



# PARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT #1

## Community Link

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

October 2019 Edition

### October 2019 Events

- ⇒ 1: MS Canvas Parent Training (6pm)
- ⇒ 3: MS Picture Day  
Freshman Football (5pm)
- ⇒ 7: HS Picture Day
- ⇒ 8: School Board Meeting (7pm)
- ⇒ 11: Varsity Girls Swimming (4pm)
- ⇒ 12: 7th/8th Grade Football (10:30am)
- ⇒ 15: Junior Varsity Football (5pm)  
MS Middle School Band and Choir Concert (7pm)
- ⇒ 17: Girls Volleyball - Freshman (4pm)/JV (5pm)/Varsity (6pm)
- ⇒ 18: No School  
Girls Volleyball - Freshman (2pm)/JV (3pm)/Varsity (4pm)  
Freshman Football (3pm)  
Varsity Girls Swimming (4pm)  
Varsity Football (7pm)
- ⇒ 21: High School Choir and Guitar Concert (7:30pm)
- ⇒ 22: School Board Meeting (7pm)
- ⇒ 24: Girls Volleyball - Freshman (4pm)/JV (5pm)/Varsity (6pm)
- ⇒ 25: End of the 1st Quarter
- ⇒ 26: MS Wrestling Tournament (9am)
- ⇒ 28: High School and Middle School Jazz Concert (7pm)

Please visit

[www.pcsd1.org/Calendar](http://www.pcsd1.org/Calendar)  
for the latest information

### Assistant Superintendent's Message

**Mr. Jason Sleep**

Park #1 Pride - Accountability, Achievement and Growth.

It seems in today's world one hears a lot about accountability when the topic of public education is raised. But what is school accountability? The state of Wyoming defines accountability as how well teachers, principals, and superintendents help students grow academically. The Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) has a system that measures both state and federal school performance levels.

School performance levels are determined from a variety of indicators and are calculated to help determine which schools are doing well and which schools are in need of support. The Wyoming Accountability in Education Act (WAEA) looks at student growth, readiness, achievement, equity, and English language proficiency. Based on these indicators, schools receive one of four overall performance ratings: Exceeding Expectations, Meeting Expectations, Partially Meeting Expectations, or Not Meeting Expectations.

The federal accountability system is defined in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Under ESSA, schools with a graduation rate below 67 percent and the bottom 5 percent of Title I schools are identified for state-led support. Additionally, schools with specific student groups in the bottom 10 percent are identified for supports and interventions led by the local school and district. This information is included in the school performance report which is the "report card" for each school.

Park County School District #1 has developed our strategic plan last year to address areas where accountability measures applied. Our Board of Education, staff and administration set objectives to ensure our students achieve and grow at high levels. One of our objectives is, "All schools will meet or exceed targets as measured by the state accountability report." I'm happy to report all our schools have either met or exceeded targets according to the WDE.

We recognize the effort of our students and staff to continually learn, grow and achieve in all areas of education, not just the state test. Park #1 was recently notified by the WDE that Powell was in the top five in every subject area tested in Wyoming Test of Proficiency and Progress (WY-TOPP). Michelle Panos, WDE communications director said, "Park 1 is consistently in the top of all districts with the increase of proficient and advanced students in all three subjects over the previous year." The WY-TOPP tests students in third through 10th grades in math and English. Students in fourth, eighth and 10th grades also took science exams.

We are so proud of our students and the success they have achieved. The parent and community support in Powell is second to none which adds to the sense of pride in our learning community here at Park County School District #1. Go Panthers!

# October's Staff Recognition



## **Chanler Buck**

**PCSD#1 Middle School Assistant Principal/Activities Director**

*Recognizing 8 years of above & beyond service to the District*

Mr. Buck has been in education for ten years. He graduated from Carroll College with his degree in Health, Physical Education & Biology. During his time as Assistant FB Coach at Carroll, he took his first middle school job at C.R. Anderson (Helena, MT) in 2010. Mr. Buck moved to Powell in 2011, where he taught middle school PE for six years, then taught 6th & 7th grade Health for two years. He loves coaching kids! He has coached Football for ten years, Basketball for six and Track for three years. He is currently in his second year as the Assistant Principal/Activities Director at the Middle School where he works alongside Mr. Rohrer. They work together to consistently seek ways to best support the needs and growth of the students and staff at Powell Middle School. He works with students, parents, and staff to generate and implement solutions. As the activities director, a large portion of his job is organizing schedules, personnel and events. However, the purpose that drives the work is to ensure our students/athletes are experiencing a meaningful opportunity to have a positive and powerful tool to grow as individuals and learn from a team setting.

