



PRINCETON DAY SCHOOL

Middle School

Back-to-School Information

2017-2018

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From Head of Middle School

Renée C. Price

July 2017

Dear Middle School Families,

What a privilege it is for me to serve our Princeton Day School community as Head of Middle School! Ours is truly a supportive school that nurtures the mind, body, and character of every child.

Each individual student, parent, faculty, and staff member makes this community extraordinary. And in support of all students, the faculty and I will continue to work with you to uphold the standards for which this Middle School is known. Thank you for trusting us to do what we do best. Through a true partnership between home and school, we will serve every child in this Middle School in a personalized way. Your input and questions are not only valued, they are essential.

Although there are several weeks before we reconvene, in this packet you will find useful information for the upcoming 2017-18 school year. Please respond to the contents of this back-to-school information at your leisure as you enjoy the remaining days of summer. **The first day of school begins at 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday, September 5.**

Transition Information

To all families new to the Middle School, welcome! Two years ago, I joined the Princeton Day School community along with my husband, Mike, and our two children, Carter (3rd grade) and Caroline (1st grade). I am so proud that my children attend PDS! As both an educator and a mother, I understand the thrill and natural anxiety that may surround this transition. To help answer your questions and set each family up for greater success, we have organized orientation events for you before the start of school. Helpful information for new PDS parents can be found at (<http://www.pds.org/new-parent-information>). More information on what to expect at orientation can be found at (<http://www.pds.org/orientation-schedule>). Please mark your calendars to attend so that you can start the year informed and connected!

- New MS Parent Lemonade Wednesday, **August 23**, 4:30-5:30 p.m. at Behr House (Head of School's Residence)
- Orientation: New 6th & 7th graders and their parents: Wednesday, **August 30**
- Orientation: All new and returning 5th graders and their parents: Wednesday, **August 30**

Returning Families

To all our returning families, thank you for your continued partnership and trust. Please join me in welcoming all our new PDS families and continue to support them as they and their children make the transition to this great school on the Great Road. As grade level gatherings for parents are announced and hosted in the fall, I encourage returning families to attend so that you may get to know the new members of your child's grade.

Opening Details

We are lucky to have such a thriving Middle School program at PDS. This fall, we will welcome 307 Middle School students for the 2017-18 school year. We will open with 66 students in 5th grade, 83 students in 6th grade, 79 students in 7th grade and 79 students in 8th grade. And though school's out for summer, the hard work continues on campus. Summer Programs is well underway, and teachers continue to plan experiential advisory experiences, innovative projects, and robust curricular units for the 2017-18 academic year. Additionally, teachers are taking advantage of excellent professional development that will continue to inject innovation and excitement into the next school year and beyond. We are fortunate to have such a dedicated faculty and staff!

Please find information on the new 2017-18 schedule online at (<http://www.pds.org/academics/schedule>).

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Schedules and Advisors

Your child's schedule for the coming year will become available in early August. You will be notified by email when the system is activated, and instructions on how to view the schedule will be included in that communication. Please know that every effort is made to ensure the best possible experience for every child, but all requests are not possible. After schedules are set, it can be difficult if not impossible to change certain aspects because of the complexities of advisor assignments, language selection, math placements, and section sizes. If you have any questions or concerns you need to contact me in writing as soon as possible to address any issues at RCprice@pds.org.

Your child should receive a note from their advisor before the start of school introducing himself as their advisor and welcoming them back for a great year. Before Back to School Night, your child's advisor will call you to introduce themselves and answer any questions you have. Share anything you think will help set your child up for success throughout the year, including any goals, prior history, strengths, or areas for improvement.

New Deans For 2017-18

The Middle School Dean system was studied and revised over the course of the 2016-17 school year. A new job description was unveiled and four new Grade Deans have been announced:

Grade 5: Dr. Kimberly Ballinger
Grade 6: Channing McCullough
Grade 7: Corey Dempsey (New MS Science Faculty)
Grade 8: Nicole Mangino

Grade Deans are an incredible resource for you and your child. They oversee the success of each child in their assigned grade, facilitate weekly meetings with fellow teachers to monitor student progress, oversee advisory activities, develop student and parent programming, respond to disciplinary matters, and see to it that every child connects at school.

