

May 2024

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO



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Dear PCS Community,

Thank you!

As we find ourselves moving quickly through the final full month of the 23-24 school year, I wonder how we could be so close to summer. I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to you all for partnering with us this year and supporting us in so many ways. One of the best ways our families can support PCS Central and PCS West is by sharing their experience here with other families. Your "word of mouth" referrals and your willingness to share posts about our schools are so valuable.

21st Century Grant Closure

I also want to take this opportunity to thank La'Shawna McHenry and all of the 21st Century Grant Program Coordinators for providing such quality afterschool and summer care for our students for the past five years. We are currently looking at other grant opportunities and we are exploring partnerships that will allow for afterschool care for those who need it. We already have an existing partnership with the Sarah Heinz House. They are minutes away from PCS Central and they currently pick up a number of our students at the end of the school day and transport them to Sarah Heinz House for afterschool care.

Summer Tutoring

Despite the late notification that the 21st Century grant was not renewed, we are looking at options for providing summer tutoring in some capacity. This would be separate, or in addition to Extended School Year.

There are still many exciting activities happening including an end of the year celebration. We hope to see you there!

PRINCIPAL'S POST

Dear PCS Families,

It is hard to believe we are reaching the end of yet another remarkable school year. Thank you to all of our families for your continued trust, support and partnership in PCS. There were lots of learning, events, and positivity happening in the last few months of school.

I am proud of each and every student who demonstrated perseverance during the Math, ELA and Science PSSA testing. The students did a wonderful job!

A huge thank you for your support during**teacher and staff appreciation week**. The teachers and staff enjoyed the treats each day.





Over the past few weeks, our fourth grade students have been observing incubated eggs in their Science classrooms. The **chicks have hatched** and the students have been beyond excited. This hands-on learning experience has provided the students with a unique opportunity.

Students in Grades 2 enjoyed a field trip to the Carnegie Science Center. It was a day filled with excitement, discovery and new adventures. Students in Grade 6 enjoyed a field trip to Three Rivers Environmental Center where the students got to explore a riverboat and learn about what makes Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh. They uncovered how Pittsburgh's unique history contributed to the dynamic city it is today.

Our D2MD (Design to Make a Difference) students will be presenting their inventions and compete in front of judges against other schools! **Everyone is welcome to come check out their hard work at Winchester Thurston on Saturday, May 18th between 10:00am - 1:30pm.**

Ms. Onstott and Mr. Spigelmyer's class of third graders got some camera time! They worked alongside filmmakers from Art21 to recreate an artwork by artist Martin Creed. This artwork simply involved switching the lights in the classroom on and off. This footage may become a part of the segment of Art in the Twenty-First Century featuring local artist Lenka Clayton (mom of one of our PCS students) alongside fellow artist Phillip Andrew Lewis. It was a great experience for the students to learn about this art work as well as see the film crew in their very own classroom!

Our attendance incentive will finish on Friday, May 24th. Students can earn the incentive by achieving a 95% attendance rate and no "Hands On" Office Discipline **Referrals**. The attendance rate includes all excused and unexcused absences. Families who have already submitted an educational field trip form or will do so in the future and have it approved by the principal, will NOT count towards students' absences. Additionally, any religious holiday that falls on a school day, and a note

provided, will NOT count towards students' absences. Students will earn a trip to Elevate Trampoline Park on Thursday, May 30th from 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM. Further information will be provided.

Upcoming End of Year celebrations are as follows:

- Students in Grades 5-8: May 29th from 6:00 PM to 7:45 PM
- Students in Grades 2-4: May 30th from 6:00 PM to 7:45 PM

Registration for these events can be found below.

-Mrs. Yonushonis, Principal

SUMMER READING

Are you familiar with the LAMP Program?

The Library of Accessible Media for Pennsylvanians (LAMP) offers people who cannot access the printed word a way to restore their love of reading by shipping for free materials in accessible formats like braille, audio, described movies and large print



directly to patrons across Pennsylvania. In addition to physical content, LAMP also provides digital access to downloadable audio or braille to hundreds of thousands of titles. If you cannot read standard print due to blindness, a visual disability or because you can't hold a book or turn pages or, if you have a reading disability such as dyslexia – then this service is for you. LAMP is made up of two National Library Service network libraries in Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh and Free Library of Philadelphia. For more information check out <u>https://thelearninglamp.org/.</u>

-Mrs. lachini, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, & Assessment

UPCOMING EVENTS

This Thursday - May 16th - Family STEAM Night @ PCS West Bring a friend and Register - <u>Here!</u>



Family STEAM, NIGHT

Thursday, May 16th 6:00pm-7:30pm 200 Quigley Dr. Baden PA, 15005

Come and join us for PCS West's inaugural Family STEAM Night! Discover, create, and fuel your love for science, technology, engineering, art, and math with your loved ones. Delve into interactive experiences guided by a comprehensive booklet offering step-by-step directions and thought-provoking questions. PCS volunteers will be on hand to assist families every

> step of the way! *Activities are suitable for children ages 6 to 13 Two STEAM kits will be raffled off !

May 16th - PBIDA Virtual Parent & Family Support Group

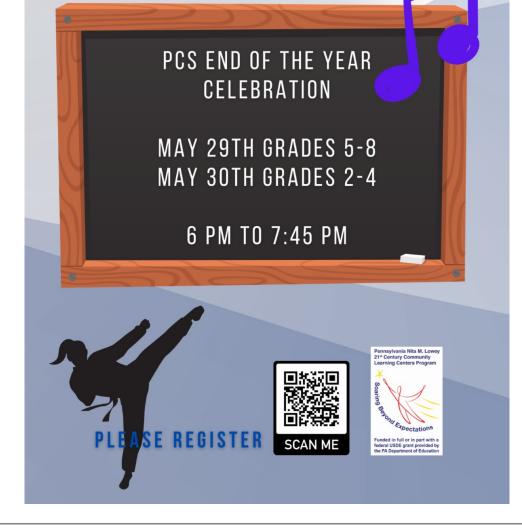
The Parent and Family Support Group Meets every 3rd Thursday from 7-8pm.

In this session, we will briefly review the initiatives in Pennsylvania to address students with learning disabilities, specifically dyslexia. We will also discuss ways that parents can proactively partner with schools and IEP teams to have evidence-based practices utilized to support instruction.



Registration Required Click or Scan to Sign Up Today!

PCS Central - End of Year Celebration Register by scanning the QR code or by clicking -<u>Here!</u> PCS Families are invited for an informal, fun evening showcasing our special area classes! A schedule will be available each evening.



July 31st - Save the Date

We are hosting our 1st ever Alumni Picnic @ PCS Central