*"I love working with kids, period. My work allows me to build great relationships with kids. Kids energize my day. I have the opportunity to teach them how to overcome obstacles and persevere through life's trials. There are difficulties we endure and the celebrations we get to share each school year. That's why I do what I do."*



## **Molly Cummings**

**PCSD#1 Business Office Accountant**

*Recognizing 4 years of above & beyond service to the District*

Molly graduated from Powell High School in 2011 and the University of Wyoming in 2015 with a Bachelor's degree in Accounting. Before moving back to Powell, she worked in the accounting department at the Hilton Garden Inn in Laramie. She currently works in the district Business Office as an Accountant.

Molly is responsible for the district payroll, including timesheets, retirement, and taxes. She is also responsible for tracking and submitting reimbursement requests for all federally funded dollars (ex. Title IA, Title IIA, IDEA 611). She has many other collateral duties that without her attention to detail, we would surely notice if left undone!

*"My favorite part of the job is the district community! The people I work with make coming to work a pleasure. I don't work directly with students but I like knowing I'm supporting the very talented and capable individuals that are working directly with students."*

# October's Staff Recognition



## **Kara Miller**

**PCSD#1 High School Counselor**

*Recognizing 3 years of above & beyond service to the District*

Mrs. Miller is beginning her 11th year in education. She graduated from Carroll College with a degree in K-12 Spanish Education and a minor in Secondary Psychology Education. While teaching Spanish/Psychology in Thermopolis, she completed her M.A. in Counseling through the University of North Dakota. This is her 4<sup>th</sup> year as a counselor at Powell High School. She was recently elected to the Wyoming School Counseling Association Board, serving as the President Elect-Elect. Her daily goal is to meet the social/emotional needs of students as well as provide academic support and to foster career development. She works closely with parents, teachers, community entities and administrators in advocating and collaborating to help all students achieve and grow. She strives to make sure that all students feel heard, that their needs are met, and that they feel they can come to a safe environment ready to learn.

*"My favorite part of my job is the relationships built with students and families. Seeing students' growth, overcoming adversity and the many "aha-moments" makes it all worth it. I absolutely love working with kids through the highs and lows and being a part of this very important part of their life journey. A close second is the wonderful colleagues that make being a part of the Panther Family the best place to work I've ever experienced. What a unique and special place we have here in Powell!"*



## **Kelsey Tobin**

**PCSD#1 Westside Elementary 5th Grade Teacher**

*Recognizing 6 years of above & beyond service to the District*

Mrs. Tobin attended Casper College and the University of Wyoming and received her bachelor's degree in elementary education and endorsement in early childhood. She earned a master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction with a Specialization in Integrated Teaching Through the Arts. She also holds a coaching endorsement because athletics holds such a big place in her heart. She began her career in Powell working at the Migrant Head Start, where she realized that her passion was with elementary-aged kiddos. After working at the Migrant Head Start for a few years, she finished college and landed her first job at Westside teaching first grade! The next year she transferred to fifth grade. Fifth grade is hands down her favorite age to teach, and she hopes to remain a fifth grade teacher until she retires! In her classroom, she works to create a family and foster a love for learning. Some days some kids aren't ready to learn, and on those days, she does her best to give them what they need so they can come the next day and learn.

*"The best part of my job is the students. You know how as a parent they say "Your heart just grows with each kid?", well I feel the same way about my students. Each year a new class comes and brings their own set of personalities and it reminds me that I have the best job in the world. We grow and challenge each other each day, and I feel that even though each day isn't perfect, we finish each day a little bit better than we were the day before."*



# Welcome Back PCSD #1 Students!



First day of school at Parkside Elementary

Students were met by a fire truck, the Panther tunnel, and NWC students on campus to greet and play with the kids. It was a great way to start the year!

