have created and believes in the importance of having the right people in the right jobs. The elementary years are the base of education and dictate a child's life. The value of encouraging young children to be good readers cannot be stressed enough. Mr. Hansen misses being able to visit the schools and not see firsthand the programs the Board has approved being implemented.

Student Spotlight

James Schaefer, 4th Grader

James is an excellent example of Westside kindness and grit! Throughout this school year, he has been tearing it up academically in fourth grade. His positive and can-do attitude in learning is a joy to see and results in steady improvements and growth. Often James is heard by his teacher and classmates declaring how much he "loves reading and math!" He's a farmer at heart but this kid is a workhorse in the classroom. There is nothing that this young kindness and grit superhero can't do! -Mr. Borcher, 4th Grade Teacher

Alaja Defoe-Love, 5th Grader

Alaja is a problem solver and a quick thinker. She takes all of the challenges we throw at her head-on, and with a smile on her face! This young lady is almost always the first student to tackle a new math problem, even if she isn't 100% sure she will be correct. That right there should say a lot about Alaja and the type of student she is. She also takes the initiative to participate in any outside learning she can, from participating in the school reading fundraiser to making her own math problems up at the kitchen table; Alaja is determined to go far in this world! On top of that, Alaja is a little ray of sunshine in this classroom. Each day she comes in with a huge smile on her face and a positive attitude. Alaja never gets too serious about the small things, nor lets any of them get her down. She can laugh at her silly mistakes, learn, and move on like a champ! Her sense of humor, compassion, and kindness make her one special kiddo! -Mrs. Tobin, 5th Grade Teacher

Mae Gilliat, 3rd Grader

A student that deserves recognition is Mae Gilliat. From her positive attitude to her hard working nature, she is a force! Mae pushes herself each day to be better than the day before, but she doesn't take herself too seriously. She has that beautiful balance of appreciating not only the learning, but what learning can do for her. For example, she took one of our third grade classroom lessons and chose to apply it by coordinating her classmates in the cafeteria. She made the content applicable to her peers on her own time. As a result of our MLK lesson and Mae's personal advocating, we not only marched for freedom, but also for the right to have cheese on our burgers. She later took our persuasive unit to strive for the same thing. I believe this is a kiddo that will make a difference in this world one way or another, or one burger at a time. -Mrs. Carter, 3rd Grade Teacher

Graeson Hubbell, 4th Grader

Graeson Hubbell is a model student. If anyone in class needs to know what they should be doing, they need only turn to observe Graeson. He is highly organized, motivated, and has a strong work ethic. After he finishes his assigned classwork, he is engaged in independent projects which include designing and constructing model bridges made of wood, creating art, and conquering Khan Academy. Beyond his academic abilities (and most importantly) Graeson is kind, considerate, and helpful. If you were to drop a stack of papers in the hallway, Graeson would stop to help you pick them up because that's the type of person he is.

-Mr. Abram Graham

Around the District

6th Grade

Bands directed by John Fabela

7th Grade

The Middle School Bands and Choirs performed on February 25 in the PHS Auditorium.

8th Grade

7th Grade

8th Grade

Choirs directed by Rachel Schoessler and accompanied by Tim Schoessler

Around the District

A Team

The 7th grade boys finished the season 5-11. This team showed great character and determination in overcoming adversity. During the season, they were without multiple starters due to injuries. They worked hard in practice, played hard in the games and enjoyed one another's company on the road trips. The coaches enjoyed this season and working with great group of young men.

Coach Tracy McArthur, Coach Chris Wolff and Coach Marc McArthur

B Black Team

B Orange Team

Around the District

Volunteering is fun, Big Time

Being a Big Brother or Big Sister is one of the most enjoyable things you will ever do. Not to mention, one of the most fulfilling. We are always looking for people eager to positively impact a child and improve their community at the same time. Big Brothers especially are in high demand. And the best part is, it is actually a lot of fun. You and your Little can share the kinds of activities you already like to do.

For a few hours, a couple times a month, you can give a Little the invaluable gift of your friendship. By simply changing their perspective of what the world can offer, you can literally start changing their life. Play sports together. Go on a hike. Read books. Eat a pizza with extra anchovies. Or just give some advice and inspiration. Just as your options are unlimited, so is your Little's potential.

So many of our Bigs tell us that becoming a Big was the best decision they ever made. Contact Sarah Schrickling (307-213-3263 Ext. 401) or visit wyobbbs.org to get started on making a BIG difference in a young person's life as well as your own.

