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Park Day Post

Park Day School • 11 days ago • Thursday, Nov 4 at 6:11 PM • **Park Day School, Board of Trustees, External Community Members**



The time has finally come! *Children ages 5-11 are now eligible for COVID vaccine!*

We were thrilled to hear from many of you today that some of our younger students already have their vaccine appointments. As you've likely heard, late Tuesday afternoon CDC Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky endorsed the CDC and FDA recommendation that children ages 5-11 years receive the Pfizer-BioNTech pediatric COVID-19 vaccine. The COVID vaccine is safe, effective, 100% free, and is the best way you can protect your child from the virus.

The long-anticipated approval of the vaccine for all our students is a critical step in our efforts to make our school a safe and healthy learning environment for students, staff, and families. It is our hope that all families have their students vaccinated and that case rates remain low through the holidays and winter season. If this is the case, we are hopeful we can eliminate masking outdoors early in 2022. It will be so wonderful to see everyone's faces outdoors, as they play on the playground and learn in their outdoor classrooms!

Timing of Vaccination

Pediatric vaccine doses were shipped this week to medical providers and pharmacies. As of today, many vaccine locations now have appointments available for ages 5-11, though demand is currently high and it may take a week or two to get an appointment.

With the holiday season coming, it is important to make an appointment for your child as soon as possible. You will get the greatest protection if your child's first dose is scheduled before the Fall-iday break later this month, so they can receive their second dose before Winter Break in December. We want all our families to have a safe winter with those they love, and a safe return to school in January.

It is normal to have **mild side effects** after getting a vaccine shot. If symptoms are mild and last fewer than two days after getting the COVID

UPCOMING EVENTS

11/4 - 11/5

- No School - Camp Available
- **Family-Teacher**

Conferences

Reminder: No drive through drop-off during conferences. Please park and walk your student onto campus. Also, **be prepared to show your vaccination card** for in-person conferences.

11/6

- **Latin Heritage Party**

11/9

- **Vaccine Information**

Meeting

- **Diversity & Justice Alliance Presents Link Peterson**

11/10

- **Coffee with Angela**

11/16

- **Parent Ed Event** with Allison Briscoe-Smith: How to Talk to Your Children About Race

vaccine, students may continue attending school. If symptoms are more severe or last for longer than 2 days, then students should stay home.

Vaccination Locations

Here are possible locations to schedule an appointment for your student:

- Your student's pediatrician
- [MyTurn](#)
- [CVS](#)
- [Walgreens](#)
- [Safeway](#)
- [La Clinica](#)
- [Children's Hospital](#)
- [Kaiser](#)

Vaccine Information Meeting

We are hosting an informational meeting on Tuesday, November 9 from 5:30-7pm for parents of 5-11 year olds about student vaccination on Tuesday, November 9th. Park Day parents psychologist Dr. Jocelyn Sze and pediatrician Dr. Rachel Kreps-Falk will share helpful guidance about needle fears, vaccinations, and answer your questions. We thank them for sharing their expertise with our school community! [Click here for more information and to RSVP.](#) The meeting will be recorded and shared with the community in case you have a conflict next Tuesday. In the meantime, watch the video featuring [Yvonne Maldonado, MD explaining why children should get vaccinated for COVID.](#)