As they work very closely with me and the rest of the faculty to ensure each child is safe, learning, and well, please expect to see and get to know your child's Grade Dean. You will receive a letter from your child's grade dean this summer providing an overview of exciting plans for the year. School supply lists will be included in the dean's letter.

Middle School Handbook

The Middle School Handbook is a very important document to help guide and orient you to the Middle School experience. The revised handbook will be posted to the PDS website later this summer. Please read the entire handbook and be familiar with its contents to help ensure you are aware of our community expectations, policies, and procedures. Many of these concepts will also be discussed at orientation events and with students during the first weeks of school.

Attendance

Attendance is important at PDS. Understandably, the primary focus at PDS is on academics and the classroom educational experience. PDS needs to know who is at school at all times, and conversely students must meet all academic commitments, including morning homeroom/advisory. Students are required to check in daily with their advisors. Only if the student arrives late (after 8:00) is s/he to sign in at the Middle School Office with Mrs. Brent, Assistant to the Head of Middle School. Failure to sign in with either the advisor or Mrs. Brent is not an option, as we must be able to account for every student at all times.

Continued lates will result in detentions, including the possibility of Saturday morning detention. Repeated lates/no sign-ins may result in further disciplinary action, including mandatory meeting with the Head of Middle School or disciplinary probation until the problem can be corrected. We need our students at school on time so they can begin each day more relaxed and prepared to learn. Thanks to all families who arrive at school on time. This is so important for your child's overall learning, organization, stress management, and feelings of connection at school.

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Late Arrival/Early Departure Notes: Mrs. Brent carefully maintains student attendance records. If late or departing early from PDS, students or parents must submit a note explaining the reason for the late arrival/early departure. Please never pick up your child without notifying the school in writing of the reason and time of pick up. Please help us keep all students safe and accounted for.

Summer Reading Recommendation for Parents

Looking for something to complement your summer reading? One recommendation is Angela Duckworth's *Grit: The Power of Passion and Perseverance*. A description follows:

In this instant *New York Times* bestseller, pioneering psychologist Angela Duckworth shows anyone striving to succeed—be it parents, students, educators, athletes, or business people—that the secret to outstanding achievement is not talent but a special blend of passion and persistence she calls “grit.”

Drawing on her own powerful story as the daughter of a scientist who frequently noted her lack of “genius,” Duckworth, now a celebrated researcher and professor, describes her early eye-opening stints in teaching, business consulting, and neuroscience, which led to the hypothesis that what really drives success is not “genius” but a unique combination of passion and long-term perseverance.

In *Grit*, she takes readers into the field to visit cadets struggling through their first days at West Point, teachers working in some of the toughest schools, and young finalists in the National Spelling Bee. She also mines fascinating insights from history and shows what can be gleaned from modern experiments in peak performance. Finally, she shares what she's learned from interviewing dozens of high achievers—from JP Morgan CEO Jamie Dimon to *New Yorker* cartoon editor Bob Mankoff to Seattle Seahawks Coach Pete Carroll.

Among *Grit's* most valuable insights:

- *Why any effort you make ultimately counts twice toward your goal
- *How grit can be learned, regardless of I.Q. or circumstances
- *How lifelong interest is triggered
- *How much of optimal practice is suffering and how much ecstasy
- *Which is better for your child—a warm embrace or high standards
- *The magic of the Hard Thing Rule

Winningly personal, insightful, and even life-changing, *Grit* is a book about what goes through your head when you fall down, and how that—not talent or luck—makes all the difference.

As a busy parent, I often must remind myself that when my own kids see me reading (email doesn't count!), it teaches them to be lifelong learners. Encourage your child's love of reading by cozying up near them with your own books this summer.

From reading, or working on your tennis swing, to learning code together (Teach Your Kids to Code: 6 Beginner's Resources for Parents <https://www.edutopia.org/blog/teach-kids-coding-resources-parents-matt-davis>), the summer should be filled with extraordinary moments between you and your child. I hope you have the chance to chase fireflies, reflect on the lessons learned, travel near or far, create art, and just be a family together.

