

# THE PIRATE'S POST

August 2, 2017



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

## Dates to Remember:

- Aug 10** First Day of School @ 8:30 am  
Back to School Night @ 5:45 pm
- Aug 17** Plaza School Board Meeting @ 3pm  
Plaza Community Club Meeting @ 6pm
- Aug 18** Summer Reading Swim Party @ Orland Pool
- Sept 1** Bike-a-Thon: Benefit 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> Environmental Camp
- Sept 4** No School- Labor Day
- Sept 14** Picture Day
- Sept 18** No School- Staff Professional Dev.
- Sept 18-22** 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> to Pacific Environmental Ed. Camp
- Sept 20** Minimum Day Dismissal @ 12:45
- Sept 21** Plaza School Board Meeting @ 3pm  
Plaza Community Club Meeting @ 6pm

## Back to School Night:

Back to School Night will be held on Thursday, August 10<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 6:00 and end promptly at 6:25. The second session will begin at 6:30.

## 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 2017-18 form.

## Principal's Message:

I would like to welcome everyone back for the 2017-18 school year. Like always, I had a great summer traveling to various places and spending time with my family. My summer began with a quick trip back to New York for a few days to visit friends and family who live there. One of the main reasons I went was to get my 13 year old nephew, Donivin, and bring him to California for a ten day visit. While he was here my family took him to a Chico Heat baseball game, snow sledding on Mt. Lassen, and spent a few days at a place my family enjoys near Klamath Falls. Shortly after he left my family took a week long road trip around Nevada and California.

I am excited for another great year at Plaza School. Once again we will continue to offer a rich educational experience that includes art, music, band and chorus, as well as a sports program that emphasizes teaching fundamentals and playing time. Also, students in 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grades are encouraged to be involved in student government, which meets the first Wednesday of each month at 8am.

This year we welcome some new staff members to the Plaza community. We are fortunate to have two new teachers who have already been a part of our school. Mrs. Mandy Edson will be co-teaching 2<sup>nd</sup> grade with Mrs. Fowler, who will be working Monday through Thursday this year. Also, Ms. Mary Sexton will be teaching Transitional Kindergarten (TK) during the morning and the TK/Kinder after school program from 12:45-2:45. The purpose for both of these positions is to prepare for upcoming retirements that are expected over the next few years. Lastly, I'd like to welcome our new 7<sup>th</sup> grade teacher Mr. David Lee. Mr. Lee has taught elementary school in Greenville and Williams.

I am happy to report that Plaza School will finally fully occupy the building we purchased last year. The building will house both the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade classes, and will host the after school program in the back classroom. Also, Tina Noraas spent a good part of the summer working on our library, which will be in Room 4. Although it is unlikely the library will be ready for use on the first day, I expect it to be open within a month of school starting. Finally, the playground has been expanded to include additional concrete for kids to play on, a large concrete ball wall, and additional space for a new piece of playground equipment that will be installed in late August. Mr. Jim Byerly was kind enough to donate a great deal of time and labor pouring concrete this summer. If you see him, Mrs. Noraas, or any of the library crew, please take time to thank them for all their hard work this summer.

Once again, I'd like to welcome everyone to the new school year. I'm looking forward to learning about how you spent your summer when we return Thursday, August 10<sup>th</sup> at 8:30.

## 7th Grade Reminder:

Before the start of the 2017-18 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-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 vaccine appointments now, then provide our office with verification. **Students who do not have up to date vaccinations will not be allowed to attend school.**

## School Calendar:

There are no significant changes to our schedule this year but please make sure you take a close look at the calendar included with this newsletter. Once again, we will have minimum days Friday, Nov 17<sup>th</sup>, Monday, Nov 20<sup>th</sup>, and Tuesday, Nov 21<sup>st</sup> for parent-teacher conferences. The rest of the week is Thanksgiving Break. For Winter Break, school will not be in session beginning Monday, Dec 25<sup>th</sup> through Friday, Jan 5<sup>th</sup>. Like last year, Thursday and Friday, May 17-18<sup>th</sup> are non-student days due to the Glenn County Fair. Other dates to make note of are some of the minimum days built into the schedule, specifically the Wednesday minimum days each month for staff professional development and collaboration. Please take note of the **Tuesday, October 31<sup>st</sup> minimum day.**

## Attendance and Tardy:

The main source of revenue our school receives is from Annual Daily Attendance (ADA), which is a figure calculated by the total number of days students are recorded as present when we take daily attendance. Every day that a student is recorded as absent means lost revenue for the district. Although illnesses happen and family emergencies occur, there are **no real excused absences** in the sense of lost revenue. Therefore, please make sure you take into consideration our school calendar when planning vacations or trips during the school year.

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 collect the ADA missed if students complete the work outlined in the Independent Study agreement.

Excessive tardiness and absences is a violation of the California Education Code and can be reported to the county district attorney's office. Furthermore, as part of the **inter-district agreement** for students, it is the parent's responsibility to ensure students are in school every day, on time. 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.

## Student Drop Off, Pick up, and Parking:

I appreciate everyone's help ensuring students are dropped off and picked up safely by following a few policies.

1. All students are dismissed to the cross walk in the main parking lot. If you park on Road S or Road 24 to pick up your child, please come to student area in the parking lot or the school cafeteria to retrieve your child. Road 24 and Road S are very busy roads, especially at drop off and pick up times. It is unsafe for students to cross either road without parent or guardian supervision.
2. Students are not allowed to wait in the center island of the parking lot for pick up. They will be dismissed to their car once it arrives on campus.
3. In the parking lot, please do not park in the areas painted green for more than five minutes during drop off and pickup times. It is important to keep traffic flowing in those lanes, especially the middle one.
4. Do not park in the areas marked red during drop off and pick up times. Buses and large vans transport students throughout the day and cannot safely do so unless cars are parked in designated areas only.
5. The parking spaces on the south side of campus off of Road 24 are for staff members. Please do not park in those spaces for more than 5 minutes.

## Plaza Community Club (PCC):

Last year PCC allocated thousands of dollars towards activities, materials, and equipment for classroom teachers, as well as the school. One of those purchases was a new piece of playground equipment. 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 the Round Table in Orland or feel free to contact Mr. Conklin. Information will be provided at Back to School Night on Thursday, August 10<sup>th</sup>. The first meeting will be held Thursday, August 17<sup>th</sup>.

### Remind 101 & Simply Circle:

In order to better reach our community in a more convenient way, Plaza School now has a district **Remind101** to communicate important school information from the superintendent/principal. Additionally, we are also going to try a new school wide communication tool called **Simply Circle**, which will send message 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.

### 2017-18 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 2016-17 school year.** Additionally, to ensure your child is enrolled, you must submit at least half of the annual fee (\$90 for one child or \$100 for more than one), as well as the completed application. 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 on Friday, April 20<sup>th</sup> due to the Plaza Carnival set up. Additionally, there is no program available on the last day of school, Wednesday, June 6<sup>th</sup>.

## Take a look below at a few ways to get this year off to a great start.

### BACK TO SCHOOL TIPS FOR PARENTS

- Set up a bedtime and wake-up routine in advance
- Get to know new teachers
- Plan healthy lunches and snacks
- Organize clothing/label clothing
- Update medical records
- Talk to your kids about bullying

### BACK TO SCHOOL TIPS FOR STUDENTS

- Eat Breakfast
- Be Prepared
- Be Organized
- Set Goals
- Get Rest/Sleep

