

# The Friday Flyer

## Every Student Future Ready

*Peter Kirk Elementary is a creative learning environment where children feel they are valued and safe. Staff and community collaborate to provide the highest quality education to prepare students to be life long learners*

Volume 4, Issue 1

September 9, 2011

## School and Principal Notes

### WELCOME to Peter Kirk

This is the Peter Kirk Elementary Friday Flyer. It is published every Friday of the school year and includes loads of information to keep you informed of what is happening at Peter Kirk and in your community.

If you do not receive an email, please contact Linda Sacco [lsacco@lwsd.org](mailto:lsacco@lwsd.org) in the office to update your email or to request a paper copy to be sent home weekly.

### Check out Peter Kirk's Website

For questions on schedules, teacher emails, programs available, community bulletin board and much more please go to:

<http://www.lwsd.org/School/kirk/Pages/default.aspx>

### Important Documents - Return requested ASAP



This year, **Emergency Cards** are coming to you pre-populated with the information we had on file last year. These came home yesterday. Please make any necessary changes needed to the information we have on file and return. If by chance you received a card that is not your student's card, please return it unmarked and we will see to it that you get the correct card.

It is really important that you include a **local** emergency contact in case you are unavailable to pick up your child if he/she is sick and needs to go home or there is an unforeseen natural disaster.

Also in your first day packet, was the **Peter Kirk Family Handbook check off form** that we are requiring kids and parents sign and return to the school. The purpose of this form is to ensure parents and students are reviewing the Family Handbook and understand our rules and policies. These forms need to be returned by **September 15th**. If you did not receive a family handbook, we apologize for the inconvenience and have them in the office. Please either stop by and pick one up or email Linda Sacco ([lsacco@lwsd.org](mailto:lsacco@lwsd.org)) and we will send one home with your child.

### **Return the following:**

- Emergency Cards
- Directory Information Withhold
- Nurse Alert Form
- Peter Kirk PTSA Student Directory forms
- Peter Kirk Family Handbook Check off form

Thank you for your cooperation.

### Upcoming Events:

#### September

15th

5-7pm Back to School Picnic

19th-21st

6th grade Camp

22nd

Curriculum Night  
(K, 2, 3, 4, 5)

30th

PTSA Fun Run

#### October

3rd, 4th, and 6th

Half Days - Conferences

3rd - 5th

5th grade Camp

7th

No School - LEAP day

11th

School Picture Day

See website for complete list of school activities scheduled.

<http://schools.lwsd.org/kirk/>

At Peter Kirk, we respect diversity and follow a policy of non discrimination

See: <http://www.lwsd.org/school/kirk/About-Us/Pages/Human-Dignity-Policy.aspx> for [Human Dignity Policy](#)

## Sandy Dennehy

Peter Kirk Elementary

Principal

425.936.2590

[sdennehy@lwsd.org](mailto:sdennehy@lwsd.org)

<http://schools.lwsd.org/kirk/>

**Curriculum Night is on Thursday, September 22nd.**

This is a parent only event. Curriculum Night is an opportunity for teachers to share their expectations, go over classroom policies, and describe and answer questions regarding grade level curriculum.

- Grades K, 2, 3 Classroom Presentations (6-6:45)
- Staff Introductions/Principal Presentation in Gym (6:50-7:10)
- Grades 4 and 5 Classroom Presentations (7:15-8:00)

During your time in the gym, I will be filling you in on a number of important items. I will walk you through our mission and vision, share our school wide goals and MSP scores, and discuss important dates. It will be a packed agenda...please stay later or come early depending on your curriculum night time. I look forward to our time together.

The Peter Kirk staff believes that school is a place to learn both academics and essential life skills needed. During our time together in August, every staff member at Peter Kirk was trained on Positive Discipline in the classroom and how to develop mutual respect, cooperation, and responsibility among our students, With this in mind, we will continue to use a positive discipline approach and reinforcement system that will bring us together as a community. The following information will provide you a snapshot of the Lifelong Guidelines and LifeSkills we will be teaching and reinforcing at Peter Kirk, as well as the positive discipline and logical consequence system we have adopted.

