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Park Day Post

Park Day School • 18 days ago • Thursday, Nov 18 at 6:40 PM • **Park Day School, Board of Trustees, External Community Members**



Dear Park Day Families,

This time of the year can be fraught with a sanitized retelling of American history. The traditional Thanksgiving story asks us all to turn a blind eye to the violence and near annihilation of the indigenous peoples. Because of that, I have come to refer to this upcoming break as the “Fall-iday Break.”

I follow a wonderful non-profit called **Cinnamongirl** which is a leadership development organization that creates bonds between professional women of color and girls of color. Their executive director, Renee Richard, wrote a post entitled, 6 Ways to Decolonize Your Thanksgiving, that I thought would be compelling for the Park Day community.

The real origins of Thanksgiving are not as warm and fuzzy as many of us think. But there are ways to acknowledge the truth and also celebrate family, friendship, and gratitude.

1. Learn about the **specific group of indigenous people** whose **land you live on**.
2. Start a tradition of honoring them in a pre-dinner **acknowledgement** or prayer like **this one**.
3. Learn what they ate and incorporate it into your meal or try a **dish from these Native chefs**.
4. Teach yourself and your family the **real story of Thanksgiving**.
5. Honor Native respect for the bounty of nature by **reducing food waste**.
6. Read books by and about Native Americans for **adults, teens and tweens**, and **kids**.

Other Resources:

[Decolonizing Thanksgiving: A Toolkit for Combatting Racism in Schools](#)
[5 Facts About Thanksgiving Your Teacher Left Out](#)
[Tribal Nations Map](#) for purchase

I am wishing you all a safe and restorative Fall-day Break.

UPCOMING EVENTS

11/19

- Full Day of Instruction, Normal Release Time

11/22 - 11/26

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

12/6

- **Coffee with Angela**

12/13

- **No School - Camp Available** -Teacher Professional Development Day

12/17

- **Mid-Day Release** - Winter Break Begins

12/18 - 1/2

- **Winter Break**

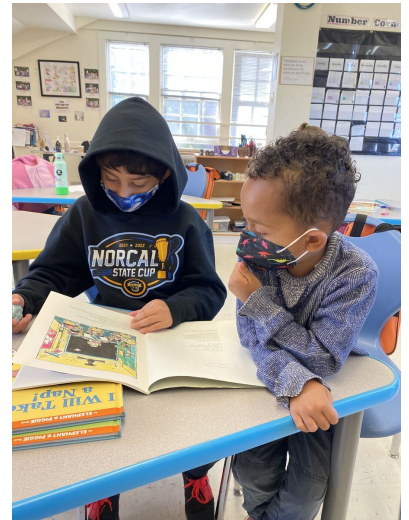
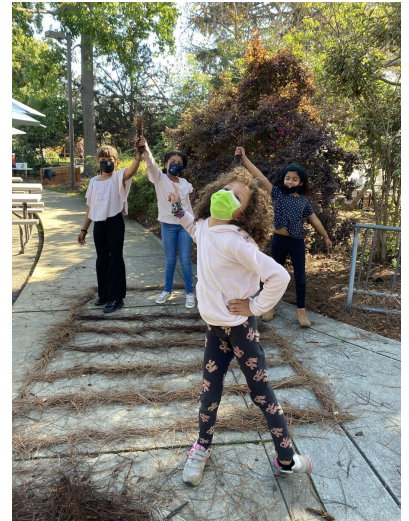
1/3

- **No School - Camp Available** -Teacher Professional Development Day

1/4

- School Resumes

Be well.
Angela



COVID TESTING RESULTS & HOLIDAY GUIDANCE

We continue to be grateful for the good health of our community. **All the test results from staff and student testing this past Friday and Tuesday were negative.**

As we have shared previously, **all students must have a COVID test 1-3 days before returning to school following the holiday break.** This testing is required regardless of vaccination status and any travel in or out of state.

We are adding a required question to our Titan Daily Health Screen for you to upload your student's negative test results beginning on Saturday, November 27. Please be sure to upload the test results by Monday morning, November 29, in order to show your green screen at drop-off. We will return to our twice-weekly onsite testing on Tuesday after break.

We wish all of our Park Day community members a wonderful and safe Falliday break. Please see the State's **Holiday Gathering Fact Sheet** for guidance should you choose to gather with friends and family. We are grateful that so many of our young students are getting vaccinated, and are hopeful that case rates locally will remain stable or decrease. There are many appointments available, so if you haven't already, please consider getting your student vaccinated next week.

Thank you for your cooperation and partnership in protecting the health and

REMINDERS

Parking for Drop-Off & Pick-Up

Please use the drive through lane when possible. If you choose to walk into campus,

safety of our school community!

Be well,

Jennifer Cooper
Pandemic Coordinator



ANNUAL FUND CAMPAIGN



Last week we launched our **Annual Fund** campaign and received a tremendous response. **We deeply appreciate the leaders in our community who felt moved to be among the first to contribute to the campaign!** Your gifts lay a strong foundation and will inspire others to join in our commitment.

