



Stove Prairie



February 18, 2010



Dear Parents, Students and Staff,

Art News

The Youth Art Month Exhibit at the Lincoln Center begins on February 24 and art remains on display through March 25. Special recognition to our Stove Prairie students who will have their artwork exhibited: **Saleen Rowell, Jenna Schmidt, Emma Bowen, and Tannis Downing**. I hope all families in the Mountain Schools will have a chance to visit and view the marvelous art created by PSD students. ~ *Brenda Colter*

Important Dates

Friday, February 19

- 8:30am CLPMS Counselor visit to 5th Graders for 5th Grade Registration

Tuesday, February 23

- 5:30pm School Board meets at the Fort Collins High School Media Center
- 7:00pm Small Schools Public Forum at FCHS Theatre/Auditorium

Thursday, March 4

- 10:15am Science Fest!
- 11:30am Potluck
- 12:30pm PTO Meeting

Tuesday, March 9

- 8:30am Breakfast of Champions!



Notes for the Office—from page 9 of the Stove Prairie Handbook

At 8:25 each morning, when taking attendance, the classroom teacher will ask for any notes for the office. At that moment alert students will present any notes that they may have brought from home; such as a pizza order, written request for a bus pass, or any mail sent in by the parent.

Health Office--Illness—from page 10 of the Stove Prairie Handbook

We will take the temperature of students who appear ill. If the temperature reaches 100°, parents will be called and the student will need to go home. If there is no fever, the student will return to class if possible. If symptoms persist, parents will be called.

Upon returning to school, a student who has recovered from an illness will be expected to participate in all school activities, including recess. Parents of students with a chronic illness will need to inform their child's teacher of any unusual symptoms, circumstances or actions which the school needs to take.

Health Office Medication—from page 10 of the Stove Prairie Handbook

Consult your copy of the Student Rights & Code of Conduct booklet, pages 38-42, to learn the PSD Medication policies and procedures. You will need to know them before you ever send medication to school. For instance, we need a form signed by the parent and the doctor, etc.

Attachments

- Safety Letter from Mrs. Bishop—on page 2
- From Mr. Kind—PSD Auto Calling Survey Results / Sign-Up for Boundary Committee Representative
- PTO Minutes

The Staff



February 18, 2010

Dear Families,

This is your weekly update about the safety topics discussed during our classroom Counseling lessons. Students in Kindergarten through 3rd grade learned about touching safety. The *Talk About Touching* curriculum teaches children that there are three kinds of touch:

- **Safe touches.** These are touches that keep children safe and are good for their bodies. They make students feel cared for, loved, and important. Safe touches include hugging, holding hands, pats on the back, an arm around the shoulder and a shot from the doctor.
- **Unsafe touches.** These are touches that are not good for students' bodies and hurt their bodies or their feelings (for example, hitting, pushing, pinching, kicking, and touching private parts of our bodies).
- **Unwanted touches.** These may be safe touches, yet the child doesn't want to be touched in that way, by that person, or at that moment in time. It is okay for a child to say "No" to unwanted touches. Children can say "No" to any unwanted touch; even if the person touching them is someone they know. Help your child practice saying "No" in a strong yet polite voice. This will help your child learn to set personal boundaries for keeping themselves safe.

Students in 4/5 grade are watching the second part of the *Safe Side Internet Safety* video. This video is coordinated with the NetSmartz website, <http://www.netsmartz.org/index.aspx>. Check out this website and learn more about how you can protect and educate your child about internet safety.

Next week, children will learn the Touching Rule: Another person should not touch their private body parts except to keep them clean and healthy. They will learn that private body parts are "those parts covered by a swimsuit." Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns. I would like to support you in any way when discussing this topic with your child.

If you are interested in watching any of the *Safe Side* videos, *Stranger Safety* or *Internet Safety*, at home, please let me know. These videos are entertaining and provide important information for you and your child. I would be happy to check them out to you. Contact me via email or phone and I will make sure to send it home with your child.

Sincerely,

Michele Bishop, Counselor
(970)488-6527
mbishop@psdschools.org

PSD Weather-Related Delayed Start Plan

Should the need arise due to bad weather and/or questionable road conditions, PSD may implement a delayed start of all schools by 2 hours. The following is important information for parents regarding delayed start, as well a refresher on school closure and early release plans.

Delayed Start of Schools Due to Weather, Road Conditions

Should the need arise, the delayed school start time will be 2 hours, for all schools.