After all, in a few months a new school year will begin full of new friendships, schedules, and learning adventures. We are busy getting ready for a fantastic 2017-2018 school year. Enjoy the rest of your summer!

My very best to you,



Renée C. Price
Head of Middle School

PRINCETON DAY SCHOOL Calendar 2017-2018

August

Mon., August 21	Pre-Season Athletics Begins
Tues., August 22 & Wed., August 23	New Faculty and Staff Orientation
Thurs., August 24	Opening Faculty Meetings/In Service
Fri., August 25	Opening Faculty Meetings/In Service
Mon., August 28	Opening Faculty Meetings/In Service
Tues., August 29	Opening Faculty Meetings/In Service
Wed., August 30	US Orientation for New 9th Grade Students and New 10th & 11th Grade Students MS Orientation
Thurs., August 31	US Orientation for New & Returning 9th Grade Students LS Orientation for All PreK & K Students & New 1st-4th Grade Students

September

Tues., September 5	PreK-12 Classes Begin
Thurs., September 14	LS Back-to-School Night
Mon., September 18	MS Back-to-School Night
Tues., September 19	US Back-to-School Night
Thurs., September 21	No School, Rosh Hashanah
Tues., September 26	New Parent Dinner

October

Mon., October 9	No School, Columbus Day
Sun., October 29	Fall Athletics Season Ends

November

Thurs., November 2	No Classes, Parent/Teacher Conferences
Fri., November 3	No Classes, Parent/Teacher Conferences
Mon., November 6	Winter Athletics Season Begins
Tues., November 21	Thanksgiving Break begins after Dismissal
Mon., November 27	No Classes, Faculty In-Service Day

December

Fri., December 15	Winter Break begins after early dismissal (Lower School after holiday concert at 10:00 a.m.; Middle School at 1:30 p.m., and Upper School at regular dismissal.)
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January

Mon., January 1	No School, New Year's Holiday
Tues., January 2	PreK-12 Classes Resume
Mon., January 15	No School, Martin Luther King Jr. Day

February

Fri., February 16	No School, Presidents' Day Weekend
Mon., February 19	No School, Presidents' Day Weekend
Sat., February 24	Winter Athletics Season Ends
Mon., February 26	Spring Athletics Season Begins

March

Thurs., March 1	LS Parent/Teacher Conferences (No Classes for LS students)
Fri., March 9	Spring Break begins after dismissal
Mon., March 26	PreK-12 Classes resume
Fri., March 30	No School, Good Friday

April

Fri., April 20	No School, Spring Weekend
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May

Sat., May 19	Spring Athletics Season Ends
Mon., May 28	No School, Memorial Day

June

Tues., June 5	LS Final Assembly: Early Dismissal; No MS classes
Wed., June 6	MS Final Assembly: Early Dismissal
Thurs., June 7	Last Day of US Classes: Early Dismissal
Fri., June 8	US Commencement

From the Health Office

July 2017

Dear Princeton Day School Families,

Greetings from the health office! As you continue to get your children ready for the school year, we would like to familiarize you with our services, and inform you of the requirements that need to be completed prior to the first day of school.

Our office hours are as follows: Monday–Friday, 7:45 a.m.–3:30 p.m. A health professional will be available during those times each day to address any medical needs your child may require. Should you need to contact the office for any reason, feel free to call the office at extension 1190 or email me directly at nkeller@pds.org and it will be our pleasure to assist you in any way. Please note that there is no nurse on campus after 3:30 p.m., so emergency services may be called should someone require immediate medical attention.

For New Families: We must receive a copy of the New Jersey State A-45 Health Card from your child's last school in New Jersey by **August 1, 2017**. If your child is transferring from a New Jersey school, please instruct the school to forward the A-45 cards to our attention. In addition, you will receive an email at the end of July about the Magnus Health System which we use to process and store our student health forms.

For All Families: All students must provide Magnus Health with their annual physical exam report, updated immunization record, and complete all other School requirements by **August 1, 2017**. In addition, athletes competing in the fall season **MUST** submit the Fall Health History Update prior to Pre-Season Athletics, which begin on August 21.

