

Riverside Reporter

Riverside School News



March 16, 2017

Calendar Of Events

March

17 SCHOOL CLOSED, Staff Development
22-23 1:00 p.m. Dismissal, Parent Conferences
24 Fitness Friday
27-31 PARCC Testing for 4th & 5th grade
28 Kramer Brass/Winds Concert, 2:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m., Gym
31 5th Grade Social, 6:00-8:30 p.m., JW

PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES...

Spring parent/teacher conferences will be held on **March 21, 22 & 23**. Our goal is to have these conferences with **100% of our parents**. School will close at 1:00 p.m. on these days. Please remember to make proper arrangements for your child on early dismissal days.

Principal's Journal March 17, 2017

On Monday, March 27 we will begin our state testing program. The PARCC (Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers) exam will be administered to our fourth and fifth grade students from **March 27 - 31** and our third grade students from **April 3 - 7**. Testing will take place in the morning each day. Please make sure that your child is on time for school on these testing days. If your child is late to school, they will be unable to test on that day and will have to take the test during makeup testing the following week.

Additionally, it is important that our students get plenty of rest the night prior to testing and a good breakfast the morning of the test in order to keep them energized and focused throughout.

Thanks to everyone for their cooperation! Here at Riverside we believe in the balance between experiential, project-based experiences and the measurement of students' achievement. I look forward to a successful testing period that is balanced with our daily variety of programming.

Mrs. Ulrich

PROPER WINTER CLOTHING

Students go out for recess everyday unless the temperature or conditions on the playground is unsafe. If it is not raining, and the temperature is above 20 degrees, the students will go outside for recess unless it is windy and it feels colder or the playground is too muddy. Please remember to send your child to school with a warm coat, gloves and a hat. Boots and snow pants are needed on snowy days. Please label all items with your child's name.

EMERGENCY CLOSING OR DELAYED OPENING

The following are procedures to follow in case of a closing or delayed opening: The superintendent will make a decision as early as possible. Cancellations and delays will be announced by phone via School Messenger, over radio stations: WKXW (NJ 101.5), WHWH (1350 AM), on television:

News from the



channel 6, WCAU channel 10 or Comcast channel 25, calling the district emergency line at 609-806-4202 or online at www.princetonK12.org.

A delayed opening will constitute a 90 minute delay. Buses will run approximately 90 minutes later than usual pick-up time. Walkers should not arrive at school before 9:30 a.m. If it is necessary to close early (1:00 p.m.) during the day because of severe weather or other emergency, the superintendent will make a decision by 10:30 a.m. Everyone will be notified by phone via School Messenger. Please call 609-806-4202 for updates, not the main office.

THEMED FRIDAYS

Mar. 24: Wear crazy socks for the start of spring

Mar. 31: Wear neon to brighten your day

5th Grade Social!

Mark your calendars! On **Friday, March 31** from 6pm-8:30pm there will be a fifth grade Social held at JW Middle School. Drop your 5th graders off for fun activities including games with a DJ! This event will be in collaboration with all the PPS 5th grade classes. More info to come.

Autism Awareness Month – April 3rd is the first school day of Autism Awareness month. In recognition, people all over the world are wearing blue that day. More information will follow soon!

PPS Elementary District Strings Concert

Thursday, April 27, 2017

Princeton High School PAC (Performing Arts Center)

5:45 PM dress rehearsal

7:00 PM concert

The concert features string players in grades 3, 4 and 5.

PTO News

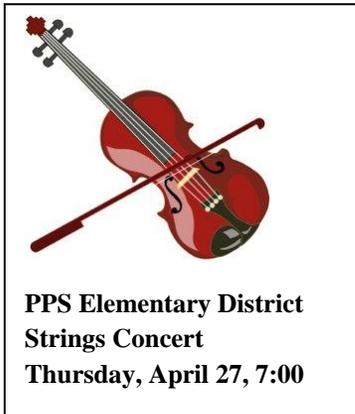
PTO Weekly News – March 13-17th

INTERNATIONAL NIGHT: Thank you to all who made this evening such a special event, connecting families from around the world. A HUGE thank you to all families that set up tables for their countries (over 15 countries represented!), shared food from their countries, and to the children who performed so beautifully! Thanks also to all those who made donations for the Pearl S. Buck International Foundation. We will continue collecting donations through next week. Please leave donations in the box, which can be found in the school office.

