

Panther Press
Newsletter English

October



Principal's Message



1 - Heidi Kneeland, Principal

Dear Putnam Heights Families and Friends,

September has come and gone so quickly. We had a record breaking crowd (approx. 458 children and adults) attend the ice cream social on Thursday evening, September 13th. Thank you to all of you who joined us and also planned and helped with the ice cream social "event". The community spirit at Putnam Heights is so special.

I quoted "event" in the previous paragraph because I want to spotlight and share a shift in our thinking and what recent research has unveiled about family involvement "events" and family "engagement". When I worked for another School District, one of the hats I wore was that of the Family Involvement Coordinator for Title One elementary schools and early childhood facilities. It was a purposeful and rewarding job bringing families together to create awareness around literacy and math strategies. During these fun "events" we would also make sure we had a count of how many persons

attended and also asked adults to fill out a survey at the end to provide us with information to plan future events. Ample learning and building of relationships occurred during these events. We understood and still do that there is a significant place for parent involvement events and community building to occur throughout the school year.

Nevertheless, we are learning research says we can take our efforts further by shifting to a parent engagement model. Engaging parents can improve school performance and the success of each child. The relationship between parents and schools has consistently been shown to be related to the success of both students and schools (Sheldon & Epstein, 2002, 2005).

You may be wondering what is the difference between the two? The difference between parent involvement versus parent engagement is that parent involvement refers to the school authored activities in which parents participate whereas parent engagement according to Ferlazzo (2011), is about engaging families to become partners with the school and listening to “what parents think, dream, and worry about”. Additionally, Redding, Langdon, Meyer, and Sheley (2004) discuss qualities of parent engagement, including “building a foundation of trust and respect, reaching out to parents beyond the school”. As we continue to expand our awareness about parent engagement, let's continue to think about how to build capacity around the following questions:

1. How can we assist you the parents in how you support your child's education?
2. How can communication between parents and schools work most effectively?
3. What does parent volunteering continue to look like in school and extracurricular activities?
4. How can we support you the parents in assisting with your child's homework using parent friendly math and literacy strategies at home?
5. How can we expand parent collaboration and decision making between school and community?

One of the ways we have already started to work on this was at the ice cream social by asking you to place a sticky note on the type of communication that works best for you. The majority indicated you find the school folders that are sent home each night with your child as the way you want to communicate with school. Our school web page and Facebook are other places you look for communication and school news. As a starting place in this conversation, we are very interested in learning more about how to enhance communication with you. In conclusion, let's continue to open up this dialogue as we work toward growing our responsiveness and engagement to fulfill our mission in preparing our students for post secondary success!

Sincerely,

Heidi Kneeland/Principal

reference: Baker, Timberly L.; Wise, Jillian; Kelley, Gwendolyn. Identifying barriers: creating solutions to family engagement. School Community Journal, v26 n2 p161-184 2016.

Celebrating our Partnerships

UWEC Blugold Beginnings and the UW-Extension 4H National Youth Science Day

Thank you so much to Festival Foods for donating the sturdy cardboard boxes that we use every week for delivering our Weekend Kids Meals to all of our classrooms. Our number of meals we deliver increases every week, so it is extremely helpful to have a large supply of boxes that we can use all year long.



Our Putnam Wellness team has partnered with Ignite to offer a 6 week after school workout class for staff. Our classes have been a fun way for our participating staff to get healthier and support each other.



Counselor's Corner



2 - Drew Brandenburg, School Counselor

What's with the Paw Stamps?

You may have seen your student sporting a cool *Paw Stamp* on their hand when they return from school. The *Paw stamp* is an important piece of our PBIS system at Putnam Heights. Staff use the stamp to reinforce positive behavior and compliance with school wide expectations. When students are

caught demonstrating expected behaviors they may get “stamped”. Students then get to add a *Paw* to their class 100’s chart. And when the hundreds chart is filled, the classroom has a classroom celebration to acknowledge their work and adds a piece to our school -wide puzzle in the hallway by the office. All Classrooms are working collectively to fill the puzzle so we can celebrate as an entire school. Those are pretty sweet. And guess what? Our Puzzle is filling up!! These Panthers are on target for a school-wide celebration around the end of October. Yahoo!!

Parents have a big part in the acknowledgment system as well. When you see your student sporting a *Paw* stamp, be excited for them. Ask them what they did to get it. Reinforcing those behaviors by acknowledging their efforts. Connecting home and school expectations together helps kids learn to transfer those behaviors into a variety of settings. You may even decide to start a *Paw* chart at home.

To learn more about the acknowledgement system or other PBIS and RC components, contact Mr. B, School Counselor.

Drew Brandenburg – School Counselor .



Messages from PTO

What an awesome start to the year! Thank you to all Putnam Panthers and their families for attending Muffins with Mom this year! A huge shout out to Dan Rouse and his team of "Dad" volunteers who helped to put on such a nice event.

Also, it was so great to see such a great turn out for our first Culver's night! Thank you for supporting our school and for giving your kitchen a break!

Please join us for our second general PTO meeting on Tuesday, October 9 at 6pm in the Putnam library. We have some new ideas we need to discuss and as always - plan for our upcoming events!

Stay tuned for volunteer opportunities and requests to come, or be in touch to let us know how you'd like to help! Many hands make light work and we sincerely appreciate whatever time you can give.

YOUR efforts make Putnam such a wonderful community, thank YOU!!

