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Park Day Post

Park Day School • 18 days ago • Thursday, Oct 28 at 6:00 PM • **Park Day School, Board of Trustees, External Community Members**



Dear Park Day Families,

November 2, 2020. You know how certain dates just stand out in your mind? November 2, 2020 was the day we first opened campus for in-person instruction last year. And almost a year later (nearly to the exact day) we had to alert the community to our first confirmed positive COVID test result.

While all of the people and agencies we have consulted with over the past year and half have clearly told us that our thinking should be about how to respond “when” we have positive cases versus “if”, it was still tough to send yesterday’s post. We want you to know that **all of our test results from this Tuesday, 10/26, came back negative** and we have continued to be vigilant with all of our health and safety protocols.

Thank you for all that you have done and continue to do to keep our whole Park Day community safe.

Belonging: Our Staff Begins the Work

As many of you know, we were able complete our school’s first strategic plan at the end of last school year. “Belonging” was one of the four strategic pillars our community identified as crucial to our organizational growth. Our charge for the next five years is to “deepen our commitment to inclusion so that everyone in our community feels a sense of belonging.”

To that end, during our professional day on Monday, our staff learned about and experienced first hand the importance and impact of affinity spaces. We invited Liza Talusen; a diversity professional who has worked with schools for over 25 years, to facilitate a deeper dive into why affinity groups for both students and staff are important to develop a sense of connection and belonging. The full staff then broke into facilitated race-based affinity groups. Stay tuned for more information from Arjuna in the coming weeks as we plan toward the rollout of our student affinity groups.

Happy Halloween! Be well.

Angela

UPCOMING EVENTS

10/29

- Halloween Celebration

11/3

- Make-Up Picture Day

11/4 - 11/5

- No School - Camp Available
- Family-Teacher Conferences

11/6

- Latin Heritage Party

11/9

- Vaccine Information Meeting

11/10

- Coffee with Angela

11/16

- Parent Ed Event with Allison Briscoe-Smith: How to Talk to Your Children About Race

11/22 - 11/26

- Fall-iday Break - No School
- No Camp



COVID TESTING RESULTS & VACCINE UPDATE

We are pleased to share that COVID test results from on-site testing last Friday and this past Tuesday were all negative.

This week's updates from Dr. Moss, Alameda County Public Health Officer, are that case rates in the Bay Area are still trending down, and that Alameda County has remained in the Orange/Moderate CDC tier for the last 2 weeks, with a current case rate of 5.5/100k.

As most of you have already heard, the FDA has recommended **Emergency Use Authorization of the Pfizer vaccination for 5-11 year olds**. CDC Approval and first shipments of vaccine to providers will likely take place the week of November 8th. The Pfizer vaccine for ages 5-11 will be a lower dose packaged differently, given in 2 doses 3 weeks apart. **Vaccines will be available primarily through health care providers, as soon as November 15th.**

We encourage you to work with your provider to vaccinate your student. Alameda County Public Health Department is planning Mobile Vaccination Clinics the week of November 29. A [recent Opinion article in the NY Times from Dr. Lee Savio Beers](#), the president of the American Academy of Pediatrics, provides more information about pediatric COVID vaccination. General information about COVID vaccination is [available here](#).

Vaccine Information Meeting: Tuesday, November 9th 5:30-7pm

We will be hosting an informational meeting for parents about student



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:

vaccination on Tuesday, November 9th. Park Day parents psychologist Dr. Jocelyn Sze and pediatrician Dr. Rachel Kreps-Falk will share helpful guidance about needle fears, vaccinations, and answer your questions. We thank them for sharing their expertise with our school community!



COMMUNITY NEWS & EVENTS

Halloween

Halloween will be celebrated at school tomorrow, 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 student's costume is appropriate for school. Happy haunting!

Día de Muertos

Throughout the school, we have been learning about the Dia de Muertos celebration. In the middle school, students have analyzed and discussed new concepts from indigenous rituals to the monarch butterfly migration from Canada to Mexico. Día de Muertos takes place from October 31 through Tuesday, November 2, and students are invited to bring a photo of any late loved ones to place on the altar inside the Magnolia Building. The altar will be up until November 15.

- #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!





Park Day Parent Education: How to Talk to Your Children About Race and Racism”

“Belonging” was one of the four pillars our community identified in our strategic plan as crucial to our organizational growth. Our charge for the next five years is to “deepen our commitment to inclusion so that everyone in our community feels a sense of belonging.” As we begin to embark upon this important work, we are excited to welcome **Dr. Allison Briscoe-Smith, Ph.D., on Tuesday, November 16**, to facilitate a Park Day community discussion about “How to Talk to Your Children About Race and Racism”.

Latin Heritage Party

A group of Park Day parents are bringing back their annual celebration Latin Heritage with an all-grade event on Saturday, November 6th. 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.



HOLIDAY TRAVEL GUIDANCE

Following the holiday break, all students, regardless of vaccination status, need to be tested 1-3 days before returning to school and **upload a negative test result** prior to returning.

To ensure the health and safety of our school community, COVID testing is required of all students and staff regardless of any travel in or out of state. We will return to our twice-weekly onsite testing on Tuesday after break.

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

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!