Regarding Medications at the School: We require written parental consent and a **doctor's order** to dispense medications other than those listed on our "Permission for Over the Counter Medication" form. (You can find this form on your child's Magnus profile.)

Guidelines regarding medications at school are as follows:

- Prescription medication and all medications not included in the "Permission for Over the Counter Medication" form requires the "Request for Medication Administration by School Nurse" form.
- Inhalers/Nebulizer Treatments require an "Asthma Treatment Plan" form.
- Epi-pens/ Benedryl require an "Allergy Action Plan" form.

*In all of the above: Please hand in forms with the medication in its original labeled bottle to the Health Office.

For more information, please review the "Health & Student Services" page on the School website, found under "School Life." In addition, please make a note of the **Magnus Help Desk phone number: 1-877-461-6831**. The Magnus staff will assist you with any questions you have, as well as guide you with faxing, uploading or mailing the required health forms.

Thank you, and enjoy your summer,

Nina Keller RN, MSN

Athletics

Important Information and Dates for Middle School Fall Athletics

The Middle School will be implementing a new academic schedule for the 2017–18 school year, which will precipitate some changes to sports schedules. We are excited to offer Middle School sports every day of the week beginning in 2017-18. All teams will practice until 4:00 p.m. every day, unless the team has a game, regardless of practice start time. On most days, teams will begin practice at 2:30 p.m., but on two days of our seven-day rotation, teams will begin practice at 3:30 p.m.

Middle School sports for the 2017-18 school year will begin on Tuesday, September 5 during the school day. This will be an early dismissal day from athletics (3:20 p.m.) as we will have an orientation that day. After this day, the teams will begin their normal practice schedule, ending at 4:00 p.m., for the rest of the season.

At times, weather will force our practices to end early. If this happens, we will resort to our “Inclement Weather Schedule” and dismiss at the end of the school day, 3:20 p.m. When this occurs, the Athletics Office will alert the MS Office and parents will be notified by email before 1:00 p.m. in order to make arrangements.

Please check www.pds.org/athletics for your child’s game schedule. Games and matches will be listed there, and the most up to date changes will be found at this site. Parents and interested parties are encouraged to check frequently.

Important Fall Dates

MS Fall Season 9/5–10/30

MS Interim PE 10/31–11/10 (2:25–3:20 p.m.)

MS Fall Breakout 10/30 (3:30–4:00 p.m.)

Athletic Philosophy

Athletics at Princeton Day School play an integral role in the overall education of each student. We believe in the classical ideal of *Mens sana in corpore sano*, “a sound mind in a sound body” with a dedication to the lasting values of personal integrity, responsibility, commitment, teamwork and sportsmanship.

Our athletic program, which consists of 24 sports and more than 74 teams, is broad enough to prepare gifted athletes to compete at the college level while, at the same time, ensuring that all students are exposed to the lifelong benefits of athletic participation and physical fitness.

Middle School Teams

Our middle school program promotes participation, providing interested students an interscholastic sports program appropriate for sixth, seventh and eighth graders. Our goals are to teach fundamental skills and strategies, develop a sense of team and to foster responsibility and commitment.

Players will be separated onto Blue and White teams when numbers necessitate. The Blue team is for players of higher skill and experience level while the White team is a more developmental team. Generally 8th graders and some more experienced 7th graders will make Blue teams.

Coaches of all teams will give each player as much playing time as possible to help him/her develop. Playing time will be significant and meaningful, but will not be equal. Attendance, attitude, and effort as well as skill all effect playing time.

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Team Selections

Choosing the members of a team is the sole responsibility of the coaching staff. Whenever possible, there will be a place for an interested student-athlete on a team that is appropriate for his/her skill level. Although we would like to have every player who tries out for a team earn a spot on the roster, this is unfortunately not always possible. At times, certain teams who are constrained by facilities will have to employ a roster limitation. This is usually the case for squash and tennis. All roster limitations are thoughtfully and carefully approached so that a positive resolution can be found for all.

