



The Parent Link

Minter Creek Elementary Newsletter

Jan. 6, 2021



A LETTER FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

Hello Dolphin Family,

I hope you had a wonderful break and are having a great start to the new year. For many of us we have had a lot of ups and downs over the past year. My sincere hope is that 2021 is the best year ever.

As you may know, we are making a lot of exciting decisions over the coming weeks. Our 2nd graders that choose to will be returning to in-person learning starting Jan. 19th. They will be here from 9:00 - 3:30 every day except Wednesday. We are so happy to have them in the building soon. For those choosing to stay remote, you will begin with your new teacher on the 19th, as well.

Also, for our 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders, we are fast approaching their return to an in-person option as well. Though a date has not been set yet, they will be able to return using a hybrid model of either AM (9:00 - 11:30) or PM (1:00 - 3:30). There will be an informational meeting Thursday, Jan. 7th at 6:00pm. If you have a 3rd, 4th, or 5th grade student, you should have received an email and link on Jan. 5th from me.

Many say change is the only constant in life, and we are excited for some positive changes finally coming our way. Having students able to be in-person is such a great option and we are excited to make it a reality.

Take Care,
Mr. Hering

Mark Your Calendar



January

- 1st Winter Break / **NO SCHOOL**
- 18th MLK, Jr. Day / **NO SCHOOL**
- 19th 2nd Grade Returns to In Person
- 29th Semester Break / **NO SCHOOL**

February

- 15th - 19th Mid-Winter Break / **NO SCHOOL**



Contact Numbers

Main office: 253.530.4300

Fax: 253.530.4320

Office Manager, Michelle Huseby: 253.530.4305

Secretary / Attendance, Chris Dougherty: 253.530.4306

MINTER CREEK

DAILY SCHEDULE

Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri. - Start time 9:00AM

Student admittance to building 8:50AM

Daily Dismissal 3:30PM



FROM THE OFFICE STAFF



PLANNED ABSENCES

We want to stress the importance of sending your student to school every day possible. We also understand events may occur during the school year that will result in your student being absent.

In the event your student has **any** planned absence, we ask you to fill out a Planned Absence Request Form and return it to the front office at least **one week prior** to the absence.

If the planned absence is **greater** than 5 school days, please fill out a Planned Absence Request Form in the front office **two weeks prior** to the absence.

<https://s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/psd-staticfiles/psd/documents/ParentsCommunity/Forms/Permission/Planned+Absence+Request+Form+Fillable.pdf>

Thank you!



TRAVELING REMINDER!

Governor Inslee has issued a travel advisory recommending a 14 day quarantine when returning home from travel outside of Washington state. Please be mindful of our student's and staff's health if you are traveling out of the state for this holiday season.

FROM THE HEALTH ROOM

UPDATE!

Due to new procedures with COVID, we are no longer able to supply your student with a change of clothes.

Please make sure your student has an extra change of clothes in their backpack.

Thank you!



ATTENDANCE

Please help us to be efficient in the office. We ask that you **always** call the school at 253.530.4306 to let us know if your child will be absent whether you are in person or remote learning. If you leave a voice message regarding attendance, please speak clearly and state who is calling, the student's first and last name, teacher's name, and reason for their absence. The district office requires us to have our attendance verified by **10:00AM** each morning.

Our office hours are Monday - Friday, 8am to 4:30pm.



FROM THE HEALTH ROOM

STUDENT ARRIVAL TO SCHOOL

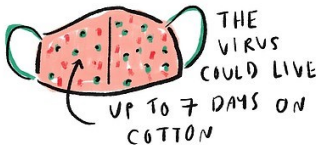
THE NEW NORMAL!

