



THIS MONTH'S ISSUE:
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 QUEST

THE PREMIER VOICE

Believe and Achieve

A Word from Head of School, Julie Frugo



"I am so excited about our new Chromebooks! It helps me with my homework and when I have questions and I am having so much fun just using it and getting to know how it works!"

~Marissa Hailey
 PCS 8th Grade Student

Hello PCS Families,
 I hope you are enjoying this fun season with your families! As usual we are busy at school and there is much to share with you about the great things happening every day at PCS! Please take a moment to check out our new marquee—we look forward to using this as another tool to keep you in the know. Our Parent Roundtables are another option for staying informed. Our first Roundtable in November was focused on sharing all that is happening with technology at PCS and at our December 8th Roundtable we shared information on NWEA, DRAs, The Math Fact Program and helpful tips for testing using computers. On the subject of technology, you can read in the Middle School Update about our recent purchase of 100 Chromebooks for our 8th grade students which they will have the opportunity to take with them when they successfully graduate at the end of the year! It has been awesome to watch how quickly this equipment has impacted our 8th grader's tech literacy and how it matches perfectly with our goal of preparing our students to succeed in High School and beyond! Our 4th grade students recently had the opportunity to join forces with students from The College School and Barack Obama Elementary in Normandy for an event called a "H.O.T. Bowl" which stand for **H**igher **O**rders **T**hinking and involves using games to raise the cooperative learning of all involved. Middle School students also had an opportunity to learn from students at other schools through a student summit with Francis Howell and Hardin Middle Schools. Last but not least I am so proud of the spirit of philanthropy that our students are embracing—thank you to all who supported our PJ drive and our Tight Twenty service project "Hugs for Kids" which collected stuffed animals for hospitalized children. Wishing you and yours a peaceful holiday season!



Warmly,
Julie

Important Dates

- 12/17:** Winter Choir Concert—Intermediate Auditorium
 2:00--Matinee Performance
 7:00--Evening Performance
- 12/18:** G-day ½ day
 Elementary Winter Parties—2:30-3:30
- 12/19-1/4:** Have a happy and safe Winter Break!
- 1/13:** Elementary Dress Up Day
- 1/16:** G-day—All Day



School News

Middle School News

This past month, every 8th grade student was thrilled to learn that they each have been given the use of their own Chromebook laptop and that they also have the opportunity to take these devices with them when they graduate as long as they meet the attendance requirement of 90%! This amazing increase in access to technology is already impacting learning as students are using them daily in their classrooms. An additional classroom set of laptops was also added in both the 6th and 7th grades which significantly increased accessibility in these grades as well. This month Middle School will be rolling out a targeted after-school tutoring program for students in all grades. This program will be taking the place of after-school study hall will allow for increased individualization of support for students.

ELL News

Thanks to all ELL families who attended our ELL family night during conferences! We had a great time and enjoyed discussing your child's progress visiting with all of you! Look out for monthly newsletters coming home from the ELL department to ELL families. ACCESS testing (language assessment given each year to all ELLs) will begin January 12th. ELL students will not have their regular ELL schedules until testing is over (usually about the end of Feb). If your ELL student is interested in before or after school tutoring for trimester 2, please let your classroom or ELL teacher know.

Elementary News

An assembly was held to honor our esteemed Veterans during our 2nd annual Veteran's Day assembly this past month. The event culminated in a parade, followed by a reception in the primary cafeteria with their little ones. It was incredible to see Veteran's sharing some pieces of history with the students at this special event! The first parent Roundtable was held on the subject of technology. We continue to work on specific ways to enhance technology within daily classroom instruction using the Elementary School's four 22-laptop mobile labs. Options for teaching student keyboarding skills are being assessed as well. The Elementary School is also beginning an exciting new math program that was detailed in a note that came home to our elementary families last week. The Math Fact Mastery Program is designed to help our students learn and retain their basic math facts. As students get older and are required to know more complicated math, such as long division, it is essential that students know their basic facts and we are excited to partner with our families on this fun new program to help our students be ready to succeed!

Parent Community Group (PCG) Announcements:

PCG Spirit Wear is on sale! Considering Sprit Wear for holiday gifts for your favorite PCS student!

PCS 2014-2015 Lottery is Now OPEN

◆ Additional lotteries subject to openings

2015-16 Lottery Schedule (Applications will be available starting December 1, 2014)

◆ Kindergarten through 8th grade lottery will open for the 2015-16 school year on December 1, 2014.

◆ To be eligible for the 2015-16 Kindergarten class, a child's 5th birthday must occur before July 31, 2015.

◆ To apply, parents are able to come in person, have an application sent home, can download the application from this website or apply directly online via our "Apply Now" button.

◆ Siblings of currently enrolled PCS students are given priority once they have a completed application submitted in the lottery.

◆ Initial Kindergarten Lottery is scheduled for Monday, February 2, 2015

◆ Initial Schoolwide Lottery is scheduled for Wednesday, April 15, 2015

◆ Additional lotteries subject to openings

If you have any questions regarding the lottery or enrollment process, please feel free to contact our registrar, Cristie Bailey at cbailey@premiercharterschool.org or by calling 314.645.9600 ext. 155.

QUEST at PCS

The PCS Gifted program is doing great things! PCS Gifted educator, Mrs. Emily Gold works with students in 2nd-8th grade extending their learning through project based learning guided by student's interest and framed around curriculum standards. Visiting Mrs. Gold's classroom you might see students completing 3-D maps as a culminating piece for their research project on self-selected regions, playing The Stock Market Game and managing stock portfolios in conjunction with their study of The Great Depression or participating in a mock debate over the cause of the Mexican –American War. Mrs. Gold also just received full funding for her Sustainable Housing Design Architecture Project where students will design LEED certified homes that will then be judged by a local architect!

Late Start Schedule

With the winter weather upon us, please make note of the late start time of **9:30-10:00**. In the event of a late start, students would be marked tardy at **10:05**. A late start schedule would be put in effect if it was determined that a late start would be safest for our students. As with any school closing, late start notification would be communicated to PCS Families through our standard procedures: Facebook, Website, News Channels and All-Calls. Please note that Before Care will not be available in the case of a late start schedule.

Premier Charter School will provide the children of the City of St. Louis an individualized education rich in academics and character, so the children we serve today can be the leaders of tomorrow.