



# PISD UPDATE

NOVEMBER 23, 2021



@penascoisd

[penascoisd.com](https://www.penascoisd.com)

## WHAT'S INSIDE

**PISD Community Meeting**

**Vaccine Clinic: Children Age 5-11**

**Coats for Kids**

**Taos Feeds Taos**

**El Centro Dental Update**

**Leñero Program Update**

**Volleyball All-District Players**

**HS Journalism Article: 5-day school week?**

**Indian Education Update**

**Elementary Info**

**Thank you Substitute Teachers and Educational Assistants!**

## CALENDAR

**Saturday, November 27, 2:00**

HS girls b-ball home vs Rehoboth

HS boys b-ball at Santa Rosa

**Monday, November 29, 4:00**

MS basketball home vs Questa

**Tuesday, November 30, 5:00**

HS boys basketball home vs ATC

**Wednesday, December 1, 4:00**

MS basketball home vs Mora

**December 2-4**

HS b-ball: West Las Vegas Tourney

**Tuesday, December 7, 5:00**

HS boys b-ball home vs. Coronado

**Wednesday, December 8, 4:00**

MS basketball at Escalante

## PISD COMMUNITY MEETING: DEC. 7

You are invited to attend our next PISD Community Meeting on Tuesday, December 7, 6:30-7:30 (online only). The tentative agenda for this meeting:

1. Plans for a "Memory Lab" open to students and community in order to create a digital historical archive.
2. Plans for gardening projects at the schools.
3. Adult Education Classes in Peñasco. Give feedback about which classes you'd like to see offered!
4. After-school program update: plans for a MS/HS program and a request from the state regarding our programs.
5. Career and Technical programs: give feedback about the types of programs (welding, culinary, media arts, etc) that you'd like to see offered.

Google Meet joining info

- Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/wds-ewhi-xka>
- Or dial: (US) +1 424-379-1346 PIN: 629 771 325#



## COVID VACCINE FOR AGES 5-11

PISD is planning to host a vaccine clinic for students ages 5-11 every Thursday. For most information, contact nurse Yvette Pacheco at 575-587-2502 ext 1110.

## COATS FOR KIDS

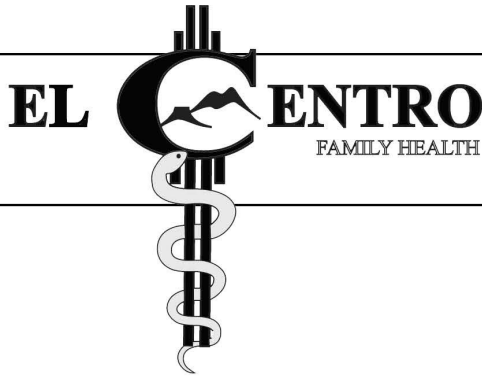
Do your kids need coats? Do you have extra coats that you no longer need? PISD has submitted a request for coats for KOAT in Albuquerque, *and* the student council is organizing a coat drive. Donated coats can be left at the guard shack or sent to school with students to be placed in the donation bins.

If you would like to receive a coat for your child, please fill out this form to let us know names and sizes: <https://forms.gle/Q5wahRnLn5GTAJy47>

## TAOS FEEDS TAOS

To receive a voucher for groceries at Super Save, Peñasco-area residents should call on MONDAY, NOVEMBER 29. More information is below.