Fall

Girls: Cross Country, Field Hockey, Tennis, Soccer

Boys: Cross Country, Soccer, Football (Middle School only)

Winter

Girls: Basketball, Volleyball, Ice Hockey, Fencing, Squash

Boys: Basketball, Ice Hockey, Fencing, Squash

Spring

Girls: Lacrosse, Softball, Skating, Track & Field (Middle School only)

Boys: Lacrosse, Baseball, Tennis, Skating, Track & Field (Middle School only)

The Role of a Student-Athlete

Academics: Academics at PDS come first and it is imperative that student-athletes maintain satisfactory grades in all subjects. On that note, annual studies conducted by the Department of Education have clearly shown that students who participate in co-curricular activities do better in their class work, in part because they have better learned the skill of successful time management and are better able to reduce stress.

Sportsmanship: While Princeton Day School takes great pride in winning, we discourage any and all pressures, which might impede good sportsmanship.

Health: We expect our athletes to prepare for the upcoming season and encourage them to take advantage of the Patrick Kerney '94 Fitness Center by contacting Strength and Performance Coach Darius Young (dyoung@pds.org). Being prepared physically and mentally sets the stage for a positive and rewarding season.

Dedication: Once placed on a team, we expect that the student-athlete will remain committed for the entire season. Student-athletes are expected to be on time, prepared, physically fit and focused in practices and games. A positive attitude toward your teammates and coaches is expected at all times.

Role as a Parent

PDS Athletics believes a partnership among parents, coaches and players provides a foundation for a successful athletic program and team experience. Parental support is crucial to the confidence, progress, and performance of student-athletes.

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PDS Athletics encourages parents to be enthusiastic and encouraging. Please support your children in doing his/her best at whatever level they participate. Student-athletes should set their own athletic goals and standards. Be positive and supportive as they progress toward them.

Let the coach be the coach. Regardless of your own sports experience, please do not publicly criticize the coach or teammates. It is crucial to the team's spirit and success that players develop a respect for their coach. Demonstrate good sportsmanship at all times.

Role of a Coach

Parents should expect the following from PDS coaches:

- Scheduling of a Pre-season meeting between the coaching staff and families of your team
- Creation of a communication email list that will allow the coaches to communicate frequently with you
- Expectation of personal responsibility, camaraderie with teammates, commitment to the team, a strong work ethic, and good sportsmanship on and off the field for all players
- Assurance of safety and welfare of all players
- Fostering of a demanding but welcoming competitive environment

Important Note about Athletics Health Forms

Princeton Day School uses the Magnus Health System, which is found on the parent portal on Inside PDS, and we would like to highlight some important dates for the upcoming sports season. All Magnus requirements have a "next action date" of August 1, 2017. You may check the status of your child's file by logging onto the Magnus Health site. **Please complete and upload (or fax) all paperwork to Magnus by August 15.** *Only student-athletes with complete Magnus Health files will be permitted to participate.*

- **As per NJ state law, all student athletes must have an updated annual physical performed by a family/school doctor. Please be sure to include all four pages of physical.**
- **In working with NJ state law, PDS policy states a sport health history update must be completed by the parent/guardian before *each* athletic season, regardless of their last physical exam date.** (Note that the health history update must be completed before each athletics season, so if your child plays a sport in the fall, winter, and spring, the form must be completed 3 times.)

Here are a few things to keep in mind for the upcoming sports season:

- All student-athletes must have their own water bottle for practice and games
- New educational materials regarding concussions are available on the PDS athletics website

If you have any further questions, please contact Head Athletic Trainer Henry Minarick at hminarick@pds.org.

From the Communications Office

July 2017

Dear Parents,

Our school website www.pds.org is your primary source for school news, events and sports calendars, athletic team pages, social media links, photos, videos, Parents Association information, Follett, our online bookstore, and much more.

Be sure to log into **Inside PDS**, where you will be linked to the parent portal that includes lots of helpful information, including links to our online parent directory, NetClassroom (where you will find grades and comments), and Magnus Health. (Note: Parents new to PDS will receive an email at the end of July with instructions on how to log into Inside PDS.)

Please take a moment to visit the **“Update My Profile”** tab in the parent portal to update your information for the **school directory by August 18**. You will receive a printed version of the directory at the beginning of the school year, and you can always find an up-to-date version on the parent portal on Inside PDS.

