

# The Plymouth Center School Connection

May 2025

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## MESSAGE FROM PRINCIPAL KIM LOVELAND

The start to spring has brought fresh air, sunny skies, and lots of excitement to PCS! Students have started their spring clubs: Sports Club, STEM Club, Percussion Club, and Craft Club. Teachers are finishing up their first year with Wit and Wisdom and will begin looking at how Geodes, the decodable resources that are integrated into small group, can be incorporated into our literacy instruction next year. As we close out the year, students are excited to showcase their art work in our annual Art Show, play games and be active in Field Day, engage in field trips to Indian Rock and their end of the year celebrations with each of our grade levels!

As a reminder, The Plymouth Center School Connection will be shared monthly as a means of highlighting the good work being done at Plymouth Center School. You will find the information will be under three specific district goal areas: Student Achievement, Engagement, and Well-Being.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns please contact the main office and I look forward to seeing everyone at our school events throughout the year.

### STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

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Our Kindergarten mathematicians are working hard learning and identifying shapes. They are comparing two and three dimensional objects and composing simple shapes to make larger shapes, such as two triangles to make a square. In grade 1, students are working on measurement and data. They are using non-standardized measurement, such as how many hand lengths or paperclip lengths an object is, and comparing across multiple objects to determine the shortest or longest objects as well as learning to tell time on analog and digital clocks. In second grade, students are increasing the rigor of the measurement units, using tools such as rulers and yardsticks to find the length of an object to the nearest quarter inch. They are estimating and finding how much longer or shorter an object is. Students are also using addition and subtraction strategies to answer word problems involving measurement.

In UFLI, our Kindergarteners are continuing to work on their consonant digraphs such as wh, /w/, ph, /f/, nk, and ng. They are working on words such as whiz and graph as well as word chains like string to strong to strung to sprung. First graders are working on their prefixes and suffixes such as un-, pre-, and -est, -less, and -ful. They are changing words like small to be smallest, grace to be graceful, and harm to be harmless and exploring how it changes the meaning. In grade 2, students are working on words that have unique

spelling patterns and occur less frequently such as ei and eigh, ough and /aw/, and silent sounds such as gn. They are working hard to distinguish the similar sounds with varied spelling or similar spelling with very different sounds such as chord versus chef and scholar versus niche.

Lastly, students are in their third and final modules for Wit and Wisdom of this year. Kindergarteners are continuing to explore America, Then and Now. They are learning how communication and transportation have changed over time. Students compare how trains have gotten faster, using letters and mail versus emails, and how technology has changed things to be faster and at times, easier. First graders are exploring Powerful Forces. Students are learning about the force of wind and how writers use these characteristics in books to evoke feelings and emotions as well as establish setting. In second grade, students are in the Civil Rights Heroes module and learning about the injustices people faced before the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and how Martin Luther King Jr. and Ruby Bridges responded to these injustices to make an impact on the world around them. They will write their own Dream Speeches as they conclude their unit to showcase not only what they have learned in reading and writing, but their own hopes and dreams for their futures.

## ENGAGEMENT

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Mr. Tiscia has been diligently crafting a new volleyball unit in second grade that is sure to elevate his students' skills on the court! Throughout this unit, students have been focusing on mastering the correct techniques for hitting the ball, applying the right amount of force, and honing their ability to control the ball's direction with precision. To enhance their learning experience, Mr. Tiscia implemented a center rotation practice. This innovative approach allows students to rotate through different stations, where they can concentrate on specific skills—from aiming to ball control. By engaging in these targeted drills, students are not only improving their individual abilities but also preparing themselves to participate in a true game setting. With Mr. Tiscia's guidance, students are gaining confidence and competence in their volleyball skills, setting the stage for exciting gameplay ahead!





Our Kindergarteners at PCS have officially kicked off the much-anticipated bike unit! This engaging program is all about teaching our young learners the essentials of bike safety, including the importance of wearing helmets and how to navigate paths safely. To start, students are using stryder bikes, which are perfect for helping them develop balance and steering skills. Once they master these fundamentals, they'll transition to learning how to pedal and ride independently. The excitement is palpable, and many students are already practicing at home! As you stroll through the neighborhood, keep an eye out for our new riders. We can't wait to see their progress and the joy that comes with mastering this important skill. Happy riding, everyone!

## WELL-BEING

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PCS Kindergarteners had the amazing opportunity to see The Very Hungry Caterpillar show at Warner Theatre! The show featured over 75 puppets and four of Eric Carle's stories: The Very Hungry Caterpillar, 10 Little Rubber Ducks, Very Busy Spider, and Head to Toe. Through storytelling, music, and puppetry, students got to enjoy the magic of literature coming to life! It was an amazing experience! A special thank you to our PTA for sponsoring the field trip!



Congratulations to our Bucket Fillers who worked hard throughout the month of April. Students have been focusing on being role models in showing respect, being kind, and having empathy. We have one more month of hard work and recognition to go! Keep up the outstanding work!





In STEM Club, our students had an exciting hands-on experience exploring the principles of engineering and physics under the guidance of Mrs. Gallagher. The focus of the session was on catapults and the fascinating relationship between force and projectile motion. Using simple materials like popsicle sticks, rulers, and cups, students embarked on a creative journey to design and build their own catapults. Once their creations were complete, they eagerly measured how far they could launch their balls, applying different levels of force to observe the effects on distance traveled. The experiment not only reinforced key scientific concepts but also encouraged teamwork and problem-solving skills. Students were thrilled to see firsthand how varying the amount of force could dramatically change the outcome of their launches.



This month, PCS hosted a fantastic Early Education Literacy and Math Night, bringing together our youngest learners and their families for an evening of fun and learning. The event was made even more special with the participation of various community partners, including a local dance studio, the Family Resource Center (FRC), the Learning Center, and many others. Throughout the night, students engaged in exciting games and activities designed to spark their interest in literacy and math. One of the highlights was the Touch A Truck event, where children had the opportunity to explore different vehicles and learn about their functions in a hands-on way. Meanwhile, parents took the chance to connect with one another, fostering friendships that we hope will flourish as they prepare for the transition to preschool and kindergarten programs at PCS and within our community next year. We are grateful to all the partners and families who joined us in celebrating our youngest learners. Together, we are building a strong foundation for their educational journey!

