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PANTHER TALES

Poudre School District

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Dear Webber Middle School Community:

Fall Greetings to you all! While the early snow was a bit of a surprise, it appears we are going to have some beautiful fall weather as we end our first quarter as Webber Middle School. Thanks to all who had a part in the very smooth beginning to our school year!!

Our first **sports season** is ending, and practice for wrestling and girls basketball is beginning. It's been great to see the **excellent support** of our student athletes at the various games and matches.

We were so pleased to visit with many of you at our annual **parent/guardian student/teacher conferences**. Most teachers averaged three dozen conferences a night, while some had as many as four dozen. We know that can't meet with everyone, so remember that we are always open to phone calls and/or longer conferences with teachers. Feel free to call or email to set one up.

As expected, our transition to **Standards Based Grading** has presented some challenges but also some great "aha" moments from both staff and students. We wish you could witness the rich conversations among teachers as they develop units and discuss what evidence will be expected of students to show what they know at various proficiency levels. No doubt you have seen many of the rubrics that have been developed to provide very

specific feedback to students and parents and guardians. We will continue to refine the process within departments but also with Blevins, Preston and Wellington peers. Our collaboration days this year are devoted to this important work.

Grade point average for first quarter was 3.28 for 6th, 3.17 for 7th and 3.25 for eighth. As soon as we are able to pull the report we will post a list of honor roll students on the web site.

Attendance has been interesting with the significant numbers of students and some staff out for many days with the flu. Even so, we've averaged 93% daily attendance for the quarter. We think we've passed the peak of this early flu season.

The vast **majority** of students have made **positive behavior choices daily**. Until the last week of the quarter, we'd had no serious incidents to speak of. Sadly, we then had five incidents that resulted in suspensions, and two of those with state mandated expulsion as the consequence. While we can't share details of incidents, we have asked students to look again at the discipline ladder and to think about how serious some of the consequences are for behavior involving drugs, weapons or alcohol. We've also reminded students how important it is to **think through temptations and how to respond to them before they present themselves**, often in a peer pressure situation.

Safety and Security are High Priority at Webber

We'd encourage parents/guardians to look through the refusal skills on page 10 of the student handbook with your kids and maybe even do some role play at home. It's sad that we have to discuss these things, but we want to be proactive and have frank discussions, so we ask parents/guardians to do the same. Please be informed as to the Poudre School District Code of Conduct material as well as Colorado State Statutes related to conduct in schools.

Recently we had the opportunity to inform some students of the dangers of playing the "**fainting game**" where students try to get themselves or others to faint for a few seconds. Parents/guardians, please be aware of the dangers and do everything you can to discourage this. We're especially concerned when students do it in bathrooms or locker rooms with concrete walls and floors that their heads could hit. If you have any questions, please call one of us!

We pay a lot of attention to safety and security. We've had our first practice **fire drill** and the unannounced fire drill by the district and fire department, plus an accidental fire alarm during a football game. Our students and staff did extremely well on all three! We have a weather alert monitor in the front office, several lightning detectors that are used by PE teachers and coaches, plus we access live radar for storm information. Following the **bomb threats** at two high schools, we reviewed our procedures and met as a staff to ensure we all know what to do if that were to occur here. We know bomb threats are intended to disrupt the normal operation of a school, so our procedures are meant to contain any threat and allow school to operate. Experts report that the larger threat is outside the building where cars or trucks could contain bigger explosives than what could be brought into a school. The good news is that schools remain one of the safest buildings to be in regardless of the threat!

We will **practice a simple lock down drill** within a week or two. While we will not practice an evacuation with students, staff have practiced it and reviewed the procedure. Please help us, parents/guardians, in remaining calm and using your head if we ever have a situation that calls for emergency response. We would use our reverse call

system to notify you plus email messaging for those who have signed up for email alerts.

If you needed to **pick up students**, we have a system set up for doing so and would direct you into the auxiliary gymnasium rather than our front office. Other communication would include the district website, PSD channel 10, and local and Denver media.

