

Pioneer Slate

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November 12, 2021

We have completed the first quarter of the school year. As we enter the second quarter, we are finally getting the traditional late fall/early winter weather. It is important that you watch the weather reports. Please be sure not to wait too long to get winter gear for your child(ren) – before you know it we will have snow. That can be fun for kids at recess time but only when they are dressed appropriately.

Upcoming Events / Dates to Remember:

Thursday, November 25 – No School – Thanksgiving Break Starts
Friday, November 26 – Thanksgiving Day – No School

Other Notes



Weather: With the change in weather, it is very important that students are dressed appropriately. With the temperatures hovering around the freezing point students need to have jackets, gloves/mittens, and hats. Students that are not dressed for the weather will be kept inside. Additionally, snow season can start at any time. Students will need to have boots in order to play outside and off the blacktop. Please be sure your child has the appropriate footwear for the weather too. We want your children to be safe based on weather conditions and ask your help in making sure they are prepared.



Spelling Bee & Geography Bee: We are excited to be participating in both nationwide bees again this year. The typical process is for there to be classroom level contests with winners advancing to a school-wide bee. From there students advance to regionals where they represent our school. The school-wide level should take place in January. Watch your child(ren)'s upcoming classroom newsletters for details.



Penny War: Our students have been amazing! They have done a great job bringing in coins as a part of our schoolwide penny war. After taking in the first batch, we have raised over \$570. That, along with additional funds raised, will be going to the local VFW (post 3088). This is a part of our Community of Caring program where each grade has chosen to champion a different aspect of our community (our 3rd graders for example will be doing outreach for our elderly). As a school we are championing our Veterans and Military Personnel. There will be another update in December's SLATE once the Penny War is over and the money has been donated. A belated thank you to all the Veterans both within our district's boundaries and beyond.



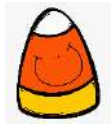
Turkey Trot: Thank you to everyone who participated and/or helped to organize the annual PTO Turkey Trot. A lot of behind-the-scenes work went into preparing the event and it wouldn't have been possible without the members of the PTO and Destination Imagination putting it on. The PTO generously assists with school funding requests that are above and beyond the regular budget and this event helps to make that possible.



Music Concert: Although things are better than they were a year ago, we still need to remember that we are not completely back to school as normal as it relates to covid. Although older students have had the option to vaccinate, this has only recently been available to our elementary students. After consulting other area districts to see what they planned for their traditional winter concerts combined with discussing what we would like to do we have decided to push our elementary concert back to the spring. Traditionally, the elementary has had grade levels close together and moving on and off stage as students prepare to present their part of the program. With families wanting to potentially gather for the holidays we want to be cautionary in our approach. An additional benefit to a spring concert is that the students will have had more time to prepare and thus a more polished program is possible. We recognize that there will be some disappointment but, in the end, we do believe this is the best choice at this time.



Food Drive: We will begin our annual food drive right after Thanksgiving (Nov 29) and run through December 15. Please consider donating non-perishable food items. They can be brought to your child(ren)'s homeroom teacher or the main office.



Thank you – Eco Lab Trick-or-Treat: A big thank you to all that donated candy to help make our 2nd annual Trick-or-Treat at the Eco Lab a success. Thank you too to Ms. Bortle, Ms. Grooters, Mrs. Wiesner and their team of volunteers for making this fun event possible!



Bus / Pick-Up Changes: A reminder to please let the office know of any change requests for students that normally are bus riders that will be picked up instead on a given day. To ensure that everyone involved receives the message – homeroom teacher, office staff, bus driver, etc. we ask that you please let us know by 1:00. We realize that emergencies may necessitate a change after 1:00 but to provide ample time to avoid crossed signals, the sooner in the day you can notify the office the better.



Doctor/Dentist Appointments: When your child(ren) has a professional appointment, if you provide the school with a note from that professional noting the date and time of the appointment, we can mark the absence as medically excused. Medically excused absences do not count toward the 10 days a parent can excuse a child per school year.