



## Monthly Newsletter December 2019

**Parent Survey Results** – Thank you to those of you that took the time to participate in the online parent survey during Parent Teacher Conferences. We found areas of affirmation as well as areas we will strive to improve and continue to make Powell Middle School even better.

### **Below are patterns identified from the Parent Survey –**

#### Positives:

- We have strong support from parents that are willing to help their children.
- Parents feel that each grade level is preparing their children well for the next grade level.
- “Staff Respect Students”: 97% of parents surveyed responded with, “Some respect or better”.
- The system currently in place for communicating is effective. We currently follow this process: Our monthly newsletter is sent out electronically with calendar of all events, a message goes out one week in advance and then again the night before as a final reminder. The survey suggests that Messenger works best and text messages seem to be the area of choice. As a reminder, all events are accessible on our school website.

#### Areas to Grow:

- Work to make Reading more enjoyable or fun for kids.
- Investigate more informational programs to provide to parents so they are comfortable supporting their child at home, particularly with math skills and homework help.

**P.R.O.P.S. – Parents Recognizing Outstanding Professionals:** We will continue with the initiative for parents to share positive experiences and kind words regarding your child’s interaction with a professional (coach, teacher, para, anybody) at Powell Middle School. All notes can be sent to Kyle Rohrer at [KTRohrer@pcsd1.org](mailto:KTRohrer@pcsd1.org) or Chanler Buck at [CJBuck@pcsd1.org](mailto:CJBuck@pcsd1.org).

My son informed me about the, “Mix it Up” day for lunch when students were given a colored sticker that indicated where they were to sit. As a parent, I appreciate the fact that the middle school is working hard to teach our children conversational skills and work to ensure the cafeteria is a comfortable space for all. Keep up the good work!”

As a veteran and a parent, I want to recognize how much the Veteran’s Day Assembly is appreciated. The entire performance was so well organized and the kids did a great job! I was honored and humbled to be able to be a part of the assembly and recognize all that have served. Thank you to all for the organization and preparation to make this happen on an annual basis.

As a family, we cannot thank the staff for their work with our children. Staff is very responsive to any inquiries we may have and are very helpful. We are proud to have our children in this district.

**Computer Care and Communication:** As the weather changes, we would like to have students take extra care with the computers. The computer is sensitive to the elements and needs extra care when it is cold. When the computer is cold, it is **important to let the computer warm up to room temperature before using**. We will be talking to the students about this process at school; parents, please reinforce it at home.

**Parent Email Address Updates:** As a school, we are looking for ways to better communicate with our parents and students. We will be emailing our students periodically to inform them of things that they need to be aware of. The students will be asked to share some emails with parents to help facilitate school-to-home communications. Additionally, our school newsletter and calendar will be emailed to students, parents, and staff each month. Please contact Mrs. Brenda Sessions at [BASessions@pcsd1.org](mailto:BASessions@pcsd1.org) if you need your email updated in our system.

**ZAP/ICU Database:** Our program will help us to communicate more efficiently with parents in regards to your child's daily assignments. When a teacher enters your child into the ICU program for a missing assignment, parents will instantly be notified by text and/or email. Parents can also expect to be notified once the assignment has been completed. The program currently sends out a maximum of two emails and one text message per student. Please keep the school updated on any phone or email changes.

**CANVAS Learning Management System:** Our students use the CANVAS Learning Management System (LMS) to access their class information. Grades and assignments can also be accessed through CANVAS. If for some reason you need any assistance, please contact Mr. Zac Opps at [ZTOpps@pcsd1.org](mailto:ZTOpps@pcsd1.org).

**Field Trip:** On Thursday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, students in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade will leave on a field trip to visit the Heart Mountain Interpretive Center and the Buffalo Bill Center of the West. Students will leave the Middle School at 10:15 am and will return to school at 2:00 pm in the afternoon.

**Art class:** Artwork done by 1<sup>st</sup> quarter, 7<sup>th</sup> grade art students needs to be picked up from the Art room or by contacting Ms. Woods at [JVWoods@pcsd1.org](mailto:JVWoods@pcsd1.org) for further information.

**Christmas Concerts:** A Band and Choir Concert will be presented by Powell Middle School students at the Powell High School auditorium on Tuesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 pm. On Monday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm, a Christmas Jazz Concert will be presented at the Powell High School auditorium by both middle school and high school students.

**Powell Middle School Staff:** We at PMS are proud of the professional level and qualifications of our entire staff. In compliance with the "No Child Left Behind Act," parents are assured they may review credentials of the staff by making a written request to Mr. Jay Curtis, 160 N. Evarts. Great teachers + Great kids = Amazing Opportunities!