Students have been **exemplary in exhibiting positive citizenship**. Each week we've honored at least half a dozen students and a few staff who've helped others, returned lost items (including expensive calculators, cell phones, cash, checks, etc.), or have been of service in some way. Check the posted pictures of students and staff in the hallways who are our Positive Panthers!

Student Leadership Elections are almost complete. We're pleased to announce the Executive Leadership Team Officers for this year: Co-Presidents Dani Harton and Josh Knowski, Vice President Ann Giesenhagen, and Recorder/Treasurer Jonathan Tschetter. Our election for grade level class representatives will happen within a week and then the entire Student Leadership Team will begin meeting and planning activities to enhance spirit and unity at Webber.

Students voting for their candidates



Both of our **SIT and PTO** teams have met. SIT will meet Wednesday, November 11 with Dr. Jerry Wilson. He'll host a listening session at Webber at 5:30 in our Library Media Center. SIT is focused on school improvement and any issues. PTO is reviewing grant requests following the magazine sale. Both SIT and PTO meetings are open, so all are welcome to attend.

Sandra Bickel, **Principal**

Student Activities at the Web

Quarter/Semester Grade Reminder

Remember that except for quarter classes, first quarter grades are "in progress grades." Grades from first quarter will be averaged with second quarter grades for a final semester grade which will be recorded on a student's transcript. What you see on Pinnacle as an average may not match the grade on the progress report since teachers are looking for the most recent and or summative evidence over time of student learning.

Food for Fines

From now until Thanksgiving, the Media Center will be collecting canned food items instead of money for overdue book fines. Please bring in one can of food for every dollar owed.

The annual book fair was a great success with \$2206 total purchases which will allow our LMC to purchase about \$1200 in books and other media. Thanks to all who participated!

Read a Latte



Our seventh grade students had a new and fun experience reading while enjoying hot chocolate, hot cider, lemonade or lattes in the Library Media Center. That day the snow was softly falling outside, so there were

many positive comments and committed students.

In order to be eligible, students must write at least one summary from their outside reading book, so we encourage reading for about 20 minutes per night 5 days a week. We want to support a life-long habit of reading.

We will be looking for parent/guardian volunteers in future quarters to listen to students report out what they've read, help prepare, serve and clean up the event. Email your student's English teacher with your contact information if you are interested.



Back to School Activity Night

Our first all school activity night included a variety of activities providing something for everyone: dancing in the commons; a movie in the choir room; softball, soccer and horseshoes outside; beach volleyball, wall climbing and basketball in the gyms; and pizza, jamba juice and free popcorn in the north commons. We estimate at least 400 students attended. The next activity night will be November 13.

Extra funds for Webber

Thanks to those who continue to bring in Campbells Soup Labels, Boxtops for Education, and Morning Fresh Dairy Caps. These little items add up over the course of a year. We're also registered with Albertsons and Target as well as Office Depot. Mention Webber when you check out to have a percentage come to us.

Webber Activities

The annual turkey round up will happen November 12. Bring frozen turkeys to school that morning and we'll have Turkey Wranglers Montoya and Hoffman out front to greet you, take your turkey(s) and then deliver them to the food bank. Many families were provided Thanksgiving meals because of PSD's efforts last year.



Sixth Grade Concert

The first ever sixth grade choir group set a high bar for future performances! The group performed a total of 11 numbers ranging from a serious Mozart piece to "I'm a Believer" from "Shrek." There were solo performances as well as whole group that beautifully harmonized on a couple selections. Congratulations to all choir members and Mrs. Burback!



Mrs. Burback directing the 6th grade choir

WAVE XXXIV Fall 2009

This semester's WAVE mission includes some lofty goals! The astronauts will travel to Saturn, investigate the polar regions of the planet as well as its rings and explore Titan, one of Saturn's moons. Astronauts will deliver solar panels to the ISS and travel to the asteroid belt and launch

a series of satellites to explore its properties. Additionally, WAVE 34 will include, for the first time, a "mission within a mission". We will be constructing a Moon Base including astronauts and directors for the moon base, something we intend to continue for future WAVE missions.

