

Park Day Post

Park Day School • Thursday, Jan 14 at 6:10 PM



Dear Park Day Families,

I want to start this week's communication by thanking the people I get to work shoulder to shoulder with every day, the Park Day staff. Last week, we gathered as a community a mere hours after the siege of the Capitol. Some of us were raw, some of us were numb, and all of us shared a righteous anger that had to be expressed. I am so proud that we could put out a **Park Day statement** last week that was written collectively by Park Day staff.

Now, a little over a week later, there has been a second impeachment, Washington, D.C. is being turned into a fortress before our very eyes and daily new arrests are being made of those who participated in the insurrection. We are collectively watching and waiting. What we know for sure is that the only path forward for us is true accountability and justice.

Reopening News

New Traffic Pattern: Please note that we will be **rerouting** pick-up and drop-off traffic to 42nd Street via Broadway. We have been in communication with the City of Oakland and have received permission to do so even with the Slow Street designation. In order to maintain our efficient process, we ask that you remember to have your student ready to exit the car with belongings as you drive through the campus gate.

Parent Volunteers: We would very much appreciate volunteers for both

UPCOMING EVENTS

1/15

- **K-8 Friday Assembly**
- **Open Office Hour for Families Returning to Campus Next Week**
- **Deadline to Sign Up for Winter Farm Box**

1/17

- **Curative COVID-19 Testing**

1/18

- **No School - Dr. Martin Luther King Jr's Birthday observed**

1/19

- **On Campus Learning Resumes**

1/21

- **Signups for Curative**

morning and afternoon gate duty as we return to campus. It takes a lot of staff to get students safely through drive through drop-off and pick-up efficiently, so we are asking those who are able and willing to **please sign up** to lend a hand. The times needed are 8:30am-9:15am and 2:00pm-2:45pm.

Masks/Face Coverings: Starting next week, out of an abundance of caution, we are asking all students and staff to wear double cloth masks or shift to surgical masks or KN95 masks. The school office has a supply of kid-sized surgical masks as needed.

AIM Discovery Summit

We want to thank all of you who were able to join us this week for these important community conversations about diversity, equity and inclusion.

We had the opportunity to hear about the lived experiences of our students, teachers, staff, and families about every aspect of our school. All of this rich data will ultimately be incorporated into our strategic planning process.

We would also like to extend a big thank you to Arjuna and the AIM Steering Committee for all of their hard work to make this happen. Stay tuned for the AIM Online Climate Survey coming in March.

Inauguration Day, Wednesday, January 20 -- Rep Oakland Spirit Day!

We plan to celebrate the historic milestone of Oakland's own, Kamala Harris, being sworn in as the first woman of color to hold the office of Vice President of the United States. For this celebration we are asking all students and staff to "rep" Oakland by donning anything that signifies your Oakland pride--A's gear, Oakland-ish gear, Oakland Roots shirts, etc. Be sure to snap some photos!

Please Note: We will not be watching a livestream of the Inauguration with the students due to the threat of possible violence. Classes may watch a recording after the event once we are certain it is appropriate for the students.

Be well.
Angela

COVID-19 Testing on Sunday Open

1/24

- **Curative COVID-19 Testing**

1/28

- **Signups for Curative COVID-19 Testing on Sunday Open**

1/31

- **Curative COVID-19 Testing**

2/4

- **Signups for Curative COVID-19 Testing on Sunday Open**





PROGRAM SNAPSHOT

Lower School Program Update

It's January! We have settled in from our Winter Break and are digging right back into learning. Typically, this time of year is a wonderful time for learning. Students are refreshed, eager to get back to work and comfortable with all the routines and expectations of the grade.

It's also a great time of year for goal setting. Teachers have been talking with students about New Year's Resolutions and/or goals moving forward. We are also working on our **progress reports**--the comprehensive update on how children are doing in all aspects of the program. **We expect to publish these at the end of the month.** Teachers are working hard to report as accurately as possible with the mix of at home and on site learning. Teachers are also getting up to date assessment information to share in the reports.

We are also beginning to **shift our themes work to incorporate "envisioning justice"** to the identity work that we have been engaged in so far this year. With Dr. King Jr.'s birthday on the horizon, along with Black History Month, and all the events happening in our capital and the transfer of leadership, it is a perfect time to develop this theme fully. You will hear in depth from your child's teachers about this in the coming weeks.