Note that **each parent/guardian has a unique username** and password to access Inside PDS. If you have forgotten your login information, please click on “Retrieve Login Information” and type in your email address. You will receive your username and a link to change your password. If you need assistance, please email communications@pds.org.

You will also receive newsletters from your child’s division. LS News and Focus Notes (the MS newsletter) will arrive in your inbox once a week, and US News will be delivered once a month. These newsletters include a message from the division head as well as announcements about upcoming events.

There is a **great webpage for new parents here**, <https://www.pds.org/new-parent-information>, which includes orientation schedules, recent email messages, and links to different useful pages on the site.

Have a wonderful summer, and we all look forward to seeing you in the fall! If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact me at krosko@pds.org.

With best wishes,

Kathryn Rosko
Director of Communications

From the Safety and Security Office

July 2017

Welcome to the Princeton Day School 2017-2018 School Year!

In our ongoing efforts to make our community a safe place to learn and grow, we wanted to remind everyone of some ways to help keep PDS a great environment for your children, faculty and staff, and you.

- Please drive slowly. The campus speed limit is 10 MPH.
- Follow the traffic control in place at drop off and pick up times. Kindly move your car forward as much as possible to allow your fellow drivers room and ease back-ups.
- Please use hands-free devices so you can pay full attention to the roadway and students.
- Pull over instead of circling the loop, which leads to congestion.
- Please use the painted crosswalks.
- **DO NOT** leave your car unattended in the fire lane. This can result in large fines for the school and you, and could prove disastrous in case of an emergency.
- Please use properly marked/designated parking areas and spaces.
- **ALL visitors** need to sign in at reception and obtain and wear a visitors' badge. This is for everyone's protection so we know you have business inside the school.
- If inside the school building, do **not** open the door for people coming in. If they have legitimate reasons for being here, they should use their badge or go to reception.
- *Upper School students need to have their badge at all times to get into the building.*
- Parents who wish to get a badge may do so, but need to use it and sign in each day.

All of these measures are meant to ensure we minimize risk to everyone on campus. Please help us to keep your children safe and sound.

Feel free to call me at 609-924-6700 ext. 1420 if I can be of assistance to you.

Regards,

Robert K. Toole
Director of Safety and Security



Sustainability Initiative 2017-2018

July 2017

Dear Princeton Day School Families,

Sustainability continues to thrive at Princeton Day School. There is so much to report—new programs and awards, developing curriculum—that I hope you'll check out our brand new webpages at www.pds.org/sustainability.

We encourage you to support your child's learning and our sustainability program in 2017-18 by participating in the activities below.

ATHLETICS: YOUR ATHLETE NEEDS A REUSABLE WATER BOTTLE & A SNACK!

A reusable water bottle is a required piece of daily athletic equipment. Please make sure your child has one in his or her after school athletic gear bag everyday. Even if we recycle disposable water bottles, imagine how much plastic is used in making them and how much gas is used in transporting them to your store! Please send your athlete with an after school snack. We are also trying to cut down on single serving snack bags and ask you not to bring in cases of bottled beverages or multipacks of disposable snack bags for teams. The snack bar stays open after school for your child to buy a snack if you don't wish to send one.

NO CAR IDLING POLICY: For the health of our children, we have a no idling policy. Reduce the amount of pollution all of our children inhale by not idling your car while you wait for your child. Experts advise that if you are waiting for more than 10 seconds, you should turn off your car. You will also seriously reduce your environmental impact and save gas money. Check out our [sustainability webpages](#) for more information. Last year we created "Panthers Never Idle" magnets for the back of your car. We hope you'll display them proudly. If you don't have one, we'll be happy to give you one in the fall.

CARPOOL TO SCHOOL: Carpooling is another great way to practice sustainability. To make it easier for families to search for other families in their area with whom they can carpool to Princeton Day School, we have a carpool map on "Inside PDS" in the parent portal under the left navigation menu. Save time, save gas, reduce carbon emissions.

ZERO WASTE CAMPUS: Help us move closer to a zero-waste campus. If you send your child with lunch or a snack, please package it in a reusable lunchbox/bag. Consider reusable plastic containers (of the Tupperware type), a reusable bottle, and a cloth napkin. Taking care of the lunchbox is a good way to help your child learn responsibility. Our composting program has put 90 tons of food waste and nutrients back into the soil rather than sending it to the landfill. You can be a part of the solution!

