


ALEXANDER ELEMENTARY
Falcon Family Community Meeting
 January 12, 2026 – 6:30 pm – Alexander Library

Reports & Presentations	
<p>Welcome! (5 minutes)</p>	<p><i>Please be sure to sign in!</i></p> <p>Please email AlexanderElementaryPTO@gmail.com or scan code to join the PTO email list. This is the best way to find out about volunteering for upcoming events!</p> <p>Principal Katie Thompson, Sara Karbeling - Co President, Ariane Rhone - Co President, Melissa Morgan - Vice President, Ali McCue - Treasurer, Rachel Trinidad - Secretary, Michelle Gladden - DPO Representative, O. Trinidad, C. Erdhal, A Guzman, Y. Salvador, C. Kalenga, S. Ayala Arellano, C. Martinez Gonzalez, H. Vovk, B. Maldonado, B. Villagrana, N. Schnicker and others.</p> 
<p>Principal's Report Katie Thompson, <i>Principal</i> (5 minutes)</p>	<p>January Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Happy New Year! ● January: Re-Teaching Schoolwide Expectations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Respect ○ Responsibility ○ Relationships ○ Pride ● Routines Work! ● Thank you for Winter Hats & Gloves ● Lost and Found - will organize and post soon. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Volunteers? ● Get ready for Winter Benchmarking! <p>Hope you all had a nice winter break. When we came back in January, we really focused on teaching the schoolwide expectations. Our students fell right back into routines when they returned. The hat and glove drive was very helpful. Kids have been able to stay warm during recess. Our lost and found grows everyday during winter. We are taking volunteers to help front desk staff set out and organize the clothing in lost and found. January is the time to show what students have learned from fall to winter with the upcoming winter benchmarking.</p>
<p>Teacher-Speaker Beth Madden, <i>Instructional Coach</i> (15 minutes)</p>	<p>Screenings and Standardized Testing at Alexander</p> <p>https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1L-M4QnHjk6KZcsmTPIJrDhhsnff3eImSjUQXgF5vuTQ/edit?slide=id.p#slide=id.p</p> <p>Universal screening for reading started today. The presentation will focus on what tests the students take and who uses the data. Testing happens in September, January and May. The screening looks for how close or far away from the benchmark students are in reading and math. The testing is important to see if the current instruction is effective and to see who will benefit from additional support.</p>

	<p>Kindergarten assessment focuses on key skills that predict the future, not every skill.</p> <p>Grades 2-6 reading assessment is set up so the more answers students get right, the harder it gets. For math assessments, students can use paper and pencil so it's not all mental math</p> <p>ISASP testing is in April this year and will start practicing at school in March. Practice tests are available online. Discussed with Katie to disseminate the resources to parents in a newsletter.</p>
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PTO Update & Discussion

PTO Overview & Winter Events
(5 minutes)

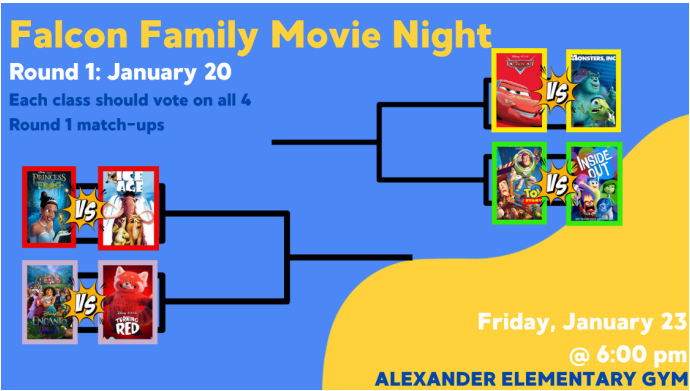
Sara Karbeling & Ariane Rhone, *PTO Co-Presidents 2025-26*

- Winter gear drive - 60 hat/glove combos, and \$88 in donations to purchase more!

This was brand new this year and we will likely continue it. The drive is over but if you would like to donate, we still welcome donations!

- Community Movie Night - Friday, January 23 - 6:00pm

PTO has been doing this for three years. It is a free event and kids get a treat on the way out. The movie is shown on the big screen in the gym and kids can bring blankets. A fun thing to get students excited is having students vote in homeroom class in the weeks leading up to the movie night to pick out the movie. There are three rounds of voting. Principal Thompson said the students get really excited about this event!



- PJ Storytime - Thursday, February 12 - 6:00 pm

This takes place in the library. All the tables get moved, chairs are placed around the outside, and teachers and staff members will sit in the rocking chair and read stories to the kids. Kids can bring blankets and wear pajamas. It is free and there will be cookies to pass out on their way out.

Family arts night is in April. STEM and Arts night rotate each year. Two years ago the event included musicians, artists, fashion designers, theatre, film, print making and the Ukulele club played music. This is a free event. Anyone is welcome to help

	with planning and volunteering. Also if you are an artist or know an artist let the PTO know!
Regular PTO Business: <i>(5 minutes)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Treasurer's Report - <i>balance</i>: \$9,666.97 ● Past Meeting Minutes: alexander.iowacityschools.org/pto ● DPO Update - Nominations open for ICCSD Honorees (\$50 per nominee, money goes to DPO scholarship fund for Teaching Scholarship; Deadline 3/27/26) ● District fundraiser Thursday 1/15; Select area restaurants donate 10% of their sales to ICCSD foundation https://www.iccsdfoundation.org/what-we-do/dine-out-for-education
New Business	Looking for Volunteers for the "Cut & Copy Club" <i>Volunteer in the workroom making copies and using the papercutter to help teachers. About an hour a week (or more if available), preferably the same time/day each week so teachers can know when to ask for things. Interested? Please email AlexanderElementaryPTO@gmail.com or see us after the meeting.</i>

Upcoming Events	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 1/12 - Community Meeting ● 1/15 - ICCSD Dine Out for Education - Foundation of Iowa City Community School District ● 1/23 - Community Movie Night ● 2/9 - PTO meeting - Zoom (https://iowacityschools-org.zoom.us/j/97053526532) ● 2/12 - PJ Storytime 6-7pm ● 3/4 - Conferences - PTO Meal - <i>Sign-up genius</i> ● 3/9 - Community Meeting ● ISASP week - <i>Sign-up genius for classroom snacks</i> ● 4/13 - PTO meeting - Zoom (https://iowacityschools-org.zoom.us/j/97053526532) ● 4/23 - Arts Night ● 5/4-5/8 - Teacher appreciation week - <i>Sign-up genius</i> ● 5/11 - Community Meeting ● 5/25 - End of Year Snack Sign-up <i>Sign-up genius for classroom snacks</i> ● 5/? - Bike Rodeo - <i>Sign-up genius</i> 	