



# Riverside Elementary School

58 Riverside Drive, Princeton, New Jersey 08540



(609) 806-4260

Ms. Ebony Lattimer, Principal

March 28, 2022

Dear Riverside Families,

*"Never doubt that you are valuable and powerful and deserving of every chance to pursue your dreams."*

*- Hillary Clinton*

This week at Riverside we are pursuing our dreams in a number of ways!

- Thanks to Mr. Samara for installing the Peace Path at Riverside! This SEL support will encourage students to use conflict resolution skills that are focused on student empowerment through the use of insightful and self-reflecting problem solving steps.
- We celebrated Down Syndrome Awareness Day!
  - We Rocked Our Socks!
  - We read "You Are Enough," by Sofia Sanchez as a school community and there even was a read aloud by the author.
- Riverside became a sea of green as we celebrated Cerebral Palsy awareness day.
- Our Fourth and Fifth Grade Student Council are actively using all they have learned in the Social Issues Unit of ELA to make positive changes to Riverside:
  - The Fourth Grade has chosen to improve the meals received in the cafeteria:
    - The students met with Monique Graber, Director of Food Services, and are working on collecting information from their peers about multicultural lunch items to add to the menu.
    - They have also advocated to reduce the plastic and paper waste.
  - The Fifth Grade has chosen to work with the Director of Plant Operations and improve the quality of the student restrooms.

- They have met with Mr. Peter Vazquez and discussed several concerns which have resulted in:
- New toilet seats
- Bigger and better trash cans
- installation of privacy strips in the stalls
- Increase in the frequency of the cleaning of the bathrooms throughout the day

Riverside is now participating in STRIDES: As a way to support positive change at Riverside, the Principal's Advisory Council is participating in STRIDES. STRIDES is Schools Transforming Reinventing Inclusive, Diverse and Equitable Systems. This program will strengthen the race, equity, diversity and inclusivity work being done in Riverside and with PPS. Currently, we are in the team building phase of the training but we are looking forward to sharing more information as we progress through the program.

**GRADE 5 PARENTS!! GREAT THINGS ARE BLOOMING AT RIVERSIDE...**

- The students' residency performance with McCarter Theater will take place on Wednesday, March 30.
- Princeton Middle School Parent Orientation night on March 31, 2022 at 7pm. This will be a zoom webinar with the Princeton Middle School administration and the 6<sup>th</sup> grade counselor. Topics to be discussed will include the middle school schedule, expectations, athletics, clubs, and more! We look forward to seeing you there! Go Tigers!

You are invited to a Zoom webinar.

When: Mar 31, 2022 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Topic: PMS Rising 6th Grade Orientation Night

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://princetonk12.zoom.us/j/84006009400>

Or One tap mobile :

US: +16465588656,,84006009400# or +13017158592,,84006009400#

Or Telephone:

Dial(for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

US: +1 646 558 8656 or +1 301 715 8592 or +1 312 626 6799 or +1 669 900 9128 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 346 248 7799

Webinar ID: 840 0600 9400

International numbers available: <https://princetonk12.zoom.us/j/84006009400>

Please take note of the updates and reminders:

**Updates:**

## Calling All Riverside Scientists!

We are now recruiting parents and other family members from the Riverside community who are scientists to participate as presenters for Science Day 2022! The big day is Tuesday May 17th (with the rain date of Thursday May 19th). If you think that you may want to volunteer as a presenter please reach out to Kelly Bennett via **email: bennettkelly44@gmail.com** by March 31st.

For those of you who are new to Riverside this is an awesome day where scientists from our Riverside Community (Parents & Teachers and often Princeton University Faculty) bring their scientific expertise to school for a day of hands-on learning. It is a great way to encourage the scientific minds of our students! Standing inside a giant bubble, learning about human health, playing with the DNA of a strawberry, testing architecture designs through giant Jenga, learning about lasers, rockets, Oobleck, jet engines, outer space and so much more!

If you are interested in volunteering but NOT as a presenter - put the date on your calendar and stay tuned because we will be recruiting you later!

### **Reminders:**

- **This is Autism Awareness Week!** On Friday, April 1, wear blue.
- **Playground Safety:**
  - Please encourage your children to engage in safe play on the playground.
  - Please stay off of the mulch mound it is taped off with caution tape.
  - Please use the handicap accessible swing appropriately.
  - Please refrain from climbing on top of the storage containers.
- If you are sending in birthday treats for your student please remember, food items will not be eaten in the building, but will be sent home with students provided they are:
  - Store bought.
  - Individually packaged and sealed.
  - The ingredients list is legible and firmly attached to the package.
- **Morning Arrival, Car Line and Parking:** Please be mindful of the morning arrival procedures for parking and the carline to ensure the safety of all at Riverside. These items include but are not limited to:
  - Please stay with your car while in the car line. Leaving the car unattended in the car line stops the flow and backs up traffic. This includes at the end of the car line near the garden.
  - Please park on Riverside Dr. and walk your students to the school, this includes the PreK and Kindergarten doors. Please do not use the staff parking lot.
  - Please be mindful of driving speed.
  - Please pull all the way up to the green cones before letting your student out the car.
  - Please do not park between the signs on Prospect Ave. This is the designated bus area.

- If your child is having symptoms of COVID-19, OR has a pending PCR test, regardless of vaccination status, please keep them home and report the absence by doing the following:
  - Calling (609) 806-4266 and select Option 4
  - **OR** email Nurse Sarah [sarahgooen-chen@princetonk12.org](mailto:sarahgooen-chen@princetonk12.org) **AND** Rosanna Duran at [rosannaduran@princetonk12.org](mailto:rosannaduran@princetonk12.org)
  - Provide the following information:
    - The first name and last name of your student(s)
    - The grade of your student(s)
    - The reason for the absence
    - A phone number for a follow-up call if necessary
    - **Vaccination Card Upload Instructions:** To keep students safe and to facilitate contact tracing, we ask that parents **upload their student's vaccination card** into our existing Student Information System, PowerSchool after the student's second shot.
  
- Contact tracing requires PPS nurses to inquire about each student's vaccination status.
- If a student is named a "close contact," the student will not need to quarantine or miss school if they are in fact vaccinated.

PPS will maintain student confidentiality. Only staff directly involved in contact tracing will have access to vaccination status.

Please see the directions below which are provided in both English and Spanish.

[English Instructions](#)

[En Español](#)

### **SAVE THE DATES:**

- April 25--April 29: Book Fair
- *April 28--Heritage Night--5 p.m.-8 p.m. \*This date has been revised from last week.*
- May 13--Spring Fling-- 5 p.m.-8 p.m.
- Science Day Activities:
  - Monday, May 16--Assembly
  - Tuesday May 17--Science Day (*May 19 rain date*)
- June 14 at 11 a.m.--Grade 5 Moving Up Ceremony
- June 15 Field Day (*June 16 rain date*)

We are looking forward to an awesome week at Riverside!

Kindly,  
Ebony Lattimer, Principal