

August 21, 2009

Dear Dry Creek Families,

Welcome to Dry Creek Elementary and the 2009-10 school year! I want to take this opportunity to welcome you to a new school year and provide you with important back-to-school information. Class lists are posted on the front door of the schoolhouse. The first day of school is **September 3, 2009 for first through sixth grade!** Kindergarten students attend orientation with their parent/guardian by scheduled appointment only on September 3rd and 4th. Kindergarteners will not be riding the bus these two days for orientation. Please call Mrs. Vogtman or Mrs. Bradford at 457-5050 to schedule your kindergarten orientation appointment if you have not done so already. This will be a great opportunity for kindergarteners to see their classroom and meet their teacher. It is also an important time to meet the teacher and begin our partnership to support your child's education optimally. **Half-Day kindergarten class begins September 8 (after Labor Day observance).** Our school day begins promptly at 7:45 am for first bell and ends at 2:05 pm daily, except Tuesday release at 1:35 pm. **Early Release begins the Tuesday on September 15<sup>th</sup>.** Please make sure that children arrive to school on time. Regular attendance is vital to school success!

There have been some **staffing changes** over the summer I want to keep you updated on. Mrs. Butler is now the principal of Franklin Elementary! Be sure to congratulate her when you see her! Carrie Davis will be teaching 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. Carrie has been teaching for several years. Wyndi Cole is returning to DC as our 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher. Gunnar Thomason joins us from Hamilton as a fifth grade teacher. Dottie Spring is returning as our Resource Room teacher. Sarah Jensen is our Reading Specialist. Ellen Woodward is also returning as our Orchestra teacher. We have incredible teachers at DC! We are fortunate to have such an amazing staff educating our children.

**Daily Schedule:**

**Class Time**

K 7:45-10:55 A.M./10:45-2:05 PM

Grades 1-5 7:45-2:05\*

Grade 6 7:45-2:05\*

**AM Recess**

9:45-10 twice a week

grades 2, 3, 4, 10-10:15/grades 1, 5 9:45-10

band, orchestra, general music (no a.m. recess)

**Grade**

**Lunch Schedule**

**Recess Schedule**

Kindergarten

10:35-10:55/Pm 10:45-11:05

11:10-11:20 PM recess 11:05-11:15  
AM K recess 10:20-10:35(except Tues.)

First Grade

11:10-11:30

11:30-11:50

Second Grade

11:30-11:50

12:10-12:30

Third Grade

11:40-12:00

12:00-12:20

Fourth Grade

11:20-11:40

11:40-12:00

Fifth Grade

11:50-12:10

12:10-12:30

Sixth grade

12:00-12:15

12:15-12:30

**\*Tuesday Early Dismissal**

All students in elementary school will be dismissed 30 minutes early on Tuesdays, **beginning September 15<sup>th</sup>.** Our students will all be dismissed at 1:35. Please plan alternative arrangements for Tuesdays if your child will be going to a different place than the usual dismissal location after school.

### **Morning Arrival**

**Children being dropped off should not arrive before 7:30 a.m.** Students must be in supervised areas for student safety. Thanks for your assistance with this. Students should not be in the halls before the first bell. They may be in the library, café, or playground when supervisor is on duty. Students should not be hanging out in the front entry area without a parent. **If you drive your child to school, they should be dropped off next to the curb (behind the newly painted line). Please do not double park and drop your child off in the lane of traffic. If you need to walk your child in, please park in a designated parking spot and not at the curb. Please enter through the crosswalk. Students should not be dropped off in bus area unless they are on a school bus. Please drive slowly. THIS IS FOR THE SAFETY OF ALL CHILDREN. Thank you for complying with this.**

### **Morning Routine**

Also, we ask you to please be respectful of teachers' preparation time before the first bell of school. Please check in the office to see if your child's teacher is available to meet or schedule an appointment to speak with them.

### **Breakfast**

Breakfast is served daily before school. Students are welcome to eat breakfast at school on any given day. We also serve a late breakfast during morning recess. Elementary breakfast is \$1.00 and \$.00 for reduced cost.

### **Lunch**

You may send money for meals to cover one meal or many meals. This money will be deposited in your child's account and is available for use between now and the end of the school year. Money may be deposited on any school day. This eliminates having to send money for milk or lunch each day. When sending your student with lunch money please put it in an envelope with your child's name, teacher's name and school on it. The money is collected in the kitchen. You may also make payment on the internet at [www.portangelesschools.org](http://www.portangelesschools.org) for Sodexo if you choose.

### **Applications for Free and Reduced-Price Meals**

Children need healthy meals to learn. To apply for free or reduced price meals, please fill out the application that will be sent home with your child on the first day of school. **THESE FORMS ARE VERY IMPORTANT!** Application forms must be received by **October 1, 2009**. The office is happy to assist you if you need the application or if you have any questions.