Community is the sense of belonging one feels when many hearts and minds come together to work toward a common goal and live by a common set of behavioral standards. We strive to create an environment of community and respect at Peter Kirk and have therefore adopted and will follow the Lifelong Guidelines of :

- Trustworthiness
- Truthfulness
- Active Listening
- No Put-Downs
- Personal Best

These five Lifelong Guidelines provide consistent parameters and expectations of conduct in our school community – what behaviors to expect from ourselves and others. They are the social outcomes we set for our school community. They also ensure that all students are in the environment that encourages exploring, discovering, and learning. These behaviors contribute to a sense of workability in life, not only in our classrooms and school now, but also as an adult.

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The fifth Lifelong Guideline, **Personal Best**, is defined by 18 Life Skills we will be working on as a school community.

Caring	Friendship	Perseverance
Common Sense	Flexibility	Pride
Cooperation	Initiative	Problem Solving
Courage	Integrity	Resourcefulness
Curiosity	Organization	Responsibility
Effort	Patience	Sense of Humor

**September LifeSkills Focus**

We introduced ALL the Life Skills at our first assembly and will now focus on two Life Skills each month. Staff members will have the opportunity to reinforce a child's behavior by giving them a Praise Note for following one or more of the 18 Life Skills. Each Friday, we will have a drawing, and reward a child, announcing their name over the intercom. In addition, each month, I will outline in the Friday Flyer, the two Life Skills we are focusing on that month and some tips on how you can reinforce them at home. As we venture into learning and living the Life Long Guidelines and Life Skills, I invite you to join us on our journey and provide an important and supportive role in the development of our school community.

**CARING** v. **1 a:** to feel trouble or anxiety on behalf of another's situation; to feel concern or interest; **2:** to give care **3:** to have a liking, fondness, or taste **4:** to have an inclination

**What is CARING?**

Caring is a visceral feeling arising from empathy for another's situation when we detect their distress or anxiety. The feeling prompts us to provide support for others in day-to-day living experiences or during crisis situations.

**What does CARING look like at school?**

- Inquire about the welfare of a classmate
- Help fellow students be more effective learners
- Serve as a buddy for a new student
- Share materials and ideas
- Offer help with everyday tasks
- Notify an adult who can assist when a student is angry or crying

**At home you can provide reinforcement of the LifeSkill of CARING by encouraging your child to:**

- Read stories and play games with a younger sibling
- Include a new classmate in neighborhood activities
- Help care for any family pets

**EFFORT** n **1:** conscious exertion of power: hard work **2:** a serious attempt: try **3:** something produced by exertion or trying **4:** the total work done to achieve a particular end

**What is EFFORT?**

Effort is both mental and physical. Tasks such as computing, reading, and studying are mostly mental. Shooting hoops, running laps, riding bicycle, and washing dishes require mostly physical effort. Other tasks such as performing music, acting (on stage), conducting science experiments, and acting out simulations require both mental and physical effort. Effort can be a solitary endeavor or part of a team project. In either case, it is a willingness to give something our best shot to use all of our energy, skill, knowledge, and commitment to go the extra mile.

**What does EFFORT look like at school?**

- Offer to assist other students when help is needed
- Redo work that is less than their personal best
- Make up all work missed because of absence
- Arrive on time
- Keep their space in the classroom neat and clean
- Maintain a positive attitude toward learning and school
- Volunteer for classroom job assignments
- Meet deadlines in a timely manner

**Ways you can help at home to emphasize the LifeSkill of EFFORT include:**

- Share personal examples of times when you as parents, have used the LifeSkill of EFFORT
- Teach your child how to create a timetable for short and long term projects
- Discuss with your family examples of the LIFESKILL of EFFORT in the evening news

**Thank You—First day packets**

A hearty thank you to the parents (and in many cases their kids too) listed below that sacrificed some of their remaining sunny, summer days to come and help assemble First Day Packets. We couldn't have done it without you!!

Peter Madison

Ken Mackenzie

Sue Bailey

Jen Whitelock

Brenda Baker

Hae Sue Park

Jodi Kantor

Helen Suk

Michelle Neves

and the great coordinator behind them all, **Heather Gertmenian!**

**Home and School Connection - A Good Start**

You can help make this school year a great one for your children. Here are a few simple things you can do at home to help them succeed in school.

**Follow a routine**

A routine at home will prepare your children for a schedule at school. For example, every day after school, your children might wash their hands, eat a snack, and do their homework.

**Promote independence**

Say, "You can do it!" when your children ask for help with something you know they can do on their own.