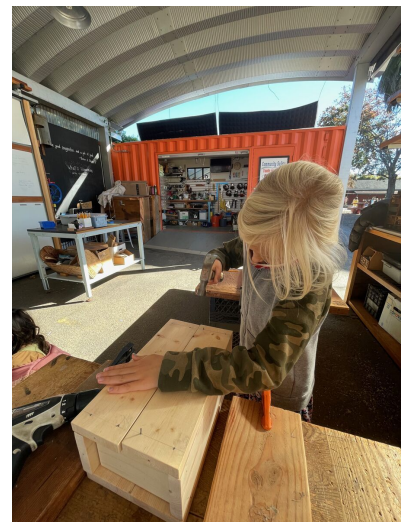
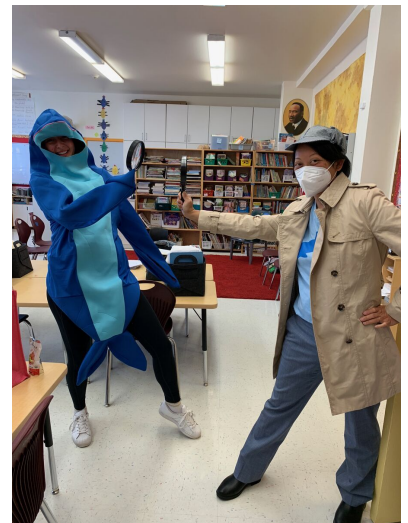
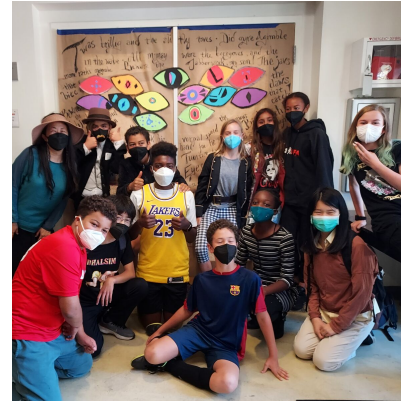
All Negative Test Results

Once again we are pleased to share that COVID test results from our on-site testing last Friday and this past Tuesday were all negative. Thanks to the vigilance and care of our staff and families, we have been fortunate to keep our classes free of COVID.

Stay well,
Jennifer Cooper
Pandemic Coordinator

11/22 - 11/26

- **Fall-iday Break** - No School
- No Camp



REMINDERS

2021-2022 School Day

Before-school program:



RETURNING FROM HOLIDAY BREAKS

Following the holiday break, all students, regardless of vaccination status, need to be tested 1-3 days before returning to school and **upload a negative test result** prior to returning.

To ensure the health and safety of our school community, COVID testing is required of all students and staff regardless of any travel in or out of state. We will return to our twice-weekly onsite testing on Tuesday after break.



SHADOW A STUDENT DAY REFLECTION

I loved being a fourth grader for a day! I taught fourth grade for 8 years at

- 7:30 am – school start (no charge)

Grades K – 3:

- 8:45 am– 3:15 pm

Grades 4 & 5:

- 8:30 am–3:15 pm

Grades 6 – 8:

- 8:30 am–3:30 pm

Wednesday early dismissal

- Grades K-5: 2:15 pm
- Grades 6-8: 2:35 pm

After School Activities

Program:

- From school dismissal– 6:00 p.m.

Gate Codes

- 42nd Street Gate:
 - #SMILE (#76453)
- 43rd/44th Street Gates:
 - SMILE* (76453*)

Customize your ParentSquare notification settings

so you get information the way that suits you best!

Check out all the **Opt-In**

Parent-to-Parent &

Community Groups on

ParentSquare and find folks with similar interests!



PDS just before transitioning to my current administrative role. It was my favorite grade to teach, and I was reminded of all the positive attributes of fourth graders last Thursday as their classmate, Sharon. I changed my name to help them remember I was a kid for the day. I was able to reconfirm, from being in their shoes (got some cute cheetah ones for the day) that it is really fun to be a student at Park Day!



The student I was shadowing, Serenah Whitney, is in morning care, so I showed up along with a group of students right around 7:30.

It was our first rainy day, so we settled inside the Annex with books and a film for a quiet start to the day. We transitioned to waiting under the annex near the start of school, and it was fun to hang out and chat and see how the kids greeted each other so warmly.

I felt very welcomed into the classroom by Paul, the 4th grade teacher, who started with mindfulness and then acknowledged my presence as a new student.

He had the students empathize with my position as someone new to the community, and how it might feel to step in midway into the class culture and projects. A student immediately got up and made me a makeshift name plate for my workspace, which was super kind. Kids helped me know what to do along the way throughout the day. I got to experience the full range of student experiences, from recess, to the lunch line, and music class.

