A Message from your Principals

Whether you are brand new to Clear Run Elementary Center, or a family whose child is returning after the summer break, we are eager to welcome you to the 2019-2020 school year.

We are confident that this year will be positive, productive, and filled with meaningful memories. The beginning of the school year is always a hectic time, with last-minute tasks to complete and lots of questions. We are hopeful that the information in this newsletter will help answer those questions and begin putting the minds of our newcomers at ease. If not, our teachers and support staff are always there to guide you along the way. Also, the two of us are never more than a phone call or e-mail away.

Keeping Kids Safe is our top priority

The Pocono Mountain School District uses the Raptor Visitor Management system to screen the background of all visitors to the building. Screening is done through the use of one's driver's license or other means of identification. If someone with a record is identified, our School Resource Officer (SRO) is alerted and any necessary steps are taken.

Whether attending an event, meeting, or picking a child up from school, everyone is required to present the secretary at the front desk with their drivers' license or other appropriate photo identification. No matter how often you visit our school, unless you are an employee and have a district-issued badge (which would also need to be worn at all times), you are expected to have your license with you.

Once a visitor’s identification has been screened, he/she will be issued a photo visitor’s badge that identifies the time of arrival and destination during the respective visit. Please make sure to wear the badge in an area that is easily visible. All visitors should also be escorted by a member of the staff/faculty during their visit.

Thank you in advance for your commitment and understanding!
Important Information about School Attendance

- All students begin their day at 9:05 am.
- Parents have three days to turn in notes for all absences. Any notes turned in late will be counted as unlawful.
  Written notes can be sent to school with your child and given to their teacher. Notes can also be e-mailed to their teacher or directly to our attendance secretary (CRECAttendance@pmsd.org).
- By law, after four unlawful/unexcused absences, the school is required to meet with the child’s family to develop a SAIP (Student Attendance Improvement Plan).
- If no improvement is shown after a SAIP and there are 6 or more unlawful absences, an Attendance Citation may be filed with the district magistrate and/or a referral to C&Y (Children & Youth Services).

Truant - By law, after three unlawful/unexcused absences, a student is considered to be “truant.”

Habitually Truant - By law, after six unlawful/unexcused absences, a student is considered to be “habitually truant.”

Frequently Asked Questions:

- At what time does school start? 9:05 am
- At what time does school end? 3:40 pm
- What time does school start if there is a 1 hour delay 10:05 am
- What time does school start if there is a 2 hour delay? 11:05 am
- What is considered to be an excused absence?
  - Illness
  - Medical, dental, or other health care appointment (Remember to get an excuse from Dr. Office)

- What is considered to be an unexcused absence
  - Oversleeping and/or missing the bus
  - Failure to turn in an excuse within three days
  - Missing school in excess of 18 days without a doctor’s excuse
  - Taking an educational trip without following the educational trip guidelines.

Additional information about the district Attendance Policy can be found on our website.

School Matters!
Attend Today. Achieve Tomorrow
Parent Drop Off/Pick Up Procedures

Student AM Drop-Off:
- Student Drop-Off begins at 8:30 am.
- Parents are expected to pull into the Student Drop-Off Area by entering the upper parking lot and maintaining a single file line.
- When possible, have your child seated on the passenger side of the car. If your child requires assistance to get out of their car seat/booster seat, you may exit the car to assist them.
- CREC staff members will be there to guide your child into the building. They are not be expected to open car doors, undo seat belts, etc.
- Turn left at the stop sign and exit the parking lot via Route 611. NOTE: If you have another child who attends CRIS, you are not permitted to drive through the bus lots.
- Parent Drop-Off ends at 9:05 am. If you arrive after 9:05 am, you must bring your child in the building, to the desk in the lobby. After 9:05 am, all students need to be signed in by an adult and receive a late pass.

Student PM Pick-Up:
- Student Pick-Up will begin at 3:35 pm. Cars can begin to assemble in the line at the back of the building at 3:00 pm.
- Follow the same entrance/exit procedures as AM Drop-Off.
- Show your assigned Car Tag to the CREC staff member on duty. See secretary Ms. Karen Turpinat with your completed Parent Pick-Up Contract and she will issue your Number/Car Tag.
- Your child will be escorted to your car. It is your responsibility to place him/her safely in the vehicle.

Take Note!

Picking Your Child Up Early

If you are picking your child up early, or for dismissal at the end of the day, you must send in a note to your child's homeroom teacher. If someone other than a Parent/Guardian is picking up your child, you must also advise us of that in the note. The person picking your child up from school must present valid photo ID in order for your child to be released to them.

Children picked up before 3:00 pm will be called down to be dismissed from the Front Office.

NOTE: Dismissal time in a K-2 building is a very busy time of the day. To ensure that all students are safe and accounted for, no one will be dismissed from the lobby after 3:00 pm. We thank you in advance for your cooperation and understanding.

- If your child is picked up after 3:00 pm, you must get a "Temporary Parent Pick-Up Pass" from Ms. Karen Turpinat in the main office. These passes can be issued any time during the day before 3:00 pm.
Loretta Cassidy, PTO Teacher Liaison, is a second grade teacher at CREC.

Kelly DeVita, PTO Corresponding Secretary/Executive Liaison, has two children. Donny is going into first grade at CREC. Andrew will be going into fourth grade at CRIS.

Kristen Long, PTO Vice President, has two children. Isabella is going into second grade at CREC. Lucas will be going into fourth grade at CRIS.

Maria Nawrocki, PTO Recording Secretary, has three children. Olivia is going into second grade at CREC. Isabella and Felicity are both in college.

