

## Park Day School



PS

## Park Day Post

Park Day School • 14 days ago • Thursday, Feb 3 at 5:19 PM • **Park Day School, Board of Trustees, External****Community Members**

Dear Park Day Families,

This has been a full week! All K-8 classes opened their doors to welcome our Board of Trustees for **Trustee Visiting Days** on Tuesday and Wednesday. This was an opportunity for our board members to see the vibrant, joyful, and dynamic learning happening daily on campus.

Here are a few quotes from them:

*\*\*It truly was a privilege to be able to come to campus today and to experience Park Day. It really became clear that we already have a strong continuity in the content of what we teach our kids as well as the way it is taught throughout the entire K through eight.*

*\*\*As you know, I visit schools every day, and what I so appreciated in my small window into PDS was the independence and autonomy that is expected of and granted to the students, both in how they interact and move around their classroom and campus, and how they make choices and take responsibility for their learning. I believe that is the purpose of progressive education, and it is what I want for all students, at PDS and in all of Oakland.*

*\*\*It was great to see how engaged (and quiet! I'm shocked how quiet these kids can be!) everybody was and just how much was going on. I also now know I'm going to need to study some algebra before we get to middle school.*

This week, we also honored the start of both **Lunar New Year (Year of the Tiger)** and the start of **Black History Month**. While sharing holidays and culturally significant moments is one way we, at Park Day, celebrate and honor the heritage of our students and different cultures, our goal is always to go beyond "**Heroes and Holidays**" which is a good first step but our final destination is that everything is interconnected, and part of our curriculum and community all year long.

**UPCOMING EVENTS****2/11**

- No School - **Professional Development Day**

**2/19**

- **Coffee with Angela**

**2/21**

- No School - **Presidents' Day**

**2/22 - 2/25**

- No School - **February Break**

**3/11**

- **Read-a-Thon**

**3/24 & 3/25**

- No School - **Family-Teacher Conferences**

As I close this weekly post, I am excited to head out to cheer on our Park Day Basketball team as they take on St. Paul's for the first game of the year. Go Mighty Apples!

Be well.  
Angela



## COVID UPDATE

We have received 99% of the on campus test results from Tuesday and they are all negative. Since our last Park Day Post we are aware of 3 members of our community that have tested positive for COVID. We wish them a speedy recovery. We have been in touch with anyone who was considered a **close contact** and have tested all students and staff that had any exposure on campus.

We have partnered with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) to offer on-site rapid testing using Binax Now antigen tests provided by the State of California. We are using these tests on an as-needed basis when we need to screen students and staff after a potential exposure or when returning to campus after illness or school breaks. All students self-administer the nasal swab during testing.

In order to continue to provide this testing for students, we need all families to complete a **Rapid Antigen Testing Consent Form** through ParentSquare. Please complete the form by next Friday, February 11, so that we can continue to provide this service and keep students safe, healthy, and on campus.

Note that in an abundance of caution, we will be requiring all students to submit a negative COVID test result at the end of February break, similar to what was expected after Winter Break. PCR or Rapid Antigen test results can be uploaded through Titan on February 27-28. More information and reminders will be forthcoming.

## REMINDERS

### ***Parking for Drop-Off & Pick-Up***

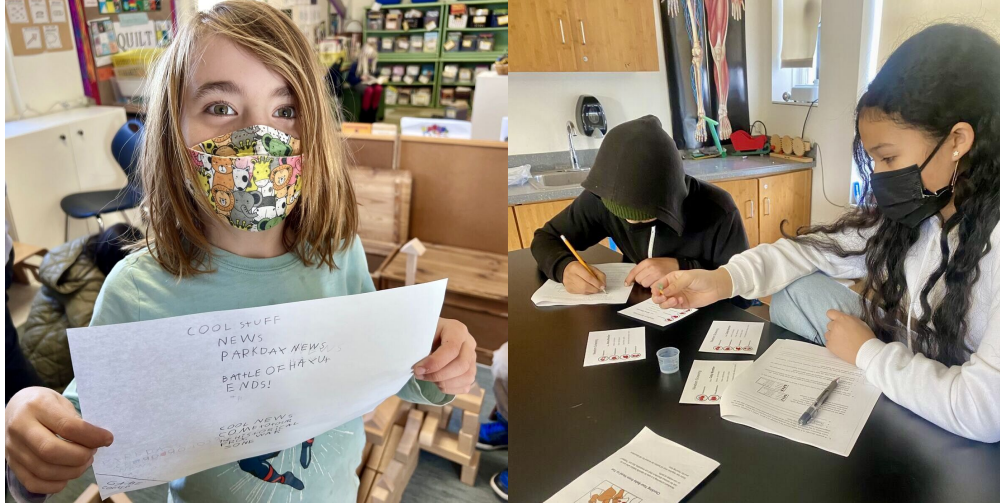
Please use the drive through lane when possible. If you choose to walk into campus, be sure to park legally and courteously for the sake of our neighbors.

