

Stephen Austin
Principal

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Happy New Year Ponderosa Families!

We hope everyone had a wonderful winter holiday and are as excited as we are to get back to school!

First of all, I'd like to recognize the extraordinary effort of Mrs. Sue and all her hard work in putting together six Winter Programs last month. Like I said at the performances, we are so very fortunate to not only have music in our schools, but to have such a quality music teacher who develops a love of music in each of the students she teaches. I am also extremely thankful for her flexibility and determination to reschedule the fifth grade performance when mother nature throws us an unexpected snow storm.

I'd also like to thank all of the members of our community who gave to the Bend Food Project and our Ponderosa Giving Tree. There are lots of needy families in Central Oregon, and I'm proud of the fact that our students are developing an awareness of the needs in our community and compassion for the people around them.

As we enter into 2017, I'd like to encourage you to have a goal to get involved here at Ponderosa if you haven't already. There are lots of opportunities in the PTA, Site Council, or as a parent volunteer in the classroom, playing games at recess or intramurals, or help in the library. We believe our success is proportional to the quality of our partnerships with our community. We have one of the highest rates of volunteers in the district and we want to continue to encourage you to step in and help in any way you can. We have many opportunities, and I'd be happy to share them with you in person.

Feel free to drop in, or email me if you have any questions or concerns. My door is always open!

Mr. Austin

JANUARY



Thursday, 1/12 - PTA Meeting, library, 4:00.

Monday, 1/16 - Martin Luther King Holiday - **NO SCHOOL!**

Tuesday, 1/17 - PTA fundraiser at Noi Thai Cuisine, 11:00am to close.

Friday, 1/20 - Kindergarten Pastries with Parents, Library, 7:45am-8:30am.

Thursday, 1/26 - Site Council Meeting, library, 4:00.

Friday, 1/27 - PTA Glass Night, Gym, 6:30pm-8:00pm.

Be sure to visit our Ponderosa Website Calendar for an up-to-date list of all Ponderosa activities and field trips.
www.bend.k12.or.us Click on the schools tab, then Ponderosa, then News and Events, then Calendar.



Ponderosa Lunch Schedule

1st: 11:25-11:45
Recess Until 12:10
Kinder: 11:35-12:00
Recess Until 12:20
2nd and 3rd: 11:50-12:10
Recess Until 12:35
4th and 5th: 12:05-12:25
Recess Before 11:40-12:05

VISITOR/VOLUNTEER CHECK IN/OUT PROCESS

Any non-student going beyond the entry/office of Ponderosa **MUST** sign in with our computer sign in/out system. The first step of this process is to have your driver's license scanned into it. If you haven't already done so, please allow a couple extra minutes next time you are in, to get this done. Thank you!

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE A VOLUNTEER AT PONDEROSA YOU ARE REQUIRED TO FILL OUT AN ONLINE BACKGROUND CHECK AT WWW.BEND.K12.OR.US. CLICK ON THE PARENTS TAB, SCROLL DOWN TO FORMS ON THE LEFT AND CLICK ON THE VOLUNTEER APPLICATION. IT CAN TAKE A WEEK OR MORE TO PROCESS, SO PLEASE PLAN AHEAD. APPROVAL IS VALID FOR 2 YEARS.

MEDICATION AT SCHOOL...requires a Permission to Administer Medication. This form must be filled out by parents in the office. This applies to prescription, over the counter and natural medications including essential oils, herbs, cough drops, etc. All medication must be stored in the office. Please do not allow children to transport medication to and from school. Legislation passed last year excludes sunscreen from this requirement.

Music Room News from Mrs. Sue:

Happy New Year! As always, our Winter Programs were a big success!! Thank you to all the families who made time in their busy schedules to come hear their child perform. The students always sing with more joy and enthusiasm when they have someone to sing for! A special thank you to all the 5th grade parents who were able to come to their child's rescheduled program. Winter concerts always carry the risk of being rescheduled last minute due to inclement weather, and unfortunately, that happened this year with the 5th grade program. If any 5th grade parents were unable to attend the rescheduled time but would like to watch their child perform, I videoed it on my iPad and would be happy to share it with you. The video file is large, so please bring a flash drive (in an envelope with your name on it) to the front office at your convenience. I will get that back to you promptly. I have the 4th grade program video as well for parents who were unable to attend due to the weather.

Tech Tip

Oregon Battle of the Books is almost here! If your child would like to access some great study materials, they can use the iPad as follows:

1. Got to Safari.
2. Type in quizlet.com
3. In the search bar on quizlet, search for OBOB 2017.
4. Scroll down to find study materials on authors/titles and every book on the OBOB list.
5. Click on the study guide desired.
6. In each study guide, the student can play games, practice flash cards, take practice tests and read study materials.

PTA

Our fabulous PTA needs members and officers! If you are willing to help with extra curricular plans for Ponderosa students, please contact them at ponderosapta.icloud.com

We have 56 Oregon Battle of the Books 3rd-5th grade teams this year! The battles begin January 17th and go until the end of February. Your child's teacher will be providing a schedule before the battles begin. Parents are welcome to come and watch any or all battles. Children have a list of the books they should be reading.

DROP OFF/PICK UP!

Please do not drop children off at school prior to 8:30 am as we do not have supervision available until then. Also, please remember to arrange for prompt pick up at the end of the day. School is dismissed at 3:30 (2:00 on Wed) and all students should be picked up by 3:40 (or 2:10) daily. THANK YOU!

PASTRIES WITH PARENTS

Parents are invited to attend our Annual Pastries With Parents with their child. We gather in the school library from 7:45-8:30am to enjoy some muffins, juice, coffee and a good book. Please make note of the dates for each grade level and plan to attend with your child(ren). We look forward to seeing you there!

Kindergarten - Friday, January 20th

First Grade - Friday, February 10th

Second Grade - Friday, February 24th

Third Grade - Friday, March 10th

Fourth and Fifth Grades - Friday, April 7th

KEEPING KIDS HEALTHY

Cold and flu season is upon us! The best way to keep your kids healthy is by teaching them to wash hands throughout the day and to cover coughs and sneezes (use that elbow!). If they become sick, please keep them home.

When to Stay Home:

- *Vomiting and diarrhea (3 or more loose stools in one day). Should be symptom-free for 24 hours without medication to return to school.
- *Fever higher than 100.5 F (orally or by ear). Must be fever free without medication a minimum of 24 hours to return.
- *Cough. Deep, barking, congested or productive of colored mucous.
- *Strep Throat. Return is allowable after 24 hours on antibiotics and feeling better.
- *Yellow, green or brown drainage from eyes, ears or any other part of the body. Discharge must be gone or student must have been on antibiotics for 24 hours prior to attending school.
- *Rash or rash with fever. Child can return after rash disappears and no symptoms present for 24 hours, he/she has been on antibiotics for 24 hours, or with written consent from a doctor.
- *Unusually sleepy, lethargic or grumpy kids should stay home until symptom free.
- *Anytime a student requires more care than the staff can provide. If you are unsure, please contact the school nurse, Michelle Septic at 541-355-4300.

Character Trait Focus for January

Leadership and being a good sport are the Character Traits we will be focusing on for the next 6 weeks here at Ponderosa. Being a good winner and loser are such important traits to practice throughout our lives. We know that there are many student leaders in our school who we will be encouraging to lead by example and encourage others to make good choices as well. Any conversations you can have with your child(ren) about these traits and praising them when you see them in use would be greatly appreciated!