

Pine Island Kindergarten Round-Up



March 6, 2020

Welcome!



Cindy Hansen, Elementary Principal

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Kara Cordes and Teri Carlson, Administrative Assistants

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Our Kindergarten Team



Señorita Bjick
Mr. Brandt
Mrs. English
Mrs. Giesen
Mrs. Matera
Mrs. Nehring
Mrs. Yolch

Agenda



8:45-9:45

Future kindergartners: Story, art activity, and choice time in kindergarten classrooms

Parents: Whole-group parent meeting with Mrs. Hansen

10:00-11:00

Tours, bus rides, and assessments

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<http://tinyurl.com/piroundup>



BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL

Top Ten Things to Know



How to Start and End the School Day

Time: Official school day is 8:10-2:55.

Drop off (before school): Drop off is between 8:00 and 8:10 at the front doors only. If you plan to walk into the foyer with your child in the morning, please park your car in the parking lot. Curbside will be reserved for parents who stay in their vehicle while they are dropping off students. Please yield to buses. Buses need a clear path for safe and timely bus stops.

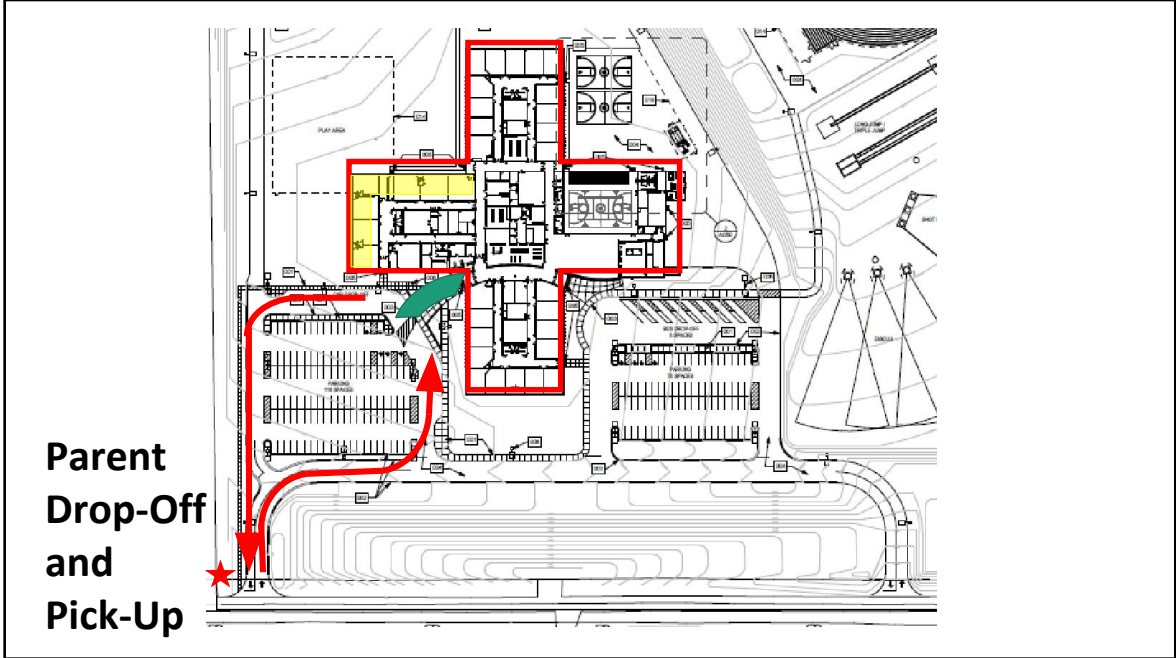
Late arrivals: Students need to check in at the office if they arrive after 8:10.

Breakfast: If your child eats breakfast at school, they may arrive any time after 8:00.

Breakfast is free to all kindergarten students.

Pick up (after school): Your child will come out of the “parent drop off” doors by the front office. For safety reasons, exterior school doors will remain locked until after students are dismissed.

Attendance: Contact the office as early as possible if your child will not be in attendance that day (website “Report an Absence” or phone).



The kindergarten classrooms are highlighted in yellow. Staff members will be available to guide your child to the correct classroom on the first day. You will also see your child's classroom at before-school conferences (more about that later).

Top Ten Things to Know



Bus Transportation

Lisa Swanson

lswanson@pineisland.k12.mn.us

- **Bus stop locations/times** will be printed in the August district newsletter.
- Need to take a **different route**? Contact the office for a bus pass.
- Riding the bus is a privilege, not a right.
- **Shuttles** are available from the 5-12 site. Shuttles leave the 5-12 site at 7:49 each morning. Students are welcome to eat breakfast at the 5-12 site. Shuttles arrive at the 5-12 site at 3:09 each afternoon. Have an afternoon meeting spot for your child.

Top Ten Things to Know



Community Education
Kelly Barker

kbarker@pineisland.k12.mn.us

School-aged child care for pre-K on up.

