

August 29, 2019



Panther Cub Press



Our Panther Way! Be Safe, Be Responsible & Be Respectful



Upcoming Events

No School	8/30
No School Labor Day	9/2
Student Recognition Assembly	9/26
Elementary Lifetouch Picture Day	10/21

Dear Families and Students,

Welcome back one and all to another wonderful school year at White Pass Elementary! It was great to see so many folks at the open house this week, and to reconnect with kids and families as our year started off.

Our 3 school-wide expectations for kids and adults alike are to be Responsible, Respectful, and Safe. This week I've been visiting classrooms and common areas, and I've been so happy to see students learning how to be responsible, respectful, and safe all across our building. Our school is like a big family, and by learning and living those 3 expectations, we create a welcoming culture and a positive mindset for learning. Here's a good conversation starter: please ask your child how they've learned to be responsible, respectful, and safe this week at school.

To help build a positive school culture, each month we have a school-wide character trait that we emphasize to students. This month it is Kindness. Staff will be on the lookout for students being kind this month, and we'll make a special effort to acknowledge kiddos who are doing a great job of it.

Remember that there is no school on Friday 8/30 and Monday 9/02. Enjoy your long Labor Day Weekend! I hope you have good family adventures planned. Don't forget the Story Trail at the Woods Creek Watchable Wildlife Area, just south of Randle—call the Mountain View Library at 360-497-2665 for details.

Thanks for sending your children to us. It is our honor and privilege to help educate them every day. Let's have a great year together.

Kind regards,

Nathan Coutsoubos, Principal
White Pass Elementary School

Character Trait for September is Kindness



From the Nurse



Welcome everyone!!! I am excited for the new school year and getting back to our normal routines. My name is Kim Inocencio and I am the School Nurse for the White Pass School district. I go by Nurse Kim to make it easy. I am usually at White Pass every Monday and Wednesday. Please feel free to contact me any times if you have questions.

Medications at school

If your child needs medications at school, we must have specific paperwork completed by the doctor before we can administer any medication.

Hand Washing

The Center for Disease Control states, "hand washing is the single most important means of preventing the spread of infection" It is very important to be diligent in washing your hands often, to prevent the spread of many illnesses. Please discuss the importance of hand washing, after sneezing, blowing your nose, recess and before eating a meal, with your child. This information will be reinforced at school periodically through the year.

Lice are very common, have been around since Egyptian times and can affect anyone. Lice are a huge nuisance but are not known to carry diseases and are not a health concern. They don't jump but do crawl away from light very fast. The best defense against these little critters is YOU!!!! The preferred way to prevent the spread of lice is for every family to be responsible and check their family members weekly, for head lice, especially during the school year. If they are caught and treated immediately they will be unable to be spread. This does mean making a commitment to prevention and diligent weekly head checks by the adults in the home. Please remind your children to not share hats, scarfs, jackets, barrettes, combs, etc. If a student is found to have live lice or nits (eggs) a call home will be made and the student will be sent home at the end of the day. If you or the school finds lice please know your child should return to school after appropriate treatment has been initiated. If the lice are identified at school an adult must bring the student in and have them checked before they can go back to class.

If you have questions please feel free to contact me at the school. I have information available regarding how to identify them and what to do if you do get them. Thank you very much for your time and efforts in helping our school to become lice free.

Kim Inocencio, RN

School Nurse

Counselor's Corner

I hope you all found your summer break to be relaxing as well as full of fun and exciting activities. I spent my summer living in a huge remodel project in our home. It finally feels like the dust and tools are finally gone to enjoy my house! If you don't remember, last summer we introduced Todd, our new chocolate lab into our family. He is a whole year older and likes to show us he misses us when we're gone by chewing up papers and food. He has a slight obsession with dragging out my dining room place mats and leaving them outside. I call him my little sour patch candy. So, I guess I'll never feel like my house is clean living with Todd! We also enjoyed spending time with family in Idaho and we planned a Silverwood trip while we were there! It was fun to have that experience with them. This summer seemed to speed by too fast! At the same time, I am eager to be back with our students, build relationships with new students, and make this year better than ever. Lastly, I have been working hard at diving deeper into creating guidance lesson curriculum for our students as well as organizing group lessons based on student needs. While our teachers will be implementing Second Step social emotional lessons in their weekly teaching, I will be supplementing with my own guidance lessons in each classroom.

For this school year, our classrooms are implementing new calm down spaces for students. This space is intended to provide students with a safe place to relax, regain their focus, separate from student conflict, and to rejoin class in a timely manner. This will be monitored by each classroom teacher. This is a great skill we are working on with students to recognize their emotions and effectively ask for breaks while also using calm down strategies on their own. This is a big focus in my own office for social emotional learning. I'm excited for new materials I have brought in to help teach students how to recognize one's own emotions and choosing effective calm down strategies.

Please know that I am a resource not only for staff and students, but also for parents and guardians as well. My goal is to be a strong support system for the entire family. My extension is provided below. I'm ready to kick off the 2019-20 school year!

Best Wishes,

Chantél Merriman

Elementary School Counselor

497-7300 ext 2014



Parents and Please take a moment to fill out the 2019-2020 Health Information Sheet , Attendance Agreement & Release of Directory for your child and return it to the office as soon as possible. The class that returns the most forms will have a popcorn party. Also, if you have a new phone number or address, please call the office at (360) 497-7300 ext 2000 to make sure that we have the most up to date information on file. Thank you for your help!!!

Back to School

Just a reminder.....

EVERY FRIDAY is an EARLY RELEASE

for the entire school year.

Students will be dismissed at 1:30 for staff professional development.

- *Lifetouch Picture Day for Elementary will be on October 21st.*

BUS NOTES

All bus stop changes will need to go through the Elementary School office at (360) 497-7300 ext 2000. You must either write a bus note or call prior to 2:00 daily if your child will need different arrangements for the day. For all other transportation questions, please call Shane Dotson at (360) 497-7300 ext 4005.

