Dear Penguin Families,

Thanks for all of your patience and kindness, as we continue to refine our routines to safely exit the building each day! It makes our job a bit more pleasant as we try to expedite the process. Express Car Pick-up, Parent pick-up in the office, and walkers are all accounted for via check-list on a daily basis. We realize it’s a hectic time of day and appreciate any changes in your child’s routine to be called-in before 3:00. If you are dropping your student off, please do so downstairs at the turn-around between 8:45 and 8:55, as school starts promptly at 9:00. Please pull forward to keep the steady flow of cars from blocking the intersections!

Fall conferences are coming soon! I strongly urge you to attend them to get up-to-date information on your child’s academic progress. This is a great time to ask any questions or bring up concerns that you may have regarding homework, friendships, or supporting areas of school at home. Often, parent-teacher conferences ‘connect the dots’ so to speak between school and home, which allows us to better understand your children.

Soccer games, piano lessons, football practices, dinner, a little down time with a book…we are all very busy and exhausted by the end of the week, but the trick seems to be to find the joy amidst the craziness of life with kids. There is much to be joyful about here at Prune Hill.

OCEAN TO OCEAN is our jogging program for kids! SO many penguins have run 5 miles already!! Way to go! Thank you Mrs. Houston for the Saturday Family Fun Run!

Please do not hesitate to call with any questions or concerns. We are all in this together!

Sincerely,

Julie Swan
Principal
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**October 2016**

The Scholastic Book Fair takes place the week of October 24th-28th. Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri, 8:00am-4:00pm and Thursday, 8:00am-7:30pm. Grand Breakfats during book fair (see p.8).

The crossing guard is assisting students at the intersection of Brady Rd and 16th from 8:45 to 9:00 a.m. and 3:25 to 3:50 p.m. with Wednesdays 1:05 to 1:45 p.m. Students need to cross during these times.

Also a reminder bikers need to wear your helmets-safety is number one!
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<td>Choir Rehearsal 8:00-8:45</td>
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<tr>
<td>Set clocks back 1 hour</td>
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<td>Choir Rehearsal 8:00-8:45</td>
<td>Veterans’ Assembly 9:15-10:00</td>
<td>PTA Harvest Dance 6:00-8:00</td>
<td>NO SCHOOL Veterans Day</td>
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<td>Election Day Ballot Drop Off</td>
<td>Patriotic Penguin Day (Red, White &amp; Blue) Early Release 1:10</td>
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<td>Camas School Board Meeting 5:30 @ ZAC</td>
<td>Choir Rehearsal 8:00-8:45</td>
<td>5th Grade Water Quality Monitoring 9:15-12:15 Early Release 1:10</td>
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<td>Choir Rehearsal 8:00-8:45</td>
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<td>Choirs perform at Festival of the Trees downtown Vancouver 11-12</td>
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<td>Camas School Board Meeting 5:30 @ ZAC</td>
<td>Choir Rehearsal 8:00-8:45 (Last One)</td>
<td>Early Release 1:10</td>
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**Mail Town all this week during your child’s PE class.**

**NO SCHOOL - Thanksgiving Break**

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**Dates to Remember**

**CEF CAMAS EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION**

**Phone-A-Thon**

November 15 - 17 2016

Auction

March 18 2017

[www.cefcamas.org](http://www.cefcamas.org)  [facebook.com/cefcamas](http://facebook.com/cefcamas)  [twitter: @cefcamas](http://twitter.com/cefcamas)
With the cold weather season coming upon us, it is time to make a plan for your child in the case of an emergency school closure due to inclement weather. Camas Extended Day and the Boys and Girls Club (Jack, Will and Rob) will also close if there is an emergency school closure. Please contact Gina Nelson gina.nelson@camas.wednet.edu if you need your child to be dismissed a different way than is already in place. Your child will be sent home according to their normal dismissal plan if we do not hear from you.

With the cold weather season coming upon us, it is time to make a plan for your child in the case of an emergency school closure due to inclement weather. Camas Extended Day and the Boys and Girls Club (Jack, Will and Rob) will also close if there is an emergency school closure. Please contact Gina Nelson gina.nelson@camas.wednet.edu if you need your child to be dismissed a different way than is already in place. Your child will be sent home according to their normal dismissal plan if we do not hear from you.

Sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars and Ladies Auxiliary of the State of Washington, Prune Hill students in grades 3-5 are encouraged to submit an essay around the theme “Why are men and women who serve in the military special?” Applications are available in the classroom and office and should be turned in to the teacher by October 31. The application gives specifics about the contest. Students from Prune Hill have been honored in the past as regional winners and have gone on to have their essays judged at the state level. We are thrilled to have our local Camas/Washougal VFW be involved in judging and honoring local student winners. We encourage students to participate this year.

Dear Families,

On November 9th, PHE will be having a Veteran’s Day Assembly where Veterans are celebrated and recognized. If your student has a relative who is or was in the military, we invite students to share their photos and information. If you decide to participate, please email the digital pictures and info to Mrs. Amy Miller at amy.miller@camas.wednet.edu. The photographs and information will be included in a PowerPoint slideshow displayed during the assembly. Family members are welcome to attend the assembly as the 5th grade will be singing the songs of each military branch. Please send your email with the following information:

*Please copy and paste this portion into your email*

- Veteran’s first and last name:
- Branch:
- Year(s) Served:
- Rank (if known):
- Location:
- Relationship to PHE: Your student’s grandpa, aunt, cousin, sibling, etc.
- Attached picture of your student and the Veteran
HEALTH TIPS TO SHARE WITH YOUR CHILDREN!

Common sense can go a long way toward preventing illness in the classroom. In addition to frequent hand-washing, teach your child other school health basics:

- **Use hand sanitizer.** Give your child alcohol-based hand sanitizer to keep in his or her desk. Remind your child to use the sanitizer before eating snacks or lunch and after using a shared computer mouse, pencil sharpener, water fountain or other community objects. You might also donate disinfecting wipes to the classroom for general use.

- **Cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze.** Give your child a package of tissues to keep in his or her desk. Encourage your child to cough or sneeze into a tissue -- then put the tissue in the trash, and wash his or her hands or use hand sanitizer. If it isn't possible to reach a tissue in time, remind your child to cough or sneeze into the crook of the elbow.

- **Keep your hands away from your eyes and out of your mouth.** Remind your child that hands are often covered in germs.

- **Don't share water bottles, food or other personal items.** Offer your child this simple rule: If you put the item in your mouth, keep it to yourself. The same goes for hats and other headgear. If your child shares pencils, markers or other classroom supplies, stress the importance of keeping them out of his or her mouth.

- **Avoid anyone who's sick.** Remind your child that sitting next to or playing with someone who's sick could lead to his or her own illness.

- **It's also important for your child to eat a healthful diet, get plenty of sleep and stay current on his or her immunizations -- including a yearly flu vaccine.**

Source: [www.mayoclinic.com](http://www.mayoclinic.com).

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SchoolMessenger

In response to winter weather challenges the Camas School district uses SchoolMessenger, an emergency notification system, which sends a recorded message via primary phone to Guardian 1, and primary phone of household 2 when applicable, within minutes, when schools are delayed or cancelled. The district number (360-335-3000) is the number on the caller ID for these calls. For updated inclement information you can also click on the snowflake on the CSD home web page.

SchoolMessenger is also used to make attendance phone calls when students are absent from school. Please note that the Prune Hill number (360-833-5730) is the caller ID that will show on your phone when we send you a message. This tool can also be used by staff members to notify specific groups of parents when an athletic event is cancelled or to remind families of important events.

[Call & Message]=

[Call & Message]
PTA- October News!

Harvest Dance
The Prune Hill Harvest Dance will be held on Thursday, November 10th from 6-8pm. (There is no school on Friday, November 11th. The dance is fun for all ages. The entire family is invited to come and have fun. High Fidelity Entertainment will again be providing our favorite DJ. Don’t worry about dinner, great food vendors including Maui Wowi Smoothies and Papa Murphy's will be there. We will be raffling off some awesome prizes: a night's stay at Great Wolf Lodge, a SkyZone Jump Package, a Drone, a “create your own cake” from Menchies, a hammock from Eagle Nest Outfitters and much more. Don’t miss out on the fun!

Box Tops Fundraiser
Fall Box Tops and Recyclables contest is underway! Each Fall and Spring, we award one class the coveted Box Tops Trophy. Send in your Box Tops, Printer Cartridges and Recyclables by November 7th. The class with the most Box Tops is presented with the award! Start collecting and sending in your Box Tops now!