I even hopped into the ga-ga pit for a round! It's been a while since I played, but I managed to stay in for a decent period of time, and received a compliment from one of the kids. I was so impressed by how well they all played together and how inclusive they were. They all knew the classic ga-ga rules, and no one needed reminding to get out when out. They even easily slipped into roh-shambo when they were uncertain. They also monitored themselves to not target anyone (one of the rules), and here and there checked in with one another about that. So, I was not targeted either though they clearly were having fun with me there and working on getting me out! They were flexible enough to have one modification of the game, a special move when the player numbers are down, called a "Zuri," named after one of the classmates. I loved how they had adapted for one another.



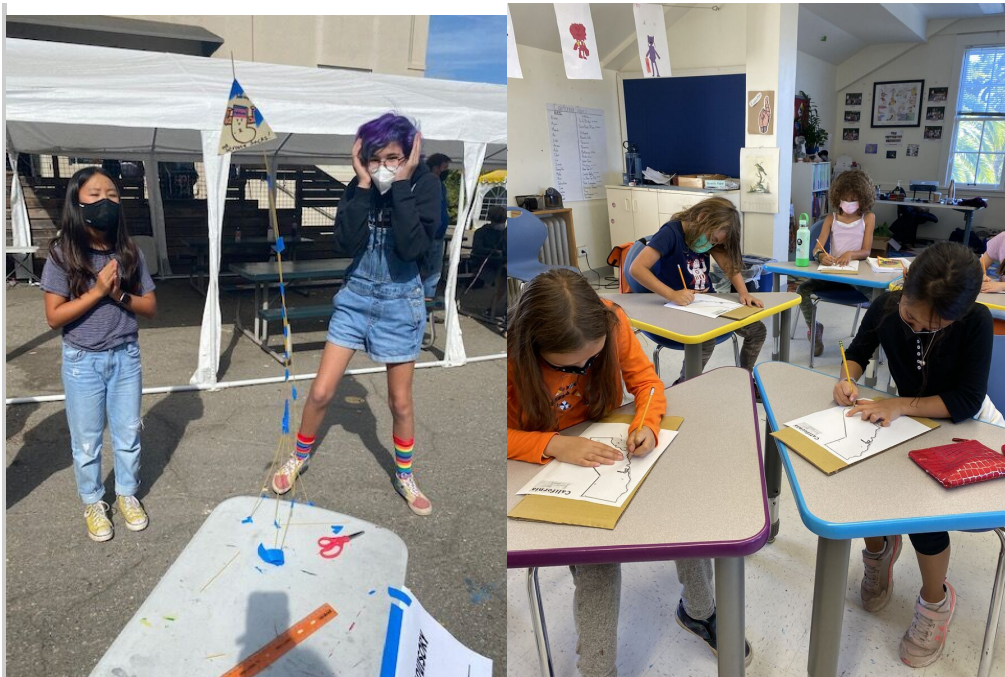


A big take-away for me is how auditory the experience was. There are so many activities and projects throughout the day, and lots of learning and direction-giving that happens verbally. There are also some visual cues, of course, but I really noticed how much I was processing auditorily throughout the day and empathized with the kids who can struggle with that or with attention. There is a lot to pay attention to and I found myself sometimes relying on students nearby for cues on what to do! What did Paul just say? I was momentarily distracted by my own thoughts and missed some directions. Even music class had a song on the xylophone to learn all through auditory means, and it was tough (but super fun too). I even got to experience our first earthquake drill for “The Great American Shake Out” in music class (oh, my poor old knees!). Paul had cracked a joke earlier that day to orient the kids to the drill by asking them who remembered the Loma Prieta earthquake of ‘89. I was the only one who could genuinely raise my hand . . .

The other take away, as I've said, was the kindness of the students. They chatted with me, and one even commented how fun it was to have a new classmate to get to know. We chatted about cats and all kinds of mutual interests and I felt that I made a genuine new friend. I worked in groups on a research project and my team was thrilled with my spelling and editing skills. I was impressed with their knowledge of their topics, ability to present orally, and their astute feedback for one another.