Many enrichment opportunities throughout the year for all ages.

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DURING THE SCHOOL DAY

Top Ten Things to Know



Your Child's Teacher & Your Child's School Day

- The teacher your child went with for Round-Up is **not** your child's teacher for next year.
- You will be notified of your Skyward login through postal mail in August. At that time you will be able to log in to see your child's teacher.
- We do not accept requests for a teacher. In special circumstances, parents can fill out a form to request that their child NOT be placed in a certain classroom. Examples of special circumstances are that your child is related to a teacher, your child is related to another kindergartner, etc.

 = Parent-Teacher Conference Days

AUGUST 2020


Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

www.a-printable-calendar.com

SEPTEMBER 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

www.a-printable-calendar.com

 = First Day of K (one or the other, not both)

- You will meet your child's teacher at before-school conferences, August 31-September 2. This is also a time to get your child's picture taken, participate in health screenings, and participate in kindergarten benchmark assessments. **Because you will not walk your child to the classroom on the first day of school, please take special photos with your child's teacher/classroom/locker during before-school conferences.**
- Your child's first day of school will be September 3 or 4, **not both**. Only half of the class attends each day.
- Class sizes typically range from 16-22.
- Please contact your child's teacher whenever you have concerns or questions. We are here to help you!

Current Daily Kindergarten Schedule

8:00-8:20	Arrival & Morning Activities	12:15-1:15	Lunch & Recess
8:20-8:35	Morning Meeting	1:15-1:45	Read & Relax (100 Book)
8:35-9:00	Reading	1:45-2:05	Writing & Grammar
9:00-9:30	Reading Target Time	2:05-2:35	Free Choice
9:30-10:00	Snack & Science/Social Studies	2:35-2:55	Afternoon Meeting & Pack Up
10:00-10:40	Math		
10:40-11:40	Specialists (Library/Tech, Music, PE, SMART, Art/STEM)		
11:40-12:10	Centers		

This schedule will change next year, but it gives you an idea of the activities in a kindergarten day.

Top Ten Things to Know



Cafeteria and Recess

Sandy Stefl-Reese, Food Services

sstefl-reese@pineisland.k12.mn.us

Breakfast, Lunch, and Snack Program:

- Students are given the opportunity to participate in our breakfast and hot lunch program or bring cold lunch. We also offer a reasonably priced snack program daily.
- Students will have a 4-digit pin number to purchase their lunches.
- Money can be paid online through the school website.

Recess:

We believe in the benefits of fresh air and exercise! Please dress your child accordingly for outdoor play – in the winter, that includes hats, mittens, snow pants, and boots. We go outside if the windchill is 0 degrees or above.

Top Ten Things to Know



Health Services

Krista Despins, Nurse

krista.despins@pineisland.k12.mn.us

- Some students may require prescribed medication during the school day. The School District's licensed school nurse, health office nurse, principal, unlicensed assistive personnel (UAPs), or teacher will administer prescribed medications in accordance with law and School District procedures.
- For the safety of students, it is **recommended that medication be given at home whenever possible**. For example, medication prescribed three times a day can be given before school, after school and at bedtime.
- Prescription medications require: Physician & parent signature, medication in prescription bottle
- Over the counter medications require: Original container, medication prescribed by AGE, parent signature (Anything that is outside the prescribed age must have physician signature)
- Special diets, allergies, Epipens, inhalers, or other concerns- please contact Krista so we can fill out the correct forms and be prepared with a plan to meet the needs of your child before school starts this fall.
- Forms and more information about any health concern are online: District, Departments, Health Services

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CURRICULUM, COMMUNICATION, & PROGRAMS

Top Ten Things to Know



100 Book Challenge

- Kindergarten is much more rigorous than it used to be.
- Pine Island Elementary School uses 100 Book Challenge as part of our reading program.
- Students involved in 100 Book Challenge have experienced tremendous reading growth – time spent reading really does matter.
- 1 reading step is equal to 15 minutes of reading
- 2 steps are completed at school and 2 steps are completed at home
- 30 minutes of at-home reading are required each evening. This is your child's only reading homework.
- At-home reading in kindergarten can include: independent reading, read alouds, word practice, decoding practice and talking about reading
- Every student is assessed to determine INDEPENDENT reading level
- Parents (along with the teacher) are reading coaches. As a reading coach parents are encouraged to:
 - sign the reading log daily
 - read to and with your child
 - talk about reading with your child

Why Can't I Skip My Minutes of Reading Tonight?

Student "A"	Student "B"	Student "C"
reads 20 minutes each day	reads 5 minutes each day	reads 1 minute each day
3600 minutes in a school year	900 minutes in a school year	180 minutes in a school year

1,800,000 words



90th percentile

282,000 words



50th percentile

8,000 words



10th percentile

By the end of 6th grade Student "A" will have read the equivalent of 60 whole school days. Student "B" will have read only 12 school days. Which student would you expect to have a better vocabulary? Which student would you expect to be more successful in school...and in life?