STEP 1: Gather all of the following required documents for the application.	STEP 2: Find your city.	STEP 3: Call the number below and leave a message with your NAME and PHONE NUMBER	STEP 4: Expect a call back from a TAOS FEEDS TAOS Volunteer on these dates. Be sure to have all of your documents ready.
1) <b>Photo ID</b> (driver's license number)	TAOS/ PICURIS	(575)-377-5219 (575)-377-5220 (575)-377-5226	Mon, Nov 15 <sup>th</sup> Tues, Nov 16 <sup>th</sup> Mon, Nov 29 <sup>th</sup> Tues, Nov 30 <sup>th</sup> 9am-4pm
2) <b>Proof of income</b> (pay stub, disability income such as VA, etc.)			
3) <b>Social Security Number</b> (last 4 digits)	PEÑASCO	(575)-770-1621 (575)-224-9607	Mon, Nov 29 <sup>th</sup> 9am-4pm
4) <b>Utility Statement</b> (for proof of physical address and mailing address)	AMALIA/ COSTILLA	(575)-770-9088	Mon, Nov 29 <sup>th</sup> 8am-12pm
5) <b>Household size</b> (number of adults and children)	QUESTA/ CERRO	(575)-613-5490 (575)-779-6444	Mon, Nov 29 <sup>th</sup> 8am-4pm
<b>STEP 5:</b> Check your mail for your TAOS FEEDS TAOS Grocery Voucher (Mailed by Dec 10th)			
<b>STEP 6:</b> Use your TAOS FEEDS TAOS Grocery Voucher to shop at Super Save before Dec 24.			



**El Centro Family Health Peñasco Dental Clinic**  
PO BOX 516-St. Rd. 75 #15136-Peñasco, NM 87553  
Telephone # -505-587-2809 – Fax #505-587-2605  
Web Site: [www.ecfh.org](http://www.ecfh.org)

November 2, 2021

To Students, Parents, and Faculty

El Centro Family Health (ECFH) is now offering preventative dental services to existing / newly established patients that are students or faculty of the Penasco Independent School District (PISD). The preventative services will be performed at the ECFH School Based Clinic. This service is being offered at the school campus to help improve access to care and to reduce time away from school for the students and faculty. Dental services provided at School Based Clinic will be available twice per month. Parents or guardians do not have to be present for services however consent forms will need to be signed prior to being seen. Care provided at the School Based Clinic will be limited to students and faculty.

Due to the strain the Covid pandemic has placed on appointment scheduling and staffing, we are not currently accepting new patients at our main office in Penasco. However, we will be making exceptions to students and faculty of the Penasco Independent School District. The initial examinations will be held at our main ECFH Dental Clinic in Penasco and subsequent visits can then be scheduled at the School Based Clinic. When calling to schedule your initial appointment, please notify the secretary that you are a parent, guarding, or a faculty member of PISD.

It is our hope and goal to be able to grow the dental services provided at the School Based Clinic to be able to provide all the examination and preventative dental needs for the student population and faculty of the Penasco Independent School System. Help us in doing so by calling and signing up to become part of the El Central Family Health Dental family.

To get on the list in order to become an established patient:

Call 575-587-2809, and inform the front desk that you or your child are from the Penasco Independent School District and that you would like to become an established patient.

Thank you, have a great day and Go Panthers!!!

Dr. Arturo Sisneros  
Chief Dental Officer  
El Centro Family Health





### RIO DE LAS TRAMPAS LEÑERO PROGRAM

The Rio de Las Trampas Forest Council's leñero program will be expanding this spring. Over the next three years, 216 acres of forest between El Valle and Las Trampas will be thinned. To learn more and participate in the program, contact mayordomo Roderick Dominguez at 505-239-3485

## ATHLETICS UPDATES



### VOLLEYBALL ALL-DISTRICT PLAYERS!

Congratulations to Martina Tafoya and Maricela MacAuley for making the volleyball all-district team!





## Is a 5-Day Week the Way to Go? Peñasco Students and Staff Say No

Written by: Jared Lujan, Anthony Naranjo, Romeo Lopez, Dylan Lopez, Kaitlyn Romero, Lyrik Montoya, and Kalista Duran

Most students around the country go to school Monday through Friday, but here at Peñasco, students have had a 4-day school week since the 2010-2011 school year. Current Peñasco superintendent Melissa Sandoval was a part of the committee that pushed for a 4-day week at that time. Recently, there has been talk that students in New Mexico may be required to attend school for five days each week. As students in Ms. Noll's 6th period journalism class, we believe that the school should keep a 4-day school week because it would be a big change for our district, students won't show up, and costs could increase.