- **Delayed start decision:** A decision about delayed start will be made by 5:30 a.m.
- **Parent notification:** visit the PSD website at www.psdschools.org or tune in to local radio or television stations to find out about delayed start the morning of the day in question. Please do not call schools, district offices, or broadcast media. No announcements by media and on the website means all schools are open as usual.
- **Bus pick up times:** Buses will pick up students at bus stops 2 hours later than regularly scheduled pick-up times. Buses will make every effort to be punctual, although traffic and road conditions may increase travel time. Please ensure your child is dressed warmly in anticipation of a potentially longer wait time. Parents are encouraged to walk their children to bus stops and avoid walking along the roadways. Sidewalks are safer even if these areas are not cleared of snow.
- **Drop off and arrival times:** Parents dropping off students, students who walk, and students driving to school should arrive 2 hours after their regular arrival times. Please do not arrive earlier.
- **Kindergarten and Early Childhood:** Morning-only kindergarten programs and morning Early Childhood programs are cancelled when there is a delayed start schedule. Afternoon kindergarten and afternoon Early Childhood programs will run on normal schedules. Full-day kindergarten and full-day Early Childhood programs will start 2 hours later than normal.
- **Before- and after-school childcare:** B.A.S.E. (Before and After School Enrichment) Camp will open as normally scheduled for students attending these programs. If your childcare provider is other than B.A.S.E. Camp, contact them for start times.
- **School dismissal times:** School dismissal times will remain on regular schedules, including bus drop-off times in neighborhoods and parent pick-up times at schools.

School Closures Due to Weather, Road Conditions

If schools are closed due to inclement weather and/or questionable road conditions, parents should tune in to local radio and television stations, or go online to PSD's website at www.psdschools.org to find out about school closures the morning of the day in question.

Media outlets are informed if schools are closed. No announcements by the media or on the PSD website means all schools are open as usual.

A decision about weather-related school closures is made by 5:30 a.m., and media outlets are notified immediately.

Parents should NOT call schools, district offices, or broadcast media.

The PSD website (www.psdschools.org), radio and television stations will provide information about PSD school closures. We will notify Spanish radio stations KGRE 1450AM and KJJD 1170AM for Spanish speaking families.

Note: When PSD schools are closed, B.A.S.E. (Before and After School Enrichment) Camp will be closed.

Early Release of Schools Due to Weather, Road Conditions

If the weather forecast suddenly changes to adverse conditions, PSD may put into action an early release. Parents are urged to please develop a plan for the possibility of your student's early release to your home. B.A.S.E. (Before and After School Enrichment) Camp will not be available after school if schools release students early.

When PSD makes a decision to close schools earlier than the regularly-scheduled release times due to inclement weather and/or questionable road conditions, parents will be notified by phone. **In addition, media outlets (listed above) and the PSD website (www.psdschools.org) also will communicate early release information.**

Parents are urged to make sure family contacts and telephone numbers are current at your child's school for such an emergency. For additional information about the policy and procedures, contact Scott French, PSD director of transportation, at 490-3555.

Stay connected! Online e-mail sign-up now available

We want your current e-mail address! Sign up to receive PSD emergency information and the quarterly PSD community e-newsletter containing important information on district initiatives (grade configuration, boundary changes, etc.), and current news and events. You may also receive important school updates, calendar changes, and critical information from your child's teacher.

PSD now has an online e-mail subscription system. If you provided an e-mail address on your child's information form, your address is already in the system. If you have not yet provided one or your e-mail has changed, please go to the **E-mail Alert Sign-up** link on the www.psdschools.org and input your address. Stay connected. Sign up today!

To receive important messages via phone:

PSD's automated phone system is used to contact parents about non-emergency school events (such as parent/teacher conferences) and about emergency school and district situations.

Parents may list two phone numbers to be used with the automated phone system - One phone number is listed as the primary contact number for general information and a second phone number is used to contact parents about emergency situations. Please know that BOTH phone numbers are called in school or district-wide emergency situations in order to deliver important information to parents.

Please make sure your child's school has the two phone numbers you want listed for general information and emergency calls. You may update your phone number(s) by contacting your school's office manager.

To receive important messages via e-mail (and Stove Prairie School notes):

PSD has an online e-mail subscription system. If you want to sign up to receive school and district e-mails or you need to update your e-mail address, please go to the **E-mail Alert Sign-up** link on the PSD Web site at www.psdschools.org to input your current information.