The Dish

from the Food Services Department

(Washington, D.C., December 29, 2020) – Nutrition in America took a major step forward today with the publication of Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2020-2025. Jointly published by the U.S. Departments of Agriculture (USDA) and Health and Human Services (HHS) every five years, the guidelines provide science-based recommendations designed to foster healthy dietary patterns for Americans of all ages – from birth through older adults. Importantly, this edition expands the guidance, for the first time including recommended healthy dietary patterns for infants and toddlers.

"At USDA and HHS, we work to serve the American people – to help every American thrive and live healthier lives through access to healthy foods and providing nutrition recommendations," said U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue. "With the release of the dietary guidelines, we have taken the very important step to provide nutrition guidance that can help all Americans lead healthier lives by making every bite count."

Dietary Guidelines for Americans is the nation's trusted resource for evidence-based nutrition guidance. The guidelines are designed for use by healthcare professionals and policy makers for outreach to the general public and provide the nutritional foundation for federal nutrition programs. The dietary guidelines should not be considered clinical guidelines for the treatment of disease.

"The science tells us that good nutrition leads to better health outcomes, and the new dietary guidelines use the best available evidence to give Americans the information they need to make healthy decisions for themselves and their families," said HHS Secretary Alex Azar. "USDA and HHS have expanded this edition of the dietary guidelines to provide new guidance for infants, toddlers, and pregnant and breastfeeding women, helping all Americans to improve their health, no matter their age or life stage."

As always, the new guidelines build on the previous editions and were informed by the scientific report developed by the Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee, along with comments from the public and input from federal agencies. USDA and HHS thank the committee for their work and dedication over the last fifteen months, providing the departments with a comprehensive scientific review and proposal of overarching recommendations, a highly regarded step of critical importance in dietary guidelines development. USDA and HHS also made transparency a priority in this edition and appreciate the many public comments that were received throughout this process.

Today's release provides the public with the most up-to-date evidence on dietary behaviors that promote health and may help prevent chronic disease. Steeped in scientific evidence, the key recommendations look similar to those of the past and address two topics that garnered much attention throughout the development of the guidelines – added sugars and alcoholic beverages. Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2020-2025 carried forward the committee's emphasis on limiting these dietary components, but did not include changes to quantitative recommendations, as there was not a preponderance of evidence in the material the committee reviewed to support specific changes, as required by law. As in previous editions, limited intake of these two food components is encouraged. In fact, this sentiment remains prominent throughout the policy document and complements the four overarching guidelines, which encourage Americans to "Make Every Bite Count" by:

- Following a healthy dietary pattern at every life stage.
- Customizing and enjoying nutrient-dense food and beverage choices to reflect personal preferences, cultural traditions, and budgetary considerations.
- Focusing on meeting food group needs with nutrient-dense foods and beverages from five food groups – vegetables, fruits, grains, dairy and fortified soy alternatives, and proteins – and staying within calorie limits.
- Limiting foods and beverages higher in added sugars, saturated fat, and sodium, and limiting alcoholic beverages.

For consumers, USDA's MyPlate translates and packages these principles of dietary guidance for Americans in a way that is handy and accessible. To share these messages broadly, USDA offers the Start Simple with MyPlate campaign and a new MyPlate website to help individuals, families, and communities make healthy food choices that are easy, accessible, and affordable, in addition to helping prevent chronic disease. For more information, please visit www.myplate.gov.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Around the District

Special thanks to the Park County Health Department and the amazing nurses that administered the second round of vaccines to PCSD#1 staff on February 19th. The health department accommodated the District's request to hold the clinic on Friday to prevent any possible disruption to teaching and learning in case of widespread reactions to the vaccine. Clinics were held at PHS and the elementary schools. Mr. Curtis led the check in process and school nurses assisted with getting staff in, monitored, and out as quickly as possible.

Shout outs!

Joyce Ruward: Shout out to our **entire transportation department**, getting kids safely to school in all weather conditions!

Amy Johnson: Shout out to **Sherri Simpson** on her mail delivery. SSB is an early stop on her run. After she visits all the schools, if she has items for Cheryl in the Print Shop or something that needs attention here, she will come back and drop off a second batch rather than letting it wait until the next day's drop off. Thank you!

Joyce Ruward: Shout out to the **maintenance department** for keeping the sidewalks clear of snow to keep students, staff, and community safe.

Example of clearing snow at PHS even where there aren't sidewalks!

Jason Sleep: Congratulations to **Nicole Maier-Reitz**, ELL Coordinator. She was selected as WIDA's (World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment) featured Educator of the Month for February. Read the article here: February-2021 Featured Educator Nicole Maier-Reitz

Do you have a teacher, staff member, student, event or activity you would like to recognize in our Shout Out section? Please email your shout out nomination to Amy at ALJohnson@PCSD1.org