Again this year already, gifts to the Annual Fund have ranged from \$25 to \$20,000, reflecting a richly diverse community and a commitment by each family to contribute at the best of their ability. Each gift matters and is given because Park Day's mission is a priority to our families.

If you haven't contributed yet, we invite you to join us now. When you **make a gift or pledge to the Annual Fund** you say YES to...

- making Park Day School affordable for all students, regardless of their family's means
- meaningful professional development opportunities so teachers can continue to support and inspire our students with rigorous, evidence-

be sure to park legally and courteously for the sake of our neighbors.

2021-2022 School Day

Before-school program:

- 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!

based curricula

- campus upgrades that add to the safety and joy of our learning environment
- putting our new Strategic Plan to work for Park Day's long term-growth and sustainability

We value equity and belonging for every member of the Park Day community. Achieving full participation in the Annual Fund campaign is an important way we can all show up for each other and demonstrate our commitment to one another. **Your partnership and generosity are deeply appreciated!**



PARK DAY WEATHER STATION

Park Day School now has its own Weather Station! Park Day parent **Eric Persha (Caterina, K)** and **Davis Instruments** generously donated the station and helped our students with the installation. Gardening Teacher, Terri Edwards-Nixon, and Director of Facilities, Jennifer Cooper, worked with Eric to help the 5th grade class learn about weather, install sensors, and brainstorm ideas for building an analog version of the weather station for our younger students. The fifth graders installed it in the Sunken Garden on Monday in Gardening class while they learned about the different components including a thermometer, anemometer and hygrometer.

Now we can monitor the weather on campus, including temperature, wind, and air quality, as well as check the weather forecast for the day, and you can, too! Just create a free account on www.weatherlink.com or download the **iOS** or **Android** WeatherLink app. Once you're logged in, search for and save the station called "Park Day School." You can also find the weather data on our website [here](#) if you scroll down.

Davis Instruments has also offered to host a fundraiser for our school community and extend a discount on their products to us as well. **If you are interested in an air quality sensor for your own home or as a gift, please see [this post in the Community Board group](#) to learn more.**

In the coming months students will monitor data from the station, as well as build an analog version for our younger students to use and make observations.

We can't wait to see what they create! **Many thanks to Eric and Davis Instruments for this wonderful gift!**



PARKING REMINDER

The school fielded several phone calls last week from our neighbors on 43rd Street. They're feeling frustrated and upset because **some of our families have been blocking their driveways and parking illegally during drop-off and pick-up times.** Maintaining a good relationship with our neighbors is vital to the long term stability and growth of our school, so we ask that everyone practice good behavior when it comes to parking.

Please use the drive through lane when possible. If you choose to walk into campus, you must **find legal street parking in the neighborhood.** We're setting a positive example for our students when we model doing things the right way. **Thanks so much for your cooperation!**



ASAP UPDATE - ONE HOUR WEDNESDAY CHANGES

In case you missed it, Director of Auxiliary Programming, Ashley Foster, shared an important update yesterday: After Winter Break, ASAP will no longer be able to provide a free hour of care on Wednesdays. **Please see her post here for more information.**



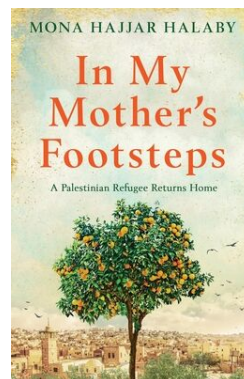
COMMUNITY NEWS & EVENTS

DJA Presents MLK Human Dignity Award Recipient, Azim Khamisa, on 12/14/21

Mark your calendars now for this very special night with acclaimed Speaker and Peace Activist, Azim Khamisa. Invite your family and prepare yourself for this remarkable story, which not only inspires but educates and empowers all who hear it. You won't want to miss it! **Click here for more information, videos, and to RSVP.**

Retired Park Day Teacher Publishes New Book!

Beloved retired third grade Teacher, Mona Halaby, has published her second book, **In My Mother's Footsteps: A Palestinian Refugee Returns Home.** The themes of activism and belonging are embedded throughout Mona's newest book, as well as her deeply personal journey, along with her mother to reconnect to her homeland. Our Director of Lower School, Karen Colaric, shares a note from Mona here in a post in the **Community Board group.**



Book Drive Success

We set a new school record with the student led book drive this year when the 2nd Grade collected 1,676 books to donate to local children! Not only did the

second graders lead a very successful campaign, they also sorted, reboxed, and counted all of the book donations by themselves.

On Monday, Director of Community Outreach & Service Learning, Jeanine Harmon delivered **24 boxes of books** to two locations: **Carl B. Munck Elementary School** and **The Oakland REACH**. She received this note from their program director:



This is so awesome. I am at the office, and I can't believe the fantastic gifts many of our families will be able to choose from. We can't thank you enough for thinking of us. Our families will really benefit from these book donations.

Thank you to all who helped support this beloved Park Day tradition. When you see the second graders, please give them a little extra love. They did an amazing job!



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!