### ***Dismissal Pick-Up Windows***

Please respect the pick-up window times. If you arrive early or your student isn't ready when you pull through, please



Take care,  
Jennifer Cooper  
Pandemic Coordinator



## ANNUAL FUND GIVING CHALLENGE UPDATE

### Join the Annual Fund Giving Challenge!

**50 New Gifts Will Unlock \$50,000!**

Fundraising has been skyhigh--thank you, Park Day!--**but our family participation rate had been lagging** at only 50%. With that in mind, **generous Park Day families have joined forces to create a \$50,000 Giving Challenge** to inspire others to participate.

Here's the challenge: *50 new gifts from families who haven't yet contributed will unlock \$1,000 of the \$50,000!*

So far, **29 families have answered the challenge**, bringing us up to 61% participation--thank you for joining us! **Together we can meet the challenge with 21 more new gifts to unlock the \$50,000** and it couldn't be easier. If you haven't yet given to the Annual Fund, we invite you to make a [gift online](#) or by mail to the school or make a [pledge](#) to be fulfilled by June 1st, 2022.

Your participation sends a powerful message and your generosity is deeply appreciated!

With gratitude,  
**Chris Miller**  
Director of Development

drive back out and circle the block to keep the carpool lane moving.

### **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:**

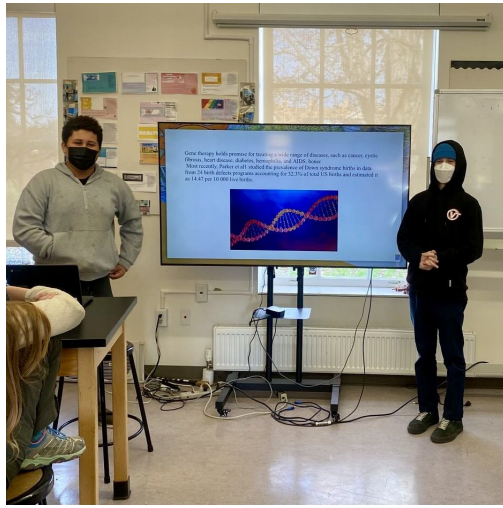
- From school dismissal– 6:00 p.m.

### **Gate Codes**

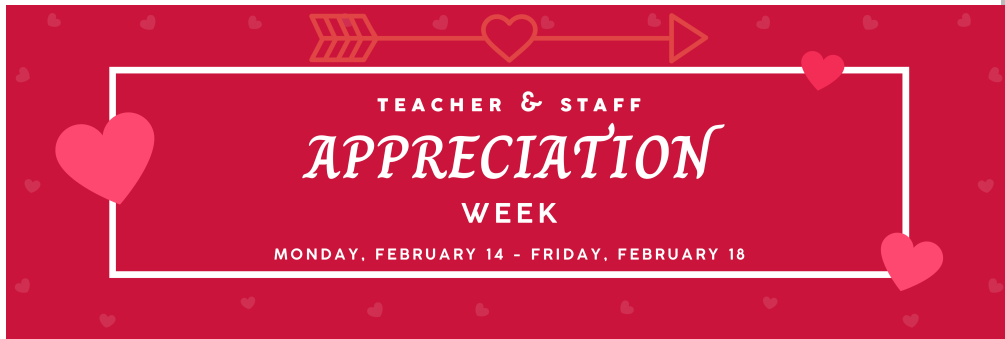
- 42nd Street Gate:
  - #SMILE (#76453)
- 43rd/44th Street Gates:
  - SMILE\* (76453\*)

**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!



### APPRECIATION WEEK



With Valentine's Day as the inspiration, the Parent Stewardship Group is leading us in spreading LOVE & APPRECIATION around to our wonderful staff the week before our February break! So much goes into behind the scenes to make our school run so smoothly. We want to thank and shower them with appreciation!

**Teacher & Staff Appreciation Week is Monday, February 14 through Friday, February 18.** Let's come together to shower our AMAZING AND DEDICATED teachers and staff with an act / gift of appreciation each day of the week. Thank you in advance for all for joining us in making this week so special!

[Click here for the game plan](#) of the upcoming Appreciation Week and how your family can get involved. Our first effort has already begun with a [digital chalk art project](#)

### READ-A-THON SNEAK PEEK

The Read-a-Thon is coming up on March 11th and it's one of Park Day School's longest running and most beloved traditions. Making this year extra special, we have Park Day alum and current staff member Jalen Cole-Williams as our guest designer for the Read-a-Thon graphic! Jalen graduated in 2008 and now serves as our After School Activities Program Enrichment Program Coordinator and 4th Grade Teaching Assistant. He's also an awesome artist!