MAKE DONATIONS FOR THE PEARL S. BUCK INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION! As part of the International Night, we collected donations for the Pearl S. Buck International Foundation this year. Pearl S. Buck was the first woman to receive both the Pulitzer and Nobel Prize for literature, and is best known for her book *The Good Earth*. She spent her first 40 years of her life in China and the remaining 40 years living in Bucks County, PA (you can visit her home in Doylestown, PA!). In addition to being a writer, Pearl Buck was also an advocate of cross-cultural understanding and racial harmony as a means of achieving world peace. In 1949, she founded the Welcome House Adoption Agency for children of mixed race. The Pearl S. Buck Foundation was created in 1964 to help children around the world with health, education, and job training programs. We will continue collecting donations through next week. Please leave donations in the box, which can be found in the school office. For more information, see <https://pearlsbuck.org/>.

BOOK SWAP

Calling all Riverside bookworms! Fun fact: Did you know that Irish monks in the 6th century are credited with saving much of the Western world's great manuscripts from destruction by the Viking invaders? (Want to know more? Watch the fantastic animated film "The Secret of



Kells.”) In honor of St. Patrick’s day this week, please consider donating gently loved books to the Riverside book swap. Save a book from languishing on a shelf unread! We are still collecting and we need more books! Please place books in the box in the lobby. Paddy O’Bookworm says thank you and Happy St. Patrick’s Day! Any questions? Just ask Betsy Armstrong, ema@princeton.edu

After-School Clubs – Spring Registration

The registration for the Spring Club 2017 session is open! The deadline to register is Wednesday, March 22nd at 3pm. A schedule of the clubs was sent home via your child(ren) folder and a copy can be found on the website (rspto.org).

There are two ways to Register:

#1: Register online, please click on this Spring Registration Link. The schedule is not included on this form, so you will need to refer back to the schedule for details.

#2: Register via paper form - Print, complete in full, and submit via the PTO box in the main office or your child's folder (subject to human error). You should also receive a hard copy via your child's/children's folder(s) no later than tomorrow, Tuesday, March 14th. Copies of the schedule and registration form will also soon be available on the Riverside PTO website at rspto.org.

There are many details and instructions, so we greatly appreciate your review of the information. However, if you need any help to register or have questions, please contact us prior to the deadline.

Thank you!

Darleny Cepin, Lingyun Ding, Josh Winn & Beth Leman
After-School Club Committee

Garden Club

Garden Club registration is done separate from the Spring ASC 2017 Registration process, because the clubs are run very differently. Garden Club registration cannot be done online. Please make sure to drop off your completed form for Garden in the PTO box located in the front office.

Communication Survey

As we progress into the final few months of the school year, we would like to understand your experience with how Riverside and the PTO has communicated news, reminders, and other information helpful to share with our Riverside community. We continue to work on improving how to better disseminate information, engage our community in events and activities, and foster discussion. We would really appreciate your feedback again. Please take a few minutes to complete this short survey: Communication Survey.

We would appreciate all responses by Monday, March 20th.

Thank you,

Beth Leman & Melodie Schweitzer
Co-Presidents, Riverside PTO

SAVE THE DATE

How do we teach our children to be engaged citizens for a better world?

Zoe Weil is the acclaimed author of the new book, *The World Becomes What We Teach*, and president - of the Institute for Humane Education. She has given numerous TEDx talks and is a national and international speaker on educational change. Come hear her present a vision and ideas for educating a generation of solutionaries: young people with the knowledge, tools, and motivation to create a better future.

John Witherspoon Middle School; March 31st, 7 pm.

PTO Classifieds

The following positions/volunteers are wanted. Some are for this year, and some may be for next year, this is indicated next to each position/volunteer activity. Volunteers for many of the jobs can be shared amongst more than one person to alleviate the work required to make sure our children have a great time at Riverside!