PDS HARVEST DINNER: SAVE THE DATE: OCTOBER 7, 5:30pm

The Upper School Environmental Action (EnAct) and Food & Garden Clubs will unite again to cook and serve a sustainable dinner feast using veggies from our own PDS garden and from other local farms as a fundraiser for the PDS garden. Families of all ages are welcome. There will be garden tours, music, beehive visits, a grand feast, and students will be speaking about environmental issues.

PARENT SUSTAINABILITY & GARDEN GROUP: PSGG is the wonderful Parents Association committee that supports sustainability and the garden at our school. We plan many activities for parents and organize volunteer days in the garden. For more information contact: Susan Tourville: susan.tourville@yahoo.com or Heather Schofield: hmschofield@me.com

If you have any questions or ideas, we welcome them. Please feel free to contact me at lcutler@pds.org.

Liz Cutler
Sustainability Coordinator

The Anne Reid '72 Art Gallery



© Thatcher Cook

Gallery Schedule 2017–2018

September 11 – October 5

50th Anniversary

Arts Council of Princeton

October 16 – November 9

Princeton Day School

Visual & Design Arts Faculty

November 20 – December 14

Women in Mali Resisting Jihad

Katie Orlinsky

January 8 – February 1

Charles Bryan

February 12 – March 8

Lindsay Feuer

Carrie Norin

Madelaine Shellaby

April 2 – April 26

Imagine the Possibilities

Melissa Sweet

May 7 – May 30

Student Exhibition

June 1 – June 8

Senior Thesis Exhibition

From the Parents Association

July 2017

Dear Parents,

The Parents Association of Princeton Day School would like to extend a warm welcome to all of our families for a new and exciting 2017–2018 school year. The Parents Association (PA) is a vibrant and vital part of our PDS community and you, our parents, play an essential role. Each year, the Parents Association organizes and supports various school events and programs which benefit our children, our parents, and our school, so please come join the fun and volunteer.

There are many volunteer opportunities to fit your schedule and interests that are either school-wide or by division. Whether you help in the classroom, decorate for an event or chaperone a dance, you are keeping our community strong. The Volunteer Opportunities form is available on the PDS website (www.pds.org/volunteer-form) and I would encourage you to review, complete and submit the form online so a PA representative can reach out to you and discuss specific volunteer roles. Please know that we value and appreciate all of your efforts!

Our first PA meeting will be held early this fall on Tuesday, **September 26** at 8:15 a.m. in the McAneny Theater. We do hope you will join us. These meetings are a great way to keep parents informed throughout the year. You will hear updates from Head of School Paul Stellato, as well as educational lectures for parents on topics ranging from raising children to health and wellness to college counseling. The dates for these meetings will be posted on the PDS website.

Using the PDS website (www.pds.org) is the best way to stay up-to-date on important information, school and athletics events, and more. Click on “Inside PDS” and log in to find information specific to you and your child(ren). For help in logging in or if you have any questions about the website, email communications@pds.org for assistance.

I look forward to meeting parents new to PDS at our New Parent Dinner, which is scheduled for Tuesday, September 26. Our PA Event and Committee Chairs will be available to answer any questions about volunteer opportunities. This dinner is not to be missed, as you will hear from Paul Stellato, as well as Rebecca Bushnell, the Chair of the Board of Trustees. This is also a great way to meet other new and current families.

I look forward to seeing everyone this fall and working with you throughout the year to make this a successful and memorable one for all of us.

My warmest wishes to you and your families for a wonderful summer!

Shari Phillips
President, Parents Association

2017-2018 Homework Club

Welcome to the 2017 Homework Club for all Middle School students at Princeton Day School. We are pleased to offer this service to families who are unable to pick-up at the end of the day and hope this note will clarify the process and expectations.

Hours: Homework Club is available from 3:15 – 6:00pm each day.

Cost: There is no cost for the first 15 minutes of Homework Club from 3:15-3:30. Student accounts will be charged \$8.50 per hour beginning at 3:30.

