



PANTHER PRESS



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER September 2017

Erin Anderson, Partnership Coordinator

Practicing Safety



During the first few weeks of school, we spend time teaching our students routines and expectations around how we live and work together at Putnam Heights in order to support teaching and learning. Our philosophy is to assume nothing and teach everything. We teach students how to line up, behavioral expectations in the restroom, and how to care for their school supplies. We also teach students how we keep ourselves safe during fire, severe weather and intruder drills. For the latter topics, there is often a delicate balance in how we communicate this information as we must practice safety without instilling a sense of fear in our young children.

Last week, a student asked a teacher why the school is made out of brick. The teacher explained that it was likely made of brick because brick is very strong and would keep us safe. The student thought about that for a moment and said it was a really, really good thing that the school was not made out of straw or sticks as it would get blown down for sure. This child's simple connection between the classic childhood book of The Three Little Pigs and school safety made us smile. It also reminded us of the fact that children see the world through a very different lens than adults and we need to be sure to protect their innocence as long as possible.

When teaching students procedures for emergency situations such as fires, tornadoes, and intruders, we always emphasize that we are safe and that we are practicing so that we know what to do. During the beginning of the year we announce our drills before they occur, reinforcing that we are practicing and learning. Later in the year the drills will not be announced, but by then students will be confident and know just what to do in each situation.

During the school year, your child may mention our safety drills as we will have severe weather and intruder drills two to three times this year as well as monthly fire drills. We will work to make safety a priority and appreciate your support in reassuring your child(ren) that these drills are just a way to make sure they are safe.

Kim Koller, Principal

Celebrating our Partnerships:

Thank you again to Culvers and PTO for helping us with custard for our All School Ice Cream Social last week. It was a fun event bringing together around 350 students, families, and community members and staff.

On Friday, September 15, employees of Dove Healthcare helped Putnam with some landscaping projects as part of United Way's Day of Caring. We are excited to see how nice our grounds look after this, and we appreciate their help.





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Counselor's Corner:

We are building a Neighborhood!

Not with hammers and nails though. Instead, Putnam Heights is learning ways to build community by bringing the various Putnam Neighborhoods together. Did you know the first week back to school, the Putnam staff went out and personally invited people from all over the Putnam Neighborhood to our Welcome Back to School Ice Cream Social? Did you know we had 350 visitors and 28 staff in attendance that evening!! That was awesome! We hope you will join us on this adventure this year as we explore new and creative ways to build a stronger Putnam Community. Check out this link to learn [31 ways to build community in your neighborhood!!](#)

**Drew Brandenburg,
Counselor**



From Your Partnership Coordinator:



UWEC Blugold Beginnings will be hosting a one day event at Putnam Heights for National Youth Science Day for 3rd—5th grade students on Wednesday October 4th from 3:45-5pm. Registration forms will be going home with all 3rd-5th grade students. We have a maximum of 30 students for this program, so please return your forms as soon as possible to Mrs. Anderson.

Messages from the PTO:

Putnam students are participating in the My Local Deals fundraiser this year. Each child is encouraged to sell all three books for \$20 each, and return \$60 to school by (or before) September 26th. Unsold books should be returned to school by September 26th. Children can sell extra books by turning in additional money on the 26th; the extra books will be sent home with the child. Promotional items (fidget spinners) for children who sell all three books will be sent home after all checks have cleared (1-2 weeks after the 26th).

Have fun selling and supporting your school!





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School Nurse News: Allergy Reminders

Schools are public buildings and cannot be allergen free. The following guidelines are to be followed to provide a safe learning environment for students with severe food allergies. The school cannot be responsible for food brought to the school by other students and/or parent/guardians.

Family Responsibilities

- Provide the school nurse with all necessary documentation from the student's healthcare provider
- Provide emergency medications and supplies as ordered by the healthcare provider
- Work with the school nurse and school staff to develop and implement the allergy emergency plan
- Provide the school with current contact information for use in an emergency
- Educate your child in self-management (as age-appropriate) of his/her allergy including: safe and unsafe foods, how to read food labels, symptoms of allergic reactions, location and availability of his/her epi-pen

Student Responsibilities

- Never trade food or share utensils with other students
- Avoid consuming food products known to contain the specific allergen or with unknown ingredients
- Be aware of the signs and symptoms of a reaction to known allergens
- Notify an adult immediately if he/she has eaten something that may contain the known allergen

As holiday parties are approaching, please keep in mind that there are students with food allergies when planning for classroom snacks.

RCU School \$ense: Welcome to Royal Credit Union School \$ense 2017-2018!

Royal Credit Union and Putnam Heights Elementary have partnered to make saving each week **fun** and **easy** for your child. Starting **October 19th**, students can save each **Thursday** at school!

Before opening for the year, Royal Credit Union recruits fourth and fifth grade students to work as our youngest team members. Interested students participate in an authentic hiring process, complete with an application and interview. Hired students have hands-on training with Royal's computer system to process deposits at school!

Students working at Royal Credit Union School \$ense learn valuable skills:

Real Job Experience
Member Service
Confidentiality
Professionalism
Responsibility
Teamwork



Watch for details on how to save at school next month!

We welcome your questions about Royal School \$ense and how you can get your child started saving at school. Please contact me at:

Emily Hanson emily.hanson@rcu.org