Please feel free to stop by during the WAVE mission anytime Thursday, November 5th or Friday, November 6th. Landing is scheduled for Friday at 5:30pm with a celebration for the successful mission immediately following. Please call Joel Peterson at 488-7815 with any questions!

Congratulations to the following astronauts and directors for their selection in WAVE 34!!

Mission Director: Erik Ramirez

Flight Director: Selyne Tibbetts-Pagan

Assistant Director: Linda Baker

Expedition (Moon Base) Director: Jake Hayward

Expedition (Moon Base) Director: Jack Culp

Shuttle Astronaut Team: Leina Hutchinson, Lydia Funke, Remi Ponce-Pore, Bryce Allen, Madeline Higdon, Bret Hayes

Alternate Shuttle Astronaut #1: Leo McManus

Alternate Shuttle Astronaut #2: Katie Lindberg

Expedition (Moon Base) Astronaut: Kyle Johnson, Rita Ramirez

Alternate Expedition Astronaut: Margaret Maday

Yearbook Requests

The yearbook staff is asking parents/guardians to send in pictures of your students involved in out of school activities. The best method would be to email them as an attachment. We know students are involved in activities such as: dance, skateboarding, long boarding, swimming, martial arts, hose back riding, rock climbing, gymnastics, golf, musical theater, soccer, lacrosse, ice skating, bowling, walk a thons, 4-H, volunteer work, youth group, Young Life, music and maybe jobs and many more. The yearbook staff wants to represent as many students in as many activities as possible. Email them to: Danielle Wright60752@psdschools.org or Chase Lee42573@psdschools.org.

Remember to reserve this year's annual now while the price is at \$30. It will go up later.

Webber Athletics: Football and Softball

7th grade football

The 7th grade football team had an outstanding season. The team finished with a 7-1 record. This placed them second in the district for the season. The only loss was a 12-8 loss to Preston.

Coach Tanski appreciated the hard work and dedication that was put forth by the players, managers, and assistant coaches (Coach Rutledge and Coach Underwood). Great job!

The following students participated in 7th grade football: Luke Askeland, Tanner Baptist, Kyle Barkey, Parker Bobo, Zach Braden, Ben Colon-Bonet, Shayne Croft, Timothy David, Nick DeLeone, Jordan Etl, Zach Fees, Chandler Grote, Jacob Hintzman, Derrick Jiron, Adam Joiner, Trey Jouard, Alex Kinney, Chris Leh, Tao Liufau, Forrest Luke, Kyle Lyons, Taylor Mandella, Jose Martinez, Max McDonald, Caleb Menke, Thomas Morgan, Brad Morrison, Michael Musante, Riley Neal, Collin Orr, Chase Ottofy, Ruben Portales, Aaron Provencio, Kevin Rangel, Michael Roley, Konnor Schmidt, Brandon Storebo, Tyler Vosburg, Cade Warner, Blake Whittall, Nate Whittall, Wynne Wilson, Devan Worrell, Tommy Zappia, Bailey Zimmerman. The managers were: Taylor Morse, Kendra Novotny, and Sini Summerhays.



Tackled after a great run...

8th grade football

The 8th grade football team had an exciting season, finishing the season with a three game winning streak. The team finished the season with a 4-4 record. The four losses were decided by a handful of close plays.

Thanks to Coach Nurton, Coach Montoya, and Coach Holm who improvised and adapted positions and strategies in order to finish the season with excellent play.

The following students participated in 8th grade football: Trevor Anderson, Chris Ao, Nick Ao, Zach Bartholomew, Kelcey Bedard, Evan Bloom, Ben Braley, Alex Carpenter, Tyler Comegys, Riley Couch, David Crawford, Edgar Diaz, Alec Dotson, Colton Fischer, McKenzie Fitzgerald, Jeremiah Garza, Chris Hawkins, Demetrius Hines, Zach Huxell, Alex Jennings, Zac Jennings, Zach Kehmeier, Josh Knowski, Nathaniel Lynch, Bryce Marlow, Paul Marquez, Jake Mondragon, Jared Moore, Ryan Murphy, Darin Norwood, Cory Richer, Joey Santiago, Dylan Sauer, Carl Stajduhar, Devin Stanley, Tyler Stevens, Braedon Stewart, Andrew Sweatt, Dan Williams, Jordan Williams. The team managers were: Mark Abel, Brittany Hyland, and Schuyler Tonn.