**Girls Who Code Group:** The first official meeting of the Girls Who Code group will be on Friday, December 13<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 to 4:00 pm in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade Science Lab, room 5127. The date of the group's first meeting is also aligned with Computer Science Education Week which is December 9<sup>th</sup> through the 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Lost and Found:** We have numerous coats, shorts, swimsuits, jackets, and shoes in our lost and found in each hall. Please take a look and see if anything is yours! We will be donating all leftover items before Christmas.

**Genius Hour Projects:** Sixth grade students will be presenting their Genius Hour Projects on December 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> at the Nelson Performing Arts Auditorium on the Northwest College campus. There will be three sessions each day: 9:45 – 11:00 am, 11:45 am – 1:00 pm, and 2:10 – 3:10 pm. Science students from class periods 3, 6, and 9 will be presenting their projects on Tuesday, December 17<sup>th</sup>. Students that have Science during class periods 4, 7, and 10 will be presenting their projects on Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Student Lunch Account Access:** Parents, did you know you can **access your student's lunch account** through **Infinite Campus**? You can also pay for any **finances** your student has. (First time users: You will need to contact your child's school to get an Infinite Campus Portal Activation Key. This number is needed to associate you with your student and will be used to create your account.) Established users sign in with your username and password. Forgot your username or password? If your user preferences were previously set-up, you can click on "forgot your password" or "forgot your username" to begin the process of recovering them.

Step 1 - Log on to the **Parent Portal** at: <https://pcsd1.infinitecampus.org/campus/portal/park.jsp>

Step 2 - Click on **Fees** in the left-hand corner

Step 3 - Follow the directions from there. If you need clarification, please call the Middle School at 764-6185 and we would be happy to email you more detailed instructions.

**Merry Christmas:** Winter break begins on December 23<sup>rd</sup> and school resumes on January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020. We would like to wish all of you a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year!

# December 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Middle School Band & Choir Concert at PHS Auditorium - 7 pm  7 <sup>th</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup> Wrestling Quad at Cody - 4 pm	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 8 <sup>th</sup> Girls Basketball at Burlington – 4:15 pm  7 <sup>th</sup> Girls Basketball at Burlington - 5:15 & 6:15 pm	<b>6</b>  Black Schedule	<b>7</b> 8 <sup>th</sup> Girls Basketball Jamboree at Cody – 9 am  7 <sup>th</sup> Girls Basketball Jamboree at Lander – 9 am  7 <sup>th</sup> - 8 <sup>th</sup> Wrestling Conf. Tourney at Thermopolis – 10 am
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Middle School & High School Christmas Jazz Concert at PHS Commons - 7 pm	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Field Trip to Heart Mt. Interpretive Center & Buffalo Bill Center of the West- 10:15 am - 2 pm	<b>13</b>  Orange Schedule  Girls Who Code - 1 <sup>st</sup> meeting in 6 <sup>th</sup> gr Science lab - 11:04 am to 12:45 pm	<b>14</b> 8 <sup>th</sup> Girls Basketball Conf. Tourney at Worland - 9 am  7 <sup>th</sup> Girls Basketball Conf. Tourney at Thermopolis – 9 am
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Genius Hour Projects – Presented by 6 <sup>th</sup> grade Science students from class periods 3, 6, & 9 at NWC – starting at 9:45 am	<b>18</b> Genius Hour Projects – Presented by 6 <sup>th</sup> grade Science students from class periods 4, 7, & 10 at NWC – starting at 9:45 am	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>  Black Schedule  Activity Schedule (8:50 am)	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Winter Break	<b>24</b> Winter Break	<b>25</b> Winter Break	<b>26</b> Winter Break	<b>27</b> Winter Break	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> Winter Break	<b>31</b> Winter Break	<b>Jan. 1</b> Winter Break  Happy New Year!	<b>Jan. 2</b> Winter Break	<b>Jan. 3</b> Winter Break	<b>Jan. 4</b>
<b>Jan. 5</b>	<b>Jan. 6</b> Students return to school	<b>Jan. 7</b>	<b>Jan. 8</b>	<b>Jan. 9</b>	<b>Jan. 10</b>  Orange Schedule  Last Day of 2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter	<b>Jan. 11</b>

**Lego Club meets in the da Vinci Lab every Wednesday after school.**

**Math Counts meets every Wednesday morning at 7 am in Mr. Estes' room.**

**Environmental Action Committee meets every Monday after school in Mrs. Hanks' room.**

**Science Olympiad will meet on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday after school in Mrs. Hanks' room.**

**Creative Writing Group meets every Tuesday after school from 3:30 to 4 pm in Ms. Faxon's room.**

**Girls Who Code Group meets from 1 to 4 pm on non-staff development Friday's in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade Science lab.**