



Kestrel Chronicle

Columbia River Elementary School

Amanda Wilson, Principal

Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. – 4:15 p.m.

April
2026

Principally Speaking . . .

Dear Columbia River Families,

April is here, and we are continuing to Soar Together through an exciting and important time of the school year! With spring break just around the corner, we hope your family enjoys time to rest, recharge, and spend meaningful moments together. We look forward to welcoming our students back refreshed and ready to finish the year strong!

As we return from break, we will begin preparing for SBA (Smarter Balanced Assessment) testing. This is an important opportunity for students to show the incredible growth they've made this year. One of the best ways we can support student success is by ensuring students are at school all day, every day, arriving on time, well-rested, and ready to learn. Consistent attendance truly makes a difference in student confidence and achievement.

April Replacement Levy – Helping Our Students Soar

This April, our district is asking voters to consider a replacement Educational Programs & Operations (EP&O) Levy, with ballots due April 28th. This is incredibly important for our schools and students.

This levy is a renewal of the current levy that expires in December 2026—it is not a new tax. It helps fund essential programs, services, and staff that are not fully funded by the state.

Local levy funding and Local Effort Assistance make up about 13% of our district's total budget. If the levy does not pass, our district would lose approximately \$50 million per year, significantly impacting staffing and student programs.

What Does the Levy Support?

At the elementary level, levy funding helps ensure our schools are safe, supportive, and ready for learning each day. It supports important health and safety services like our school nurse, counselor, and psychologist who care for students' physical and emotional well-being, as well as staff who provide supervision and help keep our campuses secure.

It also directly impacts student learning by funding additional classroom staff beyond what the state provides, as well as our instructional coach, intervention supports, and special education services. These are the people and programs that help meet students where they are, provide extra support when needed, and challenge students to grow.

Levy funding also supports the many adults and resources that keep our classrooms running smoothly each day. This includes our paraeducators who work alongside teachers, front office staff who support families, curriculum and instructional materials, technology, and professional development to ensure our teachers continue to grow and provide high-quality instruction.

Beyond the classroom, the levy helps maintain safe and welcoming school environments by supporting our custodial staff, building maintenance, utilities, transportation, and the supplies our students use every day. These behind-the-scenes supports are essential to keeping our schools running.

Finally, levy funding provides opportunities for students to connect, explore interests, and build confidence through athletics and activities. At Columbia River, this includes our music and arts programs, extracurricular opportunities like our All Stars after-school clubs, and special experiences such as our 4th and 5th grade soccer program. These experiences are a meaningful part of helping students feel connected and engaged in school.

Your Voice Matters

Ballots are due April 28th, and we encourage all eligible voters to participate. When we come together as a community, we ensure our students continue to have the opportunities they need to learn, grow, and thrive.

Thank you for your continued partnership and for helping us Soar Together each and every day. We are so grateful to work alongside you in supporting our amazing students.

Wishing you a wonderful spring break and a strong finish to the school year!

Watch Us Rise,
Amanda Wilson



Dates to Remember

2nd

- Friendship Assemblies
9:20-9:50 a.m. - 2nd & 3rd
10:10-10:40 a.m. - 4th & 5th
2:20-2:50 p.m. - K & 1st

3rd

- Early Release at 12:30 p.m. for Spring Break

6th - 10th

- Spring Break – no classes held

13th

- Panda Express Fundraiser Night

14th

- PTO Meeting
6:00 p.m. in the library

21st

- Creepy Crawlies First Grade Program
6:00 p.m. in the cafeteria

23rd

- Fun Run
9:15-9:35 a.m.
K, 1, 2 & T. Taylor

9:45-10:05 a.m.

3, 4, 5 & McCullough

24th

- Coffee with the Principal/ATP
9:15 a.m. in room 204





Columbia River P.T.O.

kestrelpridepto@gmail.com

If you are interested in being involved in our PTO group, please send your contact information to kestrelpridepto@gmail.com

Monthly P.T.O. Meeting

Tuesday, April 14, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. in the school library.

monthly



- April 13 ~ Panda Express Fundraiser
- April 14 ~ PTO Meeting – 6:00 p.m.
- April 23 ~ Fun Run (during school day)

UPCOMING EVENTS

- May 5 ~ PTO Meeting – 6:00 p.m.
- May 20 ~ Chick-fil-A Fundraiser

April 6-10, 2026

Community Sessions for the Renewal Levy

Pasco School District will host several Community Information Sessions to help families and community members learn more about the Educational Programs and Operations Renewal Levy on the April 28 ballot.

This measure is a renewal of the current levy that expires in December 2026 and is not a new tax.

Local levy funding plus Local Effort Assistance (LEA) makes up about 13% of the district's total budget. These funds help support programs and services such as:

- Athletics, music, theatre, and clubs
- School counselors and nurses
- Safety and security services
- Transportation
- Classroom staff beyond state funding formulas
- Student programs and activities.

If the levy does not pass, the district would lose approximately \$50 million per year in local funding and Local Effort Assistance, impacting staffing and student programs.

Community members are encouraged to attend one of the upcoming information sessions to learn more and ask questions.

More details are available on the [Levy 2026 website](#).



Lost and Found!

Remember to check our lost and found for any missing clothing items.



2026-2027 Student Registration

2026-2027 Student Registration is Now Open

Registration is open for the 2026-2027 school year. We are encouraging parents of upcoming kindergarten students to get registered. As well as any student who is new to our area.

THE PROCESS IS EASY:

Go to www.psd1.org/register and click on the "Register your Student" button and follow the instructions.

INFORMATION NEEDED TO REGISTER:

- Age verification (state issued birth certificate, previous school records, entry in family bible, other)
- Immunization records
- Proof of district residency (utility bill, lease, other)
- Health history with list of allergies and current medications

Don't have access to a computer?
We have kiosks for you to use!

Kindergarten Round-up Night



Our Kindergarten Round-up Night has been scheduled for Wednesday, May 13, 2026 from 5:00-6:00 p.m. We will distribute supplies to our 2026-2027 Kindergarten students. We will also pass out folders with worksheets and helpful tips for parents leading up to the start of school. More information will be shared soon.