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## Park Day Post

Park Day School • 19 days ago • Thursday, Mar 10 at 5:39 PM • **Park Day School, Board of Trustees, External Community Members**



Dear Park Day Families,

Smiles are back, ya'll! With the lifting of our outdoor mask mandate, we are excited to be able to see your full faces as you enter campus tomorrow! Hooray! Read-a-Thon will be a little extra special (and pre-pandemic normal-ish) with our students and staff having the opportunity to be together outside without masks. It is hard to believe that it has been two years since our Read-a-Thon ended with the first COVID lockdown on March 13, 2020. Tonight we will kick-off the Read-a-Thon celebration with a virtual storytime, so watch for stories read aloud by me and several students and staff to post on ParentSquare around 6pm this evening.

### Dinner with Royalty!

While the focus of tomorrow's Read-a-Thon is on the written word and stories in print, oral history and storytelling are powerful and impactful ways to keep the values and culture of a community alive. And, last night, I had dinner with Park Day royalty, Susan Erb and Harriet Cohen, founding teachers, and Cathy Shields and Flo Hodes, long-time administrators, who shared their individual and collective stories with me about the founding of Park Day, its journey from a small start-up school in 1976 to where we are now, and most importantly, they shared stories about courage, perseverance, friendship, and love which sheds light on the "soul of Park Day". I am humbled to be entrusted with leading this special school community.

### I will miss you!

I will be out for the majority of next week to serve on a California Association of Independent Schools (CAIS) accreditation team in Los Angeles. The CAIS accreditation is a peer-review process that fosters excellence in education and encourages school improvement through discovery, dialogue, compliance, and commitment. Accreditation enables a member school to develop clearly defined goals and objectives based on its mission and philosophy.

### Harriet Tubman Day

"I would make a home for them in the North, and the Lord helping me, I would

## UPCOMING EVENTS

3/11

- **Read-a-Thon**

3/12

- **Boardwalk Build Day**

3/14

- **Middle School Basketball vs. Albany** at Oakland Tech

3/15

- **Diversity & Justice Alliance presents "A White Guy Confronting Racism"**

3/17

**Middle School Basketball vs. Albany** at Albany

3/24 & 3/25

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

4/7

- **Art Show**

4/18 - 4/22

- **Spring Break**

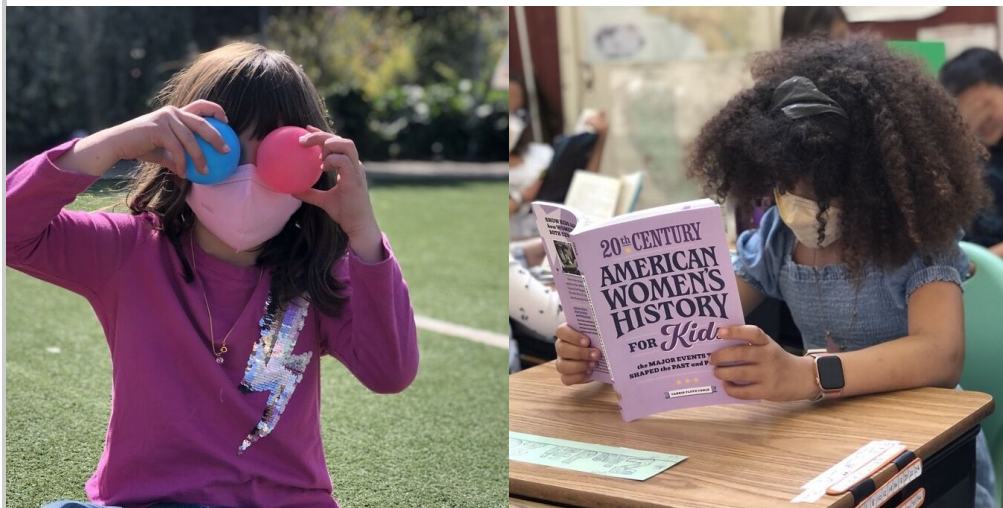
bring them all here.” Today, March 10, is national **Harriet Tubman Day**. The American holiday was made into law in 1990 to honor the woman that led hundreds of slaves to freedom and served as the “conductor” of the underground railroad.

