POMPERAUG ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SEPTEMBER 2009
"Where All Students are Successful and Involved"
REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 15

PENCIL POINTS

CALENDAR

Sept. 24	Kndg. & Gr. 3 Parent Nights
Sept. 25	Professional Development Day, 1PM DISMISSAL
Sept. 29	Gr. 2 Parent Night, 6:30-7:15PM
Oct. 1	Gr. 5 Parent Night, 6:30- 7:15PM
Oct. 6	PTO Mtg 7:00PM
Oct. 9	Professional Development Day, 1 PM DISMISSAL
Oct. 12	Columbus Day – No School
Oct. 16	Picture Day
Oct. 19	Author Visit

Welcome Back!

Principal's Message

What a wonderful start we have had to our new school year! We send out a huge "welcome" to our 88 new kindergartners as well as our 24 new students and their families who are joining our PES community this year. We hope everyone enjoyed our annual **PTO Welcome Back Picnic**, which was held at Ballentine Park on Tuesday, Sept. 15th.

Our **smooth opening**, once again, is directly attributed to all of the work many staff members and the PTO do over the summer to help your children transition back to a new school year. We had helpful kindergarten and new family orientations, thanks to the work of PTO Vice Presidents Yvette Allen-Lomaro and Cathy Winter who organized the hundreds of details to these events. I also thank my staff members who were here to connect with our new students and families, including our new nurse Sue DeWitt, kindergarten teachers Nancy King, Cindy Rosa and Michelle Goncalo, School Psychologist Cindy Ruocco, Guidance Counselors Kate Soltesz and Stefanie Clifford, Media Specialist Pat Smith, and Technology Support person Todd Johns. I also am grateful to our first grade teachers and Mrs. Ann Lachmann (new third grade teacher), who provided a Meet and Greet for students and families the day before school began. Also, I would like to thank all of the teachers who wrote to students and/or made themselves available for informal introductions throughout the summer. It is because of all of these efforts that our first day of school was one of the best ever. We thank everyone for your patience with slower busses during the first week of school as well.

We have several **new staff members**, and you can find out more about them within this newsletter. They have worked hard over the summer to learn all about our school and district and prepare for their positions, under the direction of their mentors and PES colleagues. A big thank you to all who have helped acclimate our newest staff!

New this year at PES is **recess before lunch**. After much review of this idea, presented to me by my physical education staff and an interested parent, I worked this summer to change the master schedule to provide for this. The information we reviewed indicated that children tend to eat and drink more at lunch when it is after recess, and improved behaviors are noted at lunch and smoother transitions back to class result. There tend to be fewer visits to the nurse in the afternoon as well. We have ironed out the kinks in our new system (mostly having to do with lunch boxes), and will look closely at the effects of this change.

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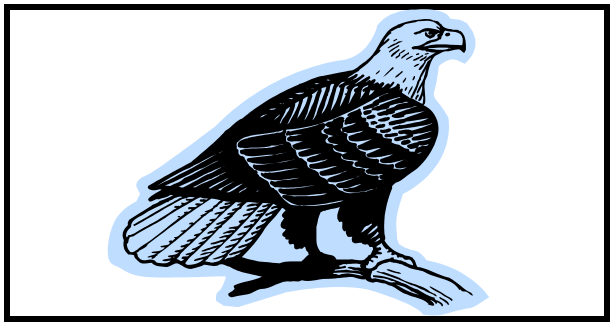

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