




# Paxson Family Engagement News

Jan 2021

## In this issue:

Principal's note	1
Kindness Week	1
Around the World Cultural Night	2
Thank you—Mitten Project	2
Native Am. Thursday Game Nights	2
New in-building Staff	2

## Upcoming Events:

No PTA Meeting	In Jan
MLK Day - No School	Jan 18
Next PTA meeting	Feb 9
Share the Love 	Feb 12
Around the World Virtual Showcase	Feb 24

## Mark Your Calendar:

PTA Zoom Fun Night TBA	March
Professional Day	Feb 8
President's Day-No School	Feb 15
Spring Break	March 12-19
STEAM SHow	April
Family Fun Running	May
Talent Show	June

Greetings Paxson families,

I hope you all enjoyed some rest and relaxation over the holidays. Our amazing staff started the week and the month with optimism and enthusiasm as we welcomed our students back to school. We plunged right into our work this week and are preparing for the eventual return of our students to 4 days per week instead of 2. Our school board will discuss this matter on Tuesday, January 12th at their regular meeting. We will be prepared for whatever decision they make.

In December we worked as a staff to prioritize our behavioral expectations for students by acknowledging safe, respectful, responsible and kind behavior with a PAX Panther Paw. Each student who receives this paper slip gets to take one copy home and one copy goes into a classroom container. Once per month I will be drawing 2 winners from each class who will be featured with their photo on our TV monitor in the front office area.

I drew 4 grand prize winners right before break who received a gift card to a local business. Each month we begin fresh so every student has the ability to earn Panther Paws and to be acknowledged. All of the December paper slips are now in a

common container by the front office. When it is filled, we will have a schoolwide celebration. All staff are encouraged to acknowledge positive student behavior in this manner, which incentivises students to practice these universal

expectations throughout their day. As we consider doubling the number of students in our school each day, our focus on positive behavior will be even more important. Please reinforce these expectations at home as well.

We look forward to the second half of this crazy school year with cautious optimism. Thank you for your continued support and for sharing your children with us.

--Julie Robitaille, Principal



## Be Kind. Se Amable.

Kindness week will be celebrated Jan 26-29, 2021.

Materials will go home with students by Jan 22 with instructions and activities to do with their families.

We hope these activities will reinforce the importance of being kind and mindful both at home and at school. Your student will be receiving a remote Kindness packet and to follow we will push out a padlet of videos and links to activities in which to engage. Here are some of the activities that will be included: A reading in Spanish and English of *Have You Filled a Bucket Today?*, Kindness Bingo, Mindful video by Maestra Doherty and Gratitude Notes. Our service project will be a coin drive to raise money for our furry friends at the Humane Society. **Remember: Be kind, it's contagious!**



With CARES Act funding, each elementary school is now able to hire 2 in-building substitute teachers. We have the great fortune of welcoming Kerry Zahn and Elia Ferruzzi who are sharing one of the positions

and Mercedes Roberts as our additional full-time substitute.

These wonderful staff members will fill in when needed and provide student intervention support and Spanish language support.

Our staff is nearly complete! We just posted a teaching position for a specialist who will work alongside our other specialists to teach engineering modules through the District-adopted Project Lead the Way Curriculum to each grade level throughout the remainder of the school year. We still have a Kitchen Helper position available, so please apply!

#### PTA Announcements

- January PTA meeting is cancelled. Next meeting is at 7:00 pm on February 9, 2021.
- The Paxson Playground Committee is continuing to work on Phase 2 planning. More information to follow. You may direct questions to Maria Chesnut at [mchesnut@m-m.net](mailto:mchesnut@m-m.net).
- Thank you to those families who supported the Paxson Barnes & Noble bookfair. We were able to restock some new titles for our Library.

#### The 2021 Mitten Project brightened the holidays for so many families!

- 20 Boxes of MFB fresh perishables
- 44 Children Served!
- 26 Families received a grocery card, a gas card and a large bag of toiletries.
- 67+ Kind & Giving Families Donated!



*A huge thank you to all the thoughtful and generous students and families who participated in this successful event! You made a difference!*

Let's celebrate the diversity of our community by traveling the world during Paxson's *Around the World* cultural showcase. Yes, this



will happen virtually, but you can still explore the various indigenous and global cultures of our own Paxson families. This event will involve the sharing

of cultural favorites, such as: music, art, customs, costumes, dance, geography, images, and activities. If you are a family that would like to share some of your culture and traditions, please contact Melanie Matelich in the FRC. All submissions are welcome and will be uploaded to Padlet and shared out in February.

**MCPS Indian Educ. Dept invites students and families to join in for**

## Thursday Family Game Nights

**January and February  
5:30-7:30 pm**

Bingo & Kahoot Trivia Jan 21, Feb 4  
Soup and Stories with Elders & Bingo-Jan 14,  
28, Feb 11

For more info call Lewis YellowRobe at 728  
-2400 x 1049



Friend us on Facebook or check us out on Paxson's webpage @ [www.mcpsmt.org](http://www.mcpsmt.org)