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## Park Day Post

Park Day School • 25 days ago • Thursday, Oct 21 at 5:49 PM • **Park Day School, Board of Trustees, External Community Members**



Dear Park Day Families,

This has been a pretty eventful week so far. We have had the excitement and fun of the much needed rain. (There were several kiddos with sopping wet feet from the very enticing puddles!) The Temescal-wide power outage necessitated a lovely and peaceful analog/low tech day yesterday. And, today, we participated in the **Great Shakeout** which is an international, broad-based earthquake preparedness program for the education, healthcare, government and business sectors. Oh, and I cannot forget to mention the many flying termite sightings!

A few weeks ago, I mentioned the **Shadow a Student Challenge** and so far both Jules and Karen have participated. Again, the purpose of the challenge is for school leaders to immerse themselves in the student experience in order to create a deep empathy. Karen shadowed a 4th grader today and we will share her reflection in the coming weeks. I plan to shadow a 1st grader soon... I am so excited!

Below is Jules' reflection from her day as a 7th Grader.

Be well.

Angela

### Life as a 7th Grader - Jules Greene

The last time I was in 7th grade, I was in a different city, Sacramento, it was a different year, 2001, but the clothes were the same! Angela introduced this idea of fully immersing myself into the school day life of a student as an incredible practice of empathy and understanding.

My experience began the night before with completing the homework for the upcoming day. When I got to campus my day started off with my advisees letting me know the do's and don'ts of being a PDS 7th grader. They let me know what supplies to bring to class, the best snack to have at break and to

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**10/25**

- No School - **Professional Development Day**

**10/29**

- **Halloween Celebration** -  
Volunteers needed!

**11/3**

- **Make-Up Picture Day**

**11/4 - 11/5**

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

**11/6**

- **Latin Heritage Party**

**11/10**

- **Coffee with Angela**

**11/16**

- **Parent Ed Event**

**11/22 - 11/26**

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

make sure I was in class on time. To top it off, I had a conversation with Eli about my look earlier in the week and they let me know that a choker was a MUST for the outfit. I expressed that I would try to find one before the day and on Tuesday afternoon, the eve of the experience, I found a choker necklace on my desk from Eli. Thanks, Eli! I had my oversized sweatshirt, pencil pouch, checkerboard backpack, the requisite choker, and now, I was ready for the day.

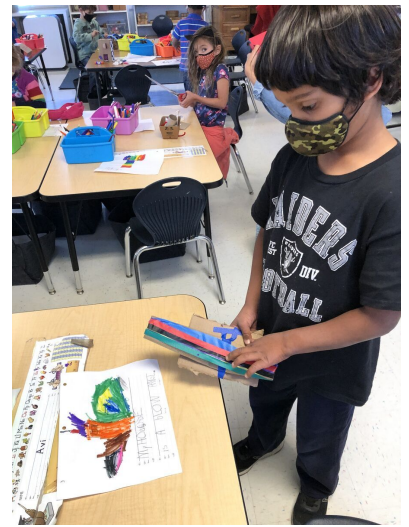
The very first thing I noticed as a student was that I felt the need to move more. Sure, I was able to move between classes and I was able to get up here and there to share something at the board or to collaborate with another group. It would have been great to have sustained movement built into the school day in more ways than PE class and having a time for movement on days when PE does not occur. I found myself being able to more easily focus and noticed the difference in my classmate's focus after extended movement times such as snack break and lunch. Middle school students just need to move more. I wasn't necessarily surprised by this observation because there is plenty of research to support the need for movement with learning, and the concept sunk in on a whole new level when I was experiencing it first hand.

My second take away from the day was the realization of just how difficult it is to learn in a mask, especially in Spanish class. Masks are a must within our current reality and are not going to be an element of our past for the foreseeable future as they are significant tools to keep us safe. Masks also make it very difficult to perceive the nuances in pronunciation, inflection and expression that are all essential to language development. We are at this interesting intersection where both things are true at the same time. I found myself reverting back to my 7th grade Spanish student self and saw myself easily checking out for two main reasons: one, I literally didn't know the language so it was harder to connect and two, it was more difficult to hear and be heard because the mask truly felt like a barrier. I then began to observe the class as a whole and noticed the difference in effort on the part of our Middle School Spanish teacher, Grecia, to meet the different levels within the class all behind a mask. Teaching a group of mumbly masked middle schoolers in general is a challenge, and the added layer of Spanish class is a unique challenge.

After my day, it is clear that overall our students are incredibly curious, funny, and kind. Not only did they make sure that I always had a class partner or group to work with, they also made sure they welcomed me to the lunch circle. They made sure to remind me of the different specific quirks and culture elements of each class and reteach me any of the subject matter I may have forgotten in the past 20 years. As a school leader, I plan to use this experience as we make schedule and program decisions moving forward.