Because this special event and fundraiser is driven by the students, it's important to us that they have a voice in the planning of it. Students in grades 5th through 8th were invited this week to weigh in with their feedback on three rough drafts to



help decide the image that will represent the Read-a-Thon this year. Below is a sneak peek of the images they reviewed. Ask your 5-8th grader which one they preferred and why!

## 2022 Read-a-Thon Graphic Drafts

1. Nebula Bookshelf



2. Oakland Book Skyline



3. Storybook Tower



### COMMUNITY NEWS & EVENTS

There are many online and IRL events happening in honor of Black History Month. Here are a few to consider adding to your calendar:

#### *Online:*

**Wednesdays, February 2 - 23, 8-8:30 AM PST Young Portrait Explorers: Black History Month**, sponsored by the National Portrait Gallery. A series of virtual workshops for children ages 3-6 allows them to examine famous portraits and create art.

**Saturday, February 12, 10-12:30 AM PST Virtual Black History Trivia Quiz for kids ages 9-15**, hosted by the Congress of Black Women of Canada. Show off your knowledge or learn about the culture. Prizes for the winners of each round.

**Thursday, February 24, 3:30 PM PST Kimberly A. Morrow**, author of 8 Pearls of Wisdom: A Parenting Guide, offers practical ways to inspire your student to pursue their passion.

#### *In-Person*

**Sunday, February 6, 12 PM, Oakland** The Black Joy on Wheels Bike Parade is a "community-led, music-lit" ride that starts at City Slicker Farms and follows an 8 mile loop through town.

**Saturday, February 26, 4 pm, Museum of the African Diaspora, San Francisco Multimedia presentation and performance** by Martin Luther McCoy. Be sure to register in advance, vax card or negative COVID test req'd.

**Sunday, February 27, 12 - 7PM, Oakland The Fifth Annual Black Joy Parade** starts at 14th and Broadway; festival entrance at 20th and Broadway. Registration is highly encouraged

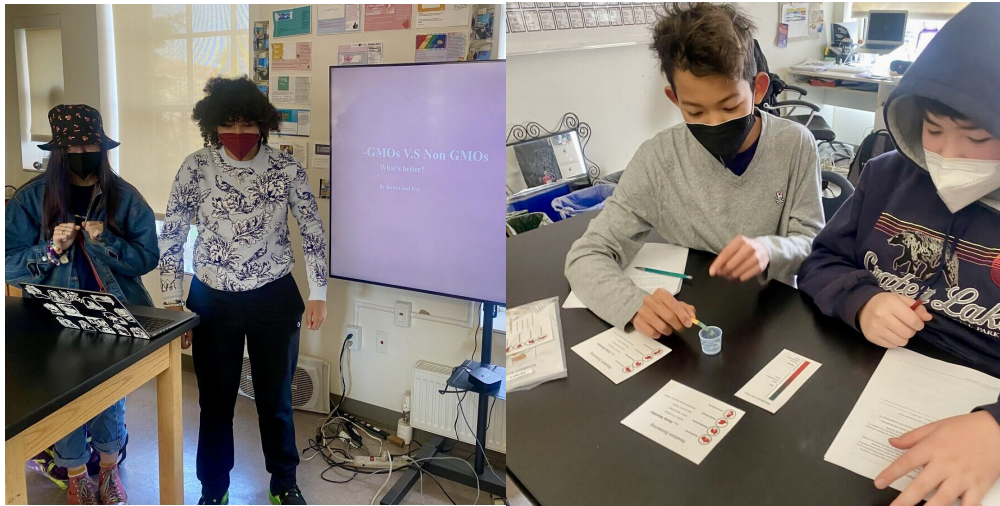
And you'll find even more Black History Month events on 510 Families!

**Open Call for Quilters! Add Your Stitches to a Special Quilt for Angela!**

Park Day parent Faye Stevenson (Liam, 4th) is leading the charge to craft a special quilt for Angela and invites the Park Day Community to add their stitches to the project. [Click here](#) to the Community Board post for a sneak peek of the quilt and to learn more about getting involved!

### Coffee with Angela

Our Coffee with Angela events were a highlight of the fall, and we look forward to continuing this new program in 2022. The next Coffee with Angela is scheduled for Wednesday, February 16th, from 8:45 - 9:45 am. As with all things nowadays, this gathering is dependant on pandemic conditions. [RSVP here to join us!](#)



## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

### Morning Drop-Off Volunteers Needed!

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 appreciate your teamwork!



### Comments & Replies

Comment...