First, most current students have only ever known a 4-day school week, and it would be a big change for our district. For example, students might have a hard time with this change. Most students have only known this schedule. One student who completed a survey about this topic wrote "A 4-day week gives students more time to do homework on the weekend and is beneficial to students' mental health." Additionally, they might have to adjust their sleep schedule if the school day started earlier. However, Superintendent Sandoval said that the schedule would be determined by the calendar committee and would depend on the schools' needs at the time. Also, if parents are responsible for taking their kids to school, they would have to adjust to new start and end times. In addition, parents and families have gotten used to having Fridays off. It is a day when students can go to doctor's appointments or maybe even see family.

Furthermore, this would be a big change for teachers who have gotten used to this schedule as well. For example, middle school science teacher Ms. Esquibel prefers a 4-day week because it allows her, as a teacher, to have doctor's or personal appointments on Fridays, which keeps her students from missing out on instruction time. Many schools that have a 5-day week also have a block schedule, and all of these changes would impact how a teacher plans, grades, and teaches, and most teachers use Fridays to catch up on grading, planning, and contacting parents. Taking those Fridays away pushes that work to the weekends. As Ms. Sandoval said, "Change is always difficult, and students would get frustrated because they would have to re-learn a five-day week. This would affect staff members as well." Students and teachers would miss out on family and friend time as a result of a five-day week.

In addition, students may not show up at first because they would be adjusting to the new schedule. For instance, on extended learning Fridays, attendance tends to be less consistent and students often show up and then leave early. Because students are so used to a 4-day schedule, they aren't motivated to attend on these extra Fridays. Principal Chavez also has concerns about the attendance because we currently have more absences on extended learning Fridays than on other days during the week. Ms. Sandoval agrees that attendance would be negatively affected if we had a 5-day week. Also, students' families are in the habit of having Fridays off and will probably keep



## 5-Day Week Continued

scheduling appointments and use that time for family matters. As a student who responded to our survey said, “people have important stuff to do on Fridays,” and they’re in the habit of taking care of that business.

Finally with a 5-day week, there is the potential for costs to go up. According to Ray Pino, maintenance-custodian supervisor and bus driver, the fuel costs and maintenance costs would increase with a 5-day school week. As Ms. Esquibel shared, part of the reason to move to a 4-day week was to save money for the district. A 4-day week means less electricity used, less gas to heat the buildings, and less money for transportation. With the money saved, the district could afford to maintain the buildings and continue working to improve the campus.

Based on all of our interviews and the information we gathered, it seems clear that students and staff don’t want a five-day week. If we do move toward a five-day week, it would negatively affect the campus and school district. As Ms. Sandoval shared, “If we were to switch back to a five-day week, we should look at all the information we have.” She wants to consider the pros and cons, and she would want to know the feelings of the families, students, and staff. Given all the research we’ve done, the answer seems clear: keeping a four-day week is the preference of staff, students, and administrators.

## Staff Review: *Olaf Presents*

Last week, Ms. Noll’s period 7 journalism class watched *Olaf Presents*. This Disney+ special became popular on TikTok. It was inspired by a scene in *Frozen II* where Olaf recreates the whole first *Frozen* movie in a couple of minutes. Cheyenne Martinez says, “It’s such a hoot! Fun for everyone.”

In *Olaf Presents*, you can watch a re-creation of six different movies: *The Little Mermaid*, *Moana*, *The Lion King*, *Aladdin*, *Tangled* and *Frozen*. The characters consist of Olaf, Sven, The Snowgies, and Marshmallow. Each re-creation is approximately four minutes long and shows all the important details from each of the movies. For example, the *Tangled* re-creation features Olaf playing Eugene Fitzherbert (“Flynn Rider”) with funny facial expressions including a smolder. People of all ages who have seen the movies--especially *Moana*!--would be entertained by this special. It’s an example of Disney making fun of their own movies by using one of the silliest characters created.