After you sign up, you will receive the following information via e-mail:

- School closure information related to weather and other situations
 - PSD emergency information
 - Important information specifically from your child's school such as emergency information, calendar changes, and school newsletters
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PSD NEWS

Poudre School District is studying options for funding small schools and encourages ALL parents, PSD staff and community members—from small AND large schools—to attend and provide input at community forums in January and February. *

With many elementary and middle schools under-enrolled and PSD facing major budget reductions, PSD is studying funding options for schools. **Four Board of Education led community forums will be held to help PSD understand the community's values about funding small schools.**

PSD is asking the community to engage in a big picture discussion about options related to funding small schools:

- Funding small schools through separate funding sources, or
- Closing schools and combining students into larger schools.

All parents, PSD staff, and community members are invited to attend one of the following forums (information and format will be the same at each forum):

- **7 – 9 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 23, at Fort Collins High School's auditorium, 3400 Lambkin Way**

PSD Board of Education directors and staff will open each forum. The Jan. 26 and Feb. 23 forums are being held during Board of Education work sessions. The forums serve as a method for the Board to engage the community in a discussion about funding small schools.

PSD has announced the process and reductions schools and district departments will be making as we plan the 2010-11 budget. For more information, visit the [PSD Budget Development web page](#).

For more information, email info@psdschools.org or call 482-7420.

Watch for your census form this month – be a part of history!

March 2010 is an important month for our country and community. The 2010 Census form will be delivered or mailed to households across the United States in March, and you can make history by filling out and returning your census form as soon as it arrives. Please watch for your census form and respond immediately by mailing it back. Census workers will visit households that do not return the forms to take a count in person. They can be identified by a census badge and bag.

Every person living in the United States must be counted in the 2010 Census – including people of all ages, races, ethnic groups, citizens and noncitizens. Your participation is vital and helps to provide a new portrait of America – illustrating our nation’s growing and changing population and demographics.

2010 Census: Why it’s important

- By completing and returning your census form you are performing an important civic duty while helping to better define the future – for you, your community and our country.
- Every year, the federal government distributes more than \$400 billion to tribal, state, and local governments based on census data.
- Census data guide local planning decisions, including where to provide additional social services, establish child-care and senior centers, and build new roads, hospitals, schools and job training, and community centers.
- Census data are used to reapportion congressional seats to states and assure proper district representation.
- Many businesses, social service and non-profit organizations use census data to make critical decisions that affect communities everywhere.

Easy. Important. Safe.

Participating in the census is easy, important and safe. One of the shortest census forms in history, the 2010 Census form takes about 10 minutes to complete. By law, the U.S. Census Bureau cannot share respondents’ answers with anyone, including other federal agencies and law enforcement entities. All Census Bureau employees take an oath of nondisclosure and are sworn for life to protect the confidentiality of the data. The penalty for unlawful disclosure is a fine of up to \$250,000 or imprisonment of up to five years, or both.

PSD asks for your participation in 2010. Look for your 2010 Census form in March and return it upon receipt. Join us in helping to make our community a brighter place by participating in the 2010 Census.

PSD begins budget process, state announces major K-12 education cuts

Colorado is facing major fiscal challenges, and PSD is monitoring all announcements and information as the budget development process for 2010-11 begins.

What is PSD’s current budget situation?

The State of Colorado has announced it will likely rescind (take back) \$3.3 million already budgeted to PSD for this school year. PSD has set aside this amount in anticipation of the state’s action.

In November, Gov. Ritter presented an early proposed state budget for Fiscal Year 2010-11 that included a \$260 million, or 4.6% reduction to K-12 education when compared to the current school year (FY 2009-10).

Because of the state’s budget proposal, PSD is planning for three possible levels of reductions—\$5 million, \$8 million, or \$12 million.

“We are preparing for several scenarios, and all involve budget cuts from last year to this year,” says Jim Sarchet, PSD assistant superintendent of business services. “With each state report, we are able to fine-tune information.”

