

# THE PIRATE'S POST

August 1, 2019



Check out our website at [www.Plazaschool.org](http://www.Plazaschool.org) for Information, Events and Dates!

## Dates to Remember:

**Aug 8** First Day of School @ 8:30 am  
**Back to School Night @ 5:45 pm**

**Aug 16** Summer Reading Swim Party

**Aug 22** Board Meeting @ 3pm  
Plaza Community Club Meeting  
@ Orland Round Table 6pm

**Aug 28** **Minimum Day Dismissal @ 12:45**

**Sept 2** **Labor Day: NO SCHOOL**

**Sept 16** **NO SCHOOL- Professional Development**

**Sept 18** **Minimum Day Dismissal @ 12:45**

**Sept 19** Board Meeting @ 3pm  
Plaza Community Club Meeting  
@ Orland Round Table 6pm

**Sept 30-Oct 4 FALL BREAK: NO SCHOOL**



## Back to School Night:

Back to School Night will be held on **Thursday, August 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:45pm**. Back to School Night is an opportunity for teachers to present information and classroom expectations for the year. All parents are to come to the cafeteria by 5:45pm. Mr. Conklin will introduce the classroom teachers, then dismiss them to their rooms while he presents information to parents. Teachers will hold two sessions. If you have more than two children attending, we recommend bringing two parents or guardians so that you will be able to attend all presentations. The first one will begin at 6:05 and end promptly at 6:30. The second session will begin at 6:35.

## Plaza Community Club (PCC):

Last year PCC allocated thousands of dollars towards activities, materials, and equipment for classroom teachers, as well as the school. This was done through lots of hard work and planning by members who donate time, money, and resources in order to ensure students have the best educational experience. This couldn't be possible without the communities support. If you are interested in finding out how you can be a part of this great organization, please come to one of the PCC's monthly meetings held at 6:00pm at Round Table in Orland or feel free to contact Mr. Conklin. Information will be provided at Back to School Night on Thursday, August 8<sup>th</sup>. The first meeting will be held Thursday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>.

## Welcome Back!

I'd like to welcome everyone back for the 2019-20 school year. I hope you all had a fun summer and were able to spend quality time relaxing with your children. I certainly enjoyed time with mine! Fortunately the temperatures the last few months have been relatively mild for NorCal so we were able to spend time hiking, riding bikes, and swimming. When it was too hot to be outside, we cooked, played games, and read lots of books. I look forward to hearing about some of the great things you and your children did.

Last spring 3<sup>rd</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> graders took the end of year state test called Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA) in English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics. The purpose of SBA is for districts to be able to determine whether or not students are proficient in those subject areas. If students take the test seriously and put their best effort into it, the data can be extremely useful because it helps us better understand their strengths and weaknesses.

Prior to last year's assessment, we began explaining to our kids how important the information we receive from the individual student reports is if the data is reliable. The reliability is based on whether or not all students try their best. We instituted some reward systems for students who we felt tried hard, as well as for those who showed growth from the previous SBA.

Although I felt these conversations would help, I am happy to report that the results from the 2018-19 far exceeded my expectations. Our overall percentage in ELA increased almost 15%, and Math went up 18%! While student learning is based on quality teachers and dedicated parents, these increases are a direct result of Plaza students taking their time and trying their best. I am very, very proud of all of them.

## School Wise Parent Portal:

Last year we began a new online grading program through our student information system, which is also what we use for our school wide parent phone calls/text messages. **This year we will be using this program for most of our school forms as well, including beginning of year forms like school registration, free or reduced meal program, field trips, medical release, technology use, etc.** The benefit for you is that it'll be much faster and easier to complete the forms. **To do so you'll need to make sure you have access to the parent portal.** If you already have an account from last year for the grading program, you are already set up. However, if you haven't done so yet, please find the instructions included with the newsletter. You can do all of this on any device, including a smart phone or tablet. If you don't have access to one, please stop by the office and we can provide a device for you. There is only one activation code per family; therefore you only have to register once for all of your children currently attending Plaza School.

## Attendance and Tardy:

If your child is absent for any reason, it is your responsibility to contact the school office that day, as well as the classroom teacher to get any missed work. If students are absent for five or more consecutive days, they can be placed on **Independent Study**, which will allow the school district to receive state funding if students complete the work outlined in the Independent Study agreement.

**If your child is tardy, please make sure you bring them into the office to sign them in.**

Please do not just drop them off. Once students are signed in by their guardian, they will bring their tardy slip to their teacher. Parents are not to accompany students to class because it further disrupts teachers and their students.

Lastly, keep in mind that it is disruptive to the classroom, as well as your child's education, when kids are picked up early from school. Doing so forces the teacher to stop lessons in order to answer the phone and gather work for the student. Please try to schedule appointments, trips, vacations, and other activities after the school day in order to limit disrupting the learning environment. If you are unable to do so, please make sure you let the teacher know before the school day begins so he/she can prepare any work that will be missed. This will help limit the disruption when the office calls the classroom.



## Out of District Families:

If you live out of Plaza School District boundaries, you must ensure that you have a current inter-district transfer agreement on file with both your home district, as well as Plaza. Most districts require that you fill out a form annually. Willows' agreement is good for five years. Please visit your district of residence for the 2019-20 form.

## Remind 101 & Simply Circle:

In order to better reach our community in a more convenient way, Plaza School uses **Remind101** to communicate important school information from the superintendent/principal. Additionally, we use another school wide communication tool called **Simply Circle**, which will send messages to you via your email address. The goal is to utilize these forms of communication rather than always relying on the all call system we have been using the last two school years.

To sign up for **Remind 101** using your cellphone, please follow these simple directions:

1. Using your cellphone's text messaging, enter **81010** as the number to text.
2. Type **@cc6ge8** into the text message and send.

To sign up for Remind 101 using your email address, please follow these simple directions:

1. Using your email, enter [cc6ge8@mail.remind.com](mailto:cc6ge8@mail.remind.com) in the To section and hit send.
2. You do not need to include a subject or message.

To sign up for **Simply Circle**, please list your name and email address on the form provided by your teacher during parent teacher conferences.

## REMINDER (6<sup>th</sup> Grade):

Before the start of the 2019-20 school year, make sure that your incoming 7<sup>th</sup> grade students are ready!

**Vaccines required for 7<sup>th</sup> grade** ([California Code of Regulations \(CCR\), Title 17, Section 6020](#)) include:



- 1 dose of Tdap
- 2 doses of measles & varicella -containing vaccine: most students will have received these before starting Kindergarten, but some may have missed doses along the way.
- Other vaccines encouraged but not required for 7<sup>th</sup> graders include meningococcal and HPV vaccines.

To avoid the back-to-school rush, we encourage 6<sup>th</sup> graders to make their vaccine appointments now and provide our office with verification.

**Students who do not have up to date vaccinations will not be allowed to attend school.**

## 2019-20 Afterschool Program:

Applications are available for the after school program. Space is limited so please enroll your child(ren) soon. The fee will be the same as previous years; \$180 per year for one child or \$200 for more than one. **Your child will not be enrolled if you have any unpaid enrollment fees or cafeteria bill for the 2018-19 school year.** Additionally, to ensure your child is enrolled, you must submit the completed application, as well as the **FULL ANNUAL FEE**. If you have already submitted your application, but not paid the fee, please do so before school begins. Again, only those who turn in payment will be accepted. If you are unable to pay all of your fee when you turn in the application, contact Mr. Conklin by email, phone, or feel free to stop by.

The after school program will not be available the Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup> due to the Plaza Carnival set up. Additionally, it will not be offered the last two days of school, which are Tuesday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> and Wednesday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>.