



BILLIE NEWS!



www.pleasanthill.k12.or.us

Vision Statement: Learning Today, Leading Tomorrow

Pleasant Hill Elementary

Phone: (541) 736-0400

Attendance Line: 541-736-0411

Meal Prices: Breakfast \$1.75, Lunch \$3.00, Milk \$0.50

36386 Highway 58, Pleasant Hill, Or 97455

Fax: (541) 736-0446

Office Hours: 7:30—3:30 p.m., Mon. - Fri.

Supervision: 7:45 - 2:30 p.m. Mon. - Fri.



Superintendent Update

The Pleasant Hill School District School Board has completed the search process for an Interim Superintendent for the remainder of the 2022-2023 school year. It is my pleasure to announce they have asked Mr. Jim Crist a longtime educator from Springfield School District to be our next Interim Superintendent.

Mr. Crist's first official day is Monday, October 3rd. Our present Interim Superintendent Mr. McRae will be returning to his other job of being the Lane ESD Covid Reopening Advisor.

Parental Involvement



In the fall, many parents often ask how they may best help their child be successful in school. The following is a piece of research I found from The Parent Institute:

- 1) When schools can work with families to support learning, children tend to succeed not just in school, but throughout life.
- 2) One of the most accurate predictors of student achievement in school is the extent to which a student's family can create a home environment that encourages learning and expresses high expectations for their child's achievement.
- 3) Students from homes with involved family members get higher grades, test scores, have better attendance, higher graduation rates and enrollment in college.
- 4) When there is strong parent involvement, schools and communities reap the benefit of increased instruction time, higher student achievement, and stronger collaborative relations on behalf of student learning in and out of school.
- 5) When parents are involved in their children's education at home, their children do better in school. When parents are involved at school, their children go farther in school, and instructional quality in the school increases.

Therefore, we, the staff of Pleasant Hill Elementary, are asking you to do three things this year. Each day take a few minutes to ask your child about their day at school. We, the staff of Pleasant Hill Elementary, are partners with you, working to assist your child in being successful. Therefore, don't hesitate to talk with your child's classroom teacher about any concerns as well as successes.

Jog-a-thon, Friday, September 30th

This year Pleasant Hill Elementary's major fundraiser of the year is our annual jog-a-thon. This year the Jog-a-thon is September 30th. The Jog-a-thon provides funds for educational opportunities such as field trips, guest speakers, special grade level activities such as swimming lessons, etc for each level.

You are welcome to join us on the track Friday morning to encourage our joggers, and walkers.



8:30 - 9:00 K / 1 will be on the track
9:35 - 10:05 2 / 3 will be on the track
10:30 - 11:00 4 / 5 will be on the track

Students are encouraged to show their Billie Spirit by wearing Blue and Yellow, and possibly win some Billie Wear from our PTO.



Who has Billie Spirit? We do!

This week, we will be holding our first monthly Billie Spirit Assemblies designed to celebrate our student's accomplishments and build school community. Many students will be recognized as each teacher selects two students from their classes who are growing either academically or developing and displaying characteristics of a successful Billie. The teachers also nominate one student for the Principal's award.

We conclude our assemblies by passing out what we call our "Golden Awards" to classes who together work to display Billie Spirit during their time spent with our specialist, in the cafeteria, assisting the custodians by picking up after themselves in the classroom, displaying Billie Spirit on the playground, in the bathroom, in the hall ways and receiving compliments from other adults in the building and visitor's on our campus, too.

Don't be surprised if you receive a phone call from your student's teacher to join us for a Billie Spirit Assembly if your student should be receiving an award!

Cell Phones



Students may bring cell phones to school for safety reasons. However, cell phone must remain off, in student's backpack or book bag and used only for emergencies with teacher permission. Misuse of cell phones will result in the cell phone being placed in the office for a parent / guardian to pick-up.

Pause Parking Lane



Thank you to families who are helping keep our busy morning drop-off and end-of-day pick-up areas safe for students. We appreciate families who are remembering to stay in their cars while in the pause parking lane, the lane closet to the sidewalks and continuing to move forward as space becomes available, which helps to keep traffic moving. We know there are limited parking spaces in our parking lot, outside of arrival times (7:45am-8:00am) and dismissal time (2:15pm), families and volunteers are welcome to park in the pause parking lane, as long as they remain in their cars. Otherwise, we ask you please park in a parking space and walk up to meet your student.

Safety Week

The week of October 10th - October 13th, we are hosting our first of three safety weeks held throughout the school year. Safety week is designed to review many of the possible safety drills that we may need to implement in the event of a natural disaster, or an unfortunate event takes place on campus. Safety week occurs after all major vacations and is not intended to take the place of monthly drills.



We will kick off safety week with the playground educational assistants, EA's, will be reviewing the 3-whistle Drill. When students hear three short whistles they are to stop playing, look at the adults and listen for directions. All classes will also practice a Room Clear Drill. During this drill students leave one room and enter another classroom should there be a medical emergency or an unsafe situation in their regular classroom.