*Examples:* organizing their binder or finding their lost glasses. This will encourage the independence they'll need in the classroom.

**Build attention span**

Have your children focus on one activity while sitting at a table or desk for 15 to 20 minutes each day. They can draw, practice handwriting, or write a story—anything that motivates them to pay attention. Practicing like this will get your children used to doing class work.

**Recognize effort**

Praise your children for trying. For example, if they've been struggling with division, you might tell them, "You worked hard this week and got most of the problems right. Good job!"

**Have conversations**

Teach your children to talk about their experiences. If you visit a zoo or a park, ask, "What was your favorite part of our trip?" Talk during family meals, while running errands, and at bedtime.☒

**Reminder about Medications at School**

If your child has a medical condition which requires medications to be kept at school and you have not already brought these medications to our office (along with required paperwork), it is of **utmost** importance that you do so by early next week.

If you have questions, please email Linda Sacco [lsacco@lwsd.org](mailto:lsacco@lwsd.org) or call the office at 425-936-2590.

Paperwork can be found on Lake Washington School District website and requires a physician's approval, Here is the link: <http://www.lwsd.org/Parents/Student-Health/Pages/Medication-At-School.aspx>



## PTSA



### **FALL FUN RUN...LAUNCHES TODAY!**

The annual Fun Run will be held at school on Friday September 30th. This is our largest fundraiser to help support our school in various activities that enhance our children's education. The envelopes and information are coming home today. Start collecting your donations to help make this the most successful Fun Run yet. There will be many exciting prizes awarded and the daily raffles will start next Friday, September 16<sup>th</sup>

### **PETER KIRK BACK-TO-SCHOOL ROUND UP! THURSDAY, SEPT. 15<sup>TH</sup> FROM 5:00-7:00 P.M.**

Families and staff are invited to meet up on the school grounds for blue ribbon games, socializing and live music by Ms. Peterson and her band, The New Radio Cowboys. Blue Ribbon Games will begin at 6:00 p.m.



- Pack a picnic or order a box dinner from Pogacha.
- Do bring your beach chairs and blankets as table seating is limited.
- Don't bring your pets or alcohol as they are not permitted on school grounds.

If you have questions or would like to volunteer your help at the Round Up, Please email Jennifer Rex at [school\\_and\\_community@peterkirkpts.org](mailto:school_and_community@peterkirkpts.org)

### **GARDEN FRIENDS...**

Thank you for your help cleaning up our school last Friday. We made a huge dent in the Blackberry Bushes and I'm sure the kindergarteners and Highlands families that use the woods path are especially grateful! We had 10 adults and 19 students come and get dirty.

There are yearlong "Grounds Beautification" tasks if you are interested in helping out more. Contact Bobbi Ostrum or Amy Rice for more information.

Remember your students time qualifies for Eagle Hours (service) and there are forms at school. Also, please check if your company matches volunteer hours, i.e. Microsoft donates \$17/hour when an employee volunteers.

Thank you again for making Peter Kirk look great!



## COMMUNITY NOTES

### JOB OPPORTUNITY

#### **The Perfect Fit!**

*Looking for something to do while your kids are back in school and earn extra spending money?*

Sodexo Food Services in the Lake Washington School District has cafeteria positions that fit a parent's schedule perfectly:

Work day hours will coincide with school days and hours

No holidays or weekends

Entry level positions are available for 3 to 4 hours per day at \$9.25 per hour.

**For information please contact LWSD Food Service Office 425-936-1393**

### NOTICE OF 2011-12 SPECIAL NEEDS GROUP MEETING SCHEDULE

All meetings are held the fourth Thursday of the month in the LWSD Resource Center from 7 - 8:30 PM.

September 27

October 25

November 22

January 24

February 28

March 27

April 24

May 22

#### **Special Needs Meeting**

**September 27, 2011**

Introduction to LWSD Special Ed Department

Tuesday, September 27, 2011

LWSD Resource Center

7:00 pm

Meet the Lake Washington School District Special Education Director, Paul Vine. He will have a PowerPoint presentation reviewing the department structure, the Ladder of Support, discuss new initiatives for the year and any other changes in the Special Education programs. He will also be introducing his team and have a brief Question and Answer time. After Paul's presentation we will share happenings within our group, share resources and network with other parents and teachers.