Following are key dates for development of PSD’s 2010-11 budget:

- **October/November:** Board of Education established priorities for PSD budget

- **November:** Governor releases preliminary budget to Joint Budget Committee
- **December:** Colorado quarterly economic report released
- **January:** Legislative session begins, and budget discussions continue through April/May
- **February:** Colorado rate of inflation announced (currently projected to be negative)
- **March:** PSD presents preliminary budget to Board of Education
- **February – May:** PSD revises budget assumptions/priorities, based in information/input
- **March:** PSD announces preliminary Student-Based Budgeting (SBB) allocations to schools
- **March:** Colorado quarterly economic reports released
- **March - May:** Budget discussions held during PSD employee negotiations
- **Late April/early May:** Legislature adopts K-12 funding in the School Finance Act
- **May:** PSD Administration presents preliminary budget to Board of Education
- **June:** Board action to adopt 2010-11 budget

For the latest in-depth information, please visit the PSD Web site at www.psdschools.org under District Updates, “Budget Development Process.”

Superintendent asks community to deliberate about small schools

In a report to the PSD Board of Education Dec. 8, Superintendent Jerry Wilson announced plans to stop considering Riffenburgh and Lopez elementary schools for a small high school location. Dr. Wilson also clarified that currently PSD has no plans to close Cache La Poudre Middle School, or Lopez, Moore Core Knowledge, Riffenburgh, or Stove Prairie elementary schools.

“At the same time, it is important to realize that given the reality that population trends and funding factors can change, the district will be reviewing elementary and middle school capacities and may consider any school for closure,” said Dr. Wilson, in his board meeting report.

With many elementary schools under-enrolled and PSD facing major budget reductions, PSD needs to study options for supporting smaller neighborhood schools. **Dr. Wilson announced that the Board of Education and district will begin holding community engagement sessions in January to help PSD understand the community’s values related to supporting smaller neighborhood schools.**

“It is very important that we come together and address the pressing issue of funding small schools or closing some schools to combine students into larger elementary or middle schools,” said Dr. Wilson.

At these sessions, PSD will provide information about the problem and the impact on education, including how different school sizes affect the ability of the school to offer programs for students in areas like art, music, and physical education in elementary schools.

Then, PSD will ask the community to engage in a big picture discussion about two options:

1. Funding small neighborhood schools through separate funding sources, or
2. Closing schools and combining students into larger schools.

“By stepping back and having this broader discussion, the Board of Education and district are acknowledging the expressed public interest in valuing neighborhood schools,” said Dr. Wilson. “As we approach challenging financial circumstances, the community will help the district understand to what extent it values neighborhood schools.”

Feasibility Committee Action: The PSD Facility Design Feasibility Committee that began meeting in October will continue its work to address exclusively: A location for the Lab School for Creative Learning; **whether** to close Red Feather Lakes Elementary and move students to Livermore Elementary; and moving Early Childhood and other programs out of Fullana and Barton to Moore, Bauder, Riffenburgh, and/or other elementary schools.

Small High School to be Studied: Given the changing dynamics of high school enrollment and need for further study, PSD will convene a group to study programming needs for specialized high school programs that could be housed in existing schools or independently.

Visit the PSD Web site for dates, times and locations for the public deliberation meetings the Board of Education and PSD will host to help understand community values related to funding small, neighborhood schools: www.psdschools.org under District Updates, or call 970-490-3427, or email info@psdschools.org.

Flu season is here, help control the spread of germs

Flu season is here and it is time to start practice prevention strategies. You can help us in the following ways:

- Encourage your children to **practice healthy eating, sleeping and exercising habits.**
- **Teach children to wash their hands** often with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand rub.
- **Teach children to cover coughs/sneezes and not share personal items** like drinks, food or unwashed utensils, and to cover their coughs and sneezes with tissues.
- **Clean surfaces and objects that your child touches frequently**
- **Know the signs and symptoms of the flu.** Symptoms of the flu include fever (100 degrees Fahrenheit, 37.8 degrees Celsius or greater), cough, sore throat, a runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, and feeling very tired. Some people may also vomit or have diarrhea.
- **Do not send children to school if they are sick.** Children who are sick while at school *will be sent home.*
- **Keep sick children at home** for at least 24 hours *after* they no longer have fever or do not have signs of fever, without using fever-reducing drugs.
- **Get your family vaccinated** for seasonal flu and H1N1 flu when vaccines are available.

We continue to work closely with the Larimer County Department of Health and Environment and other city, county and state agencies to monitor flu conditions and make decisions about the best steps to take concerning schools. **Please make sure you are on the PSD Parent E-mail Alert list (www.psdschools.org), so we can provide you with new information as it becomes available.** This also assures you receive email updates from your child's school. Additional H1N1 flu information and resources can be found at www.flu.gov, or call 1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636).