Tuesday we will practice a Fire Drill. During this drill students under the direction of their teacher exit the building quietly and orderly meeting in our designated meeting spot. Once classes arrive at this location, attendance

is taken ensuring all students are safely out of the building. When we have determined all students are accounted for, the building is determined to be safe, students are then directed back to class.

Wednesday as a school we will practice a Hold Drill. This drill is implemented when we need everyone to remain in their classrooms and not out in the hallways due to something like a medical issue.

Thursday we will practice a Secure Drill. This drill is implemented whether it's due to some criminal activity happening in the neighborhood or an unwanted animal out on the school grounds such as a cougar. During this drill staff are directed to secure, get inside and lock all outside doors. No one is allowed in or out of the building.




October is Bully Awareness Month

Every fall teachers and staff spend the first few weeks of school reviewing the Bully Prevention Program, in Positive Behavior Support developed at the University of Oregon, with our students. Throughout the year we review and reinforce this curriculum within the classroom and at Billie Spirit Assemblies, too.

If you hear your students using these words, Stop-Walk-Talk or see a hand put out as if it were a stop sign; they are using their skills from the bullying prevention program. This program teaches students how to respond if other students are being disrespectful towards other students. Our staff has also been taught how to respond if students engage in disrespectful, bullying, behavior and can even be unsafe.

Students are taught bullying is disrespectful unwanted, aggressive behavior that is persistent, occurring over time, not a onetime incident, with the same student involved in being disrespectful. Examples of these persistent disrespectful, bullying, behaviors are name calling, teasing, continuously pushing or constantly poking or threatening another student. Students are also taught that it is not an accidentally bump a peer or decline to play with them. In addition, we also work with students to practice the golden rule, "If you can't say something nice to a peer, say nothing at all."

The three steps are:

-  1. Stop— All students are taught the "Stop" signal, putting up a flat hand, and to use a firm voice to say, "STOP."
-  2. Walk Away— Sometimes, even when students tell others to "stop", problem behavior will continue. When this happens, students are to "walk away" from the problem behavior.
-  3. Talk— report problems to an adult if the disrespectful behavior does not stop or a student is in danger such as falling on the playground or fighting.

All staff have been trained to respond to a student's request to talk. The staff member will ask the student about the problem. Then, they will ask the student if they used the "stop" signal and said "STOP" and tried walking away.

Students will be praised for trying these steps or reminded about using these steps first before talking to an adult. Finally, the staff member will discuss the problem behavior with the student who is engaging in problem or disrespectful behavior. They will remind students what they are to do when they are given the stop signal or told "STOP" by another student or students (i.e., immediately stop what they are doing, take a deep breath and count to 3, and continue with their day following our school rules). In addition, staff will enforce the appropriate consequence if necessary. Parents will receive notification from the school if their student continues to engage in disrespectful or unsafe behaviors.



Pleasant Hill Elementary On the Road to Reading 1,000,000 Minutes

Starting October 3, 2022, Pleasant Hill Elementary students are being challenged to read ONE MILLION minutes by June 9, 2023. Individual students are challenged to read 2400 minutes each by June 9th. The purpose of this challenge is to promote at-home reading during the school year as well as teamwork. In addition, the benefits include developing better reading skills and establishing a reading habit that will last a lifetime.

Author, Jim Trelease says it best:

"The more you READ, the better you get at it, the better you get at it, the more you like it, and the more you like it, the more you do it." PLUS "The more you READ, the more you know, and the more you know, the smarter you grow."

Your student's classroom teacher will be sending home either a weekly or monthly reading log. The purpose of the log is to record the date and number of minutes read. Either at the end of the week or the month total the minutes read, sign the log before returning and have your student return it to their teacher. **All Reading Logs MUST have the total minutes read for the week or the month and parent signature to be accepted.**

There are many ways to read 2400 minutes at home between now and June 9th. Students may read silently or orally. They can take turns reading aloud with their parents. Students can read aloud to their brothers or sisters. Parents may also read to their child.

Research indicates that children of all ages need to read and hear good literature read aloud daily. Reading to your child provides an emotional bond, which will be remembered for a lifetime. Reading not only informs and explains, but it also entertains. Furthermore, by tracking minutes spent reading, children will see that we all believe in the importance of reading and that reading at home positively affects their learning.

The Million Minute Reading Challenge will end June 9th. Students can read on any day, for any amount of time, but they should plan how to obtain their goal of reaching 2400 minutes. We suggest everyone plan to read at least 20 minutes each day, Monday - Friday.

Students who read at least 300 minutes a month will have a picture taken with their fellow classmates who read at least 300 minutes. They will also participate in a monthly Billie recess, receive a raffle ticket to enter a drawing for items such as a Billie T-shirt, an opportunity to use Billie's Book Vending Machine, or receive a gift certificate.

LET THE JOURNEY BEGIN ONE PAGE AT A TIME



Has your Household Budget Been Affected by the Economy?