Rosana Piparo, PTO President, has two children. Logan is going into second grade at CREC. Isabella will be going into fourth grade at CRIS.
PTO Meetings
September 12th
October 3rd
November 21st
January 9th
February 13th
March 12th
April 2nd

Pocono Crimson Dragons
Karate Demo for Kids
Self-Defense Strategies for Adults
at our September PTO Meeting

All General Membership Meetings take place on Thursdays at 6:00 pm

One way that the Clear Run Elementary Center PTO raises money for programs and initiatives is through Box Tops for Education.

Each Box Top is worth $0.10 for our school.

Here are some recent changes to the program . . .

- If your package has a traditional Box Tops, cut it off and send it to school. Make sure it has a valid expiration date.
- If your package has a new Scan label, there's no need to clip. Use the NEW Box Tops app to scan your store receipt within 14 days of purchase. The app will find participating products and instantly add Box Tops to our school's earnings online.

For more information, visit the website at https://www.boxtops4education.com

Student birthdays are celebrated on the last day of each month:
September 30th
October 31st
November 27th
December 20th
January 31st
February 28th
March 31st
April 30th
May 29th

NOTE: If you would like to send in a special treat to school on the day on the designated day for celebrating all birthdays for that month, we ask that you choose an item that is individually pre-packaged with all ingredients listed on the wrapper. Non-food items are always best!

Join The PTO with a suggested donation of $5.00 per family
Chartwells is the company that the Pocono Mountain School District contracts with to provide nutritious and delicious breakfast/lunches for your children. Monthly menus adhere to the USDA School Meal Guidelines and can be found on-line at http://pmsd.nutrislice.com.

- All children are scheduled to have lunch daily in the cafeteria. Students can purchase their lunch or bring something from home. Prices for lunch are the same as last year—$2.00 (full price); $.40 (reduced rate).

  *Participation in our breakfast program is optional. Prices for breakfast will also remain the same as last year—$1.40 (full price); $.30 (reduced rate).

- Families can pay for their child’s school meals by cash, check, money order or a credit card (on-line). Cash, checks and money orders must be placed in a special pre-printed district envelope. These envelopes are collected during homeroom so that the monies can be credited to your child’s account before going through the serving line. Students merely enter their Student Identification Number when purchasing their meal.

- Families are encouraged to register through the district website to the School Café Site. This feature allows parents to:
  - Apply for Free & Reduced Meal Benefits
  - View Cafeteria Menus and Nutrition Information
  - Manage your child’s lunch account 24 hours, 6 days a week.

NOTE: Breakfast will not begin until the second week of school — September 3rd.

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**First Day Menu**

**Main Entree**

Chicken Tenders

**Alternates**

WG PB & Grape Jelly

Uncrustable

**Side**

BBQ Baked Beans

Seasoned Broccoli

Assorted Chilled Fruit

Assorted Fruit Juice

Lowfat Milk/Skim Milk/
Chocolate Skim Milk

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Apples are red, berries are blue, pears are sweet and they are all good for you.

- Anonymous
Now might be a good time to discuss adding a multivitamin to your child’s daily routine with their pediatrician. Vitamins and minerals boost the immune system, support normal growth and development, and help cells and organs do their jobs.

Boosting the immune system as we transition back to school can help with lowering the risks of initial student illnesses.

On another note: The Nurse’s Office is always in need of student clothing, including lightly used underwear and socks. Clothing for the Nurse’s Office does not have to be uniform specific. Thank you

Clear Run Elementary Center is always looking for volunteers - to chaperone field trips, assist with picture day, or to help out with other special events.

To volunteer, please apply on-line for your Child Abuse History and Pennsylvania Criminal Records Check. Both of these background checks are free of charge to volunteers. A Federal Criminal History Record Check is also required. However, there is a waiver for the FBI check if you have been a Pennsylvania resident for 10 years. Copies of all required documents should be given to Karen Turpinat in the main office.

Visit KeepKidsSafe.pa.gov to apply for required clearances.

Standardized Dress Code

All students are expected to follow the Standardized Dress Code as outlined in the district policy. It is recommended that you assist your child with picking out his/her clothing so that there are no Dress Code Violations.

Common Dress Code Violations

- Wearing clothing with patterns - Students must wear solid color tops in our school approved colors (white, gray, black or navy). Light/powder Blue is not a color option.
- Wearing clothing with logos - Logos on clothing is not permitted.
- Students cannot wear flip flops.
- Students can choose to wear a fleece or sweater in school. Fleeces cannot have a hood and must be in one of the approved colors.
- Students can wear Spirit Wear on Phys Ed days but must still follow the Dress Code otherwise.

It is STRONGLY RECOMMENDED that you label your child’s clothing.
Pocono Mountain School District
West-Standardized Dress Code

Bottoms
- **Khaki, Navy Blue, Grey or Black**
- Should meet the top of the shoe
- Shorts/skirts should meet the top of the knee cap
- Blue jeans are not allowed

Shirts/Tops
- 2-3 button polo style with color in **White, Grey, Navy Blue or Black**
- Oxford style shirt or blouse with collar in **White, Grey, Navy Blue or Black**
- Only district or PMSD sponsored school/spirit wear with logo (No Brand Name Logos)

Dresses
- Dresses with collars, short or long sleeved in **Khaki, Navy Blue, White, Grey or Black**
- Length should meet the top of the knee cap

Optional Apparel
- Belts should be solid colored, plain, and worn at the natural waistline in **Black, White, Tan, Khaki, Grey or Brown**
- Layering of clothes such as, full-torso t-shirts/turtlenecks, cardigans, vests or crewneck sweatshirts should be in compliance of the approved colors
- Scarves, ties, bows for hair are also permitted in your choice of color

Footwear
- Shoes, sneakers, boots, sandals with a back strip, clogs, or crocs allowed
- No heels in excess of 3 inches
- No flip flops or bedroom slippers