

Steven Jeras, Principal

August 4, 2009

Welcome to the 2009-2010 school year! I hope that the summer months provided time for families and friends to relax and appreciate time together. I am eager to see all of our returning students and to meet the new members of our Sandpiper family.

This letter includes some important information you need to know as you prepare for the start of the school year. If you still have any questions, please call the office during office hours.

WHO'S NEW

- Laurie McGill – Ms. McGill is our new records secretary, and many of you may be familiar with her from her campus assistant role and as a former parent.
- Evonne Martin – Ms. Martin is a one-on-one para-professional in Pat Shuster's class. A retired teacher from Liberty Elementary, she is looking forward to a new role in the classroom.
- Mary Radic - Ms. Radic is our new speech pathologist, and will be here four days a week to work with the MIMR program.

WHAT'S NEW

Dress Code – After gathering input from a parent survey last Spring, the School Council made the following changes to the Sandpiper Dress Code:

- Tank Tops – Straps must be at least two inches wide. Last year's Sandpiper tank tops do not meet this standard, but they can be layered with another tank top or shirt.
- Shorts – Shorts must be no shorter than 4 inches above the top of the knee.

Please keep these changes in mind when shopping for back-to-school clothes.

Communication – In keeping with cost-saving measures, most of our communication will take place online this year. Newsletters and other updates will be posted on the school website at cmweb.pvschools.net/spesweb/. You can receive email notifications when important information is posted by registering for the following services:

- Principal's Online Journal – receive weekly updates about events and observations from the principal at www.sandpiperprincipal.blogspot.com. When you subscribe, you will receive email notifications when additional postings have been made.
- PTO Email Blasts – receive updates on PTO events and announcements, as well as the monthly school newsletter. Sign-up opportunities will be available when school starts.

Principal's Challenge – I am reinstating the Principal's Challenge, which existed with a previous Sandpiper principal. This will be a project that allows students to explore a topic of choice throughout the year. Students will be encouraged to spend time—individually and with family—engaged in different activities to help them learn more about the topic/issue. I will present the details of the Principal's Challenge to the students during the first week of school.

WHAT'S NEEDED

- Supply Lists – You can access grade-level supply lists on our website, or you can pick up a copy from the front office.
- Parent Coordinator for the yearbook – We will continue to use a student group to help assemble the yearbook, but we need a parent (or two) to assist a teacher in making sure that the yearbook is completed in a timely manner. Please contact Mr. Jeras if you are interested or have questions.
- Drummers! As we look to enrich our music experience for our students, we need a parent (or two) who can play the drums and is able to volunteer to work with our students throughout the year. If you are interested and would like more information, please contact Mr. Jeras as soon as possible.
- Volunteers.—There are many opportunities to volunteer around campus, but one area of need is our cafeteria/recesses coverage. If you can donate a few hours each week, please call the Sandpiper office.
- Immunization—All students entering the sixth grade are required to have an update in their immunizations of one dose of Tdap and one dose of Meningococcal vaccine by September 1, 2009, or they will be excluded from school. Please provide documented proof of these updates to Nurse King prior to September 1.

IMPORTANT DATES

August 13	8 am	Class lists will be posted outside of the front office.
August 14	9:30-10:15 10:15-11:00 11:00-11:45	Kindergarten Orientation for students and parents – Kokopelli Hall New Student Orientation – for parents and students new to SPES Meet your teacher in Kokopelli Hall <i>After a messy summer with new carpet and tile, our teachers are also dealing with a short window to prepare their rooms for the first day of school. Therefore, this year's Meet & Greet will be held in Kokopelli Hall. We appreciate your cooperation in allowing the teachers to work in their rooms without interruption.</i>
August 17	8:58 am	First day of school! As many of you know, our parking is limited, so you should allow extra time when dropping off your student(s).
August 18	5:30-8:00 pm	Curriculum Night – See below for schedule

CURRICULUM NIGHT

This is the event that will help you get to know your child's teacher, the curriculum, and most importantly, your role in your child's education. Don't miss this important event. Our students are counting on you to be informed and involved in their education.

5:30-8:00 pm	Information and Opportunity Exhibits will be in the Media Center throughout the night
6:00-6:30 pm	Honors and Resource ONLY Meet in the Honor or Resource Room
6:30-7:00 pm	Grades K-2 in homeroom
7:00-7:30 pm	Grades 3-4 in homeroom
7:30-8:00 pm	Grades 5-6 in homeroom