

# Panther PAWPrints Newsletter

September 2019

## Campus News

Our 2019-2020 school year is off to an awesome start! Laughter and learning are filling the halls and classrooms as we venture into September. Classroom expectations, routines, and procedures are being developed. These are incredibly important within each classroom and across campus as they form the foundation for a smooth-running learning environment in which students are comfortable, secure and ready to learn.

Our August Montana weather has not disappointed this year! The warm weather has allowed our students to enjoy beautiful, fun-filled recesses jam-packed with adventure! We are eagerly awaiting our newest playground equipment which is sure to add even more adventure! Keep an eye on our school Facebook page for updates!

## Summer Reading Challenge

Mrs. S dished out a stellar challenge to our Panthers this past summer. All Panthers were encouraged to read and log over 1,000 minutes! We had five students rise to the occasion and CRUSH the summer reading challenge! Katherine, Olivia, Dylan, Andrew, and Danyka (not pictured) not only made their goal but exceeded it! Nice job, Panthers!



## Panther House System

By now you've no doubt heard your students excitedly talking about the house system we are implementing at our school. We wanted to write and share more information so that you can support your child in this exciting experience. A house system is a team within a school that allows students to make friends outside of their class and/or grade level, have friendly competitions, have a sense of identity and belonging with others, and have mentorship and guidance from adults that they may not otherwise interact with on a daily basis.

We have based our house system on a combination of methods used at Ron Clark Academy in Atlanta, a world-famous private school headed by former National Teacher of the Year Ron Clark, author of *The Essential 55* and other books. Of course, his work with houses is based on what is used in the Harry Potter series.

Because magical sorting hats and other wizardly things are not available (no funds!), students were sorted into their houses today by popping a random balloon with a house name inside. Kindergarten students are automatically part of Doctrina, the light blue house. This is the "house training" and groups of Doctrina students will be part of another house's activities, apprentice style. When they reach first grade, they will take their turn popping the balloon to take their place as a full member of one of the other houses.

House points will be earned based on positive behavior and working hard to achieve their individual goals and/or house goals. At the end of each trimester, points will be tallied and the house with the most points will be awarded the Panther Trophy and receive a special house celebration. In addition, a House of the Year will be recognized at the end of the year BBQ. House points will start over each trimester, but a cumulative total will be kept for the end of the year award.

How can you tell which house is in the lead? Colored house jars will be displayed near the office which will give students, staff and parents a visual of who has taken the lead that week! Help your student to remember to wear their house t-shirt **EVERY** Friday and sport their 'colors' on Panther Spirit Day! We look forward to teaching the students to be kind and foster good citizenship skills through healthy competition and teamwork.

## Transportation News

### Bus Rules

Pioneer Elementary believes that our drivers' first and foremost responsibility is to safely transport our children to and from school. Excessive horseplay, etc. could result in injuries on the bus and seriously interfere with the safe transportation of the children. **The bus is equipped with seatbelts, students will be expected to wear seatbelts.**

These behavior problems cannot and will not be tolerated.

- Students must be ready at stop 5 minutes before expected arrival of bus.
- **The Driver will stop, blow horn, and proceed with the route if the child is not at his/her stop.**
- Wait until the bus comes to a complete stop before approaching the bus.
- Upon entering the bus, go at once to your assigned seat, sit down, and remain seated until arrival at your destination.
- Keep feet, books, packages, equipment or other objects out of the aisles at all times by placing articles on your lap, sit facing the front of the bus.
- Voice levels should be at a 0-1. Shouting is prohibited.
- Keep arms, hands, head, and all parts of the body inside the bus at all times—never out of the window.
- Report bus damage to the driver.
- Follow posted rules.

**Unacceptable Behaviors include (but are not limited to):**

- Spitting
- Screaming, screeching and/or causing disruption with high pitched voice.
- Use of profanity or any other inappropriate language.
- Use of tobacco products, drugs or alcohol.
- Use of emergency exit door except for an emergency.
- Throwing objects or debris on the floor, out of the bus, or at peers.
- Scuffling, playing or fighting.
- Lighting matches or lighters.