Lunch-\$1.90    Reduced-K-3<sup>rd</sup> grade \$.00 and 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> \$.40

### **Afternoon Dismissal- For your student's safety!**

Students who are picked up must wait with the adult supervisor in line just outside the front doors of the school. Parents or approved adults will come to the student and check with the supervising adult **outside (the foyer gets crowded when classes are trying to exit)**. This procedure ensures the safety of your child. Students are never to walk through the parking lot without an adult. Please help us with this important safety practice since our parking lot gets busy and smaller children are difficult to see. **When you pick up your child, please do not double park or park in the lane of traffic. If you need to walk your child in, please park in a designated parking spot and not at the curb. Please drive slowly. Also students should NOT be picked up in the bus zone unless they are riding a school bus. THIS IS FOR THE SAFETY OF ALL CHILDREN. Thank you for complying with this safety request!**

### **Walkers**

Students who are walking home wait with the adult supervisor until the buses have left. They are then dismissed to walk home. Please instruct your child(ren) on safe walking procedures.

### **Change in Plans**

Occasionally you will have a change in plans for going home. Please call the office before **1:00 pm** to let us know of the change. This gives us time to deliver the pass to your child and check on any changes in busing for you.

### **Attendance Policy**

**We want ALL students to have excellent attendance and to arrive on time!**

**Help us achieve this goal.☺**

**MISS SCHOOL-YOU MISS OUT! We can't teach you if we can't reach you!**

If your child is absent or late, please call the school office at 457-5050. Getting to school regularly and on time is very important for your child's learning. A good part of important instructional time is missed if your child is tardy. Student absences remain unexcused on their permanent attendance record until the office receives either a phone call or written note. Excessive absences or tardies, even though excused, can generate letters and/or filings to truancy court. Please limit your child's absences whenever possible (even excused). We encourage parents to schedule their child's appointments outside school hours when possible. Thanks for your assistance and partnership in your child's learning through communication and consistency with attendance!

### **Excused and Unexcused Absences - PASD Policy 3122**

Students are expected to attend all assigned classes each day. Teachers shall keep a record of absence and tardiness.

The following are valid excuses for absences and tardiness. Missed work assignments and activities may be made up in the manner provided by the teacher.

Participation in school-approved activity. To be excused, this absence must be authorized by a staff member and the affected teacher must be notified prior to the absence unless it is clearly impossible to do so.

Absence caused by illness, health condition, family emergency, or religious purposes. When possible, the parent or guardian is expected to notify the school office prior to the absence. If not explained by a call, the parent or guardian should send a signed note of explanation with the student upon his/her return to school. A parent or guardian may request that a student be excused from attending school in observance of a religious holiday.

Absence for parental/guardian-approved activities. This category of absence shall be counted as excused for purposes agreed upon by the principal and the parent or guardian.

Absence resulting from disciplinary actions or short-term suspension. As required by law, students who are removed from a class or classes as a disciplinary measure, or students who have been placed on short-term suspension, shall have the right to make up assignments or exams missed during the time they were denied entry to the classroom.

### **Becca Bill**

As stated in RCW 28A.225.010 the State of Washington requires compulsory school attendance. Letters of concern recommending developing a plan to improve attendance will be sent after five absences.

### **YMCA After school daycare**

We will be able to provide after school child care with the YMCA. Parents need to register their children at the YMCA and call there for any additional information. The after school day care program will be available at Dry Creek on the first day of school. If you are interested in childcare, please contact Cathy Bourm the YMCA.

### **Parking Lot Procedures**

Please park in the parking lot in the front when you wish to pick your child up or come into school. We try to leave the curb available (behind the newly painted line) for quick drop offs. Please do not double park and drop your child off in the lane of traffic. If you need to walk your child in, please park in a designated parking spot and not at the curb. Please enter through the crosswalk. Also do not park in lane of traffic. Students should not be dropped off/picked up in bus area unless they are on a bus. Please drive slowly. **THIS IS FOR THE SAFETY OF ALL CHILDREN.** This decreases the congestion and allows busy parents to drive on through the lot. **REMEMBER TO LEAVE THE CROSSWALK AND RED ZONE FREE FOR SAFETY AND EMERGENCIES.** Thanks for your help with this!

### **You are invited to Dry Creek PTO meetings**

We love our parents to be involved at Dry Creek! Our first PTO meeting is on September 22, 2009 at 6:30 pm. We hope to see you there! They are usually the third Tuesday of the month. If you have questions, please don't hesitate to stop by the office. We really need more parents involved with our PTO. I am hoping to see you at least one PTO event this year! Please come! (Please note that we will be doing our Little Caesar's Pizza fundraiser).

### **School Supplies**

We have school supply lists at Wal Mart or the portangelesschools.org web site. Shirley also has some in the office. We have some backpacks available if needed from Costco.

We are pleased to welcome you to the 2009-10 school year and look forward to seeing you soon. We are so thrilled to see you and your children! We are going to have a great year! Now is a great time to start the school sleeping routine! Another great idea is to have your child start selecting clothes the night before. It helps make the morning rush easier! We truly respect and value our partnership in your child's education. **WASL results** will be sent home shortly after school starts. We look forward to conversations with you about the data for fourth-sixth graders and how we can provide support for each child. We succeed together! See you on **September 3, 2009 for grades 1-6** for the first day of school! Kindergarten parents remember to schedule your parent/child orientation appointment for September 2 or 3<sup>rd</sup>. **HALF day kindergarten class begins September 8, 2009.** P.S. If you know a kindergartener that hasn't registered yet, please encourage their parents to do so ASAP. Enjoy the remaining days of summer vacation.

Sincerely,

Kate Wenzl, Ed.M.  
Principal