

Dear Pheasant Ridge Families,

We are in the final few days before we leave for winter break (last day before break is Friday, December 21<sup>st</sup>). As we approach this time, please take the opportunity to enjoy being with your families and friends. It has been a very fast approach to winter break – I am astonished with how quickly 2018 has come and gone. We wish everyone a safe and happy New Year.

We are so proud of how hard our students are continuing to be dedicated to their work. Students have been completing classroom-based assessments, as well as district assessments these past two weeks. Students in kindergarten, first-grade, and our bilingual classes have been showing their knowledge in math and reading through our FAST assessments. Second and third-grade students have completed NWEA and AIMS testing for both reading and math.

Thank you for everything that you do for your children – we wouldn't be here without you.

Mr. Garza and Mrs. Scherer

*Please read below for the latest news, updates, and reminders from Pheasant Ridge Primary School and Queen Bee School District 16.*

**Important Dates:**

12/21 – Last Day Before Winter Break (Early Release 2:10)  
01/07 – Return from Winter Break  
01/11 – End of 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter  
01/14 – Board of Education Meeting at Pheasant Ridge (Library – 7:00pm)  
01/15 – PTO Meeting (5:00)  
01/16 – ACCESS Testing Window Begins (01/16-02/19)  
01/18 – Q2 Report Cards Sent  
01/21 – No School (In Observance of MLK Jr.)  
01/22 – No School (Institute Day for Staff)

**ACCESS Testing:**

Once we return from winter break, our ELL students will partake in the ACCESS test. This test surveys the 4 domains of language: listening, reading, writing, and speaking. The ACCESS assessment gives us knowledge on the progression of your child's English Language proficiency. We use this information to bridge the academic and linguistic abilities for our students that are learning English. The test window will be January 16<sup>th</sup> through February 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Dismissal:**

Thank you to everyone for your unwavering patience with our dismissal procedures – we definitely feel we have found the light that was at the end of the tunnel. Here are a few final reminders:

- Stay in line when picking up students
- Please avoid driving through the cones during arrival or dismissal

- When picking a student up from the back of the school – please stay in the car line once we are dismissing (avoid driving into oncoming traffic leaving our parking lot) – we have had a few close calls
- When dropping students off in the morning, please have your child ready to exit the car when we are there to open doors
- Avoid waiting to drop your student off at the front door in the morning – this causes a traffic jam

### **Dressing:**

Now that the weather has changed, it is important to remember the following items for dressing students for school:

- Layer students when coming to school – easier to take off layers versus not having enough and being cold
- Hats, gloves, boots, coats and snow pants are important for the walk to and from school, as well as for recess (we go outside as long as the wind chill is at or above 20 degrees)

### **From the Nurse:**

I wanted to share some insights on having a **Germ Free Environment in School** during cold and flu season. Please refer to the following as a guideline:

- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- Avoid touching eyes, nose, or mouth
- Sneezing or coughing should always be covered, preferably into your elbow or tissue
- As a reminder, if a child has a fever (99.5 or above), they will be sent home and should be fever free without medicine for 24 hours before returning to school
- Please be cautious with the following symptoms when sending your child to school - cough, sore throat, runny nose, headache, fatigue or difficulty breathing

We appreciate everyone for assisting with health and wellness during the cold and flu season.

### **December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018:**

This is the last day of school before winter break. Please remember that this day is an early release day. Students will need to be picked up by 2:10 p.m. If you have further questions, please contact the main office.

### **School Office Closure:**

Pheasant Ridge will be closed during winter break. We will return to school on Monday, January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

### **Pheasant Ridge Parking Lot:**

The Pheasant Ridge parking lot will be fixed over winter break. As many of you are aware, we needed to complete work on a storm drain in our main parking lot. We decided that the best opportunity to complete the work was over the break in order to maintain our current traffic flow for arrival and dismissal.

**Queen Bee Education Foundation Chili's Event:**

Please consider visiting Chili's when deciding on lunch or dinner through the month of December. The Queen Bee Education Foundation is having a fundraiser to support students here in Queen Bee District 16. Please print off the flyer that will be sent with this newsletter. When ordering food, please present the flyer for QBEF.

**PTO:**

Parents and guardians, Pheasant Ridge does have a Parent/Teacher Organization that plays an integral role in all that we do here at PR. From our family movie nights to hosting class parties, as well as supporting our teachers, we are very appreciative of all that our PTO does for us here at school. We are looking for more parent involvement with our PTO. Please consider volunteering or being an active member. If you are interested in the Pheasant Ridge PTO, please contact Laura Bruce at [galena1@yahoo.com](mailto:galena1@yahoo.com).