### Items Prohibited on the bus include (but are not limited to):

- Trading Cards (Baseball, Pokemon, etc)
- I-Pods, etc. Pioneer School will not be responsible for loss, theft or damage to these items should you choose to bring them on the bus or to school.
- Cell phones. Please see cell phone policy on page 6.
- Gameboys, and other video games. Exceptions **may** be made for all day field trips and is subject to the approval of the teacher.
- The driver is in charge of the students and the bus. He/she will assign seats and apply disciplinary measure as required.
- Emergency information, St. Vincent emergency room consent to treat, and annual update must be completed by the parent/guardian and returned to the school at the beginning of the school year.
- In inclement weather, when there is a strong possibility the buses cannot get through, listen to radio stations: KCTR 102.9, KGHL-FM 98.5, Y-93 93.3, or KRKX 94.1 FM, for notification of school closure.
- When crossing in front of the bus, students must not run; they are to look both directions and wait for the driver to signal. All traffic should stop for a school bus loading or unloading children, but children should not trust traffic to do so.
- Students should always cross at least 10 feet in front of the bus.
- Students may not board or depart the bus at stops other than their own. Exceptions may be granted by written permission or phone call to the office of parent/guardians of **all** students involved.
- Safety rules posted in the bus are discussed with students on the first day of school and with each new student the first day he/she rides the bus.
- Students riding the bus in the morning will ride home in the afternoon unless they are picked up at the school by their parent/guardian. If someone other than a parent/guardian is to pick up the student, a note must be supplied to the school stating the name of the person who will transport the student.
- Parents of children that are not registered students of Pioneer School may be asked to sign a waiver before they are allowed to ride a Pioneer School Bus.

### STUDENT BUS DISCIPLINE

If discipline is necessary, the procedure is:

1. Warning by the driver.
2. A *Bus Refocus Slip (Bus Ticket)* will be written and sent home to the parents.
3. A *Bus Refocus Slip (Bus Ticket)* will be written and notice will be sent to parents. Student will be transported by parents for 5 School Days and will be assigned a seat up front for the remainder of the year.
4. Upon the 3rd offense, parents will be notified and a *Bus Refocus Slip (Bus Ticket)* will be issued. The Administrator will suspend the student for the remainder of the year.

\* Flagrant Offense: In cases of students displaying "extreme" behavior, students may be removed from the bus for the year. (Even if it is their FIRST OFFENSE).

***Note: If a student loses bus privileges, they may not be permitted to ride the bus for any reason, including field trips, for the remainder of the year.***

### **GETTING OFF AT A DIFFERENT STOP**

The driver is responsible for a student from loading point to the designed stop. At no time will the driver allow a student to ride a different bus or get off at a different location UNLESS the appropriate paperwork is on file in the office to include a signed note by the parent of the rider and the parent of new stop.

## Panther PTA News

The Panther PTA would like to say THANK YOU to everyone that supported our dinner night out events through the summer months! They were a great success!

We are only a few days away from our Panther Carnival! The PTA has worked hard at putting together a night for our community to join together to support our school. Proceeds from the event will benefit Pioneer and the Panther PTA. The carnival gate will open at 6 pm on Friday, September 6th. Please help us make it a success by bringing your family and friends!

Blue Books have arrived! This is a great and easy fundraiser for our school. They are jam-packed with awesome coupons for the Billings and surrounding areas. Pioneer will receive \$10 for every book sold!!

Thank you to everyone that stepped up and volunteered to help serve pizza and hot lunch. The schedule was sent out to all those who will be serving. If you have any questions, please let me know.

We were thrilled to see the number of new PTA members this year! It's not too late if you would still like to join. You can find a PTA membership form on the school website. The more voices, the better we can serve our school and students! The next PTA meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 9th at 6 PM. We hope to see you there!

Jake Wyman  
PTA President



**DOES THAT?**

**PTA Provides Educational Enrichment for our Panthers!**

- ◆ PTA Funds Educational Field Trips to the Theatre, NILE, Pumpkin Patch and More!
- ◆ PTA Funds Educational In-School Speakers/Assemblies, Visiting Authors and Classroom Literacy Programs such as Accelerated Reader
- ◆ PTA Sponsors the Annual Panther Science Fair

**MEMBERSHIP MATTERS**

**PTA Supports Our School!**

- ◆ PTA Awards Our Teachers Grants to Purchase Classroom Supplies!
- ◆ PTA Provides Volunteer Support
- ◆ PTA Provides Hot Lunch Twice Monthly and Pizza Every Friday
- ◆ PTA Hosts Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week

**PTA Builds Community!**

- ◆ Panther Community Fall Carnival
- ◆ PTA Sponsored Chili Cook-Off
- ◆ PTA Sponsored Pancake Breakfast
- ◆ PTA Sponsored Events Such as Goodies with Grands, Muffins for Mom, and Donuts for Dad
- ◆ PTA Funds the Panther House Scholarship Program
- ◆ PTA Offers Panther Spirit Wear
- ◆ PTA Funds Santa's Secret Shop
- ◆ PTA Sponsors Barnes & Noble Book Fair
- ◆ PTA Funds and Runs the End of the Year BBQ

**Join the Panther PTA!**

**PTA Communicates!**

- ◆ Monthly Newsletters
- ◆ Facebook Updates
- ◆ PTA Sponsored School Texts
- ◆ PTA Sets Up Volunteer Lists

## Principal's Note

Welcome back, Panthers! We are thrilled to have each and every one of you with us for the 2019-2020 school year.

