



711 N. CENTER PARKWAY • KENNEWICK, WA 99336
(509) 222-6000
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March 2017 Principal's Newsletter

Hello Mustang families! It looks like winter may finally be behind us and we can look forward to spring and sunshine. Unfortunately, due to the number of school days missed, the district has had to make a plan to ensure students receive the minimum number of instructional hours. Below is the most recent plan for making up these days.

SCHOOL SCHEDULE CHANGES DUE TO SNOW DAYS

- **KSD will apply for a waiver for snow days to try to end school on June 14.**
To date, KSD has missed ten days due to snow and experienced several delays. KSD will apply for a waiver for five of the eight days missed in January as specified in the Governor's state of emergency proclamation. The state requires that schools be in session at least until June 14 to qualify for the waiver.
- **Early Releases on Wednesdays are now regular school days starting February 1**
State law allows for districts to apply for a waiver for the 180-day requirement, but not the 1,027 instructional hour requirement. KSD, in cooperation with the Kennewick Education Association (KEA), the teacher's union, has agreed to eliminate all early releases on Wednesdays and report card preparation days for the remainder of the school year in order to recover instructional hours.
- **The March 16 and 17 early release days for conferences will now be full school days.**
Conferences will be moved to June 15 and 16 instead.

Thank you for your patience and I will continue to inform you if there are any more updates. You are also welcome to check out the Kennewick School District's website.

PRIDE

P = Participate Positively

R = Respond Respectfully

I = Improve Daily

D = Demonstrate Safety

E = Embrace Differences

In January we had our second PRIDE ceremony and had a great turn out of families who attended! Teachers are still looking for students who stand out and deserve the next PRIDE award. April 19th is our next PRIDE ceremony and who knows, maybe your student will be recognized!

Exciting news: We are now the first elementary school to have a mascot in Kennewick! We revealed the mascot at the PRIDE ceremony in January and then the mascot came to lunch to hand out Mustang Buck awards. The students are pretty excited about having a mascot and can't wait to name him/her. The students are currently voting on a name for the mascot, which we will reveal soon.



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KIDS AT HOPE

All children are capable of success, NO EXCEPTIONS! This is Sunset View's first year as a Kids at Hope school. What does this mean? This means we are transforming our school culture where we believe in every child and with guidance and encouragement we can create a sense of hope and optimism for now and the future. We know that children are more successful when they have adults who strongly believe in them. Join us in believing that all children are capable of success...NO EXCEPTIONS!

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

All students benefit from attending school regularly. With our winter snow almost melted, we are back on track with consistent school days! Attending school regularly helps children feel better about school and themselves. Your student can start building this habit in elementary school so they learn right away that going to school on time, every day is an important piece for them to be capable of success.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Starting in Kindergarten, too many absences (excused or unexcused) can cause children to fall behind in school.
- Missing 10 percent (or about 18 days) increases the chance that your student will have difficulty with reading or master math at the same level as their peers.
- Absences can affect the whole classroom if the teacher has to slow down learning to help children catch up. Late arrivals interrupt the class and cause others to lose focus on the lesson.
- By 6th grade absenteeism is one of three signs that a student may drop out of high school.

We miss students when they are gone and we value their contributions to our school. We would like you to help ensure that your student attends regularly and is successful in school. If your student is going to be absent, please contact Cari McClelland, attendance secretary at 222-6002.