### I love it! Thank you!

I arrived at my office this morning to find the most BEAUTIFUL quilt made lovingly with Park Day memorabilia and by Park Day families. I appreciate all the thought, care, and TALENT that went into making this quilt for me. Thank you to Faye Stevenson (Liam, 4th) who took the lead on this project and to all of the families who contributed.



In community,  
Angela



## COVID UPDATE

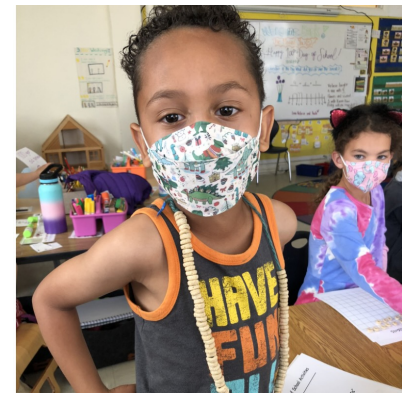
Dear Park Day Families,

All the PCR test results from staff and students on Tuesday were negative, as were last Friday's. We are so happy that the COVID case rates have dropped, and that we can begin to relax some of our protocols. Beginning tomorrow, March 11, **we will no longer be requiring that staff, families, and students wear masks outdoors on campus.** This change follows guidance from the State and County health departments and scientific research, which has shown very little risk of exposure to COVID outdoors. We are looking forward to seeing students' faces and smiles.

Out of an abundance of caution, **Park Day will continue to require masking inside all buildings on campus.** All students have received a lanyard to keep their mask handy for moving indoors and out. Students should have their mask available when they arrive on campus each morning.

5/21

- Community Spring Event



## 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



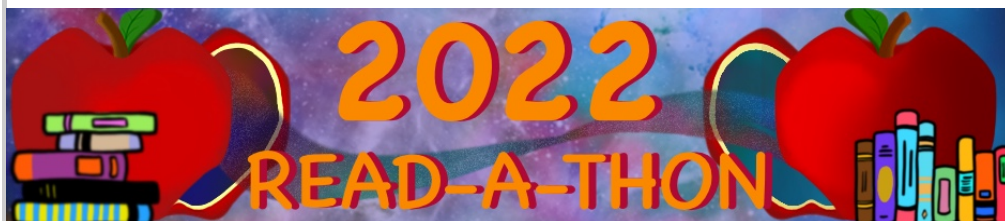
We understand that some staff and students will need to or choose to continue to wear their mask outdoors, and we will continue to reinforce that masking is a health precaution that some may want or need to continue to do. Please talk to your student about wearing a mask and the reasons why some people need to do so.

**Our other mitigation measures will stay in effect.** The move from mandatory outdoor masking to optional does not signal an end to other COVID-19 protocols. This is just one area in which we are relaxing a COVID protocol. Our many other layers of safety - such as screening, improved ventilation, air purifiers, testing, modified quarantines in classrooms with positive cases, and encouraging vaccinations will stay in place. In addition, students who test positive for COVID-19 and those unvaccinated who are exposed to a positive case outside school will still need to isolate for five days before testing to return.

Take Care,  
Jennifer Cooper  
Pandemic Coordinator



## READ-A-THON



It's Finally Here! The Read-a-Thon is Tomorrow!!

Park Day School's Read-a-Thon began in our founding year, 1976, and has been a beloved tradition every year since. Students and their families reach out to neighbors, friends, and family all over the world to connect and gather pledges.

early or your student isn't ready when you pull through, please 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!



Tomorrow our students will spend the day reading in support of our school's literacy program and to update our classroom libraries to reflect the beautiful diversity in our community. Check for posts from your teachers on what to expect on the special day!

There's still time to participate in the fundraiser! You can help by **copying the link to your student's pledge page and sharing it via email and social media!** It's as easy as ABC... here's how:

- A. Click the link to your student(s)'s grade below
- B. Scroll to their name and click to get to their pledge page
- C. Grab the link to their pledge page and share it

Thanks for supporting this special fundraiser! Happy Reading!