We have some exciting changes this year! Our Panther families spoke, and we listened! By the end of this month, you will be able to access your student's grades and behavior reports through two new programs. K-8 will be utilizing Planbook for an online grade book and Class Dojo K-5 and Remind 6th-8th grade for daily behavior reports. Be on the lookout for information regarding how to log on to these sites in your kiddos Take Home Tuesday folders.

Another exciting addition is adult education classes! Throughout the year, Pioneer will offer a multitude of courses ranging from utilizing district technology applications, learning how to access your student's information, to arts and crafts! Information regarding dates, times, and cost of these courses will be posted to our monthly newsletters, the school Facebook page, and the school website. You can sign up for our first class, *Understanding NWEA MAPS Assessments* by clicking on the link below! **\*\*Note!\*\* You MUST RSVP/sign up for classes to ensure materials/spots are available.**

A few reminders as we enter into this new year! At Pioneer, we believe that the full-time attendance of students is necessary in order to provide a meaningful school experience. In addition, the regular attendance of a child in a formal education setting is mandated by state laws and school board policies.



Excessive absenteeism/tardiness comprises a child's ability to fully benefit from the educational experience offered through the school setting. Below, you will find a few pieces of information regarding attendance and its importance. At Pioneer, we strive for good attendance and that means that students are on campus, on time, and ready to learn.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me. My door is open and I always have time for our Panther community. We are here to serve and are excited to be working along with you this year; ensuring our young Panthers' success.


- Melissa Schnitzmeier  
Principal/Superintendent, Pioneer Elementary

## ATTENDANCE MATTERS

**Why is it important for my child to go to school EVERY day?**

-  • Your child gets **KEY reading skills** in grades K-3 that can't be made up later
-  • These skills help your child make a better **transition to middle school** and **graduate** from high school
-  • A high school graduate typically **earns almost \$1 million more** over the course of a lifetime
-  • Your child will develop **habits of showing up** that will **translate** into other areas of life like employment

**Beyond academics, DAILY ATTENDANCE helps children**

-  • Feel **safe** through **predictable routines**
-  • Build **positive and stable relationships** with peers



**The key is less than 3 absences or tardies per quarter**



**In a school year:**  
**Chronic Absenteeism:** 18+ absences and tardies  
**Warning Signs:** 10-17 absences and tardies  
**Good Attendance:** 9 or fewer absences and tardies

If you have questions about resources or would like further support contact:  
Anity Malberg (406) 272-8506  
amalberg@uwyellowstone.org

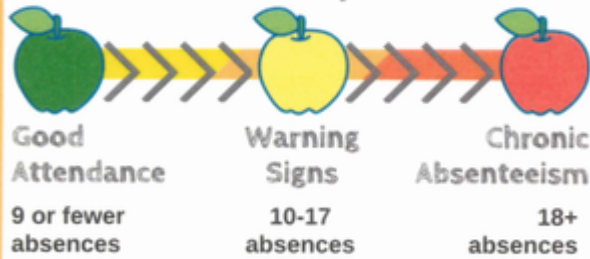


# ATTENDANCE MATTERS

The key is less than **3**  
absences or tardies  
per quarter

Research shows that good attendance, missing less than 10% of school, increases a child's success in social and academic domains of school, and increases the likelihood of graduation from high school.

In a school year:



## Adult Education Class Sign Up

Understanding NWEA MAPS Assessments - September 25th 4:00 p.m.

Click on the link below to register!

Understanding NWEA MAPS Assessments

Understand more about the NWEA MAPS Assessments and how they are used to measure student learning. This is a free, self-paced, online course that will help you understand the NWEA MAPS Assessments and how they are used to measure student learning. This is a free, self-paced, online course that will help you understand the NWEA MAPS Assessments and how they are used to measure student learning.

**\*Required\***

Email address

Name

Your email

Your answer

Understanding NWEA MAPS Ass...

forms.gle

## PAWS Value of the Month



# All About Responsibility

Parents,

Hello! Here at school, we have been very busy learning about responsibility- what it means and how we can be responsible students and citizens! Learning happens best when it is done both at school and at home. Below are many ways that you can help your child continue to learn about the theme of responsibility through reading about it, talking about it, and practicing it! We have really enjoyed exploring this topic at school, and I hope your family will enjoy it just as much!

## Read About It!

Here are some books to help you learn more about responsibility:

- [I Just Forgot](#) by Mercer Mayer
- [Strega Nona](#) by T. dePaola
- [The Paperboy](#) by Dav Pilkey
- [The Pigsty](#) by Mark Teague

## Practice It!

Help your child practice responsibility by giving him/her special jobs! Let your child pick a special chore each week that they can be responsible for. Let them carry the groceries, wipe the counters or feed the pet!