From your Partnership Coordinator



3 - Erin Anderson, Partnership Coordinator

We have rescheduled October 17th for Walk/Bike to School Day. We hope that as many students and families as possible will be able to join us.

Walk or Bike to School This Year!

ECASD is involved in the international Safe Routes to School program. Eau Claire Safe Routes To School is a program to create safer environments for students walking and biking to and from school.

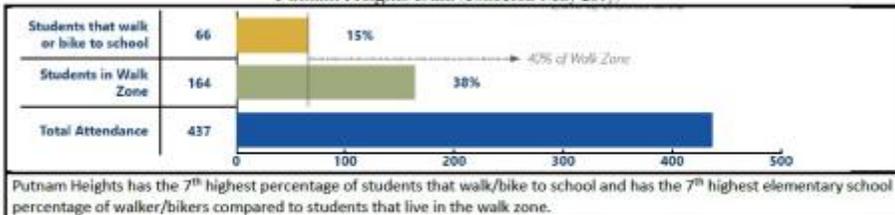
An active Safe Routes To School program helps Eau Claire create safer, easier, and more enjoyable walking and biking routes to school so more students choose walking and biking as their main mode of transportation.

Safe Routes to School program goals:

- Make it safer for kids to walk and bike to school.
- Encourage students to walk and bike to school.



Putnam Heights Data (collected May 2017)



The map on the opposite side of this flyer shows your school's walk zone and safe routes. For specific questions about your school's crossing guards, walk zone, or safe routes, contact your building's Principal or Partnership Coordinator.

UWEC Blugold Beginnings will be hosting 2 sessions of Robotics club this fall, and again in the spring. Robotics for 4-5th grade will be October 15-19. Robotics for 2-3rd grade will be November 5-9. These clubs always fill quickly, so check your child's folder daily and turn in forms ASAP if you are interested.



WQOW's Weather Team will be hosting a News 18 Weather Academy at Putnam Heights on November 7th. Our 3rd-5th grade students will have a special assembly with Stormtracker 18 Weather Meteorologists, and we will also have a Weather Academy Open House from 4:15-5:30 including **LIVE weathercasts on News 18 Live at 5!** There will be cool weather experiments and interactive displays, pictures to color for the Daybreak show, and prizes!



School Nurse News

Sick Child Guidelines:

In an effort to maintain the good health of all of our students, please refrain from sending your child to school if they are sick. This will reduce the overall number of illnesses among the students. If a child exhibits any of the following symptoms at school, a parent/guardian/emergency contact will be notified to come and pick up the student:

- Temperature of 100.5° or more
- Diarrhea
- Vomiting

- Persistent coughing
- Draining or spreading rash

Please keep your child home if he/she currently has or has had any of these symptoms in the last 12 hours. If you have any questions about these guidelines, please contact your child's school nurse. If you have any questions about your child's symptoms, please contact your child's primary care provider.

Influenza:

Influenza (also known as the flu) is a contagious respiratory illness caused by flu viruses. Influenza claims the lives of about 100 children in the US every year and hospitalizes approximately 20,000 children annually. The best way to protect your family from influenza (flu) is to get everyone in your household vaccinated. Influenza vaccination is especially important for people with compromised immune systems or certain underlying medical conditions, such as asthma, diabetes, and heart disease. Vaccines are safe and are subject to extensive testing in the US. Vaccination is the best way to prevent influenza. Influenza vaccine can reduce chances of getting the flu by 70 to 90 % and, if someone gets vaccinated but still gets the flu, chances are they will get a less severe case.

http://www.preventchildhoodinfluenza.org/http://www.cdc.gov/flu/pdf/freeresources/updated/a_flu_guide_for_parents.pdf

Symptoms

Fever or feeling feverish/chills

Cough

Sore throat

Runny or stuffy nose

Muscle or body aches

Headaches

Fatigue (tiredness)

Some people may have vomiting & diarrhea, though this is more common in children than adults.

RCU School Sense





October 2018

Royal Credit Union School \$ense Opens this Month!

Starting October 18th, Royal Credit Union School \$ense will be open at Putnam Heights every Thursday during lunch! Student team members have been hired from 4th & 5th grade classes and are being trained to help young savers with their deposits.

Why should we save with Royal School \$ense?

- Saving at school is fun!
- Kids earn a prize for every fourth deposit!
- It's easy to bring a deposit to school each week!
- It's a great way to raise money for the school!

How does saving at school help raise money for Putnam Heights? Your school earns \$250 for every 500 deposits. Last year Royal Credit Union donated **\$250** to your school, because of student deposits!

How can I get my student started saving at school?

There are two easy ways to get started:

1. **Open accounts online** by using this link <https://www.rcu.org/youth-and-community/school-sense> and clicking *Apply Now*. **–or–**
2. **Stop by any Royal Credit Union office**, and our friendly team members will be happy to help!

Bonus! When you sign your child up for a new School \$ense account, **Royal deposits the first \$5!**

If my child already has a Royal Credit Union account, how can they start saving with School \$ense? Good news – your student is ready to save at school! Just email us at schoolsense@rcu.org with your student's full name, teacher name, and grade, and we will deliver a new pouch to them at school.

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,**

CCUFC Financial Education RepRoyal Credit Union

200 Riverfront Terrace Eau Claire, WI 54703 **715-855-5403 715-563-8756**