In these economic times, many families who have never before needed assistance are suddenly finding themselves struggling financially. If your family is in this situation you may not be aware that our district participates in the free or reduced lunch program available to qualifying families.



The program is designed not only to help you financially, but the district as well by reimbursing the district in commodities to be served at lunch.

This program is a completely confidential program that is easy to access and provides breakfast and lunches at either no cost or a reduced cost. To see if your family qualifies you may visit our website at <https://www.pleasanthill.k12.or.us/resources/school-nutrition/nslp-free-and-reduced-applications> to complete an application, stop by school to pick-up an application or call the office at 541-736-0400 to request an application be sent home with your child.

You will receive an Eligibility Determination Notification letter once the application has been processed.



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Phone Messages

We really appreciate and request all families who discover throughout the school day their students after school plans need to change, **call the school office before 1:30 p.m. Bus notes are delivered to the classrooms at 1:45 p.m. daily, Monday - Thursday. On Early Release Fridays, please call before 12:45 p.m.**



Did You Know?

- Starting in kindergarten, too many absences can cause children to fall behind in school.
 - Missing 10 percent (or about 18 days) can make it harder to learn to read.
 - Students can still fall behind if they miss just a day or two days every few weeks.
 - Being late to school may lead to poor attendance.
 - Absences can affect the whole classroom if the teacher has to slow down learning to help children catch up.
- Attending school regularly helps children feel better about school—and themselves. Start building this habit in preschool so they learn right away that going to school on time, every day is important. Good attendance will help children do well in high school, college, and at work.

Volunteer Packets Now Available On-line!

We so appreciate our wonderful volunteers, who donate numerous hours during the year assisting in the classrooms, on field trips and with special activities. If you are interested in volunteering either in school or on field trips, please visit <https://www.pleasanthill.k12.or.us/resources/volunteer/>

- Complete a background check application yearly, which takes 4-6 weeks for the Oregon Department of Education to complete the check. Please note there is no charge to complete this form.
- Submit a copy of either your vaccination card or the medical / religious exemption form to our school along with the completed background check paperwork. All paperwork is submitted to our district office for review and processing.
- You will be notified when you have been approved to volunteer.



When Should I Keep My Child Home?



Student's Symptoms or Illness	Student May Return to School When
Fever: temperature by mouth greater than 100.4 degrees	Fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medicine. And per guidance for primary COVID-19 symptoms.
Skin rash or open sores	Rash is gone; sores are dry or can be completely covered by a bandage; or with orders from doctor to school nurse.

New Cough illness or new difficulty breathing	Symptoms improving for 24 hours, no cough or cough is well-controlled. And per guidance for primary COVID-19 symptoms. If pertussis (Whooping cough) the student must take 5 days of prescribed antibiotics before returning to school.
Diarrhea: 3 loose or watery stools in one day OR not able to control bowel movements	Symptom-free for 48 hours.
Vomiting	Symptom-free for 48 hours.
Headache with stiff neck and fever; OR with recent head injury	Symptom-free or with orders from doctor to school nurse.
Jaundice: new yellow color in eyes or skin	After orders from doctor or local public health authority to school nurse.
Red eyes or eye discharge: yellow or brown drainage from eyes	Redness and discharge is gone OR with orders from doctor to school nurse.

Meet our New Reach Out Mentor / Family Resource Center Coordinator

My name is Allicia Knox and I am the new Reaching Out Mentoring Program Coordinator (ROMP) / Family Resource Coordinator for Pleasant Hill School District. My husband and I moved out to the area in early 2021 and are so grateful that our 3 children get to grow up in such a wonderful community.

I am looking forward to all the many programs and resources I will get to offer this year to our students and families, the first one being a weekly preschool story-time group. Join us with your toddler - age 5 kiddos for the first one on Wednesday, October 5th at 10:00 a.m. in the Pleasant Hill Community Center. We will read a different book each week and will provide a craft/activity that your little one can participate in. This is a great way to get out of the house, meet other parents, and engage with your child.

The Reaching Out Mentoring Program was created in 2005 to provide One-on-One Mentoring from adult volunteers to our students here at PH. This program is so important and beneficial to our youth in so many ways. It gives our adults a way to get involved with the community and to make a difference in our youth's lives, and it gives our students a little boost and sense of hope if they may be struggling with school or life. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer mentor, please reach out to me for more information!

I am so grateful to be a part of this School District and I am looking forward to meeting some wonderful students, volunteers, and families. I have many visions for this program and can't wait to see the ways we can all work together to benefit and guide our future generations.

My office is located in the PH Community Center, and you can always reach me by phone, 541-736-0495 or email, aknox@pleasanthill.k12.or.us

DESTINATION IMAGINATION FIRST MEETING--OPEN TO STUDENTS AND PARENTS

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2022
2:15-3:15 Community Center

This meeting is an opportunity for students to try out a DI meeting, and for parents to watch what DI meetings can look like. The end of the meeting will have an opportunity for parents to ask questions, pick up handouts about DI, and fill out (or take home) a sign-up sheet for their child to participate in the program.