

Salish Ponds Elementary School

December 2024 and January 2025 Newsletter

School Spirit!

Spirit Week at Salish Ponds!

The week before winter break, December 16th- 20th, at Salish Ponds we will be having Spirit Week! Each day we will have a dress up day or theme for all staff and students alike, to have some fun as we head into the Winter Break.

12/16 Monday: Wear your favorite sweater or sweatshirt

12/17 Tuesday: Wear a winter hat or scarf

12/18 Wednesday: Wear cozy socks or slippers

12/19 Thursday: Wear your School Spirit colors of: Purple, Green, and/or school shirts

12/20 Friday: Wear your PJ's

Counselors Corner!

Dear Dragonfly Families:

We hope you were able to walk with **Gratitude** in the past few weeks and had a great break. Our December theme is: **Optimism**. **Optimism** describes an expectation that good things will happen. It's about acknowledging our struggles but believing the future is bright anyway. We all know an Optimist, someone who always sees good. If you would like to start a conversation with your student, here are a few resources to get you started:

K-2 Books:

Ish by Peter H. Reynolds

Enemy Pie by Derek Munson

Have You Filled Your Bucket Today? by Carol McCloud

The Dot by Peter H. Reynolds

Pete the Cat and His Magic Sunglasses by James Dean

3-5 Books:

A Kids Book About Optimism by Meir Kay

The Power of Optimism by Abby Colich

Manjhi Moves a Mountain by Nancy Churnin

You Can Live on the Bright Side: The Kids' Guide to Optimism by Lucy Bell

Optimism: Sunny Side Up! By Jodie Shepherd

Movies:

Mr. Saad with Optimism: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qNJQodnrnCs>

Pollyanna: 1960 version can be found on Amazon and Apple.

Cultural Observances in December:

By engaging in these activities, families can broaden their cultural awareness, celebrate diversity, and reinforce values of kindness and inclusion at home.

World AIDS Day-December 1

International Day for the Abolition of Slavery-December 2

International Day for People with Disabilities-December 3

Giving Tuesday-December 3

Bodhi Day-December 8

Genocide Prevention Day-December 9

International Human Rights Day-December 10

Yule Winter Solstice-December 21

Christmas-December 25

Hanukkah-December 25-January 2

Kwanzaa-December 26-January 1

Local Community Events:

Benson Hotel Annual Gingerbread Display-Free, Dec. 3-Jan. 5, 6 pm-12 am

Free First Thursday @ Portland Art Museum-Free, Dec. 5, 10 am to 8 pm

Forest Festive-Free, Dec. 7, 11 am to 4 pm, World Forestry Center, Portland

Paws and Portraits-Free, Dec. 7, 11 am to 3 pm, Pro Photo Supply Event Center, Portland

Sustainable Holiday Market-Free, Dec. 7, 11 am to 6 pm, Lloyd Center, Portland

The Great Figgy Pudding Caroling Competition-Free, Dec. 13, 6 pm to 8 pm, Pioneer Square

Thank you for sharing your **Optimism** with your student. We are **Grateful** for your support.

January 2025 Newsletter

Happy New Year, Dragonflies!

We hope you all had a restful Winter break. We look forward to seeing you all as we kick off 2025 with our theme of Resilience! We define resilience as the ability to bounce back from difficult situations or challenging times. Challenges like starting a new school or falling off your bike while learning how to ride are part of our growth. Experiences that feel like setbacks provide us with

opportunities to learn, problem-solve, and build our confidence! Resilience is the ingredient that reminds us that we might not have met our goal YET!

Here are some resources to continue the conversation at home!

Grades K-2 Books

After the Fall by Dan Santat I Choose to Try Again by Elizabeth Estrada

I Can Do Hard Things: Mindful Affirmations for Kids by Gabi Garcia

Grade 3-5 Books

The Bad Guys in the Baddest Day Ever by Aaron Blabey

Whatever After: Bad Hair Day by Sarah Mlynowski

I, Cosmo by Carlie Sorosiak

Please feel free to call us if you have any questions or concerns as well: Arianne Delos Reyes, K-2 School Counselor, adelosreyes@rsd7.net, x3008; Virginia Rose, 3-5 School Counselor, vrose@rsd7.net, x3037, or school social worker, Michael Vanpool. Email: mvanpool@rsd7.net, x3016.

