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Park Day Post

Park Day School • 26 days ago • Thursday, Mar 3 at 6:14 PM • **Park Day School, Board of Trustees, External Community Members**

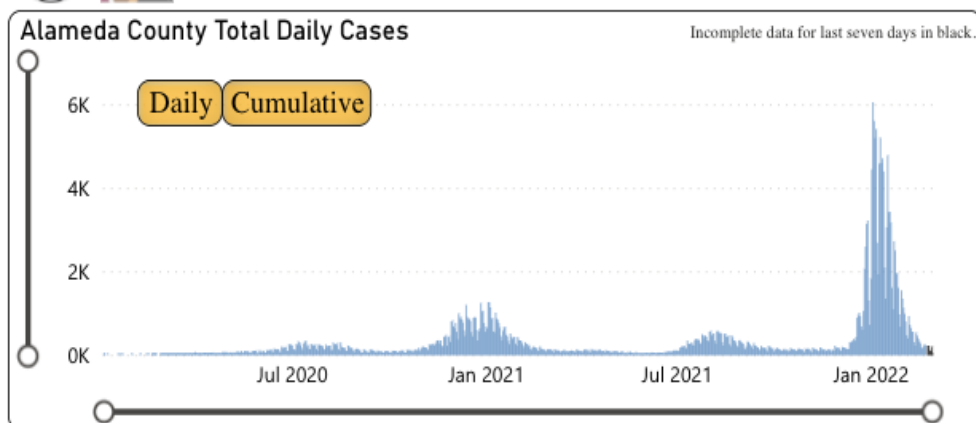


Dear Park Day families,

We're pleased to report that all Tuesday's COVID test results were negative following the break. We're grateful for our community's good health. As case rates drop, we are at a new place in the pandemic. As most of you have likely heard, the CDC, **CDPH**, and **Alameda County Public Health Department** have 3/5 lifted the universal mask mandate for K-12 schools beginning March 12.



Alameda County COVID-19 Dashboard



ACPHD Health Officer Dr. Moss shared today that "Cases are declining to near pre-surge levels everywhere, and this is the right time to move face masking guidance from requirement to recommendation in most settings." Accordingly, out of an abundance of caution, **Park Day will continue to require masking inside all buildings on campus at this time.**

Park Day has maintained a cautious approach throughout the pandemic, and we will continue our protocols to ensure the health and safety of all staff and students. At last count our student vaccination rate is at 97% and climbing, and we have had only one new COVID case amongst staff and students in the last month. Beginning Friday, March 11, **we will no longer be requiring that staff, families and students wear masks outside 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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

3/5 - **Boardwalk Build Day**

3/11 - **Read-a-Thon**

3/12 - **Boardwalk Build Day**

3/14 - **Middle School Basketball vs. Albany** at Oakland Tech

3/15 - DJA Meeting

3/17 - **Middle School Basketball vs. Albany** at Albany

3/24 & 3/25 - No School - **Family-Teacher Conferences**

4/18 - 4/22 - **Spring Break**

This change will make such a positive difference for our students as they play and interact outdoors, and will allow us to see and hear each other and share smiles again! We are looking forward to the enhancement of our social-emotional connection as a community.

Masking Outdoors Will Be Optional

Wearing masks outdoors will be optional on campus because we understand that some will want or need to continue to wear masks. We will make sure that everyone understands 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. We will use this next week to have conversations at school about respecting individual decisions.

Keeping Track of Masks

We are also aware that there will likely be issues with students losing their masks as they move from indoors to outdoors and back again. We will provide lanyards for students to attach to their masks, with a break-away feature for safety. In addition, we recently received a large number of kid-sized masks from the State that we will make available to students if they lose their mask.

Upgraded Mask Protocol Suspended

We are also suspending our upgraded mask protocol that was added during the height of the variant surges. Beginning next Monday, March 7, we will return to the standard protocol from our **COVID Safety Plan**: anyone on campus inside a building is now able to wear a cloth mask with a filter or three-ply surgical mask in addition to a KN95/N95/KF94.

Take care,
Jennifer Cooper
Pandemic Coordinator



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 drive back out and



READ-A-THON



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!

View, Edit, and Share Your Student's Read-a-Thon Pledge Page!

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.**

Then they'll spend a day reading in support of our school's literacy program and to update our classroom libraries to reflect the beautiful diversity in our community. Watch for information from your teachers on what to expect on the special day!

With a personal web page for each student, it's easy for them to solicit pledges. 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:

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

If your student would like to customize their pledge page with a photo and personal message, check your email for a message from me for directions. Please reach out if you can't find it or have any questions... I'd be happy to help!

Happy Reading!

Chris Miller

Director of Development

Kindergarten

1st Grade

2nd Grade

3rd Grade

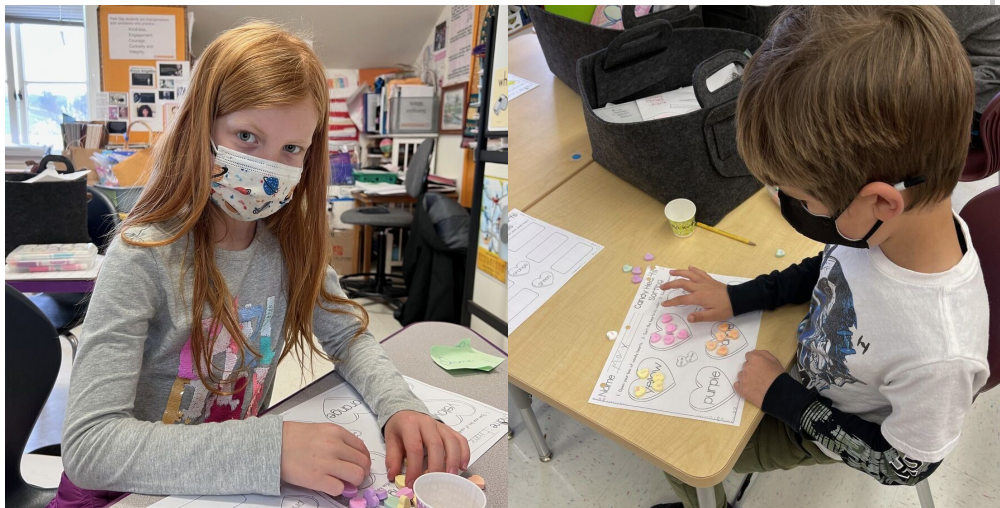
4th Grade

5th Grade

6th Grade

7th Grade

8th Grade



BOARDWALK BUILD DAYS

The building has begun! This week, some of the 5th grade Eco Koalas and 4th grade Student Leadership groups started sawing and drilling the boards for the boardwalk.

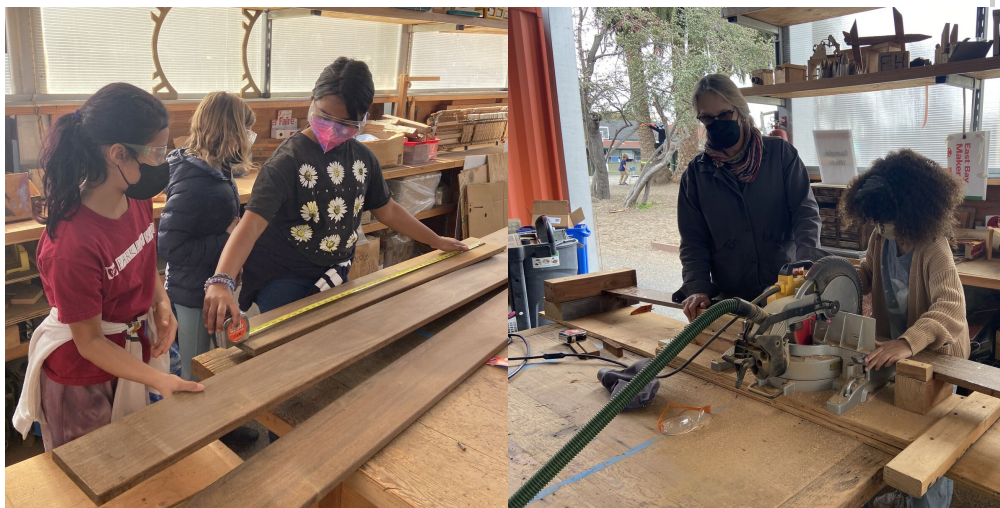
There's still time to sign up and come help this coming Saturday and next. Even if you can only come for an hour or two, we could use your help. Lunch will be provided. Well supervised students are welcome to join parents.

We are looking for diggers, carpenters, and builders, and anyone who wants to lend a hand. If you have power tools (drills, circular or chop saws, or jigsaws) or digging tools (pickaxes or mattocks), please bring them, along with gloves and lots of energy.

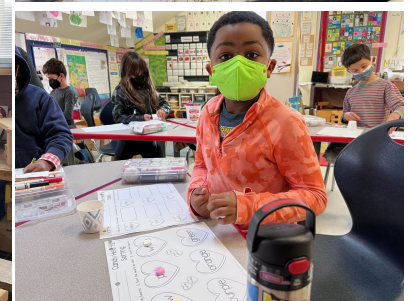
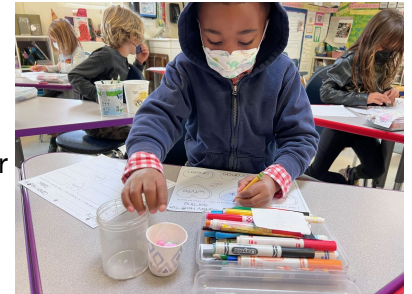
Click here to sign up for one or both Boardwalk Build Days:

Saturday, March 5 and Saturday, March 12

Thanks for your teamwork!



NEWS & EVENTS



Talking to Students About Current Events

As we all know, there has currently been a lot in the news regarding the Russian invasion of Ukraine that our students are continually learning more and more about. This type of news can often bring up feelings of confusion, fear and concern for students which can drive conversations that can be tricky. For parents who have either older children or children with access to technology and social media, be aware of the images and headlines they may be seeing while scrolling.

We have compiled a list of resources to help parents navigate these conversations in an honest, compassionate and age appropriate manner. As always, if you have any additional questions please feel free to reach out to your child's teacher, advisor, or your division head.

- NPR - [What to say when the news is scary](#)
- NYT - [How to talk to Kids about Ukraine](#) (More Middle School focused)
- PBS - [How to talk to Kids About the Ukraine Invasion](#)
- [How to talks to Kids About the Ukraine Invasion Especially if they Have Their own Trauma](#)

Save the Date: Tuesday, March 15

The next Diversity & Justice Alliance meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 15. Watch for an announcement of the guest speaker to follow shortly!

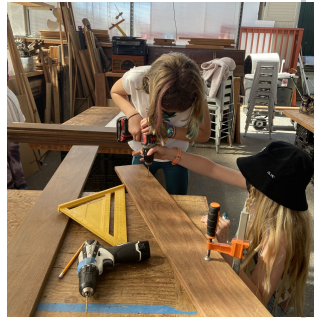


VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Boardwalk Build Days

In case you missed it above, there are two Boardwalk Build Days coming up in March to construct a new pathway through the wood chips on campus. Sign up here to volunteer:

Saturday, March 5 and **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!

