



April 2024

PPOS Newsletter

Monthly School News & Family Information



Inside this Issue

- Director Update
- Attendance Update
- Restorative Practices Student Board
- Sonlight Camp and Snow Science
- Buddy Reading
- Kindergarten Celebration of Learning
- Woodland Dissection

Important Dates

CMAS testing grades 3-8: April 9-25
Bluegrass Concert for the PPOS community:

PPOS Board Votes on Next Year's School Director

The PPOS community interviewed school director candidates for the 2024-25 school year on March 18. Each of the top three candidates taught a lesson in fourth grade, and then were interviewed by a parent group, student group, staff group and the PPOS school board. Feedback was reviewed, and on March 22 the board voted to enter into negotiations with PPOS's current assistant director, Emily Murphy, for the role of director in the 2024-25 school year.

Emily has been with PPOS since the school's first year, and is excited for the opportunity to continue her work in this new role. While at PPOS, she has been an instructional coach, a PBL advisor, and the assistant director amongst other roles. She holds a Colorado principal license, Colorado early education teaching licence and a master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction.

"I love PPOS; and am thrilled to continue learning and growing alongside the staff, students and parents in this community," she said.



Emily with her daughter, Quinn, who is currently a fifth-grader at PPOS.

Snow Science & Team Building at Sonlight Camp





The Restorative Practice Student Board has been working with a group of fourth-graders to create a walkthrough Restorative Practices problem solving tool called Peace Feet. The students introduced it to the Woodland class before Spring Break, who will be piloting the Peace Feet project before sharing this process with other classes.

In addition, here's what's up with the RP board:

Art Room TA Program: Our talented Teaching Assistants (TAs) have been instrumental in guiding students through the creative process in our Art Room. They've recently conducted restorative practice (RP) walkthroughs, helping students to teach and help assist teachers.

RP Application Process Updates: We are streamlining our RP application process to ensure a smooth and efficient experience for all. Detailed information about the changes and how they will affect prospective students and their families will be communicated when necessary.

Electronics Policy Update: In response to the evolving needs of our educational environment, we are updating our electronics policy. The aim is to balance the benefits of technology in learning with the importance of maintaining focus and engagement in the classroom. Full details of the updated policy will be provided in the coming weeks.



As we come closer to the end of the year, we want to keep focused on high attendance rates. We are also getting closer to all of the end of the year testing with the CMAS, NWEA, and/or DIBELS testing. We aim to see as much growth as possible in our students and we work hard all year to help them to reach their full potential.

Face-to-face time is vital, and when teachers cannot get that time with their students, the students' learning suffers. There have been several viruses and other illnesses going around this year, so we understand when students have medical reasons to miss school. However, if students are well, they are required to be in school, and it is important for their futures that they are. Please ensure your students are making it to school on time, whenever possible.

Kindergartners celebrate the end of their community helpers project.



Twice a month, PPOS students participate in Buddy Reading. Classes mix together to read, play and do art. In March, the 7/8 grade joined the 2/3 class for board game morning. Each class has been paired with another for the entire year, increasing collaboration and a culture of belonging.

More News

The Woodland Crew has begun a study of the human body, with a trip to the Durango Powerhouse Science Museum. These fourth-graders got a firsthand experience with an anatomy lesson: dissecting sheep eyeballs.

