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Park Day Post - 2020-21 Inaugural Edition

Park Day School • 1 day ago • Thursday, Sep 3 at 5:46 PM • **Park Day School, External Community Members**



A Message from Angela Taylor

Dear Park Day Families,

We made it! With all of the preparation and angst over the launching of this very unusual school year, the first day of school finally came and we did it! I want to thank you for the grace you all gave us with our many tech glitches with our opening assembly and for bearing with my silliness (I so miss children!) As I said to the kids yesterday, they are truly the heartbeat of this community and the whole reason for our existence as a school. We are all so very invested in shaping and molding this next generation of leaders especially now.

It has almost gotten to the point where there is an expectation that something new and tragic is going to happen on a weekly basis. We are still in a pandemic with guidelines shifting almost daily. Another unarmed black man has been shot at the hand of law enforcement. There has been continued strife and an ever-widening caustic divide across the political spectrum. We have an upcoming election that has the potential to significantly change all of our lives. Oh, and we have to continually monitor the AQI to determine which mask we need to wear-the cloth one or the N95. I am going to bear my soul a bit here and let you know that Marvin Gaye's song, **"Inner City Blues: Make Me Wanna Holler"**, has reentered my playlist over the last few months as a mantra because there is just so much injustice and uncertainty in our world right now.

UPCOMING EVENTS

9/4

Program Team Drop-In Office Hours

9/7

No School - Labor Day

9/8

Parent Ed (K-5) Making Remote Learning Work

9/9

Parent Ed (6-8) Making Remote Learning Work

9/10

Parent Ed (K-8) Making Remote Learning Work for Strong Willed & Anxious Children

9/15

(K-5) Virtual Back to School Night

9/16

And, then, I get to see the faces of these kiddos and I am suddenly recentered and refocused on why I do what I do. The Nelson Mandela quote I used during yesterday's assembly is my anchor and beacon. "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." I am so honored to be a part of this community and I look forward to changing this world together, one child at a time.

Best,
Angela

SCHOOL NEWS

COUNTY WAIVERS

On September 2, Alameda County Office of Education (in cooperation with Alameda County Public Health Department) announced **plans to reopen the elementary school waiver process** to resume in-person instruction in counties on the state's coronavirus watchlist. We started preparing for the waiver application in early August while we waited for notice that this was a possibility. One of the waiver application requirements is that school leadership consult with "all parent and labor organizations" (or school site staff) prior to submitting an application. In order to move forward in the waiver process we will need to collect survey responses from the majority of our community. Please keep your eyes open for a survey late next week.

KEEPING IN COMMUNICATION

We invite you to mark your calendar for drop-in office hours with the full Program Leadership Team on Fridays the first and third weeks of the month at 2:00pm. These will kick off tomorrow, September 4 and **we have requested RSVPs for the first meeting**. In the future, you can drop in as needed. Please know we won't have a full agenda and really just want to be available to parents for what you need or want to know. Also, Angela has had the opportunity to meet with many families over the course of the last six weeks to hear your stories about what the journey has been like for your family at Park Day as well as your thoughts about how we can lean into the future together. If you'd like to connect with Angela in the coming weeks or months, please reach out to cassandra.mccraw@parkdayschool.org to find a mutually convenient time to connect.

PROGRAM SNAPSHOTS

(6-8) Virtual Back to School Night

9/24

(K-8) Parent Ed: Common Sense Media

10/12

No School - Indigenous Peoples Day

10/13

No School - Professional Development Day

REMINDERS

Customize your **ParentSquare notification settings** so you get information the way that suits you best!

Check out all the **Opt-In Community Groups** on ParentSquare and find folks with similar interests!

Seeking **Parenting Resources**? We've got you covered.

Navigate school-related tech issues on the school's **Technology & Tips** section of the website.

Looking for some printable visual guides for your students to help them in distance learning? Check out the school's **Distance Learning Guideposts** section of the website.

Lower School:

It was such fun to welcome all our new Kindergarten students this week! Teachers saw lots of happy faces and felt their enthusiasm for the new year. Kids got to know what is in their supply kit through a scavenger hunt or jeopardy games. Grades 1-3 have started using Seesaw and the teachers are impressed with their tech savviness using this program. They already have it figured out and are using all the tools the platform offers. They are sharing about themselves and their identity through words, photos, videos and drawings. In first grade, as a part of community building, they are writing about two things that make them feel welcome. In third and fourth grade the kids are working on a time capsule. Third graders are finding the circumference of their head, and fourth graders are writing about themselves. Third graders are also starting a project on homes and communities. They are starting with drawings representing where they live and will be building 3D models and putting them together to make a community.

Middle School:

When we asked our Middle Schoolers how the start of school was, this is some of what we heard: "It was epic!" "The most structure I've had in months," and of course the ever-teenish "better than expected." Patience and kindness showed up big time throughout our community yesterday and today. We're so proud of our students for showing resilience and self advocacy as they navigate this new school year. As we ramp up in humanities, math/science, Spanish, the arts, and more, students are also starting to learn about Passion Projects. Passion Project time will be dedicated asynchronous time for the students to explore a passion of theirs that they are deeply interested in yet are not experts about yet. Advisors will use one on one check in time to brainstorm ideas with students, provide ideas, and check in on progress related to this project. If your child has questions about Passion Project time, please have them reach out to their advisor. We're excited for the weeks ahead!