SUN/MFS

Reminder, the last day of Fall SUN is December 5th.

Winter SUN Session dates are January 13- March 6. A Parentsquare post and flyer with the link and instructions to register will be shared the week of December 16th.

If you have any questions regarding the Salish Ponds SUN after school program, please email Makayla Bearden at makaylab@mfs.email.

Rainy and Cold Recess

Fall is here and winter is just around the corner. At Salish Ponds we will have the kids go outside rain or shine. With that in mind we ask that you help you child come to school prepared to be outside every day. Coats, hats, and gloves can help to make a cold day outside a fun recess for all.

Being at school matters!

Did you know? Students who attend school regularly are more likely to succeed academically and graduate from high school. Regular attendance helps students maintain consistency in their learning and stay connected with friends and their class. Being a "regular attender" means missing no more than two days per month!

But what if your student is feeling unwell? Here's a guide to help you decide:

Students *can* go to school if:

- They have a runny nose or a mild cough but no other symptoms.
- They've been fever-free for 24 hours *without* taking fever-reducing medication.
- They haven't vomited or had diarrhea in the past 24 hours.

If these conditions aren't met, please keep your student at home. Remember to inform the school by calling the office or sending a message through ParentSquare to explain their absence.

Check out the [Everyday Matters toolkits for families](#) for support.

Outdoor Recess

We will continue to hold recess outdoors as much as possible. Please ensure your student comes to school dressed appropriately for outdoor activities.

January- Welcome back!

Welcome back! We are so thrilled to be learning and growing with you again! All of us here at Salish hope you enjoyed a wonderful break filled with special moments with your scholars, family, and friends. Wishing you a very Happy New Year! 🎉

As winter weather rolls in, stay informed by signing up for Flash Alerts to receive the latest updates. Here's the link to get connected: [Flash Alerts](#).

Let's make it a great start to the year!

Immunization Exclusion

Exclusion day for the state of Oregon is Wednesday, February 19th. Letters will be mailed to parents whose children are not up to date or whose records are incomplete by February 5th. If you receive a letter, please update your information as soon as possible to avoid your student being excluded from school. If you need help locating a health care provider or clinic, please contact our school Nurse Dawn McCollum.

State Testing Opt Out

State standardized testing will start at Salish Ponds soon. If you do not want your student to participate in the state testing this year, please contact the school so we can provide you with further information. The opt out form will be online soon.

<https://www.reynolds.k12.or.us/district/parent-opt-out-and-exemption-guidelines-state-testing>

The ELPA (English Language Proficiency Assessment) will open on January 9th. Your child's attendance during our testing times will be imperative for the success of their completion and results.

If you have other questions, you can contact Mrs. Bentley or Mrs. Stevens.

Toys at school

We kindly ask for your help in keeping toys at home to support a focused and positive learning environment. Toys can sometimes distract not only the scholar bringing them but also their classmates. Additionally, bringing toys to school can lead to emotional challenges, such as attachment or concerns about loss and damage—and we want to avoid that during the school day. If there are special days when toys are allowed in your scholar's classroom, their teacher will let you know. Until then, we appreciate your cooperation in ensuring toys stay at home, where they will be safe and ready for play after school.

Thank you for your understanding and support!

Upcoming Events at Salish Ponds:

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December.....

- 9th- Assembly @ 1:30pm
- 13th-PTO Bingo night!
- 16th- 20th: SPIRIT WEEK!
- 21st- First day of Winter
- 23rd- January 6th- No School, Winter Break

January.....

- 6th- No school, teacher workday
- 13th- Assembly at 1:30pm
- 13th- Winter SUN begins
- 20th- No school, holiday
- 24th- No school, end of semester
- 27th- No school, grading day



Rebecca Jones-Stevens

Rebecca is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters

