



The Bantam Pride

PETALUMA JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Principal, Renée Semik

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September 23, 2016 • Issue #1

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•The entire newsletter can be found online at petalumajuniorhigh.org•

Principal's Note

Happy Fall, parents and guardians!

We have had a fantastic kick off to school this year and are now really into the swing of things. For those of you new to our PJHS community, there is a lot of helpful information in this newsletter that will give you a heads up about upcoming events and deadlines which will make your student's experience here richer and/or smoother. I would encourage you to pay particular attention to the calendar of events at the end of the newsletter. The following are some highlights which showcase how special Petaluma Junior High School really is.

First, our California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) results showed Petaluma Junior High School continues to be one of the top performing junior high schools in Sonoma County regarding our English and Math scores. To give you some specific data, in English Language Arts, 86% of last year's students in 7th grade Nearly Met, Met or Exceeded standards. Our former 8th graders also did well in English Language Arts with 91% of students scoring Nearly Met, Met or Exceeded standards.

In Math, our scores dipped slightly but outpaced much of the county and the state scores.

In 7th grade, 82% of our students scored in the Nearly Met, Met or Exceeded standards range. In 8th grade, 81% scored in the Nearly Met, Met or Exceeded standards range. We are very proud of our students and staff, but we recognize that we could not be this successful without your ongoing support and work with your students. Thank you

very much for your attention to your child's schooling, health and well-being.

Second, Petaluma Junior High School is working on completing our Green Ribbon Schools Award application for state and federal recognition of the sustainability efforts we have on our campus. In addition to the outdoor classrooms in the front circle, solar installations that are going in, and full scale recycling program, students are learning about composting, gray water and organic gardening if they are in our Culinary/Independent Living classes. We will also be installing our rain catchment system to help to take our organic garden off our water source as much as possible.

This comprehensive study and report of our progress and successes is due to the state by December 23, 2016. I will keep you posted about any awards and recognition we receive in the spring.

Finally, our Second Annual ASB fundraiser is set to kick off October 5, 2016. More information is set and ready to come home that will explain everything very soon. Be on the lookout for it!! Thank you for all your ongoing support of your students and PJHS!

Renée

◆
Important dates &
Attendance Policy are
listed on the last page
◆

Yearbook News

Attention families!

You can now pre-order your
2016-2017

Petaluma Junior High School
yearbook on-line!

This year our yearbook costs \$50. Go to

www.jostens.com to order your yearbook today.

Useful Information for the Beginning of Year

PJHS Parent-Student Handbook

The PJHS parent-student handbook is available online at www.petalumajuniorhigh.org. If you have not yet read through the handbook with your student, now is a good time. You will find useful information about dress code, reporting absences, school discipline and other topics.

Arrival/Dismissal

Thank you to all families for your patience and attention to the safety of all our students during arrival and dismissal. Please remember that students must always be dropped off at the white curb in front of the school or down on Webster Street. Students must never be allowed to exit a car on Western, Bantam or Hilligoss.

Your patience at dismissal is greatly appreciated! The solar panel project in the parking lots is scheduled to be completed on October 15th. Once the parking lots are open, please park and wait for the busses to depart and then move into the traffic circle to pick up your students. Thank you for following these processes as they help to ensure the safety of all our students.

iPad Behavior Expectations

For the most part, students are doing a good job of being responsible, safe, productive and respectful with the iPads. We can use some help reinforcing a few specific issues.

1. Bring a charged iPad to school each day. We do not have extra chargers or charging stations available at school.
2. Students may not take pictures of other students or adults at school without permission from a staff member. This includes selfies taken with other students in the frame.
3. Students may have iPads out before/after school and during break/lunch. iPads should never be left unattended, placed on the ground or put near food/drink. Students may not

download games or apps without permission from a staff member. Staff may inspect an iPad at any time for photos, games and apps and may delete these to ensure space for school-sponsored apps required for learning.

Coffee with the Principal & School Tour

Coffee with the Principal & School Tour is an hour set aside each month for parents to come in and talk, give feedback, ask questions or just introduce themselves to Renée as she gives a tour through the halls here at PJHS. Generally, the meeting is the second Thursday of the month from 9:30-10:30am (*except on Dec 15th when it's the third Tuesday of the month) and starts in the Conference Room located in the Office. For those of you who like to plan ahead, here is the schedule for this school year:

- ♦ October 13th ♦ November 10th ♦ *December 15th
- ♦ January 19th ♦ February 16th ♦ March 16th,
- ♦ April 13th ♦ May 11th



Counseling Corner

WELCOME TO PETALUMA JR. HIGH!

The counselors would like to welcome both incoming 7th graders and new and returning 8th graders. We hope you had a safe and fun summer! Below you will find some information about some of the programs we have at PJHS as well as some ideas to help your student be successful.

If you would like more information or have questions, please contact your counselor: Ms. Horwitz, A-K (last name) counselor at 778-4730 or Ms. Leigh, L-Z counselor at 778-4729.

To students:

1. **7th Graders, Use Your planner:** This is the single most important tool for success. Be sure to write down your daily and long-term assignments each day. When you get home, check to see what's due the next day as well as in the future. Work a little each day on long-term assignments to avoid having to do a big project at the last minute.

8th Graders, Use Your Tools: Eighth graders are encouraged to create a system to remember their homework. Teachers are using their websites, AERIES and/or Google classroom to

post homework assignments. Students may also write down assignments in their binder, use their Google Calendar or purchase a planner sold in stores throughout the community

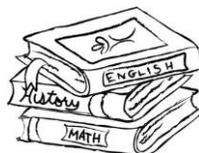
2. **Have a regular place to do homework:** Be sure your place is quiet, well lit, well supplied and organized. When you get home from school, empty and organize your backpack. Save all your completed assignments in a box/file for future reference (study for tests, etc...).
3. **Get into a homework routine:** Plan to do your homework around the same time every day and stick to it. 1–1½ hours of homework each night is not uncommon.
4. **Check the Student Portal & Teacher Websites**
5. **Ask for help:** If you find that you are struggling in a particular class, ask for help. There are many ways to get help with schoolwork. You can ask your teacher, an aide, or a classmate.

To parents:

1. **Stay involved:** Parent involvement in middle grades is just as important as it was in elementary school. Communicate with your child's teachers, attend back-to-school night, volunteer at dances, join PTSA, attend PTSA and ELAC meetings and volunteer to tutor in the library after school. Students whose parents stay involved do better in school.
2. **Monitor your student's academic progress in the following ways:**
 - a. **Parent Portal**
 - b. **Teacher Websites**
www.petalumajuniorhigh.org/staff/globe
3. **Access the PJHS website,** www.petalumajuniorhigh.org, to
 - a. **Read the principal's newsletter** which contains important information
 - b. **Read the daily bulletin** (which includes the lunch menu)
4. **Check your child's planner/calendar and homework nightly:** Be sure your child is getting work completed and done accurately. Help your student stay organized and ready to go for the next school day.
5. **Communicate with your child's teachers and counselor:** Don't hesitate to call or e-mail teachers if you find that your child is struggling in a class. And, keep in touch with

the counselor if there are personal issues your child is struggling with. We are here to help.

6. **Request a Bantam Buddy:** Bantam Buddies is a group of 8th grade students who have volunteered to "buddy-up" with a students to help them feel more comfortable here at PJHS (for example, meet student before school, hang out with student at break/lunch, walk student to class or just answer questions). Bantam Buddies connect with transfer students, new students from out of the area, or any other students who feel they need a buddy. Contact your student's counselor for more details.



English Department

English classes at PJHS have started 2016 with a flurry of activity and learning. Most classes, both seventh and eighth, have reviewed basic grammar and punctuation, and have begun the challenging work of creating mature, sophisticated sentences while keeping in mind both purpose and audience. Most classes have also reviewed basic paragraph format with the future goal of building on these well crafted paragraphs to create multi-paragraph essays.

In Ms. Mantoani's seventh grade classes, students have used fictional and nonfictional sources to study individual identity and society in the digital age, the advantages and disadvantages of technology, and the future of technology in our society. In Ms. Jimenez's seventh grade classes, students have also embarked on a study of individual identity and have taken time to look, through literature and writing, at who they are as individuals and how their identities may differ in different situations or grow or change over time. Ms. Kneeland's classes enjoyed writing time capsule letters and creating collages to illustrate their writings. They have also studied the elements of a story in preparation for an upcoming book project. All seventh graders have written their first writing sample in response to Julia Alvarez's "Name/Nombres," where they were challenged to examine the author's many identities. All and all, seventh graders are getting

to know themselves, their peers, and their community.

Eighth graders and seventh graders in Mr. Day's classes have started their year studying business English and will soon have the very necessary skills needed to apply for jobs and to navigate complex workplace writings such as technical manuals and documents. In Ms. Sullivan's eighth grade classes, students are learning about current events and about our upcoming election. In addition, they are learning which platform (digital or paper) best serves each learning goal. Overall, these students are developing the abilities necessary to be strong students, citizens, and future professionals in the twenty-first century.



History Department

Creating a Continent

Seventh graders are learning about the variety of landforms found on the various continents. Students get to be creative in designing their own continent with their own variety of landforms. Students are able to create the shape and theme they choose. The students also have a written component to their project, where they explain and describe their continent. This project allows the students to be imaginative and demonstrate their understanding of landforms.

Roman Research Report

Seventh graders will be completing their Roman Research presentation in the next few weeks. After learning and practicing research skills such as skimming and note taking, students will make five note cards on an ancient Roman accomplishment and corresponding modern day example. Students can choose from examples in engineering, such as roads, bridges or aqueduct. Other options include accomplishments in art or architecture. Next, students will write brief paragraphs from their notes and include pictures in a Google Doc, submitting their work to Google Classroom.

U.S. History

Mr. Murphy's 8th grade U.S. History class is in the middle of a unit studying the U.S. up to 1840.

In this unit, students will look closely the presidencies of Washington, Adams, and Jefferson and will investigate the beginnings of the first two political parties during this time. They will also learn about the purchase of Louisiana from France and the exploration of the territory by Lewis and Clark. In addition, students will research the causes of the War of 1812 and its outcome. Finally, students will look at the presidency of Andrew Jackson.

Independent Living/Culinary Arts

Independent Living classes are busy working in other units now that the Foods/Cooking unit has been completed. Students in Independent Living Classes enjoyed making Breakfast Burritos, Black Bean Pizza, Pasta Primavera, and observed how to make Kale Chips, a Kale, Cucumber, and Avocado Smoothie, Fruit Smoothies, Moroccan Mint Tea, and Sweet and Spicy Wonton Crisps. They studied identifying utensils, knife and kitchen safety skills, sanitation in the kitchen, and dishwashing techniques. Thanks go to Clover and Sun Farms for donating 300 eggs for our cooking unit!

We have now begun the Interior Design Unit, and are busy designing "Dream Bedrooms" in the 7th and 8th grade classes. Students are eagerly adding "shark tanks" to walls and floors, pools, hot tubs, skate parks, dance floors, and foam pits into their bedroom plans. During this unit, materials are in short supply. We can always use furniture catalogs (with prices included), such as IKEA, Pottery Barn, and Scandinavian Designs; paint samples, miniature tile samples, like ones used in mosaics (2"x 2" or smaller); and Formica samples in black, white, faux granite, or faux marble.

After we complete the Interior Design Unit, we will continue on with Child Development. In class, students will learn about infant care and babysitting, SIDS, Shaken Baby Syndrome, and Fetal Alcohol Syndrome. They hold high-tech computerized babies that cry throughout the class

for several reasons. Students have to decipher the reason for the cry, and react during a certain time frame, while the baby communicates via wifi to the teacher's computer; reporting how well the student responded to the baby. Note: these babies NEVER leave the classroom, and will NOT go home with them!

EVERY PENNY COUNTS!!!

Fundraising is a part of life in public schools, and in a materials-intensive, hands-on class, it is especially necessary. The District allows us less than \$1.65 per student to run our classes. Our current fundraisers are Box Tops for Education, Pampered Chef, Staples Recycle for Education, 10% Back to Schools,



Escrip under "PJHS Indep Living Classes", and Cookbook Sales. Please save your empty ink and laser cartridges, and drop them off in the main office, or send them in with any Independent Living student, for credit. Staples will give us up to \$3.00 cash for each cartridge.

The Culinary Garden

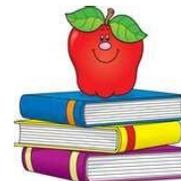
Our garden continues to grow throughout these warm winter days. Our herbs are still producing well, we continued to harvest tomatoes into December, and we have had plenty of kale and chard throughout the winter.

Parent volunteers are welcome. The garden constantly needs feeding and deadheading. We currently need "weed-whacking" on the hill. Just come on by and pull some weeds (register in the office first). We also need about 100 feet of 6' high chain link fencing to enclose our garden, as well as a gate for the entrance from the hallway. If anyone knows of a scout troop, a student who needs community service hours, or just a nice person to help: **WE NEED ASSISTANCE!** There is **NO OUTSIDE FUNDING SOURCE OF ANY KIND** for the Culinary Garden. We have raised some money this year in our cookbook

fundraiser, but we depend entirely on community volunteers and donations.

Can anyone provide us with some bulbs or other starts? Garlic, leeks, daffodils, narcissus, and pink ladies are especially appreciated.

Mrs. Nugent: 778-4724 or cnugent@petk12.org



Library News

I am Debby Vandersande, and I am excited to be the new librarian at PJHS. I was a classroom teacher for 9 years, and became a School Library Media Specialist in 2013 when I finished my Masters in Library and Information Science at the University of Hawaii.

I am striving to bring the library into the 21st century and help students use their iPads as a library tool. Students can now manage their library accounts and write book reviews using the Destiny app. We have a new e-book subscription called Storia, which gives students unlimited access to over 400 fiction and nonfiction books on their iPads. The library now has a Facebook, twitter, Instagram, and SnapChat account to promote reading and spread news. Follow us @BantamLibrary.

I am also striving to create a culture of literacy in the library. We now have a large selection of new releases to create enthusiasm for reading. This month, I am starting lunchtime book clubs for each grade level. I have eliminated late fines so that students do not feel pressure to return an unfinished book, and will not be denied access to materials due to fees. (Students are still financially responsible for lost books.) We will be hosting a book fair in December to increase access to affordable books, and to raise funds for new library books.

The library is a very popular place, especially during lunchtime, and Mrs. Teagarden and I are working to shift the students' focus to literacy and research while they are in the library space.

The library is open to students at 8:00 every morning and will be open until at least 3:30 in the afternoon. (Hours may vary slightly if I am off campus for a day.)

Printing has been a challenge in the library this year. Ideally, students should be printing their work at home. Some teachers may also accept work via email or Google docs. We are receiving a new printer soon. Students will need to bring their own paper or pay to print, so please make sure that your child is prepared with paper or cash if he or she needs to print in the library.

I have enjoyed meeting the students at library orientation, and I look forward to a wonderful school year!



Math Department

The Math Department would like to thank Mr. Mesches for filling in while we hire a permanent math teacher for 7th grade. Our new staff member should be starting next week, working closely with Mrs. Street and Miss Sager to make sure that all the 7th graders are in the same place.

If your child is still having issues logging in to the e-book, CPM has put up a temporary website students can use without logging in.

It is <http://freebooks.cpm.org/>. For junior high, we are in Core Connections Course 1, 2, and 3 for sixth, seventh and eighth grade. Teachers have extra copies of the chapters, but the e-book has many resources that are useful to students. If you have not already taken a look at the e-book, check it out!

Seventh graders are continuing their work with probability, discovering the likelihood of certain events to occur. On the way, they are reviewing important fraction, decimal, and percent skills. Chapter 2 continues our work with rational numbers and students will also learn how to deal with positive and negative numbers.

Eighth graders are reviewing skills that they were introduced to last year – tile patterns, positive and negative numbers, solving equations, and how to approach word problems. This is the first set of 8th grade students to have gone through

the CPM program in 7th grade, which is a great advantage. We have been able to move more quickly through the first chapter, since they are already comfortable working in groups, discussing their solutions, and using diamond problems and the 5-D process as tools.



Physical Education Department

<https://sites.google.com/a/petk12.org/pjhspe/>

Mr. Dee, Mrs. Fahy, Mrs. McGaughey,
Mrs. Offenbach, Mr. Tucker

As we kick off another school year, each of the PE classes so far has been establishing their class routines, introducing different exercises/activities and discussing various fitness concepts. Many of the beginning of the year activities also include team building and cooperative type challenges that help the students get to know each other, work together and begin to develop positive life-long social skills such as communication, cooperation, patience, respect and responsibility.

Absences/Make-ups:

Although it is usually two (2) PE make-ups that are required for each class missed (and only one (1) usually for 6th grade and zero period), it is important for the student to talk with his/her teacher once they return from any absence to find out exactly what they missed and what they need to make up.

PE Make-Up Schedule *(changed this year)

All make-ups are now only during lunch

- ◆ Tues 12:15 - 12:40 pm
- ◆ Wed 11:55 - 12:25 pm
- ◆ Thu 12:15 - 12:40 pm
- ◆ Fri 12:15 - 12:40 pm

Medicals:

All medical notes (from a parent/doctor) should specify a student's restrictions and/or modifications. Parent notes are good for 2 days;

beyond that a doctor's note is required. Student's on medicals will be given a modified or alternate assignment/activity where they can still earn participation credit, however please keep in mind that no participation/PE that day = no credit for that day (and it may require make up work at a later date to earn any credit).

Please visit our department website (listed above) for more details about dressing/PE clothes, make-up policies, grading and medical/health issues. From there you can also link to the individual class websites which have additional information.

PJHS ATHLETICS

<https://sites.google.com/a/petk12.org/pjhsathletics/>

Here at PJHS we offer the following sports (please note though that 6th Grade Academy students are not eligible to participate in PJHS Athletics):

FALL: Girls Basketball & Cross Country

EARLY WINTER: Girls Volleyball & Boys Basketball

LATE WINTER: Wrestling

SPRING: Track & Field

In order to participate in Athletics a student must first complete the clearance process (each school year). Please visit our Athletics website listed above (including the "How to Participate" link) for more details and information. You may also e-mail Athletic Director Zack Dee at zdee@petk12.org with questions regarding PJHS Athletics.



Science Update

The science teachers and students are off to a fantastic start. We have a terrific group of students here at PJHS and it is a privilege to work with such curious, budding scientists.

The seventh grade teachers are Mrs. Sara Brooks-Long, Ms. Terra Hazen, and Ms. Lauri Arnold. Seventh grade science has begun its study of the front circle habitat. Students are learning

about biodiversity, and realized that **the front circle has 6x's MORE biodiversity this fall** than we did in the Fall of 2015! (Thanks to the effort of last year's 7th grade science classes.) What a great accomplishment. As you may have noticed there is a creeping grass that is invading the front circle. Students are learning about invasive species and will be designing experiments to determine which method of weed eradication is the most successful. We must get control of the invasive grasses before we plant further. The long-term goal for the Front Circle is to increase biodiversity. Students are learning how to increase biodiversity. One way students have researched this concept is by reading from [Bringing Nature Home](#). Students are realizing that to attract native wildlife they need to provide their food by planting native plant species. The changes to the Front Circle have been made possible by generous donations from Orchard Supply Hardware, the Rotary Club of Petaluma, Petaluma Kiwanis, SonoMarin Landscaping, the City of Petaluma's Mulch Madness Program, Daily Acts, Friedman's Home Improvement, Sonoma Valley Wholesale Nursery, the Watershed Nursery, and PJHS families. Thank YOU! Thank YOU!

Mr. Thomas Lang, Mrs. Shannon Petersen, and Ms. Lauri Arnold are coordinating the eighth grade physical science program. They have collaborated on incorporating the new learning goals of NGSS in their current units. As September becomes October, our 8th grade science classes are finishing up their studies on lab safety, the metric system, and how the scientific method is used. The eighth grade students will be shifting focus onto the evidence scientists have about the age of the Earth, and the relationships between all life on Earth.

Teachers in the Science Department use various methods to communicate information about homework. These include assignment lists in student binders, planners, or teacher websites. All science teachers are using the AERIES gradebook. In science, students were taught how to use their own AERIES accounts. Please use the Parent and Student Portals in AERIES to keep up to date with your child's grades and missing assignments. Don't forget to click on the course

name to see the actual list of assignments. Only work from the current grading period will be accepted.

The science program at Petaluma Junior High School will have more equipment, labs, and activities this year because of parent generosity. The owl pellet dissection alone costs over \$150.

THANK YOU FOR ALL DONATIONS!
THEY ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED!

Sixth Grade Academy (SGA)

Our year is off to a wonderful start. We have 52 fabulous students in this year's program. Students represent the Petaluma City Schools as well as other districts in Sonoma County.

We started our year concentrating on building a positive classroom environment with lessons on Digital Citizenship. Students covered topics including their digital footprint, cyberbullying and digital etiquette.

Our program includes monthly field trips. These trips are designed to enhance our curriculum. We will be attending "Rock the Presidents" at the Wells Fargo Performing Arts Center later this month and will visit the Eastside Farmer's Market in November. Our annual trip to Walker Creek is scheduled for early December.

Students are reading a class novel in English class based on the life of Iqbal Masih, a boy who was sold into slavery at a young age in Pakistan. They are working on their writing skills to prepare for our participation in Nanowrimo in November. Each child will write their own novel on a topic of their choice.

In history, students are beginning to study Ancient Civilizations by understanding how archaeology contributes to what historians know about the past. Students will learn about Early Man and the beginning of civilization as we know it.

During the first semester of science we will be investigating how the ocean and the atmosphere interact. We will also look at how carbon flows through the ocean, land, and atmosphere. By the end of the semester the kids should be able to see the influence that carbon has on our oceans and atmosphere.

During the first semester of math we will be looking at developing arithmetic strategies, exploring the concept of area, portions, integers, variables, and ratios.

PTSA

Pay no attention when your PJHS students told you the school doesn't need you. Instead, contact our PTSA to learn how you can help!

Our PTSA works behind the scenes to help families stay connected with the school. We manage volunteers for school events, put on teacher appreciation activities throughout the year, coordinate 8th grade promotion activities, and support the administration in other programs that arise during the year. Join our email list to stay informed, or attend one our meetings (every second Thursday of the month). Our next meeting is October 13th at 6:30-7:30pm in the school library. We welcome your input! For more info, contact Nancy Sands, PTSA president, via email at nancysands13@gmail.com.

Mentor Me Petaluma is looking for Mentors!!

The Role of a Mentor:

- To meet with your mentee once a week for an hour on campus during the school day.
- To provide a listening ear and non-judgmental guidance.
- To act as a good role model and help kids set healthy boundaries and make positive choices.

Simple Steps to Becoming a Mentor:

- Complete and return the Mentor Application which can be found at mentormepetaluma.org.
- Provide three references.
- Attend a New Mentor Training.

That's it! Start making a difference in a child's life today. For questions and additional information please contact our MMP coordinator, Fidaa Shaheen by email at fshaheen@mentormepetaluma.org or (415)203-4925.

Internet Essentials

Internet Essentials is an internet service provided by Comcast. It provides access to the internet, laptop computers and assistance in using the internet for qualifying children and their families.

To be eligible:

1. Child must be on the free and reduced lunch program.
2. Family must not have subscribed to Comcast for the internet for 90 days.
3. Family must not owe Comcast a balance or have unreturned equipment.