And, yes, I really want to do this again and experience other grades. It's the most fun I've had at work this year... maybe even since COVID :)

Karen Colaric
Head of Lower School



COMMUNITY NEWS & EVENTS

Diversity & Justice Alliance Presents Link Peterson

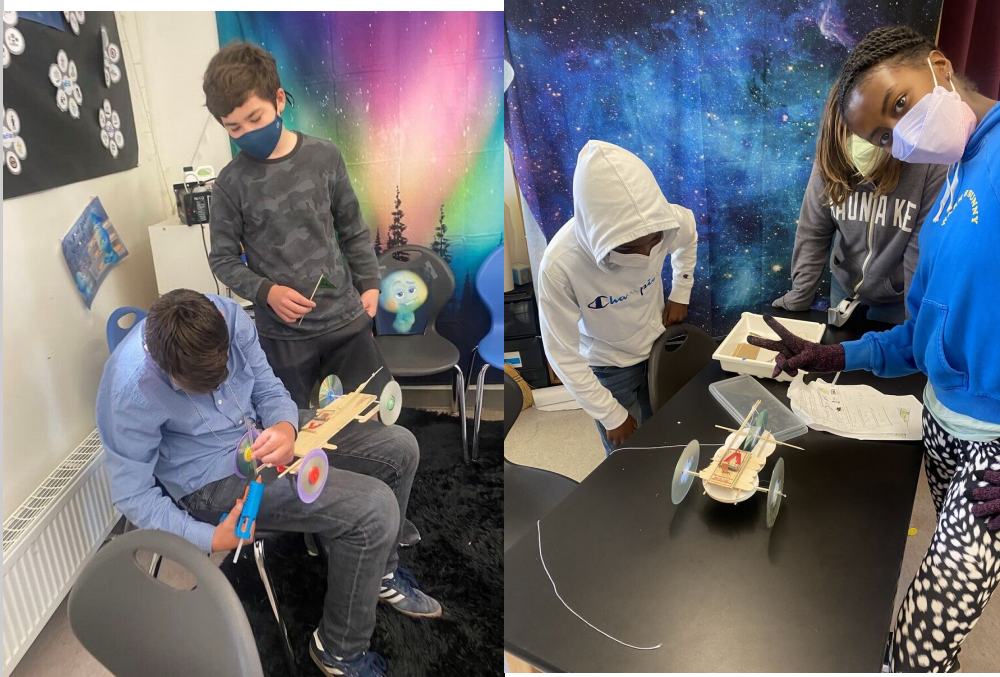
On Tuesday, November 9th, the DJA will host guest speaker Link Peterson to lead a workshop titled Empowering LGBTQ+ Youth. Topics covered will include how to signal that you're a safe space, how to respond when a young person comes out to you, and how to support them. [Click here for more information](#), to RSVP, and to access the Zoom link.

Admissions Open House

Our first [admissions open house](#) will place Saturday, November 13. Many thanks to all our parent volunteers who are helping with this important event. If you have a friend or acquaintance who's thinking about schools for next year, we hope you'll encourage them to consider Park Day School! The best place to start is on our [website](#), and Josie is always happy to connect.

Park Day Parent Education: How to Talk to Your Children About Race and Racism”

“Belonging” was one of the four pillars our community identified in our strategic plan as crucial to our organizational growth. Our charge for the next five years is to “deepen our commitment to inclusion so that everyone in our community feels a sense of belonging.” As we begin to embark upon this important work, we are excited to welcome [Dr. Allison Briscoe-Smith, Ph.D, on Tuesday, November 16](#), to facilitate a Park Day community discussion about “How to Talk to Your Children About Race and Racism”.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Morning Drop-Off

It takes a lot of us to get students safely through drive through drop-off efficiently, so we are asking those who are able and willing to please lend a hand. **Please click here to volunteer!** Thank you for sharing your time with us! We greatly appreciate your teamwork!