Membership Drive
Thanks to your support, we exceeded our September PTA membership goal and the students won a popsicle party! If you haven't joined yet, it's never too late! Joining the PTA doesn’t require that you volunteer but it does provide an opportunity to stay in the loop, have a voice and meet other parents. And remember, a membership is for one school year so if you haven’t signed up this year, just go to:

pt-avenue.com/join/

Payback Books
Thank you Penguin families for another successful Payback Book fundraiser! While final numbers are still being calculated, the profits appear to be slightly better than last year! Way to go Penguins!

UPCOMING DATES:
October 7th: Birthday Table for October Birthdays
October 7th: Popsicle Party for reaching PTA membership drive goal
November 4th: Birthday Table for November Birthdays
November 7th: Box tops, Printer Cartridges and Recyclables due
November 10th: Harvest Dance 6-8pm
December 2nd: Birthday Table for December Birthdays
December 7th: PTA General Membership Meeting from 6-7pm in PHE Library

Friend us on Facebook: Prune Hill PTA
Get more information at www.PruneHillPTA.com
Email us at prunehillpta2@gmail.com

2016-2017 Board of Directors
President: Tim Kang
Vice President: Becky Wong
Co-Treasurers: Autumn Travers & Jeannette Beaver
Co-Secretaries: Bamini Pathmanathan & Kelly Reiter
Membership: Lauren Wooten
Dear Prune Hill Families,

For those of you who are new to Prune Hill, “Welcome to your new school!” If you are returning family, “Welcome back!” For those who do not know me, my name is Mike Durfey and I’m excited to be back for my 11th year as school counselor in 'Penguin Land'. I love my job and the opportunities I have to work with students, families, and teachers each day.

Part of my role during the school day is to visit classrooms and spend time teaching students about topics such as social skills, empathy, emotion management, bullying prevention, and problem solving to name a few. Each grade level is introduced to the topics appropriate to their developmental needs. If your student hasn’t seen me in class yet, that means they will after winter break.

Another opportunity available for students needing extra support throughout the year is small group counseling. This provides students with additional learning experiences while enhancing personal growth. Topics of groups are based on need and can change throughout the year. Groups are optional and require parent consent before student participation.

Individual Counseling within the school setting is provided on a short term basis. If there is a need for more intensive services, I will work with your family to identify and link you to the proper supports. Each situation is looked at on a case by case basis.

Parent meetings and consultations are always available when needed. I communicate daily with families, teachers, administrators, and community agencies. School counselors can be an excellent source to link you to supports/resources in the community that you may not have been aware of.

Please don’t hesitate to contact me throughout the year if you have any questions or concerns.

Looking forward to another great year!

Mike Durfey
Counselor
Prune Hill Elementary
(360) 833-5730 ext. 79086
Michael.durfey@camas.wednet.edu
This fun school activity is a chance to spend one-on-one time with a special child in your life. Book Fairs motivate children to read by giving them the opportunity to choose their own books. Your involvement and support tell your child that reading is important.

- A Grand Event recognizes the important role family plays in a child’s education.
- A home library improves a child’s vocabulary and overall reading performance.
- The more children read, the better they get at reading and the more they’ll enjoy it. Children who read more develop higher levels of confidence and do well in school.

Please fill out and return the bottom portion of this flier by Wednesday, October 12th.

Student’s name ___________________________ Teacher’s name ________________

Number of students attending with you ($1.70 each) ________________

Number of adults attending ($2.35 each) ________________

Total amount enclosed ________________

PLEASE NOTE: YOU MUST indicate the total quantity needed, next to each selection, for both adults and students together.

All breakfasts include fruit, apple or orange juice, milk, coffee, and tea.
2017 CAMAS SENIORS GRAD NIGHT TEAM presents

HOLLY DAYS BAZAAR

SATURDAY, DEC 3
9AM-3PM

LIBERTY MIDDLE SCHOOL
1612 NE GARFIELD ST, CAMAS, WA

Breakfast & Pictures with Santa
9AM-11AM

Face Painting & Santa’s Workshop
9:30AM-12:30PM

Potential Vendor?
To register email Tara Urbanek at
Hollydays2016@comcast.net

Proceeds go towards the drug & alcohol free Camas Seniors 2017 Grad Night Party.