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SUNSET VIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

November 2015 Principal's Corner

Hello Mustang Families!

Can you believe we are already nearing the end of November and into December? This year is quickly flying by with all the exciting things going on here at Sunset View! Students are being challenged and engaged every day and it has been my pleasure to observe the learning going on in each classroom. Your student may come home and say that the principal was in their classroom observing and this is true! I make it a priority to be out in classrooms at least two days a week so I have an understanding of the learning taking place.

MUSTANG P.R.I.D.E.

It was great to see many of you for fall conferences and thank you to those who turned in our parent survey. Many of you expressed interest in learning more about Mustang P.R.I.D.E. As a reminder, this stands for:

P = Participate Positively
R = Respond Respectfully
I = Improve Daily
D = Demonstrate Safety
E = Embrace Differences

Our goal is to have common expectations school-wide and by doing this it creates consistency and common language for students. Each teacher has discussed what it looks like and sounds like to show Mustang P.R.I.D.E. We then recognize and praise students who are meeting our expectations through various incentives. In December we will be recognizing students from each classroom at our first P.R.I.D.E. Ceremony. (This will replace the PRIDE assemblies we have had in the past, which have occurred during the day.) We are excited to offer the ceremony after-school for students who are recognized so that their families may attend.

You can support at home by reinforcing these expectations and talking to your student(s) about not only what the letters stand for, but the importance of each one. You can also provide examples for how YOU follow P.R.I.D.E. in your daily life at work, in the community, and at home. It is important for students to see the school and home working together as a team to support them. Want to know even more ways to support your child with P.R.I.D.E.? Go to: <http://www.pbis.org/family>.

OFFICE HOURS

Our office is open from 8:00 A.M. until 4:00 P.M. on a regular school-day. However, we do not provide morning supervision for students until 8:30, so please do not

drop your student off at school earlier than 8:30 unless your student is getting breakfast or part of the YMCA program. In the afternoon, once staff and crossing guards return inside, any student still waiting for rides will be escorted to the office. Office staff will attempt to call each family in order to ensure a ride is coming. Parents will then need to park and come into the main office to check their student out. For the safety of your child, we will not allow a student to remain outside without supervision.

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Regular and prompt attendance is a key factor to success in school. When your child is absent or tardy, please call the 24-hour Absentee Line at 222-6002 before 8:40 a.m. Leave a message with your child's name, the date, room number and the reason for the absence. Upon returning to school, your child needs to bring a written note and turn it in to the main office with the same information: name, the date of absence, room number, and the reason for the absence. All absences will default to unexcused until we receive a written note from home

The morning really sets the tone for the entire day. Not only that but when your child comes in late he/she misses a lot of important information and the entire class is disrupted as the teacher tries to catch your child up. Please make sure that your child is in class on time each day. School begins at 8:40 a.m., so please have your student at school and in his/her line between 8:30 and 8:40. We appreciate your support!

TV AND VIDEO GAMES

Are you aware of what your child is watching on television or what games your child is playing? Unfortunately the amount of TV, movies, and video games that involve violence and inappropriate words continues to increase. I encourage you to preview what your child watches to ensure he/she is not exposed to unnecessary violence, language, etc. I also encourage you to pay close attention to the games your child is playing. Quite often children may play against other people online and this can be very dangerous! In the past few weeks we have had to remind our students about appropriate and safe language. Several of these students shared they learn these words or phrases from TV or a video game. So again, please keep an extra close eye on this at home.

READING EVERYDAY

There are several studies out there about the importance of reading every day. We encourage students to read a minimum of 20 minutes a night. A great way that you can get involved is to have your student retell or summarize what they read to you. You could also ask questions like:

- What do you predict will happen next? Show me in the text...
- What can you infer about the character? Show me in the text...

We are trying to teach our students to get used to referring back to the text and finding "evidence" in the text to support their answer. Kindergartners and 1st graders can do this too! However, you may change it to referring to the pictures in the story to support their answer. The more we can get our students in the habit to use the text to support their answer, the more likely they will do this on their own.