## REMINDERS

### 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



## COVID TESTING RESULTS & SITE UPDATE

We are pleased to share that once again we have had **all negative test results** from last Friday's and this Tuesday's testing. We'll continue to share updates here each week, as well as inform the community whenever a student or staff member on campus tests positive. Please refer to the **COVID Testing, Quarantine, and Sickness FAQs** if you have questions about testing or to our **COVID Safety Plan** for our protocols.

**Please note the Sunday Curative testing van's last day on campus will be October 31.** With our successful twice a week testing on campus and a significant reduction in the number of tests being done at our site on Sundays,



along with many schools in our community also doing onsite testing, we, along with Curative, have decided that our 44th Street site is no longer needed.

As noted in the Holiday Travel Guidance further below in this newsletter, we are asking that all students be tested within 3 days prior to returning to campus after Thanksgiving break. Here is a list of local testing resources for your convenience:

- **Sutter Insurance**
- **Kaiser Insurance**
- **Test the People** nearby location in North Oakland
- **Curative** nearby locations in Oakland and Berkeley
- Testing resources from **the city and county**
- Community resources from **Osita Health Clinic**
- **La Clinica**

Be well,  
Jennifer Cooper  
Pandemic Coordinator



## COMMUNITY NEWS & EVENTS

### Halloween

Halloween will be celebrated at school on Friday, October 29th, and we ask that families give careful consideration to costume ideas and avoid any costume that can make anyone feel disrespected, marginalized or are otherwise inappropriate for school. Please also be mindful about wearing costumes that are not too scary or inappropriate for a K-8 audience. **Please click here for more guidance on costumes** and a handy flow chart to help be sure that your

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!





student's costume is appropriate for school.

Last week we posted that we would not be having any candy or prizes in booths. Some fourth grade students met with Karen and they discussed this and decided that there can be some prizes that are practical and will not end up in landfills unused (pencils, erasers), and a little candy as prizes along with some healthy snacks. We love to discuss and compromise!

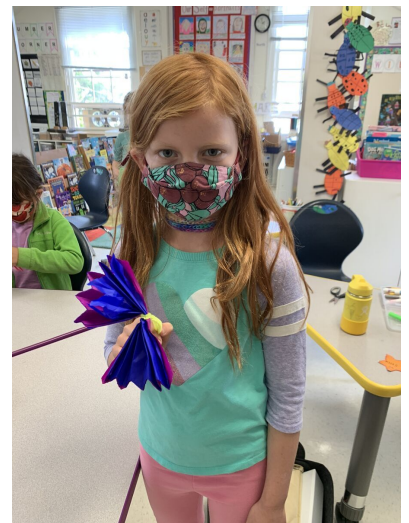
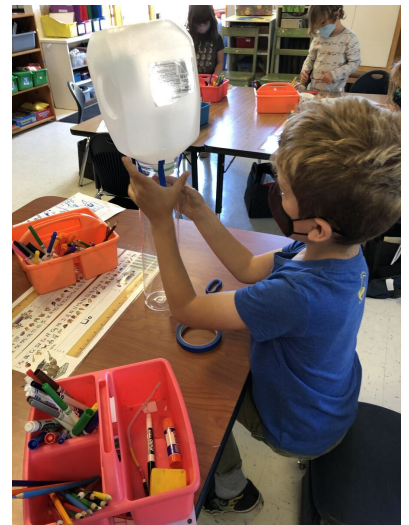
We will need a few vaccinated adult volunteers to lend a hand popping and baging popcorn. **Please sign up here!**

### Latin Heritage Party

A group of Park Day parents are bringing back their annual celebration Latin Heritage with an all-grade event. They invite you to enjoy a night of celebration, food, dance, and honoring our ancestors, Latin American style. Space is limited, so see **this post in the Community Board group** for more information and to RSVP.

### Thank You, Garden Work Party Volunteers!

Many thanks to the parents and students that volunteered at our Family Garden Work Party last Saturday. We literally moved a mountain! Of mulch, that is; spreading it in many areas around campus. We also cleared the sand off the basketball court, organized two garden sheds, added sifted sand to the sandbox, cleaned the chicken coop, repaired the gateway to the Kindergarten area, weeded the Sunken Garden, and made a Peace & Unity garden. Wow! It was so wonderful to see many hands working in community to improve and care for our beautiful campus.





## HOLIDAY TRAVEL GUIDANCE

As you begin to make plans for the holidays, please keep these travel recommendations in mind:

- [California Travel Recommendations](#)
- CDC on [Local & Domestic Travel](#)
- CDC on [International Travel](#)

Upon returning from any travel, **we ask that you upload a negative COVID test result for your student(s)** dated within 3 days of their return to campus.

We will continue to check Titan app green screens during morning drop-off to help ensure the health and safety of all our students.

Thank you for your partnership!





## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

### Halloween Treats

We need a few vaccinated adult volunteers to lend a hand popping and bagging popcorn. **Please sign up here!**

### 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!