Kindergarten through second grade students have had a special guest in the classroom to augment their students. The Alameda County Clean Water Program provides a puppet show each year to teach children about the watershed and how they can be stewards. Luckily, the show goes on, like so many other things, virtually this year. Though the show is recorded, teachers signed up for slots to debrief the content and performance with the

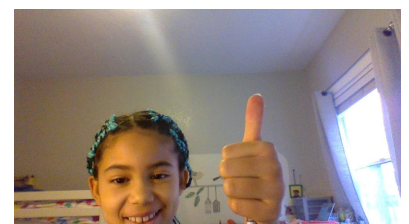
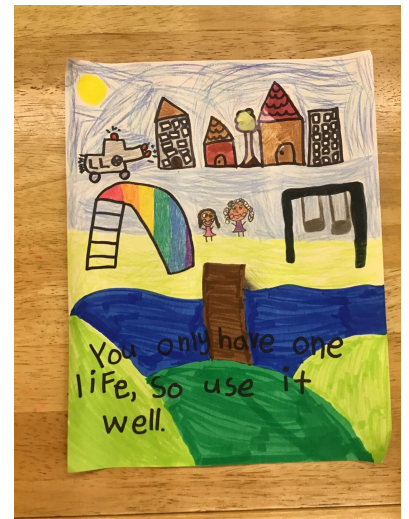
REMINDERS / TIPS

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

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

Panneto Kitchen Catering

We love the deliciousness, convenience, and value of Panetto Kitchen's catering program at Park Day. Nels continues to offer pick-up dinners on **Catering Program page of the website.**



puppeteer, Joe Leon. For kindergarteners, this show brought to life the studies they've been engaged in and they made many connections to work in class and were proud to share their knowledge. Second graders had a sophisticated level of questions and made connections to their current studies of animals and health.

Students have also been following the runoff elections in Georgia and upcoming inauguration with their teachers, following up their lessons about the election and the campaigns to support people to vote and be heard. The grades that participated in the postcard campaign to encourage citizens to vote earlier this year are especially proud of their efforts and could see some real results. And the violent events in our capitol were also discussed in developmentally appropriate, and honest, ways. I saw so many skillful and reassuring conversations and space for students' feelings and questions. Moving forward, we plan to celebrate Kamala Harris as our first woman of color Vice-President, and to look at other positive and courageous examples of leadership among people of color locally and beyond.

Karen Colarič
Lower School Director



SCHOOL NEWS

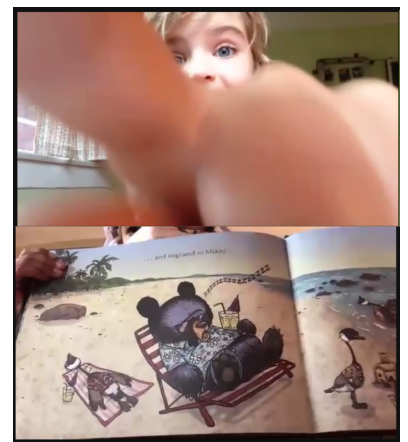
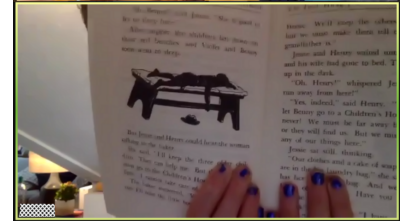
After-school and Middle School Fitness Update

Thank you for completing the after-school interest survey last month.

Unfortunately, there was not enough interest to enable the JCC to safely staff and run an after-school program while preserving stable cohorts within each grade level. Once the County moves back into the orange tier, and assuming current after-school interest holds or grows, the JCC and Park Day will begin work designing a program that mixes 2-3 grades per cohort.

These groupings would then function as a second stable cohort as permitted by County guidance.

For Middle School families who expressed interest in fitness groups, we will also be looking at creating mixed grade groupings when we move into the orange tier. In addition, when Dean of Students and Athletic Director Ashley



Foster returns from maternity leave, she will be taking the lead on exploring grade-specific fitness groups that may be able to begin prior to our transition into the orange tier.

We recognize that childcare for students after the school day is done is vital to many working families. Thank you for your support as we navigate through the pandemic.

Annual Fund Campaign

This year's **Annual Fund** campaign is all about meeting the current moment to build for the future together through resilience and innovation, and so many of you have rallied around the cause already! Thank you to those who've answered the call, stretched, and dug deep to make an impact--our whole school community appreciates your generosity and dedication!

If you haven't made a gift to the Annual Fund yet, we invite you to join us in giving. **[Click here for information on how to make your gift or pledge.](#)** Together we can do great things! Thank you for your partnership!

Panetto Kitchen ParentSquare Group

Happy New Year from your friends at Panetto Kitchen! Our catering program is back and we've created a ParentSquare group to keep you updated with news and reminders. We invite you to **[opt in for updates and reminders here](#)** and you can view each week's menu and **[place your order by midnight on Wednesdays](#)** here:

<https://www.parkdayschool.org/catering-program/>

Your support has helped Panetto Kitchen and its staff to stay afloat in these difficult times and we appreciate you. We look forward to providing you with more delicious food in 2021!

Thank you,

Nels