After-School Club (ASC) VPS: 3 positions are needed for AY2017-2018

ASC VP #1: Someone who can send out electronic communications regarding anything to do with the clubs, e.g., registration notification via room parent leads, communications to families notifying them of their enrollment selection, emails to volunteers, front office, etc. This position can mainly be done at home, and it's preferred that one has computer skills working with google sheets, etc.

ASC VP #2: Someone who can recruit people (teachers, parents, vendors) to do clubs, and who will organize which clubs are held for all three sessions (Fall, Winter, Spring). They would work with potential instructors to confirm day-of-the-week, fees, and insurance or agreement issues, gather club descriptions, and make sure the overall schedule works, plus work with the Principal to secure rooms. Much of this work can be done off-site; however, it will require some time for face-to-face meetings.

ASC VP#3: Someone who will send out requests, coordinate volunteers for all clubs, and provide orientation or be there to answer questions, etc. They also help with more onsite issues, concerns, etc., and manage volunteers overall. This position better fits with someone who doesn't have work commitments after 3pm.

McCaffrey Receipts Volunteer – Next Year, AY 2017-2018

McCaffrey receipts that are collected and placed in the McCaffrey's box (located next to the nurse's office) provide the PTO with approximately \$1,000 in income each year, so a worthwhile and behind-the-scenes type of job. The responsibility of this volunteer includes picking up the receipts collected in the box (~1/month), checking they are less than six months old, tallying up the totals, entering the total in a spreadsheet and turning in to the front office at McCaffreys. It is the type of thing that can be done at home at night.

VP, Family Programs – Next Year, AY 2017-2018

The VP of Family Programs is responsible for recruiting volunteers to run the Kindergarten Play-Date/Orientation session in late August/early September, the fall and spring picnics, pasta night, pancake breakfast, and international night. The VP role is to pitch in from time-to-time, but really to make sure they can line up others to lead a committee of volunteers.

Riverside Spirit-wear – Next Year, AY 2017-2018

This volunteer role requires someone who is interested in distributing Riverside Cheer Apparel and miscellaneous items (e.g., magnets, bags, etc.). They would display

OTHER NEWS

What's on Your Mind / Ideas

If you have something on your mind but you don't have a chance to get to a PTO meeting, or make an event, or speak with an Executive Committee member, we strongly encourage you to write a note, place it in an envelope, and put it in the PTO box located in the front office. You can put your name or not; we will try our best to respond to queries, concerns in any way that we can. Or if you have an idea that you would like to propose, please use the same method. Of course, it's always nice if you have an idea that you might also be willing to lead, as we are always in need of volunteers. The PTO recognizes that people don't always have the opportunities to express "things on their minds", so we hope this might give you an opportunity!

Party Boards

We know we're in the midst of Party Board season with everything from families attending board game parties to progressive dinner parties, to a men's fire pit, and more....we hope you are all having fun, getting to maybe meet some new people as well as get together with old Riverside acquaintances. If you have a special story you'd like to share about your "party board" experience or a special "shout-out" you'd like to give a party board donor/organizer, send us an email to rspto@gmail.com and we will share this news! Thank you!

Fundraising Made Easy Reminders!!!

SHOP at AMAZON: Our school will receive up to 15% in referrals for all purchases made at Amazon.com by using this link. Shopping must originate through this link in order for our school to receive credit. Start Shopping!

MCCAFFREY'S RECEIPTS: Deposit your McCaffrey's receipts in the box outside of the nurse's office - the PTO gets 1% and earns about \$1,000 each year.

5th Grade End-of-Year Activities!

Ack! It's already mid-March and while it may not seem like the year is coming to a close, we're only a few months off! Summertime here we come! But, this means big things for our very special 5th Graders who we will be sad to see graduate! That being said, there are a few fun 5th Grade activities that occur at the end of the year. If you have a 5th grader and you want to be involved please email Beth Leman @ bethhabsleman@gmail.com.

Other District Events

The **Princeton Education Foundation** (PEF) cordially invites you to attend, "Inspiring Minds" Spring 2017 Gala on Saturday April 1st, at 7:00pm at The Boathouse at Mercer Lake, 334 South Post Road; West Windsor, NJ. Gala Honoree: Jeffrey Lucker, PHS Social Studies Teacher. Cocktails/Dinner/Silent Auction.