Varsity softball



Headed for first base...

The varsity softball team finished the regular season with a 5-3 record. The team improved each week, and lost a close game to Preston in the first round of the district tournament. This team featured many 7th graders, so Coach Hawes is looking forward to a strong nucleus of players returning next year.

Webber Athletics—JV Softball, Tennis & Cross Country

Team members were: Ryan Berlier, Darla Billington, Marissa Bonertz, Kaitlyn Ewan, Larissa Ewan, Alyssa Hilbert, Mason Kaufman, Jordyn Kramar, Asiah Lawson, Kiara Loucks, Jordan McKee, Sloan Rios, and Ambrosia Rogers. Hannah Fann and Anna Lange served as managers.

JV softball

Webber's JV softball team played a high scoring, action packed brand of softball this year. The team's end of the season record was 5-1-1. Thanks go to Coach Roper for her time, energy, and expertise.

Team members were: Sarah Anderson, Mandy Arnold, Kylee Conradson, McKenzie Conradson, Vivionna Fauver, Annika Gustafson, Kiera Hanley, Madeline Higdon, Kylee Hoeye, Flora Isaac, Sammie Reynolds, Jacque Rickett, and Jordan Sellmer. Kaleigh Berry was the team manager.

Tennis

Over 30 boys and girls have competed in Webber tennis this season. Some athletes played singles, while the others played doubles. The team had a 2-5 record in dual matches this year. The district tennis tournament took place the week of October 5-9. Webber finished in 2nd place in girls' #1 doubles, 4th place in boys' singles and also in boys' doubles. Thank you Coach Holm and Coach Weinstein for all of your work with the athletes in tennis.



The following students participated in tennis: Jack Aiello, Dryden Alberts, Kyla Box, Madison Brooks, Frankie Caballero, Ian Conly, Evan Elder, Keith Fraaken, Jocelyn Gentry, Ivy Gines, Rory Healy, Riley Hill, Derek Holland, Natalie House, Neville Hyllegard, Jason Krbec, Tara Lauterbach, Jeff Mariner, Jason McCrary, Keaton Nalezny, Cecilia Nelson, Brigitte Normandin, Katie Nottberg, Eric Ortolano, Kassi Prochazka, Meredith Radtke, Alejandro Reyes, Jennifer Schnell, Parker Shimpa, Katie Simmons, Quentin Strother, Camila Tomasel, Sam Vuchetich, and Alexa Wilkinson. Patrick Weinstein was the team manager.

Cross country

The teams have had great success this year, with the boys' team winning a recent meet held at Hughes Stadium and winning the district championship meet held October 15. The girls team finished in second place and won the spirit award. Cross country is offered through the Fort Collins Parks and Recreation Department. Webber's team is made up of 6th, 7th, and 8th grade boys and girls.

The following students participated in cross country: Jackson Allen, Saskia Becker, Jenna Binder, Theo Champ, Andrew Ciraula, Daniel Ciraula, Marco Colbray, Olivia Couch, Joanna Crownover, Connor DeMott, Kacey Doner, Katie Ferguson, Nolan Frank, Jessie Gravelle, Chris Heaberlin, Jon Heaberlin, Austin Heath, Bryan Hird, Dylan Hird, Emily Jensen, Mikaela Klein, Daniel McGee, Matthew McGee, Kyle McVey, Annika Pietenpol, Nathan Presley, Dylan Price, Mark Rockwood, Elsa Roeber, Kiana Thomas, Kate Ufer. Ivy Gines, Adam Trousil, and Catie Wakefied were team managers.

6th grade football and softball

Many Webber students are participating in 6th grade football and softball programs offered through the Fort Collins Parks and Recreation Department.

We encourage athletes on those teams to write a summary of each game and submit it to the front office, so we can announce the results to the rest of the school. As winter seasons begin, we hope to see many 6th grade students participating and letting us know how they do.

