



PRESTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Preston Veterans' Memorial School
325 Route 165
Preston, Connecticut 06365-9756

Raymond E. Bernier, Jr.
Principal

TELEPHONE: 860-887-3113
FAX: 860-889-5674

What's Happening at PVMS

(Monthly Newsletter)

Volume VIII, Number 8

May 2020

5/11/2020

Dear Parents/Guardians:

I hope this newsletter finds everyone well and healthy. I would like to thank everyone for your support in our online learning. The success we are having could not happen without all of you. This is truly a situation where it takes a village and I am proud to be a part of this village! There is an online virtual parade of staff members. This can be viewed on the PVMS webpage.

As you know, in-person school is closed for the remainder of the school year. This means that our online learning will continue through June 18th. We all hope to be back in school for the fall. Information will be sent home on how students can get their belongings.

Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten screenings are on hold. As things stand now, all students turning four before the end of the calendar year are eligible to be a part of our Pre-Kindergarten program. Students turning five before the end of the calendar year are eligible for Kindergarten.

We are currently preparing for a recognition ceremony/parade to properly send off our 5th graders to middle school.

If you have any specific social emotional concerns with your child, please reach out to their teacher, our school psychologist, Megan Lauteri, or me. Choose Love is a social emotional learning curriculum we use. Teachers are using this regularly through their Google Classroom and Google Hangouts Meet times.

There are messages from each grade level below:

A Message From Our School Psychologist, Megan Lauteri:

Dear families,

I write to you not only as a school psychologist, but as a parent who is also living through distance learning. It is hard. You may be having to leave home to work, work from home, or deal with job loss. You may have multiple children who need your help all at the same time. Right now it is impossible to be good at everything (or anything). Please be forgiving of yourself and know that we thank you for your efforts and support. And remember that learning can occur in so many different ways. Time spent playing with toys, being outside, or cooking with family count as learning and help to cultivate new talents. We can't wait for the day we are together to share how our experiences made us stronger. Thank you for everything you do each day.

Pre-Kindergarten:

Dear friends, we've been busy here in preschool working on our weekly themes such as seasons, insects and butterflies. We, as a team, have been planning many outside activities including observations, Earth Day activities and don't forget the weather! The team is so thankful to our parents who have supported all their children's efforts to be engaged in the curriculum during this strange, uncharted time.

Kindergarten:

Kindergarten continues to encourage students to work at their own pace and submit finished work via email or google classroom. Math areas of focus include measurement, simple addition, and value of money. We encourage you to read with your child, at least 20 minutes a day every day!! Keep practicing the updated, new sight words by playing games, using flashcards, writing them on paper/whiteboard, forming them out of play doh, and writing them on paper and having "scavenger hunts" to find them (either in the house or outside!). We encourage you to reach out to us with any questions, comments or concerns and have truly enjoyed talking to/"seeing" the children. We miss them so much!!!

Grade 1:

F is for FINDING new ways to learn.

I is for "I love you!" from your teachers.

R is for RIDDLES, jokes, choosing love, and flower observations with Mrs. Harris, Mrs. Wolinski, Mrs. Loughery, and Mrs. Pappas.

S is for STRATEGIES for solving math.

T is for TOGETHER even though we are apart.

G is for GREATEST kids and families on Earth.

R is for READING every day.

A is for ALWAYS thinking about you.

D is for DAILY news to connect with you.

E is for EVERYONE working hard together.

Grade 2:

Thank you for all of your hard work and support during our disrupted school year! We miss you all very much. We have all been learning together, and you've been doing a great job! It's so nice to see you during the Google Hangouts and to hear about what you've been doing at home. This month in Math we will be working on learning about Volume, and in Language Arts we will be reading about schools around the world. We hope you are all staying healthy as the weather gets nicer. Happy Spring!

Love,
Miss Abbott
Mrs. Rogers
Mrs. Capunitan

Grade 3:

The third grade team has been working to ensure that our daily virtual learning is directly aligned with the curriculum and closely mirrors our regular routine in school. Our virtual classrooms include daily morning work, spelling, grammar, Journeys and Math in Focus lessons, and Scholastic News. We have also included weekly Mystery Science and Choose Love lessons. Most recently, we have added recorded videos of ourselves giving direct instruction of Math in Focus lessons. Finally, weekly Google Hangouts have also been a part of our virtual learning routine.

Grade 4:

We are using various resources and activities to keep our students engaged in virtual learning. Read Aloud videos are posted daily. In math, we have been using Khan Academy to teach fractions. The videos are interesting and informative. The exercises offer hints and immediate feedback. We will be moving on to decimals using our Math in Focus texts and Screencastify to record ourselves teaching the lessons. For reading and writing, we have used the Readworks website which offers fiction and nonfiction passages, vocabulary instruction, and written responses which require text evidence. We were also able to complete a novel, Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing, using copies of the novel, recorded Read Alouds, and Google slides for chapter activities, quizzes, and tests. Writing prompts and poems have also been assigned. We will be using the online features of Scholastic Storyworks to continue with our reading and writing instruction. Scholastic News continues to be a valuable online resource for social studies and current event topics. Mystery Science has provided our students with many interesting topics and activities. Scholastic Science Spin is also available online for our 4th graders. Earth Day was celebrated the week of 4/20 with many informative articles, activities, and wonderful videos from Discovery Education. On Fridays, after a week of diligent online learning, we assign Virtual Field trips, Prodigy math games, and independent reading in a favorite book. Some of our field trips have been to the Seattle Aquarium, a Borneo rainforest, and the San Diego Zoo. We have also been scheduling

weekly Google Hangouts/Meets with our students to gain that needed face-to face contact.

Grade 5:

We have been hard at work in 5th grade over the past few weeks of our distance learning. We have spent the last few weeks reviewing material, learning new lessons in a new way, continuing with our opinion and persuasive writing, enjoying time all together in our weekly chats, and so much more. We love that Mrs. Campbell has been taking the lead with posting Choose Love lessons to focus on courage, gratitude, forgiveness, and compassion. As we move into the month of May, we continue to be so impressed with the level of commitment to learning we see each and every day! The students have showed resilience and perseverance in making this very unusual school experience the best it can be under the circumstances. Keep up the hard work!

A MESSAGE FROM DR. SEITSINGER:

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

We hope that all of your families are safe and well.

The massive and unprecedented social changes that we have experienced in response to the COVID-19 virus have been challenging, to say the least. As we moved into the virtual instructional world, your exceptional work in assuming a unique and dynamic partnership with educators and your children to offer home-based distance learning experiences is deeply appreciated. As we move forward with new changes, we will explore how to keep best what is working well and look for creative ways to continue to improve our learning community.

Much is on our schedule in the next few months. High on the list is the passing of our FY 21 budget request for next year. Please call into our presentation to the Preston Board of Finance on Thursday, May 14, 2020, at 7 PM to learn about what is essential for next year and future years. We need your support to maintain our programming and staffing. Please contact the central office, our Board of Education members, or your school principals if you have any questions.

We hope you have a safe, healthy, and Happy Spring!

Sincerely,

Raymond Bernier

Calendar of Events:

June 18th

Last Day of Distance Learning