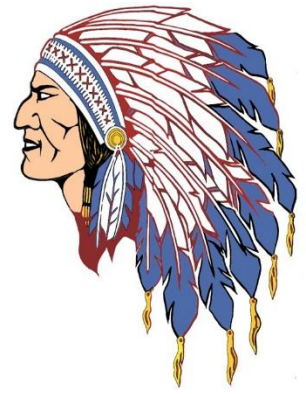


Pawnee Grade School

2017-2018 Family Newsletter



SEPTEMBER

It's hard to believe, but we've just wrapped up our first three weeks of the school year already! Our students are settling into routines and I have seen wonderful things happening in classrooms throughout our building. The progress that our youngest students have made in simple things like walking down the hallways in straight, quiet lines is an amazing sight to see! I cannot wait to see ALL of our students' growth this year!

Our staff has also been hard at work preparing appropriate lessons and engaging activities to help our children learn and grow. I've seen many of our dedicated teachers putting in long hours, and our support staff has worked with one another tirelessly to solve scheduling kinks and cover one another as needed here and there. These are just a few of the reasons why I believe Pawnee is such a lucky community. A simple "thank you" goes a long way...I encourage you to reach out to those who play a part in educating our youth. And I believe I can speak on behalf of the entire school staff in saying we want to reciprocate that thought and say thank YOU to our families! Your time, support, and willingness to work together helps make a positive impact on our students. I think this school year is going to bring much happiness to all!

Please take a moment to read the following information, which helps us keep our school a safe and welcoming environment each day. If there is anything that I can do to help in any way, please do not hesitate to call or email me!

Mrs. Jenny Mendenhall

Principal

(217) 625-2231

jmendenhall@pawneeschools.org

Pawnee Grade School

Home of the Indians



Like us on Facebook!



Earn Cash for Our School!

We earn money for our school simply by collecting Box Tops for Education! Collect them on eligible items that you've purchased and send them to your child's classroom teacher. It's that easy!

Important Dates

September 5

- Clubs Choice orders DUE
- PTO Meeting – 6:00 p.m.

September 15

- Quarter 1 midterm
- Homecoming weekend

September 18

- Dismiss at 2:00 p.m.

September 20

- Board Meeting – 7:00 p.m.

September 27

- Clubs Choice pick-up from 3:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Help Us Help Them

Just a reminder that this week (September 5-8) only, Pawnee Grade School will be collecting items to assemble cleaning buckets, which will be given to the Midwest Mission Distribution Center (MMDC) and sent to victims of the catastrophic flooding caused by Hurricane Harvey in Texas. See the note that was sent home last week or the link on our grade school's webpage for a specific list of items needed.

Once our school is matched with a Texas classroom to "adopt", we will send additional details home. In the meantime, we will keep an eye on Hurricane Irma and hope she decides not to make landfall too!

School Drop-off and Pick-up Reminders

Students who arrive for breakfast may enter the building and head straight to the cafeteria at 7:40 a.m.; otherwise, **there is no supervision available for students until 7:55 a.m.** At 7:55 a.m., students may enter the building and head to one of our gyms. Our school day begins promptly at 8:15 a.m.

Also, please try to have consistent transportation for your child each day. Children appreciate routines, which alleviate the anxiety that may be felt when usual plans are altered. With that said, we understand that sometimes changes are necessary. If that happens, please ensure the following procedures are followed:

- Send a note to school with the parent/guardian's signature, student's name, the address where the student should ride the bus, or the person's name who will be picking up the student. The date of the change must also be on the note.
- If it's too late to send a note, please call our office by 2:00 p.m. so we can be sure the message is delivered to your child before dismissal.

Finally, **please do not pull into and/or block the handicapped parking spots in front of the school to drop off or pick up your child(ren), unless you have the appropriate licensure to do so.** We appreciate your cooperation!

Birthday/Classroom Party Treat Policy

Just a reminder that all birthday and/or classroom party treats **MUST** be purchased through our school cafeteria. The order form can be found on our school's website at www.pawneeschools.com. (Go to the Parent Resources → Forms tabs.) The order form and payment should be completed and sent to school at least 2 weeks prior to the party date. Please refer to page 32 in our student handbook for more detailed information.

Visitors During School Lunch Periods

While it may seem like a small gesture, our students love it when family members visit them for lunch. To ensure the safety of all students, we are requesting that visitors check in at the office and then kindly wait for students to arrive in the cafeteria for lunch. Again, we appreciate your cooperation and understanding.

County Market Max Dollars for Education

When you shop at County Market, you can earn money for our school simply by registering your Max card and scanning it at the register each time you make a purchase! Registration forms will be sent home soon. Please read the program information and register your card to start earning. The program will run through December 31, 2017.

Getting to Know Our New Staff

If you've been in our building, you may have seen some new, unfamiliar faces! We currently have EIGHT new staff members working throughout our building!

- **Mrs. Jenny Mendenhall** has joined Pawnee Grade School as the principal. She grew up in Riverton, and taught for 12 years at the elementary, intermediate, and junior high levels. Mrs. Mendenhall is married and has two sons. Her favorite way to spend free time is watching her sons play baseball and basketball, and traveling.
- **Mrs. Jennifer McQuality** has joined our PreK team. She is a 1997 graduate of Virden High School and a 2005 graduate of SIUE. She has taught for 12 years; six years as a first grade teacher and 6 years as a PreK teacher. Mrs. McQuality is married with three sons, and she enjoys camping in her free time.
- **Ms. Jessica Mast** is our newest 1st grade teacher at PGS. Ms. Mast is an ISU graduate and grew up in Sherman. She has two older brothers and claims to be slightly obsessed with her dog, Tucker. This is her first year of teaching, and she is excited begin her career with us!
- **Mrs. Leanne Gehrs** is now a part of our 2nd grade team! She grew up and taught in Nokomis, but currently resides in Pawnee with her husband, infant son, and two dogs. She is a UIS graduate and recently completed her master's degree in reading at Greenville College. Mrs. Gehrs says she loves school and learning, and cannot wait to pass that passion on to her students.
- **Ms. Abigail Gulso** is also a new 2nd grade teacher at PGS! Ms. Gulso grew up in Kincaid and is a UIS graduate. This is her first year in her own classroom; however, she was a teacher's assistant in Springfield prior to joining our staff. She is planning a summer wedding and enjoys going to the Muni, collecting records, watching movies, reading good books, baking, and helping her fiancé with his comic book collection.
- **Mrs. Kelly Ellis** is another a new member of our PreK team and will be working right alongside Mrs. McQuality as a paraprofessional. She's spent her entire life in the Pawnee community and is married to her high school sweetheart. Together they have four children, and they spend their free time watching their kids play sports.
- **Mrs. Rachel Phillips** is another new but familiar face at PGS. Rachel joins our staff as a paraprofessional. Mrs. Phillips's family moved to Pawnee from Alaska, where she was born and raised. She is married with five children, and serves with them as the family pastors of Pawnee Assembly of God. They have enjoyed living in the Midwest, and she is grateful to be part of the Pawnee school district.
- **Mrs. Amy Sager** is our newest Speech/Language Pathologist. She is from Lincoln and is a recent graduate of WIU. Mrs. Sager is married and has a cat and dog at home. She is excited to be in Pawnee and loves the students here!