Upcoming sports seasons: Wrestling & Girls Basketball

Wrestling

Wrestling at Webber is open to 7th and 8th graders. Practice will begin after school on Thursday, October 15. **In order to participate, an athlete must have a current physical card on file in the front office.** Wrestling is not a cut sport, therefore any athlete that is interested is on the team. Mark Carroll is the head coach. Please contact him if you have any questions (488-7882 or mcarroll@psdschools.org). Matches will be held on Tuesday and Friday afternoons beginning November 3. The season ends on Saturday, December 12 at the district wrestling tournament. For the detailed schedule, see our website.

Girls' basketball

Tryouts for 7th grade and 8th grade girls' basketball will be held the week of October 12-15. Basketball is a cut sport, and sixteen girls will eventually make each team. **A current physical card must be on file in the front office before a girl can even try out.** The 7th grade team will be coached by Pat Underwood. Shawna Hawes will coach the 8th graders. Games will start at 3:30 pm and will be played on Mondays and Thursdays beginning October 29. For the detailed schedule, see our website.

6th grade Wrestling and Girls' basketball

Fort Collins Parks and Recreation is offering these programs for 6th graders. Practices will be held in the evenings, and matches/games will be held on Saturdays. Please call 221-6655 to register.

Magazine sales fundraiser

The Webber magazine sales fundraiser ended on Wednesday, September 30. Students that sold magazine subscriptions earned their prizes on Monday, October 5. Thank you to all who purchased and renewed magazines, or who gave a straight donation.

We would like to extend a special thank you to all parent volunteers who helped with accounting, organization, and supervision over the course of the fundraiser.

Congratulations to Ms. Wolff's first period class for being the top sellers in the school. In the end, Webber

earned over \$10,000 profit from the magazine sales! Thank you to everyone who participated.



Mr. Long decked out in magazine theme attire...

Homeless Gear Drive

The Peer Helpers class is organizing our second annual outdoor equipment drive for a Northern Colorado charity called Homeless Gear. This nonprofit organization donates unneeded useable outdoor gear and re-distributes this gear to the homeless.

Items they are hoping to collect include: sleeping bags, cots, tents, boots, backpacks, warm coats, day packs, blankets, camp dining/cooking supply kits, sleeping bag pads, stuff sacks, ground cloths, water bottles, flashlights, hats, scarves, gloves, and socks, rain ponchos, energy bars, sunglasses and personal hygiene products.

PSD Information

While this is a competition between second period classes, we hope families will contribute simply to do good for the increasing homeless population in Fort Collins, many of whom are families.

Forensics Club

Our forensics club has been practicing both during 9th period and after school. The first competition will October 23 with students competing in debate, interpretive events such as humor, drama and poetry, prose and impromptu acting.

Additional 6th, 7th, and 8th graders are welcome to join at any time. See Mrs. Wagener for information.

Online School Choice Application Available for 2010-11

The online school choice application is now available at www.psdschools.org under "School Registration," which may be accessed from a home computer or any computer with Internet access. The first consideration deadlines for 2010-11 are: January 29, 2010 for secondary and February 12, 2010 for elementary. School Choice applications may be submitted after the first-consideration deadline until the first day of class at the beginning of the school year of requested enrollment.

The school choice policy now offers parents of multiple-birth siblings the opportunity to submit one application for each set of multiple birth siblings. For more information, view the school choice policy and timelines on the PSD Web site.

Remember that students who have choiced into a school do not have to fill out another application during the years they remain at that school. Students who change to middle school or high school levels must fill out school choice applications for that next level school if it is outside of the student's attendance area.

Community Learning Center Announces Fall Classes

Expand your knowledge and skills in 2009! The fall sessions of the Community Learning Center (CLC) begin soon.

The CLC is a PSD sponsored, adult enrichment program available to all members of the community, ages 18 and up.

Upcoming classes include: Excel, PowerPoint, Web-Design, Zumba and Nia. All CLC classes are non-credit, non-graded classes. Please call 266-0150 or visit www.communitylearningcenters.com for registration information.

Volunteers Wanted and Appreciated!