(Nagy & Herman, 1987)

Top Ten Things to Know



Communication & Parent Involvement

- Website
- Peek of the Week
- School Messenger
- Facebook
- Twitter
- Report an absence
- Surveys
- Always feel free to contact your child's teacher, the office, or Mrs. Hansen
- We value your input!
- **Volunteers:** We welcome your support in our school! In kindergarten, we seek volunteers beginning in October. This gives our students enough time to transition to the routines of school. If you would like to visit your child during the school day (but not volunteer), you are welcome to come eat lunch with your child.
- **Security:** Please bring your driver's license the first time you visit our school so we can scan you into our Raptor system.

Top Ten Things to Know



Spanish Immersion & Panther Prep Opportunities

- We have exciting opportunities for the upcoming school year!
- We currently have cohorts through third grade. We will add a fourth grade immersion class next year, and so on. Children in the immersion program would continue in immersion classrooms throughout their elementary career and be fluent in Spanish by the time they leave elementary school.
- We believe the opportunity for a child to be fluent in a second language before they leave elementary school is an incredible gift for that child!
- **If you are interested in this opportunity, please fill out the form online. Students will be admitted to the program on a lottery basis with priority given to siblings of existing Immersion students.**

Spanish Immersion

Learning another language is not only learning different words for the same things, but *learning another way to think about things*.

- Flora Lewis (emphasis added)



Language is a tool to access information from an entirely different perspective.

Why Immersion?

- Fluency in two languages before students leave elementary school
 - Dual language proficiency is a sought-after job market skill
- Increased academic performance & cognitive benefits
- Flexible thinking, cultural competence, & global awareness



Fortune, T. W. & Tedick, D. J. (2003). *What parents want to know about foreign language immersion programs*. Retrieved from <http://carla.umn.edu/immersion/FAQs.html>

Cognitive benefits occur because of new neural pathways that are formed as students focus and attend harder to understand the target language.

Immersion: How It Works

- In kindergarten, students will be in a 90/10 environment.
 - 90% of the day will be in Spanish
 - 10% of the day will be in English (specialist classes)
- Beginning in second grade, classrooms move to an 80/20 split.
- The amount of English continues to increase as students get older.



Immersion: How It Works

- Teachers are fluent in both English and Spanish.
- In kindergarten, students often respond to the teacher in English. Students also converse with each other in English. Over time, as students get older, they begin to respond in Spanish.
- All attempts at Spanish are celebrated and supported.



Especially in kindergarten, immersion teachers are aware that students do not understand everything that is said. Teachers use body language, visuals, manipulatives, exaggerated expressions, and expressive intonation to communicate meaning.

Immersion: Curriculum

- Students in the immersion classroom operate under the same district curriculum standards as all kindergartners in Pine Island



Immersion: Homework

- Parents are not expected to know Spanish!
- Speak and nurture English at home
- Current Immersion families use a variety of apps to help with Spanish at home
- Students will bring home Spanish books in their 100 Book bag, but it is also fine to read English books for homework



Immersion: Is It For Me?

- Yes!
- This is a multi-year commitment.
- Learning a language is hard work. Be a cheerleader for your child and for the program.



If your child has an IEP, please consult with your child's IEP team about if Immersion is a good fit for your child

Immersion: Our Process

- Students will be admitted on a lottery basis
- Immersion enrollment forms are available in your packet
- Enrollment opens today and ends March 20
- We will notify families by April 17 of their admission to the program



Primary Panther Prep

- Designed for young kindergartners
- Designed for families who are not sure if their child is ready for regular kindergarten
- At the end of the Prep year, teacher and parents determine future placement



Primary Panther Prep

- Same days and times as regular kindergarten
- No cost



Primary Panther Prep

- Same curricular standards but slower pace, smaller class size, and more opportunity for play to develop social & emotional skills
- Same specialists as regular kindergarten
- Same access to types of experiences like field trips and “special days”, but the format might be different



Primary Panther Prep

- Students must be kindergarten age (5 years old by September 1) and registered for kindergarten as of today
- Students are invited according to birthday (start at August 31 and work backwards)



If you have not heard from me by March 20 (last day of spring break) and you are curious about Prep, please feel free to contact me.

Childhood is not a race
to see how quickly a child
can read, write, and count.

It is a small window of
time to learn and develop
at the pace that is right for
each individual child.

Earlier is not better.

-Magda Gerber



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Top Ten Things to Know



Panther Pride

- Pine Island Schools are an excellent place to learn and grow!
- Our staff leads the way through curriculum, technology, and behavior support. When they present at conferences, we often hear feedback about how Pine Island is doing far above and beyond what other schools are doing.
- When our students interact with the public, we often hear feedback about the quality of their character – they impress people with their politeness, kindness, and respect.
- We are proud to be your partner in the educational process!

Thank you!



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