## Talk About It!

Here are some discussion points to help you talk about responsibility with your child:

- What do you think responsibility means & why is it important?
- Tell me about a time when it was hard to be responsible.
- What is a way you would like to have more responsibility at home?
- What are your responsibilities in the classroom and in our community?



Responsibility.pdf



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Calendar

# SEPTEMBER 2019



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Labor Day No School	3 Library - 6-8 PE/Health - 6-8 & 4/5	4 Library - K PE/Health - 6-8	5 Library - 2/3 PE/Health - 6-8 & 2/3	6 Pizza - Canadian Bacon Fall Carnival! Library - 4/5 PE/Health - 6-8	7
8	9 Board Meeting 6:30 pm PTA Meeting 6:00 pm Goodies w/ Grands Library - 1 PE/Health - 6-8 & 2/3	10 ← K-8 Fall MAPS Testing → Library - 6-8 PE/Health - 6-8 & 4/5	11 Library - K PE/Health - 6-8	12 Library - 2/3 PE/Health - 6-8 & 2/3	13 Pizza - Pepperoni Library - 4/5 PE/Health - 6-8	14
15	16 Library - 1 PE/Health - 6-8 & 2/3	17 Library - 6-8 PE/Health - 6-8 & 4/5	18 Library - K PE/Health - 6-8	19 Library - 2/3 PE/Health - 6-8 & 2/3	20 Pizza - Cheese Library - 4/5 PE/Health - 6-8	21
22	23 Library - 1 PE/Health - 6-8 & 2/3	24 AE NWEA MAPS 4:30 p.m. Library - 6-8 PE/Health - 6-8 & 4/5	25 Library - K PE/Health - 6-8	26 Library - 2/3 PE/Health - 6-8 & 2/3	27 Pizza - Canadian Bacon Library - 4/5 PE/Health - 6-8	28
29	30 Library - 1 PE/Health - 6-8 & 2/3	*****Reminder! School begins at 8:00 a.m.! Tardy bell rings at 8:05 a.m.!*****				



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88.6 KB

## Upcoming Events



# PIONEER PANTHER'S CARNIVAL


1937 DOVER ROAD, BILLINGS MT  
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6TH, 2019  
FESTIVAL GATES OPEN AT 6:00 P.M. OUTDOOR MOVIE AT DUSK

**HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:**  
OUTDOOR GAMES & PRIZES  
PIPPI THE CLOWN  
BOUNCY HOUSE  
OUTDOOR SHOWING OF DUMBO ON THE BIG SCREEN!  
(WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO BRING A BLANKET TO SIT ON!)  
RAFFLE BASKETS & MORE!

FOOD BY  
**COOKIE'S KITCHEN**  
BBQ SANDWICHES, HAMBURGERS, HOT DOGS & MORE!



THANK YOU TO OUR DONATING VENDORS!  
PROCEEDS FROM FALL FESTIVAL TO BENEFIT THE PANTHER PTA & SCHOOL



## Picture Day is Coming

*Ya llega el Día de la Foto*

**Pioneer Elementary School**  
Picture Day Date:  
**September 12, 2019**

See your flyer for details.  
*Mira tu folleto para conocer detalles.*

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Questions? Please contact Customer Service at 800-736-4753.  
¿Preguntas? Comuníquese con el Servicio de Atención al Cliente, llamando al 800-736-4753.

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# Shepherd Jamboree



**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7TH, 2019**

**Introducing our 1st Annual Pride of Shepherd Safari Fun Run! Find information and a ticket link for registration under Events on our Facebook page.**



Following the fun run, join us from 11am - 4pm for:

- ~ Kids' Games & Bouncy Houses (purchase tickets)
- ~ Food, Drink & Craft Vendors, BINGO & Silent Auction
- ~ **LIVE AUCTION @ 12pm**

**All @ the Shepherd Community Center, 5541 Haynes Rd.**

For information on donating auction items or vendor booths, contact Rebecca Beddes @ 406-855-5875  
For Information on kids' booths as a fundraiser, contact Whitney Knaff, Shepherd School PTO @ 406-465-5109 or email [president@shepherdpto.com](mailto:president@shepherdpto.com)

- => *Shepherd Jamboree is hosted by the Shepherd Lions Club.*
- => *Auction and Food proceeds to benefit the Shepherd Community Center.*
- => *Ticketed booths to benefit Shepherd School PTO and various groups.*

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!**

**LIKE us @ [facebook.com/shepherdlionsclub](https://www.facebook.com/shepherdlionsclub) &  
@ [facebook.com/shepherdmustangpto](https://www.facebook.com/shepherdmustangpto)**