PARKING LOT SAFETY, CHANGES, AND REMINDERS

Thank you to everyone who embraced the changes to the front parking lot. I know we had a long winter and the line for pick-up was long, so I appreciate your patience and the continued focus on safety as the number one priority. Below are just a few reminders:

- **Please do not come early to wait or arrive before your pick-up time. No one can move until students are dismissed at 3:17, so coming early to line up and wait will only add to the congestion. When you arrive, if your student is not ready to load, we will ask you to loop around again. As a courtesy to those behind you, you will not be allowed to wait. If you have students in multiple grades, please come at the latest time to ensure all of your students are outside and ready to go. Below are the pick-up times and zones for the FRONT parking lot only:**
 - 3:17: Kinder (Zone 1) and 2nd grade (Zone 2)



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- 3:22: 1st grade (Zone 1) and 4th grade (Zone 2)
- 3:25: 3rd and 5th grade (Zone 2)
- Please drive slowly
- When moving from one lane to the next, please check to make sure other cars are not already in that lane. This is especially important for parents pulling out of the K-1 zone.
- Please be patient and wait until the car in front of you is moving.
- Please allow cars to merge in and out of the pick-up zones.
- Please keep the handicap parking spaces open for those with a handicap sticker. You will be asked to move if you do not have the appropriate identification.

Thank you for your cooperation!

SPRING TESTING

Third through fifth grade students have begun some practice and preparation for the state test, known as *Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC)*. You are welcome to communicate with your student's teacher to find out more information or to ask when his/her class will be taking each test. First through fifth grade will be taking their *Spring Measures of Academic Progress* test in late April to early May. All of these tests will be completed on the computer.

Tips for students and families during testing:

- Students need to go to bed early to ensure they are getting plenty of sleep.
- Students should eat a healthy and substantial meal/breakfast before coming to school.
- Students need to arrive on time everyday so he/she does not miss any instruction and can start the test with the rest of the class.
- Attendance is always important, but it is especially important during a practice or actual testing day. Students tend to do better on the test when they are testing at the same time as their peers.
- Students should use the resources available on the computer when they test. Students have had an opportunity to practice using these resources in class prior to their test day.
- Students should review their work before completing the test.
- Students should try not to stress! Try to remain calm throughout the entire test.

VOLUNTEERS

Sunset View welcomes volunteers! Thank you to those who have been volunteering in the cafeteria and outside supervising the cross walks. We sure do appreciate you! If you would like to help, please notify your student's teacher or contact the main office. Volunteers are needed for a variety of things, including: in-class support, crosswalk duty in the AM or PM, extra supervision during lunch, and a variety of other more clerical duties. **Before volunteering**, you must complete a registration packet which includes a background check through the Washington State Patrol. This must be completed **every year**. After turning in your form, please contact the main office to ensure



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that you have been cleared to volunteer. The number is: 509-222-6000. We ask all volunteers to sign in each time they visit the building and to wear an identification badge. The safety of our students is our number one priority and we take this process very seriously.

PTO

PTO is looking for volunteers for the upcoming Carnival in April. It takes a lot of helping hands to make this event happen, so please consider volunteering to support PTO, the school, and your child! Also, don't forget to attend the upcoming PTO event this month, the Mother and Son event. The date has been moved to Wednesday, March 29, from 4-6 PM at SPARE TIME LANES in Kennewick. Shoes are free and the cost will be \$3.50 per game per person with snacks provided by the PTO.

Are you interested in getting involved? Below is the contact information so YOU can get involved today! Please also consider attending our next PTO meeting. These meetings are held the second Tuesday of every month in the library. All meetings start at 3:30 PM and usually run about one hour. Child care is provided by the YMCA.

Facebook: facebook.com/sunsetviewelementaryPTO

- email: sunsetviewvolunteer@gmail.com
- Newsblast weekly updates: ssvnewsblast@gmail.com

THINGS TO LOOK FORWARD TO:

- **Tuesday, March 28th: 5th grade Choral Fest, 6:30 P.M. at Kennewick High School**
- **Wednesday, March 29th: Mother-Son Event, 4:00-6:00 P.M. at Sparetime Lanes in Kennewick, \$3.50 per game per person and shoes are free**
- **Thursday, March 30th: Rollarena Night 6:30-8:30 P.M. \$5.00**
- **April 3rd-7th: Spring Break, no school!**
- **April 19th: Final PRIDE ceremony (invites will be sent to families of students who are nominated)**
- **Friday, April 28th: School Carnival, 5:30-8:00 P.M.**