



THE ARLETA CONNECTION

Attendance and the Auto Dialer

I know we would all agree that one element to a successful school experience is attendance. Its obvious right?... That regular attendance means greater success. Yes! But academic success is not the only thing gained with regular attendance. Students learn life routines and responsibility by ensuring that they not only attend school everyday but also arrive on time, prepared and ready to learn. Let us not also forget to acknowledge that regular attendance allows children to connect socially with their peers in a guided, safe environment further supporting life lessons and academic success.

The staff and I would like to help support all families in ensuring that children arrive to school each and every day on time and ready to learn. If there is anything we can do to help, even if that is to help brainstorm morning routines, please do not hesitate to call on us.

To this effort, PPS and Arleta have started using the Auto Dialer to help communicate absences to parents. If a child is absent without prior arrangements, parents of children in grades K-5 will receive a phone call reporting the absence the morning of absence. Attendance of children in grades 6-8 is reported each period rather than only twice a day and thus an unexcused absence is communicated to the parents by the automated dialer in the evening.

Parents can easily report an absence to the school by using the attendance at 503.916.6334. Absences for the same day should be reported no later than 9am.

Please call on me with any question, suggestions, comments or concerns.

Kevin Crotchett, Principal

DECEMBER EVENTS

- 6 Booster's Meeting 8:00 am
- 8 2hr Late Opening
- 13 Booster's Meeting 8:00 am
- 17 K/1 Field Trip to Tears of Joy Theater
- 17 Super Hero Friday
- 20 Winter Vacation Begins

JANUARY EVENTS

- 3 First day back to school from winter vacation
- 3 Booster's Meeting 8:00 am
- 10 Spirit Week
- 10 Booster's Meeting 8:00 am
- 12 2hr Late Opening
- 14 Vision Screening
- 17 Holiday - School Closed
- 19 K/1 Field Trip to Tears of Joy Theater
- 24 Booster's Meeting 8:00 am
- 26 Kindergarten Round-Up 4:30 pm
- 28 Super Hero Friday
- 31 Teacher Planning Day
No School for Students
End of 2nd Quarter



Arleta Boosters

Events to Watch For! Booster-sponsored events coming in December:

Holiday Tree Sale
Spirit Wear Sale: Arleta Tees and Hoodies
Green Team Recycling

Details will follow soon!

Thanks to everyone who went to Mezza for the dine-in. Mezza will be donating \$140 to our school!

PTA Clothes Closet

PTA and Booster clubs throughout PPS schools donate and operate the PPS Clothes Closet. If you have gently worn children's clothing and would like to donate to the PTA Clothes Closet, bring you folded and washed donation to Arleta and the Boosters and Office will be sure they make their way to the donation center.

If you would like to visit the clothes closet for children's clothing they are located at Marshall High School at 3905 SE 91st St in room C-56. They are open Monday through Thursday 10:00 am to 1:00 pm (school days). Be sure to stop by the Arleta office first to get a Clothing Center Application form.

2011-12 School Transfer Process

Portland Public Schools announces transfer application dates for the 2011-12 school year:

High school transfers – Feb. 4-Feb. 28
All other grades – Feb. 9-March 11

Note: These dates are different than those released at the beginning of the school year.

Transfers allow students to attend a school that is not in their neighborhood. Because space is limited the school district uses a lottery system to approve applications.

PPS will make the applications available on the first day of each application period. For more information, contact the Enrollment and Transfer Center at 503.916.3205 or go to www.pps.k12.or.us/schools-c/make_a_choice.php.



School Website Updated

<http://www.pps.k12.or.us/schools/arleta/>

Be sure to check out the latest news on the Arleta School Website. An up-to-date school calendar can easily be found along with news throughout the month. Click over to the staff list and link up with classroom webpages and blogs. While you look around take a look at the updated link to the Arleta Library. A wealth of information for K-8 students and parents!

Site Council Nominations

The Arleta Site Council is getting ready to restart for the 2010/11 school year and is currently looking for two parents to serve a parent representatives. If you are interested please complete the Site Council nomination form included in this months Arleta Connection. Nomination forms are due December 10th with community ballots sent home on December 13 and due back by Friday the 17th.

Written by:

Melinda McCrossen

Melinda McCrossen
Teacher-Librarian

Library webpage links:
<http://www.pps.k12.or.us/schools/arleta/424.htm>

<http://arletalibrary.wordpress.com/>

E-Mail:
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Phone:
503-916-6330

*I'm generally available
for family
communication
both before and
after school.*

*Please feel free
to contact me.*

*Email is the best way
to reach me for an
appointment.*



Thank you.

FREE FAMILY RESOURCES

Did you know that your family has free online access to up-to-date encyclopedias, almanacs, atlases, magazines and multimedia files?

You will find a link to the Oregon School Library Information System (oslis.org) databases on the library web page. Tax dollars pay for this non-commercial database so that all students have equal access to the same quality reference resources.

A user name (port) and password (oslis) are required to access these outstanding resources from home. No personal information will be required to access this database.

The direct link to the middle school to adult reference site is:

<http://secondary.oslis.org/find-information>

The direct link to the elementary school site is:

<http://elementary.oslis.org/find-information>

Did you know that you can see what books are in the Arleta library? You can even find out if the book is checked out or available.