Webber has benefited already from our numerous volunteers who have given hundreds of hours first quarter. Thanks for helping with handing out schedules before school began, being here to speak with new incoming 6th and 7th grade parents, sponsoring the Fall Activity Night, helping in the LMC, helping at our Book Fair, providing fabulous food for our staff on a conference night, tutoring students, etc.

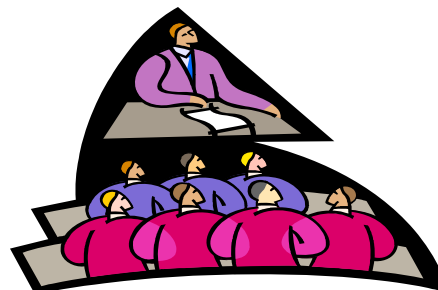
We know helping at secondary level is different from elementary, but we have much that you could do if you are willing. Please contact Maria Tschetter at 207-1844 if you would like to help.

Superintendent Hosts "Listening Sessions"

Parents and community members are invited to visit with Superintendent of Schools, Jerry Wilson during upcoming listening sessions. These sessions are an opportunity to talk with Dr. Wilson about issues and concerns, ways to enhance student achievement, and ask questions about PSD. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

Following are dates and locations:

November 11, 2009	Webber Middle School 5:30-6:30 pm
November 13, 2009	Putnam Elementary 9:30-10:30 am
April 1, 2010	Boltz Middle School 7-8:00 pm



PSD Information

School Choice Parents: are you interested in a car pool?

For those who are unable to get bus passes or live far enough away that bus passes are not possible, perhaps you can car pool. One parent is willing to try to coordinate car pooling efforts. Please contact Kim Zappia at 308-7515 or at www.serveitnow@yahoo.com.

Parents/Guardians: Review Proposed Graduation Requirement Changes

Learn about proposed graduation requirement changes. Attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions and give feedback. The last scheduled meeting is at Rocky Mountain High School from 7-8:30 pm on October 28.

The 21st century Graduation Requirements Committee has been meeting since February 2008 to develop a recommendation for PSD graduation requirements based on district policy, state guidelines, and input from Fort Collins' employers, PSD's pre-school through grade 16 partners and other local leaders.



The committee will then examine input and make revisions as appropriate. The final draft will be presented to district administration and the final recommendation will be made to the Board of Education. The Board will vote on the final recommendation in February 2010. New graduation requirements may impact the class of 2014 or 2015 and all classes to follow. Committee meeting minutes, updates and timelines are available on the PSD Web site at www.psdschools.org.

PSD Weather-Related Delayed Start Plan

Should the need arise due to bad weather and/or questionable road conditions, PSD may implement a delayed start of all schools by 2 hours. The following is important information for parents regarding delayed start, as well as a refresher on school closure and early release plans.

The delayed school start time will be two hours for all schools.

- Delayed start decision will be made by 5:30 a.m.
- Parent notification will occur on the PSD website, on local radio and/or television stations. No announcements mean all schools are open as usual. Please do not call schools, district offices, or broadcast media.
- Bus pick up times will be two hours later than regularly scheduled pick-up times. Buses will make every effort to be punctual, although traffic and road conditions may increase travel time.

Parent Portal

Have you taken advantage of the new interactive "Parent Portal" yet? It allows parents/guardians to view a quick snapshot of each enrolled student's specific information including: schedule, grades, upcoming assignments, account balances and general school information. The interactive features are part of PSD's constant work to improve communications with parents/guardians. We hope you've used your activation code and utilized Parent Portal. You are encouraged to provide feedback via the "Feedback" link located at the bottom of all pages. Your experience will help us continually make improvements to the Parent Portal. If you've lost your number or if you are a non-custodial parent and need access numbers please call Jean Kiel at 488-7802

What do you know about Dyslexia?

Are you aware that fifteen to twenty percent of the population is affected by dyslexia? It results in difficulty acquiring and using both oral and written language, and difficulty in spelling accurately. Appropriate identification and targeted instruction can prevent and alleviate the symptoms of dyslexia.

October is Dyslexia Awareness month. If you'd like to know more, check out the following site:
<http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/FastFactsIndex.asp>.