

Pioneer Elementary School

From the Principal...

December, 2013

Food Drive

The Pioneer community is pulling together to help those less fortunate through our annual Food Drive with Olympia High School and the Thurston County Food Bank. Starting December 2nd and running through the 13th, Pioneer students are filling boxes with cans and non-perishable food items. Students from the student council collect cans each day and tally the results. More than ever, our community needs your support. Please give what you can to support those in need in the Olympia area. Thank you Pioneer, you really come through when it counts!

Generosity

Our theme for the month of December is **Generosity**. It is a great time to teach kids the value of giving. Holiday stories abound with the theme of generosity. Our annual food drive and 'adopt a family' efforts are two visible examples. If you can, have a conversation with your children about generosity. Simply start by asking them about the food drive. Helping those who need a hand is a great American value that we can impart to future generations. Start today with your family.

Kids and Safe Walking Tips

It seems like every other week there is an incident involving kids walking to school. If you have not already done so, please take the time to review the safety tips below with your child or children.

- Travel and stay in groups regardless of the time of day. ***Walk and Roll Wednesdays are a great example of how to SAFELY walk to and from school!***
- Never accept a ride, or get into a car, with strangers. A stranger is anybody you don't know.
- Never accept gifts from strangers. Strangers asking for help or directions should be referred to an adult.
- Review safe walking routes to and from school.
- Review where it is safe to play or visit and places to avoid.
- When help is needed, there are people we can trust: Review who those people are - teachers, neighbors, crossing guards and police.
- Know where your children are and have a plan for an emergency contact.

Here at Pioneer, we emphasize these safety tips with our students but it is helpful to have another voice serving as a reminder. As always, if you observe anything that is suspicious or a situation that puts students at risk, please call the Olympia Police Department at 753-8300 or for an emergency, dial 911.

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Attendance

Regular attendance is necessary for successful school work. Anytime your child is absent from school parents are required to call the attendance number at 596-6500 to report the reason your child is not in school. We check our answering machine every morning and throughout the day. If you do not call, please send a note the next day with your child. A student is marked unexcused if they are absent from school and we do not hear from parents. When a student reaches 10 or more unexcused absences during the school year, the school is required to file a court petition. Unexcused absences cannot be amended after 72 hours from the date of the absence. Thank you for helping your student have regular on-time attendance at school.

Technology and Safety Levy

Last week the Board unanimously passed Resolution 520, which places a \$13.2 million Technology and Safety Levy before voters on Feb. 11, 2014. The levy request would be a renewal of the technology capital levy passed in 2010, which expires at the end of 2014. The renewed levy would run from 2015 through 2018.

If approved, the levy will fund up-to-date technology and key safety projects for our students and staff, including:

- New and continued technology initiatives, such as computers for state testing, new and upgraded classroom technology, and assistive devices for special needs students.
- Enhanced infrastructure to support the technology in place already, including support and training for teachers as they integrate technology into classrooms.
- Key safety projects, including deployment of cameras in schools and on buses, and installation of "panic buttons" at schools to call for help in an emergency.

Important Dates!

Wednesday	Dec. 4	LATE START - 9:40 School Begins
Thursday	Dec. 5	Homework Club, 3:02, Library
Friday	Dec. 6	Hat Day & Early Release - school dismissed at 12:32
Monday	Dec. 9	Lion's Club Vision and Hearing Screening (Volunteers Needed!) Homework Club, 3:02, Library
Thursday	Dec. 12	Homework Club, 3:02, Library
Friday	Dec. 13	Report Cards go home ☺
Monday	Dec. 16	Homework Club, 3:02, Library
Thursday	Dec. 19	Band, Choir and Orchestra Concert, 2:00, (Schedule Change)
Friday	Dec. 20	Hat Day

Winter Break: Dec. - Jan. 3, School resumes on Monday, Jan. 6, 2014!

Thank you for sharing your children with us,
Randy Weeks