Photo credit: Patti Startin





# #ethanstrong



Credit: Graphic by Brian Morse with photos by Greg Wise



Photo Credit: Jodee Metzler



Photo Credit: Greg Wise



Photo Credit: Greg Wise

On August 27th Ethan Asher, a senior at PHS, was involved in a life-threatening car accident on his way to school. He suffered head trauma, a torn aorta, and a severed spine. The family was told that there was no chance Ethan would walk again. A prayer vigil was held on Wednesday, August 28th at Washington Park and members from across the community joined together to lift up the Asher family. The outpouring of support prompted the creation of the public Facebook group #EthanStrong. Ethan's mom, Tiffani Asher, posts updates on Ethan's recovery, and members offer words of encouragement. The group has over 5,000 members with posts and support from all across the region, country, and as far as Avellino, Italy. #EthanStrong support crosses state lines and surpasses borders. Fundraisers throughout the community and beyond have raised thousands of dollars to help the Asher family and support Ethan during his recovery.



## CONGRATULATIONS!



The NEA Foundation announced that Powell Music Instructor **John Fabela**, along with 44 other public school educators from across the country, will receive the prestigious California Casualty Award for Teaching Excellence at the NEA Foundation 2020 gala occurring next February in Washington, D.C.

The California Casualty Awards for Teaching Excellence awardees are nominated by peers for their dedication to the profession, community engagement, professional development, attention to diversity, and advocacy for fellow educators.

“Each awardee has met a very high standard, and together, they are celebrated for a shared commitment to educational

excellence, innovative approaches to student learning, and support for their peers” says Sara A. Sneed, President and CEO, of the NEA Foundation. The nation’s top educator will be revealed at the gala on February 7, 2020. The gala will be livestreamed at [neafoundation.org](http://neafoundation.org). The NEA Foundation and the National Education Association jointly present the awards.



Mr. Fabela leads the PHS Band during the Homecoming Assembly on September 27.

## Halloween Safety Tips

### Keep Costumes Both Creative and Safe

- Decorate costumes and bags with reflective tape or stickers and, if possible, choose light colors.
- Choose face paint and makeup whenever possible instead of masks, which can obstruct a child’s vision.
- Have kids carry glow sticks or flashlights to help them see and be seen by drivers.
- When selecting a costume, make sure it is the right size to prevent trips and falls.

### Drive Extra Safely on Halloween

- Slow down and be especially alert in residential neighborhoods. Children are excited on Halloween and may move in unpredictable ways.
- Take extra time to look for kids at intersections, on medians and on curbs.
- Enter and exit driveways and alleys slowly and carefully.
- Eliminate any distractions inside your car so you can concentrate on the road and your surroundings.
- Drive slowly, anticipate heavy pedestrian traffic and turn your headlights on earlier in the day to spot children from greater distances.

### Trick or Treat With an Adult

- Children under the age of 12 should not be alone at night without adult supervision. If kids are mature enough to be out without supervision, they should stick to familiar areas that are well lit and trick-or-treat in groups.



**Trick or Treat:**  
**Thursday, October 31**  
**Powell-O-Ween, downtown Powell 2-4 pm**



# State Champions!

Congratulations to the Powell High School Boys Tennis Team  
on its FIRST STATE TITLE!

## First Place Finishers:

Dylan Preator, No. 2 Singles  
Jay Cox and Logan Brown,  
No. 3 Doubles

## Second Place Finishers:

Aidan Jacobsen and Justin  
Vanderbeek, No. 1 Doubles  
Grant Dillivan and Ethan  
Bartholomew, No. 2 Doubles

## Fourth Place Finisher:

Jesse Brown, No. 1 Singles



Photo Credit: Brandon Preator



## THE SUPER SATURATED SUGAR STRINGS



Prior to their performance on September 13th in Washington Park, The Super Saturated Sugar Strings played to students at Parkside and Southside Elementary Schools. At Parkside, the students sang a song for them and the band picked up the melody and played it with the students much to their delight. The Super Saturated Sugar Strings, from Anchorage, Alaska, performed in Powell courtesy of the Park County Arts Council.

Photo Credit: Patti Startin and Scott Schiller





# Homecoming Parade





# Homecoming



## 2019



Photo Credit: Greg Wise



**POWELL PANTHERS**  
**EVANSTON RED DEVILS**

**20**  
**7**