The program:

1. Provides internet for \$9.95 per month (cost will never rise).
2. Laptop computers available for \$149.99 (comes with Norton antivirus, parental controls and more).
3. Help in learning how to use the computer and internet
 - a. On-line tutorials
 - b. Printed materials mailed to the family
 - c. In-person

To enroll or get more information, call (855) 846-8376 or for Spanish call (855) 756-6995.



**A printer-friendly
version of the**

Important dates

&

Attendance Policy

**are located on the
next page**





DATES TO REMEMBER

SEPTEMBER

- 27th - Board of Ed (BOE) mtg 6:00-7:00pm
- 28th - Re-take/Picture Make-up Day

OCTOBER

- 5th - Walk/Roll to School
- 5th - 21st PJHS Pledge-a-Thon Fundraiser
- 11th - BOE mtg 6:00-7:00pm
- 13th - Coffee with the Principal & School Tour,
9:30-10:30am in Conference Room
- PTSA, 6:30-7:30pm in Library
- 19th - Cross Country League Finals
- 25th - Board of Ed (BOE) mtg 6:00-7:00pm
- 28th - **BANTAM BASH, 4:00-6:00pm, PJHS**

NOVEMBER

- 1st - End of 2nd Grading Period
- Girls Volleyball & Boys Basketball tryouts start
- 2nd - ELAC meeting 6:00-7:30pm
- 8th - BOE mtg 6:00-7:00pm
- 10th - Coffee with the Principal & School Tour,
9:30-10:30am in Conference Room
- PTSA, 6:30-7:30pm in Library
- 11th - NO SCHOOL - Veterans Day
- 17th - Mix-It-Up Day @ Lunch
- 21st - 25th - NO SCHOOL - Fall Break
- 28th - Canned Food Drive begins

DECEMBER

- 6th - 9th - Sixth Grade Acad. (SGA) - Walker Creek
- 13th - BOE mtg 6:00-7:00pm
- 14th - Winter Concert 7:00-8:30pm in MPR
- Canned Food Drive ends
- 15th - Coffee with the Principal & School Tour,
9:30-10:30am in Conference Room
- 16th - Winter Dance, 6:00-8:00pm in MPR
- 20th - 22nd Finals - early dismissal @ 12:45pm
- Tues. 3^o & 6^o, Wed. 4^o & 5^o, Thurs. 1^o & 2^o
- End of 1st Semester
- 23rd - Jan 9th - NO SCHOOL - Winter Break

JANUARY 2017

- 10th - School resumes (A-day)
- 13th - PTSA, 6:30-7:30pm in Library
- 16th - NO SCHOOL - Martin Luther King Day

STUDENT ATTENDANCE POLICY
Attendance Phone #: (707) 778-4726 (24 Hours)
Attendance email: sstockham@petk12.org

ABSENCES

Absences due to doctor/dentist appointments, illness, court, family bereavement, and religious holidays are the **ONLY** excused absences by State Law.

1. **ALL ABSENCES MUST BE VERIFIED.** It is necessary for a parent to send a note or a doctor's verification, or call the Attendance line. The following information **MUST** be included in your absence note:
 - a) Exact number of days and dates absent
 - b) The specific reason for the absence
 - c) Signature of parent/guardian
 - d) Date the note is written
2. Upon returning to school, students must take their absence notes to the **Attendance Desk**.
3. A student who has missed 2 class periods during the school day is not eligible to participate in any student activity that occurs after school on the same day, unless he/she is cleared by the administration.
4. Absences which are not cleared in the office within 3 days will be considered "cuts" and will be referred to the Assistant Principal.
5. Check Parent Portal and email teachers directly for any missing homework.
6. For an extended absence from school (**minimum 5 days**), you may request that your student receive **Independent Study**. This must be requested by the parent, at least 5 school days in advance. Contact Mr. Dee at zdee@petk12.org for more information.

OFF-CAMPUS REQUESTS

If you need to pick up your student during class time, please leave a message on the phone or email provided above. Include in the message the following information:

1. Your name
2. Name of student to be picked up and relation to you
3. Time and reason of pick-up
4. Whether student will be returning or not