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Palouse Prairie School
of expeditionary learning

Tuesday Times

Our Weekly Newsletter

Greenhouse Completed!

~Jeneille Branen

"We are crew, not passengers, and are strengthened by acts of consequential service to others. We are continually asking the question, How can I make a difference?" Everyone involved in the kindergarten greenhouse now has one answer to this question. In addition, this project illuminates the true power of our approach and our school. The Service & Compassion design principle and others have traveled through our doors, through our outdoor space, and into the community at large. As with most things of consequence, this project started with a small idea and grew because of the people involved. I had grant money to build a greenhouse, but I needed a crew to complete this project. Palouse Prairie students, parents and local university students stepped up to the plate. It has been such a great experience watching everyone work so hard for this school and these kids! It has been my privilege getting to know the parents better through hard work. This greenhouse happened because we care; we all care! We are a small school with so many possibilities! This service will benefit the entire school, higher ed. learners, and the greater community of Moscow. Kindergarten students are growing plants for Backyard Harvest, a local non-profit organization that takes fresh produce to those that are in need in Moscow. Our expedition, Feed from Seed has been devoted to learning about plants while completing the greenhouse. You can ask any PPSEL kindergarten student about plants or 2-liter bottles and they will have a lot to say!

Thanks, Mike Forbes, for your dedication!

Design Principles & Spotlights

The Having of Wonderful Ideas | Responsibility for Learning | Diversity & Inclusion | Success & Failure | The Primacy of Self-Discovery

Service & Compassion | Empathy & Caring | Solitude & Reflection | Collaboration & Competition | The Natural World

We are crew, not passengers, and are strengthened by acts of consequential service to others. We are continually asking the question, "How can I make a difference?" One of our school's primary functions is to prepare student with the attitude and skills to learn from and be of service to others.

This week's spotlights are on:

In Jeneille's front page article, she references one of my favorite design principles: Service & Compassion. In honor of this design principle, I want to try and recognize the many volunteers who make this school so special. In truth, all of our parents/community members do so much – from bringing in much needed refreshments for our teachers during workdays (THANK YOU!!) to teaching our students how to become better writers to helping out with Crossing Guard duty -and there is no way I can thank or recognize you all. **Michelle Feeley** for tirelessly inputting/organizing data, the office (and Summer, for that matter) and for being a huge advocate for this school even though her girls attend the Junior High; **Lisa Carlson** for stamping book after book, being a huge clerical help, documenting our learning, and making the school more aesthetically pleasing; **Andrika Kuhle** for working each week in the office, aiding in the classroom, and keeping our café clean each week; **Mike Forbes** for keeping our website up to date, installing bike racks, building our greenhouse, and doing all the other little maintenance things that keep our facilities in well working order; **Chris LaPaglia** for being here each and every Friday to pitch in wherever help is needed and for sharing his musical talents with the students; **Krista Kramer** for spending countless hours trying to improve our library and technology, for instilling a love of ASL in our kids, and for finding THE best bargains; **Terry Soule** for being here to help crossing guard rain or shine and for teaching and sponsoring a Robotics team; **Steve Flint** for grant-writing, crossing guard and lunch clean up help, and for also being available to haul this, that, or the other; **Karen Flint** for cleaning up the café and organizing compost efforts; **Valeri Schillberg** for coming in each and every day to teach math to our 5th graders; **Judy Sobeloff** for sharing her love of and enthusiasm for writing; **Amy DesRosier** for giving our school that "professional touch" by donating her time and graphic skills; **Yanko Kranov** for his unending hard work and craftsmanship with the building of both fences and our beautiful sign; **Kim Cole** and **Mark Lesko** for their office help and teaching of art and music; **Amy Ball** for always being there, no matter what the task or committee – half of what goes on at PPSEL was probably made possible through some contribution of Amy's. On behalf of PPSEL, thank you for making this the best little school on the Palouse!

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Last week, I included information from the Idaho State Department of Education related to the Governor and Superintendent's declaration of a financial emergency. – Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Luna sent a letter to all school districts and public charter schools providing official certification that the conditions have been met and a financial emergency declared for all school districts in Idaho, pursuant to Sections 34 and 35 of SB 1418 (the Public Schools appropriation bill), which was signed into law on March 31. To assist local school districts in navigating the financial emergency process, Superintendent Luna also provided guidance with the letter. The letter and accompanying guidance are posted on the Public Schools Budget web page at http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/schoolsbudget/.

Yesterday, you received a post card encouraging you to become a Sustaining Crew member by making a financial donation. He PPSEL is working tirelessly to lesson the monetary impact felt from this economic crisis. More information will be forthcoming. We are committed to ensuring this school's financial solvency, but we need your help.

Thank you for all you do for PPSEL, our kids, and this community. Thank you, too, for giving your time and your dollars so that this school can continue to prosper and our children can continue to reap the benefits of Expeditionary Learning.

Committee Meetings

The Parent Crew (the PAT and Parent Problem Solver groups have decided to merge under this new name) will meet on **Thurs. May 20th from 3:15 to 4:15 in the PPS Cafe**. We plan to wrap up last minute details for the end of the year celebration, and discuss plans for Community Led Learning in the fall. The playground committee would also like to enlist our help in making their vision for the outdoor play space a reality.

Dates to Remember

- **Board Meeting – May 13, 7:00.**
- **Parent Crew Mtg –May 20, 3:15-4:15**
- **School Celebration – May 21, 5:30-7:30**
- **Wellness Committee Mtg – TBA**
- **Rendezvous for Kids, July 15-16**

Board Corner

Palouse Prairie Board Openings -There are openings on the Palouse Prairie School Board for next school year. Please consider joining the leadership team, ever mindful that, "We are crew, not passengers." The Board will be discussing the process to fill those positions at its meeting May 13, see school calendar for agenda. Contact Nils Peterson nilspete@gmail.com , 882-4620 for more information.

Share your Opinions - Family Focus Group. Share your perceptions of our school in a Family Focus Group, Thurs, May 27, 3:30. Every year the Idaho Charter School Network holds a focus group to let families share their perceptions of the school, without the Board or Staff present. Please come and talk about the school. This helps the school improve, and is part of of our reporting to the Charter School Commission.

PPSEL Celebrates!

Reminder May 21 All school celebration!

Come celebrate all we've done together. A chance to look at our work and marvel at our first year. We'll look around the building and celebrate examples of the EL design principles in action, and take time to thank one another for the passion and compassion that got us here.

5:30 Doors Open
6:00 Potluck (please bring your own dishes) PPS will provide beverages
6:30 Program and celebration
7:30 Wrap up

Parents -- we need one person per class (K+ included) to be the contact to organize each class' very brief Thank You in the program. Please contact Amy Ball aeball@att.net 882-1614

Crossing Guards

With the warmer weather, we have a lot more walkers and bicyclists (which is a GREAT thing). We want to make sure everyone is safe, however, so need more crossing guard volunteers. It's only about a 15 minute stint, from 8:15-8:30 and from 3:00-3:15. Email summer if there are days, (AM, PM, or both) in which you can help.

sclayton@palouseprairieschool.org

PCEI

Kick Off the Summer Right!

When school is out, what are your children going to do? Give them a sweet start to summer with active field trips led by Palouse-Clearwater Environmental Institute staff. You'll be able to sign them up for one day or all seven! Details and registration materials will be available next Tuesday, the 18th.