If you’re looking for something fun to watch with the whole family over your holiday break, *Olaf Presents* is a great choice!







## INDIAN EDUCATION UPDATE

Every spring the NMPED sends out application requests for Indian Education Act grant funding. School districts with Native student populations like PSD, apply every year to support Indian Education initiatives. Districts are given 4 components to concentrate on in order to improve Indian education throughout the district. The grant focuses on 4 areas:

- Culture and Identity Development- Create a culturally relevant learning environment for students including professional development (training for teachers and staff)
- Culturally and Linguistically Relevant (CLR) Education & Social Emotional Learning (SEL)- CLR materials SEL training
- College Career and Life Readiness- Increase student interest and participation in Higher Education, technical education and job/career opportunities
- Increasing Access to Native American Languages- support Tiwa language revitalization in schools

Under each category, the district has identified activities, trainings and personnel to complete the deliverables under our IEA grant. In our next newsletter, we will provide more information and detail on what our activities for the spring semester will be.

## THANK YOU SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS AND EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANTS!



Thank you to our substitute teachers!

Michael Casados  
Dolores Gallegos  
Clara Lopez  
Susana Lopez  
Robert Lujan

Evelyn Martinez  
Yvonne Martinez  
Jerome Ortega  
Katrina Abreu Ortiz  
Shirley Romero  
Ben Sanchez



Thank you to our EAs!

Lucille Arguello  
Mary Beth Copeland  
Carmen Gonzales  
Julie Gonzales

Desiree Sanchez  
Lynda Sanchez  
Nadine Velasquez



## PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Parental input and involvement is highly valued at Peñasco Elementary School. Studies indicate that children whose parents and/or guardians share in their education tend to do better in school. Some of the benefits identified as the result of greater parental involvement include higher overall grades and test scores, greater potential for long-term academic achievement, and positive attitudes and behavior. In addition, parental involvement encourages successful school programs which leads to all-around better schools.

One of the ways in which we encourage parent involvement is through our monthly Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) meetings. Parent voices are extremely important in helping to shape our school and PAC meetings provide a crucial platform for open parent-school communication. At Peñasco Elementary School, we realize that it takes a village to raise a child. We know that for us to excel, we need our kiddos to excel socially, emotionally, and academically. We also know for this to occur we need your support, dedication, and commitment as our valued parents/guardians.

We would LOVE for you to join our Parent Advisory Committee (PAC). We will be meeting monthly; first meeting will be via Google Meets. All meetings will be from 6-7 if you want to be a part of our Peñasco Elementary Parent Advisory Meeting please let us know ASAP so we can share our 1st agenda. Hope to see you all there.

When is PAC?

- November 9th
- December 9th
- January 10th
- February 9th
- March 9th
- April 7th
- May 9th

If you are interested, please contact us at 575-587-2502.

## COMPACT/AGREEMENT FOR ACHIEVEMENT

Please check out the elementary school document regarding school-wide focus for student achievement: <https://5il.co/1270x>



## **IMPORTANT CONTACT INFO**

### **PISD Superintendent**

Melissa Sandoval  
(575) 587-2502  
msandoval@penascoisd.com

### **MS/HS Principal**

Nicaea Chavez  
(575) 587-2502 ext. 2010  
nchavez@penascoisd.com

### **Elementary Principal**

Michelle Gonzales  
(575) 587-2502 ext. 2101  
mgonzales2@penascoisd.com

### **Community Schools Coordinator**

Michael Noll  
575-779-1466  
mnoll@penascoisd.com

### **Indian Education Coordinator**

Julia Geffroy  
575-613-3822  
jgeffroy@penascoisd.com

### **Student & Family Engagement Coordinator**

Dr. Bonavita Quinto MacCallum  
575-587-2502 Ext. 2305  
bmaccallum@penascoisd.com