**Chris Miller**

Director of Development

**Kindergarten**

**1st Grade**

**2nd Grade**

**3rd Grade**

**4th Grade**

**5th Grade**

**6th Grade**

**7th Grade**

**8th Grade**

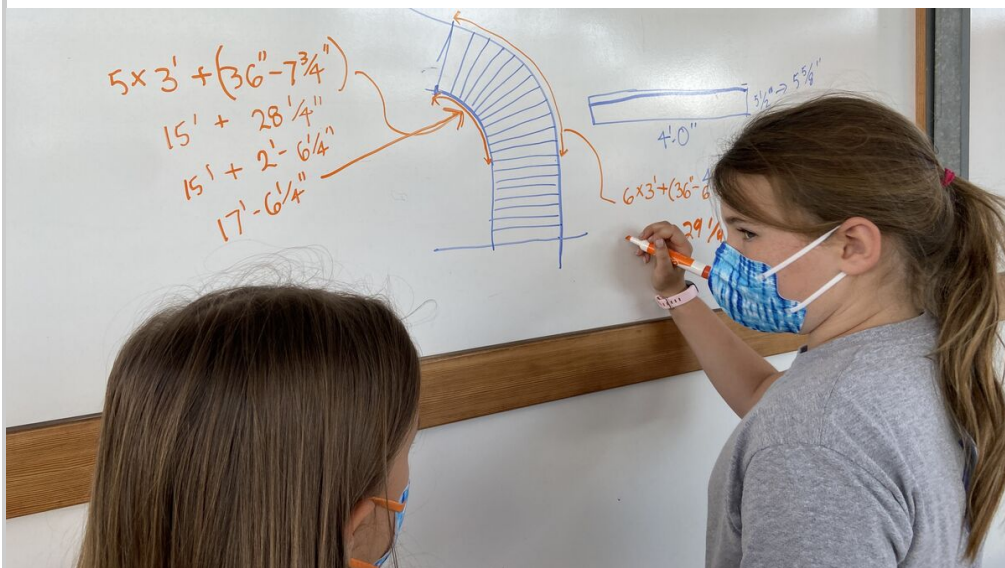




## BOARDWALK BUILD DAYS

The building is underway! Last weekend families joined us on campus to begin construction of a boardwalk to connect the Palm Building and Lower Yard to the Field, MPR, and Grandma's Attic. The 5th grade Eco Koalas and 4th grade Student Leadership groups teed up that work by sawing and drilling the boards for the boardwalk last week, while 8th graders lent a hand by digging some of the trenches for the supports. This week two 3rd graders helped us do the math to determine how to make the curves.

Join us this Saturday to complete the project - there's still time to **sign up to lend a hand**. Even if you can only come for an hour or two, we could use your help. Lunch will be provided. Well supervised students are welcome to join parents. Thanks for your teamwork!



## NEWS & EVENTS

**DJA Presents "A White Guy Confronting Racism"** featuring Park Day parent Jared Karol (Juliet & Max, 7th), Author/Speaker/Group Facilitator, **this Tuesday, March 15**. In *A White Guy Confronting Racism*, Jared invites us to join him on his always-unfolding evolution of consciousness—sharing stories of shedding, dismantling, and unlearning much of what he was taught (or not taught) about

race and racism growing up. **[Click here for more info and to RSVP!](#)**

### **Fundraiser for Ukraine**

The 3rd grade teachers and students are organizing a fundraiser in support of Ukraine by making and selling pins with peace doves made of felt in the Ukrainian flag colors. The class hopes to raise \$1,000 and pins will be on sale after school near the 43rd Street pedestrian gate on Thursday, March 17, for a suggested donation of \$5.

### **Save the Date!**

There will be a student Art Show from 4 - 7 pm on Thursday, April 7. More details to come!

### **Save the Date, Again!**

There will be a community Spring Event on Saturday, May 21. More details to come!

### **We're Seeking Auction Items!**

There will be an online auction this spring and we're seeking donations. Gift certificates, services, tickets, fine wine, vacation home getaways, etc. are welcome and deeply appreciated! Please contact **[Chris Miller](#)** for more information or **[submit your donated items here](#)**. Thank you for your support!





## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

### Boardwalk Build Days

In case you missed it above, there's a Boardwalk Build Day coming up on Saturday to finish constructing a new pathway through the wood chips on campus. Sign up here to volunteer: **Saturday, March 12**

### 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!

