

Parents 6/30/23

Good afternoon! I hope this email finds you well and enjoying the long days of summer! As many of you are aware, throughout the summer I will be providing communication to staff and parents to make sure everyone feels informed and up to date. Never hesitate to reach out with questions.

The school is shaping up nicely for the upcoming school year. Our custodial team started immediately shifting classrooms and cleaning after school was released for summer. As you know we have two brand new portables being installed on the blacktop area behind the building. These rooms will be for Art and STEM, allowing two second grade classrooms to occupy the original STEM and Art studio. The building will shine for the arrival of our students on the first day of school. Teachers will soon be preparing their classrooms!

**Transportation Form-action needed** Please complete this form for next school year indicating your choice for transportation. I'd highly recommend signing your child up for the bus which secures a seat/stop on the bus, but you can still drive them in or pick them up if you want. *Everyone must complete this form!*  
**See the attachment with more information.**

### **Summer Work**

We strongly encourage students and families to keep reading and working on math over the summer. There are many opportunities available to families to keep kids thinking and learning over the summer. Please check out the links below...

1. The Summer Work Info is live on the district website. The students and staff have worked so hard, I'm hopeful if students practice skills for just 15-30 minutes 5x per week our students will come back with very little "summer loss." [2023 Summer Packets and Activities - South Windsor Public Schools](#)

2. Here's the link to the Governor's Reading and Math Challenge 2023.


[Governor's Summer Reading Challenge](#)

[Connecticut Summer Math Challenge](#)

3. AND here's the link to the SWPL Summer Reading Program.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfSv3aXB2ZvuH2pVBvDiyRLNQEVBPZgzVuPtwdopb30ndu3wg/viewform>

4. Let's not forget "Our Universal Stories from the PRS Community." Check out this unique opportunity to share your summer adventures.

 Our Universal Stories from the PRS Community

### **Important Reminders...**

Our new school hours will be from 8:55-3:50. Our arrival window will be from 8:55-9:15 and we will begin dismissing students at 3:50. Students will be dismissed at 1:15 when we have an early dismissal.

During the school year if you are going to pick up your child early, please let the office know as soon as possible. With our later schedule there should be no early dismissals after 3:20 on a full day and 12:45 on a short day.

Class placement assignments will be released on Friday, August 18th. This information will be found in the Parent Portal.

On Monday, August 28th at approximately 5:00 pm the incoming K students can join me for a school bus ride. If you would like your child to participate, please be at PRS by 5:00 p.m. The bus ride is short and fun for the kids. Immediately following the bus ride the incoming K students will be able to enjoy the PRS playground on their own for a little bit. From 6:00-7:30 we invite all of our PRS community to join us for an outside picnic and an opportunity for students (and parents) to reconnect with friends. K-5 Families can bring a blanket, snacks or dinner for their family, and just come out and enjoy the evening. If it rains we will

not have a rain date BUT the bus ride for our incoming Kindergarten students will still occur.

On Tuesday, August 29th in the morning we will hold our annual Meet and Greet. We typically begin around 8:30 a.m. but I'm still working out the details of this event so please look for additional information in future communication.

Wednesday, August 30th is the First Day of School! This is a **full day** of school and students will be dismissed at 3:50. *As a reminder, routines in general take longer the first week or two of school so please be patient as the students, staff and bus drivers work out the kinks.*

On the first day of school the PTO will offer Tears and Cheers for our Incoming K Parents! This event gives our new parents a chance to gather in the cafeteria for refreshments, to learn more about the PTO and you will get updates from me on how the kids are doing!

### **Student Attendance**

Student attendance is very important for social/emotional and academic success. We created documents to share with families as a tool and guide to help make decisions about when to send their child to school and when to keep them home. **Please see the attached two documents.**

### **Ways You Can Help**

I'm looking for some input from parents. We are changing our Open House format for the upcoming year (more to come on those details), but I'm hopeful to gather some typical questions parents have so we can include a building-based frequently asked questions link for our families. So, if you have some thoughts on questions that most parents wonder about, please include them in the link below. Thanks so much for helping us out!! 😊

 [Parent Questions](#)

Last year our students created an I AM ME class book. This year I would love to turn those I AM ME books into an actual published book that highlights and showcases **all** of our students. Pleasant Valley published one that included many of their students. This is a huge undertaking and I'd love to find one or two parents per class to help students edit/revise their I AM ME stories so we can go to publication. I have A LOT to learn this summer about this process, but I'm committed to the project and ultimately want to use the money raised from the sale of the I AM ME PRS book to purchase collections of books for our Media Center and Classroom Libraries that represent our diverse population of students here at PRS. If you are interested in helping to support this project by volunteering to work with kids in their classrooms on their stories, please add your name to the document/link below. Thank you so much! [📋 I AM ME Project](#)

I will send out another update in a couple of weeks. Enjoy the warm, long days!!  
Michelle