The direct link to the library's electronic catalog is:

<http://library.pps.k12.or.us/>

Make sure you change the pull down menu from "View Entire Collection" to Arleta. If you don't change this setting, your results will include every book owned by Portland Public Schools.

This fall, all students, except K/1st and 6th grade were taught how to use the catalog to find books. Our catalog works the same way as Multnomah County Library's catalog. Hopefully, students will be able to successfully navigate there as well.

There are links to other student support websites on the library web page. Be sure to keep checking back as it will be updated often.

ELEMENTARY FOCUS

Kindergarten and First Grade

Ms. Chaffin is still doing the read aloud time with these students. We both help at checkout time to find the right book for each of these early eager readers. If your student comes home without a book, it means a book went home and didn't make it back to the library. Let us know!

Second and Third Grade

Ms. Chaffin is reading aloud to these students right now. After winter break, I will be reading beginning fiction stories such as Frog and Toad; Henry and Mudge; Nate the Great. The Beverly Cleary Award nominations will also be introduced.

Fourth and Fifth Grade

Currently I am reading the first chapter of fiction books in a series. Every week features a different genre. When I'm done reading, we discuss our definitions of the genre.

After winter break, I will be teaching how to effectively use the reference section of the library. Students will learn a few basic research skills.

April is National Poetry Month

Poetry will be celebrated throughout the month of April. Family activities are being planned as well. If you are a musician or poet, let me know if you'd like to help with this celebration.

Cyberbullies

Stop

Don't respond back.

Block

If it continues, block the person.

Tell

If it continues after that, tell an adult.

MIDDLE SCHOOL FOCUS

The first week of school, students questioned the connection between technology skills and research skills. Library/Technology is a third period graded class for 7th and 8th grade students.

What I am teaching this year is called Information Literacy.

We went over my course outline and the state's draft technology standards. A copy was handed out to go home. These skills are vital for a successful high school learning experience.

If you would like a copy of either of these two documents they are on the school library website or drop me a note and I'll send a copy home with your student.

In order to teach a content area that can be rather dry, I had students pick a career to research. Using traditional print, as well as new online resources will be the focus of winter term. Spring term will be spent publishing and presenting projects.

Due to scheduling conflicts, I don't see 6th graders this year.

CYBERBULLYING

Cyberbullies were discussed this month in library/technology class for middle school students. School Psychologist, Rachel Ray came in to run the discussion. Cyberbullying is a problem that mostly affects students ages 9 to 14. If you're interested in watching the videos that the students watched, you can see them at: <http://arletalibrary.wordpress.com/middle-school/stop-cyberbullying/>

GREETINGS AND AN INTRODUCTION

Where's Ms. Chaffin? What are you doing here? These are the two questions I spent my first few weeks at Arleta answering.

Arleta is lucky to have an amazing Library Assistant, Dena Chaffin. Dena has worked hard over the last eleven years to build a wonderful library. She knows what every student loves to read and she knows the perfect next book.

In addition to having a beautiful baby boy and working on a complete renovation of her house, Dena is also going to school. In the fall, she voluntarily went to part-time.

My background includes a M.Ed. with a Library/Media endorsement. I taught library and technology for eight years at Bridlemile Elementary School in SW Portland. I loved my job but I also wanted to work with middle school students.

Many years ago, I taught a Talented and Gifted (TAG) class at Arleta and when I was offered this job, I was thrilled for the opportunity to work with your students again.

In addition to teaching TAG classes for the district, I've also taught technology classes for PPS teachers and students since the late 1980s.

As a Teacher-Librarian, my goal is to teach and support the language arts curriculum. At the same time, I will also be teaching basic technology skills to older students.

My personal goal is that all of our students go onto high school with great information literacy skills. I want them to be confident in high school with their researching, organizing, and presenting skills.

I'm not sure that I'll get it all done this year, but that's the starting line. Your student's success is the ultimate finish line for me.

SITE COUNCIL

Call for Nominations

The Arleta Site Council is seeking two parent representatives to serve for a two-year term, ending in spring 2012.

The Site Council is made up of the principal, teachers/staff and parents who work together to monitor school improvement, staff development plans, and to foster community involvement in the school.

This is a great opportunity to be part of the team that plans our school's academic achievement and goals. Meeting five to seven times per school year, you can be instrumental in the course our school takes. *Please consider the commitment and the opportunity and nominate yourself for to be a parent representative.*

Nominations due Friday, December 10, 2010.

Arleta School Site Council Nomination
Return to the main office by 12/10/2010

Name: _____

Grade(s) of Child/Children at Forest Park: _____

Home Phone Number: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Please include a statement (100 words or less) on the backside of this nomination form speaking to why you would like to be a part of the Arleta Site Council representing the parent body. This statement will become part of the community ballot.

All Site Council Self-Nominations are due in the front office by Friday, December 10, 2010 at 4:00 pm. Candidate statements and ballots will be sent home with students in their backpacks on Monday, December 13, 2010. Ballots must be returned by Friday, December 17th. Thank you for your interest.

For more information feel free to contact Kevin Crotchett at 503.916.6300 or at kevinc@pps.k12.or.us.