- Student admittance to campus is now 8:50am. No entry before that time will be allowed.
- Please remember to have your **COMPLETED** daily attestation form with your student when you arrive at school. If form is not completed prior to arrival, parent / guardian will be required to answer attestation form verbally with staff. If student arrives on bus without completion of attestation form, parent / guardian will be contacted. Please ensure Front Office has the most up to date contact information.
- Upon arrival to school campus, **all students** are required to have their temperature taken by staff. If a student has a temperature of 100.4 or higher, they will be escorted to the Health Room where parent / guardian will be contacted by our Health Tech for immediate pick-up.
- All students will be required to wear a mask at all times while on school campus that covers both their nose and mouth. If student's mask does not cover both nose and mouth, a disposable mask will be provided to your student to be used for the day.
- Social distancing will be encouraged in the classroom and around school campus.
- All water fountains on school campus are closed to students. Please provide a reusable water bottle labeled with your student's name, if possible.
- If you have any questions, please contact our Health Tech, Angela Ostrom at 253.530.4323 or ostroma@psd401.net



HOW TO CARE FOR YOUR CLOTH MASK

- WASH YOUR MASK AFTER A DAY'S USE



- YOU CAN USE A WASHER AND DRYER TO CLEAN YOUR MASKS



REMINDER!!

In order to protect the health of students, cloth masks should be washed daily after every use. Also, please make sure the mask fits snugly and comfortably above both the student's nose and mouth. All students are required to wear a face covering at all times while on school grounds.





NEWS!

**"Harbor Heritage"
Pen and Ink
Guest Artist / Jessica Rogg
January-March / 2021**

Peninsula *Hands On Art* is proud to present our second project of the year, "Harbor Heritage" Pen and Ink! This project will introduce students to the timeless art of pen and ink drawing, while exploring the rich history of Gig Harbors fishing industry. Student artists will learn the basics of pen and ink drawing focusing on background, foreground, horizon lines, and pen techniques while drawing their own fishing boat.

Our amazing volunteers have once again been packaging individual art kits for every student and these will be delivered to all K-5 teachers in the district the first week of January. Depending on your child's grade level, and district guidelines at the time, this project will be completed in class or sent home.

Not familiar with Peninsula *Hands On Art*? Check our website:

www.peninsulahandsonart.org

***FUN * FLEXIBLE * FABULOUS ART**



If you have any questions or would like to learn more about PHOA please contact:

Ashley Aston / Minter Creek Coordinator ashaa26@hotmail.com 248-219-8747

Maria Morgan / PHOA District Coordinator morganm@psd401.net 253-732-7222

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2021 Elementary Learning Update and Surveys

3rd-5th Grade: Hybrid: 4 half days per week

An AM/PM hybrid model was selected for 3rd -5th grade in-person learning. Several factors contributed to this choice, but the most important factor was the ability to have in-person learning and connections with students four days a week. We are still developing details, but here's what we know: A start date has not been selected, but it will not be during the first two weeks of January.

Students will be divided into three cohorts:

- In-person AM: 9:00AM-11:30AM
- In-person PM: 1:00PM-3:30PM
- A fully remote option.

Students will attend in person 4X per week, M/T/Th/F, and learn remotely on Wednesday.

[Complete this survey](#) for 3rd-5th graders.

The survey will close on Sunday, January 10, 2021.



FREE DRIVE THRU LUNCH!

FREE Drive Thru lunch will be served **EVERY DAY** here at Minter Creek from 11:30am to 12:30pm for any child aged 0 - 18 years old. This free service will be offered until the end of the school year!

Lunch is available around the back of the school in our bus loading area. Please remain in your car, wear a mask, and let Food Services

know how many lunches you will be needing.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact our front office or Ms. Kim in Food Services at: 253.530.4314.

The Peninsula School District does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, honorably discharged veteran or military status, sexual orientation, including gender expression or identity, the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person with a disability in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. Inquiries regarding compliance and/or grievance procedures may be directed to the District's Title IX and Compliance Officer, Dan Gregory, at 253.530.1009, email gregoryd@psd401.net or the Section 504 and ADA Coordinator, John Yellowless at 253.530.1081, email yellowlessj@psd401.net. Mailing address: 14015 62nd Ave NW, Gig Harbor