

**JOHN T. PIRIE FINE ARTS & ACADEMIC CENTER
650 E. 85TH ST. CHICAGO, IL 60619**

PIRIE PANTHERS' NEWSLETTER

March 2018

Senalda R. Grady, Principal

Qiana Carr, LSC Chairperson
Nefretiri Boykins, P.A.C. Chairperson



Dear Parents,

We are now into our 5th Week of the 3rd Quarter and we will begin administering the PARCC assessments to our 3rd-6th grade students. We will begin our testing on Wednesday, March 7th. **This assessment is aligned to the Common Core State Standards. PARCC stands for: Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers. Our testing dates are as follows: Wednesday, March 7th-Friday, March 23rd. Please make sure your child comes to school on time and he/she is prepared for testing each day.** Results of the tests will be sent to schools in the Fall and will be shared with all students and parents.

The 5th Week progress notices will be sent home with all students in grades Kdg.-6th on Monday, March 12th. Please make sure you schedule parent conferences with your child's teacher to discuss the progress of your child from the last 5 weeks.

Thank you to all parents who have supported our Student Council members. So far, we have raised approximately \$900 from the last two fundraising events. The profits will be used to support our end of the school year Picnic Event. Our next fundraising event will be held in April. Students will participate in our Movie Night Event. Details of the Movie Night event will be sent home later this month.

Our teachers will be making a push towards the end of year goals after we return from Spring Break. It is crucial that all of our students come to school each day prepared and ready for instruction. ***Our end of the year testing for all students will begin during the week of May 14th.*** Student goals will be reviewed with all parents during teacher/parent conferences.

It's time for our students to achieve and show growth from last year! We are looking forward to celebrating their academic achievements! ***Together we will continue to move our students forward by the end of the school year! Thank you again for your support!***

Sincerely,
Senalda R. Grady

DATES TO REMEMBER

Wednesday, March 7, 2018

- **PARCC Testing** begins for 3rd-6th Grade Students.

Friday, March 9, 2018

- **Black History Bowl**
1st-3rd Primary Bowl: 9:30 a.m.
4th-6th Intermediate Bowl: 1:45 p.m.



Monday, March 12, 2018

- 5th Week Progress Notices will be sent home with all Kdg.-6th grade students.

Thursday, March 15, 2018

- **P.A.C. Meeting**
Our meeting will be held at 4:00 p.m. in Rm. 204 of the modular building.
- Box Tops will be collected today.

Thursday, March 22, 2018

- **L.S.C. Candidate's Forum**
All candidates running for an LSC council position will introduce themselves to school community members and select ballot numbers.
- **L.S.C. Meeting**
Our meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. immediately following the forum.

Friday, March 23, 2018

- **Black History Assembly** – 1:45 p.m. in the Gymnasium. Our theme: Hidden Figures – women who have made significant contributions to improve the world.

Monday, March 26th - Friday, March 30th

- **Spring Vacation** – School Re-Opens on Monday, April 2nd.



Parent Advisory Council

The next P.A.C. meeting will be held on **Thursday, March 15th at 4:00 p.m.** in Rm. 204. Ms. Brewton and Mrs. VerSchave will lead the parent workshop on helping students succeed on district wide assessments. Both teachers will share with you how to prepare your child for the end of the year TRC/Dibels/mClass Math and NWEA assessments. Further information will be sent home about our workshop next week.

LSC Elections

Parents if you are interested in joining the LSC council you have until Friday, March 9th to submit your application. Please see Ms. Allen in the office. The election will take place on Wednesday, April 18, 2018. We will also have a candidate's forum on Thursday, March 22nd at 5:30 p.m. in the Gymnasium to meet all candidates who are running in the election. Candidates will introduce themselves to the school community. All parents are welcome to attend.

Pirie Prime Time Recreational Programs

Our Prime Time recreational programs will begin on Monday, March 12th. All students have received acceptance letters regarding their schedules for the programs. We're looking forward to a fun filled Spring session for our students! Students, who are enrolled in the Drumline and Chorus programs, may not select a class which conflicts with those two programs they have already committed to during the 1st semester. *Students may not drop out of Choir or Drumline to join another class.* We would like to offer the classes to as many students as possible. Our Science Club will also be starting. We have some new and exciting Science activities planned for our class and we need our students to sign up for the program! Students will be participating in various STEM activities. Students will participate in a family trip to the Museum of Science and Industry on May 5th.

PARCC Schedule & Procedures

Testing will begin promptly at 9:30 a.m.

Please remind your child to wear his/her glasses each day. If any student arrives after testing has started, they **will not** be allowed to enter the classroom until testing has ended for that period. Students will complete the make-up exams if they arrive tardy or are absent. Here are some test taking tips for students:

- Get a good night's rest and eat a balanced breakfast.
- Relax and think positively.
- While taking the test, pace yourself and don't spend too much time on a question.
- Read all questions and answer choices carefully.
- Re-read the passages to support your answers to the questions.
- If you finish before time has elapsed, go back and check your work.

ATTENDANCE COUNTS

Our attendance goal for this year is to have at least **96%** or more of our students in attendance every month. For the month of February, we had **92%** of our students in attendance. We are now 4 percentage points away from meeting our end of the year goal of 96%. If we continue to drop in our attendance rate each month, we will not meet our attendance target at the end of the school year, and this will negatively affect our school rating. We will not maintain Level 1 status if our attendance rate keeps dropping. ***Parents, we really need your help in making sure your child comes to school on time each day. Congratulations to Rms. 201, 104, and 120 for having 95% or higher student attendance in the month of February. Congratulations to Room 104 for having a 97% attendance rate for the month of February!***

Network 12 Community Meeting

Chief Dase will be hosting a Network 12 Parent meeting on Saturday, March 10th. Chief Dase will speak to parents about our goals for the Network and talk with parents about any of the CPS initiatives. Please see the attached flyer.

United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) Kids Power

Students in Rm. 120 have been selected to participate in a program to help provide food for severely malnourished children in several countries around the world. March 1st was the kick-off for the program and the students will wear their Power Bands (Fit Bits) each day monitoring their steps taken. Our students have shown excitement about this program and they are doing an excellent job of staying in shape and making sure they are getting in as many steps as they can each day!



Safety & Security Procedures

In accordance with CPS security procedures, all parents, relatives, and visitors must enter through the main doors and sign in first at the security desk. Every visitor must get a visitor's pass from the office before meeting with a teacher. Kindergarten parents must come into the main building when arriving late or when requesting to see the teacher. Kindergarten and Pre-K parents may not knock on the modular building doors when bringing students late or when parents need an early dismissal. All Kindergarten parents must wait by the gate to pick up their children from the classroom teacher.