SCHOOL CLOSURES & DELAYS

(Copied from the Kennewick School District Website)

School closures and delays due to severe weather, power outages and other emergency situations are always a possibility and you may find the latest information by checking these sources:

- District Website - Check www.ksd.org
- Facebook and Twitter - Follow updates on [Facebook](#) or Twitter
- Media - Watch and listen to local television and radio stations

For Parents/Guardians Only

NEW! Phone, Email and Text Alerts – Kennewick School District now lets parents control how they want to be notified about school news, emergency alerts (including school closures and delays due to severe weather), attendance, and low meal balances through PowerSchool.

Get notified in 3 easy steps!

1. Log into your **PowerSchool for Parents** account at www.ksd.org or from your school website and click the **SchoolMessenger** link on the left side menu. If you don't know your PowerSchool login, contact your school office.
2. Click on the **Contacts** tab at the top of the page and then click **Edit** on the right-hand side of the screen.
3. Choose if you want to receive alerts by phone, email or text/SMS and click **Save** at the bottom.

If there is no mention on the district website or in the media of delays or closures, schools are running on time.

Every effort is made to announce a school closure or two-hour delay no later than 6 a.m. If conditions worsen after the decision is made for a two-hour delay, it is possible that it may change to a closure.

Kennewick School District realizes that road conditions around the area may vary and supports the decision of parents and guardians to send, or not send, their child to school or pick them up early. Please inform your child's school with a signed note if you decide to keep your child at home. It will be considered an excused absence.

If there is a two-hour delay, what time does school start?

In the event of a two-hour delay, school starts two hours later than the regular time. For example if school normally starts at 8:40 a.m., it would start at 10:40 a.m. when there is a two-hour delay.

Are students ever sent home early?

Please understand that closing schools and sending students home early is extremely difficult due to the challenges around notifying all parents/guardians and ensuring that there is an adult at home to or elsewhere to supervise children. Students will follow their regular schedule once school starts, except in extreme emergency situations. However, this does not prevent a parent or guardian from picking their child up early if they choose.

PARKING LOT SAFETY

Please continue to be diligent about following our safety expectations. These expectations are in place for the safety of YOUR child and to ensure we do not have any car accidents. If you are having someone else pick your child up who may not be familiar with

our rules, please give them a heads-up. I am finding several cars still parking on the red curb load and unload only sections. I am also finding parents who are choosing not to use the cross walk or telling their child to walk across a lane of cars to jump in the car. Again, safety is our number one priority here! So if one of the staff members (who is generously giving their time to help with crosswalk and parking lot duty) talks with you about our expectations **please be kind and follow their request**. Thank you!

VOLUNTEERS

Sunset View welcomes volunteers! If you would like to help, please notify your student's teacher or the main office. Volunteers are needed for a variety of things, including: in-class support, cross walk duty in the AM or PM, extra supervision during lunch and recess, support with computer lab, 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**. If you are wanting to go on a field trip with your child this year, please make sure you are cleared on the list. If you are not cleared, we are unfortunately not allowed to have you attend the field trip.

We ask all volunteers to sign in each time they visit the building and to wear an identification badge. Please pick up your application form from the school office. You can call the main office to verify that you have been approved and then get started!

PTO

We have a fabulous PTO organization! This year PTO meetings are held the second Tuesday of every month. Thank you to everyone's efforts in making our fall carnival a huge success! What fun it was to see everyone there dressed in costume. We have some great events coming up like movie night and our mother-daughter dance. Interested in being part of this amazing group of parents? Come to our next PTO meeting!

THINGS TO LOOK FORWARD TO:

- Thursday, Dec. 3rd: 5th grade D.A.R.E. Graduation in the cafeteria
- Friday, Dec. 4th: Movie Night at Sunset View, 6:30-8:00 in the cafeteria
- Thursday, Dec 17th: Music Sing-a-long 6:30-8
- Dec. 19th-January 3rd: No school for students! Happy Holidays!