Expectations: Our hope is that students use their time in Homework Club as a productive way to complete assignments. At 3:15 we want students to be actively engaged in doing their homework or reading a book. Students should be able to complete much of their homework during this time. All students will be seated in the library and students will be issued a hall pass to go to their locker or to the restroom. Students will not be allowed in any other part of the building.

Sign-in: When students arrive at Homework Club they need to sign-in at the table inside the library. Students will be asked to print their name and put a time of arrival. Students are permitted to sign themselves out when a parent or guardian calls the Homework Club cell number (609-751-1615) upon their arrival on campus. Parents/Students are responsible for signing out and indicating their departure time. Billing will not begin until 3:45. If a student needs to attend an extra curricular activity (tutor, study buddy, music lessons, etc.), they will need to sign out as they leave and sign back in upon return. Students should indicate their extra curricular activity on the sign in sheet.

Snack: A snack will be provided each day at 4:00. Students will be permitted to have snack in the library as long as they clean up after themselves. This change was made to allow students to focus on their homework assignments without interruptions. Drinks are still *not* allowed in the library.

Schedule: After signing in, students will find a space in the library that is suitable for completing their assignments. Quiet study will begin at 3:15. Recess will take place from 4:30 to 5:00 out on the playground. During the winter months, recess will be spent in the MS Boulevard. Some students may choose to stay in the library where they may continue the opportunity for quiet study. A quiet study room will be available for students needing a silent space. Our Homework Club teachers will be available to answer questions. All parents should call/sign their children out of Homework Club by 6:00 p.m.

Sports: Students who join Homework Club after sports practices will be given a snack and then expected to begin their homework right away. On special occasions, students will be permitted to cheer on their peers as they compete in various sports with supervision. Notification of sport spirit days will be given in advance.

Holidays: On certain occasions Homework Club will have shortened hours prior to a major holiday/break. Information will be communicated by email in weekly Focus Notes prior to these specific holidays.

Dismissal from Homework Club: We encourage parents once they arrive at the circle to call the school (609-924-6700, extension 1602 or cell 609-751-1615) and let the Homework Club staff know to send their child upstairs. Students must sign out noting their departure time before leaving Homework Club.

Electronics: Following Middle School policy, cell phones are not allowed as Homework Club is an *extension* of the academic school day. The rules in the MS Student Handbook apply to Homework Club. Computers and iPads can be an incredible resource for students. These devices are permitted for use during Homework

Club as long as students use them appropriately. Headphones should be used for any audio or video assignments. YouTube and other non-academic sites are prohibited during Homework Club. If a student has a cell phone, they must turn in their device into a numbered pocket. Students will be given a number that corresponds to their pocket for easy retrieval.

Parents, please have a conversation at home with your child about the expectations at Homework Club. By completing most of their homework during Homework Club, students will be able to enjoy more family time and a better experience at home.

Ordering Textbooks at Princeton Day School

Princeton Day School has partnered with Follett to offer our families a convenient online book purchasing option. You will receive an email at the end of July with detailed instructions for book ordering and rentals through Follett via the PDS website (www.pds.org).

Our online bookstore will open on Tuesday, **August 1**.

ALL ORDERS PLACED FROM AUGUST 1 – AUGUST 14 WILL BE SHIPPED DIRECTLY TO THE SCHOOL for a lower flat-fee shipping rate. Students may still order books after August 14, but the books will be shipped home at a slightly higher shipping rate.

You can pick-up your books at our “Welcome Back Book Pick-up Event” on August 30 and August 31 (8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.) and September 1 (8:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon) in the Upper Gym. You will also be able to check out our newest Panther Den apparel and gear and stock up on your school supplies.

Finally, please note that there is no obligation to purchase books through Follett—you may purchase books from your favorite online vendor. The PDS Follett online bookstore is offered as a convenient, one-stop shopping option for our families.

Questions? Contact Panther Den Store Manager Jennifer Laurash at jlaurash@pds.org

PRINCETON DAY SCHOOL

Mission Statement



Princeton Day School nurtures the mind, the body, and the character of each student. In academics, athletics, the arts, and service, we celebrate the pursuit of individual excellence and the spirit of collaboration that binds us together as a community. We seek diversity of cultures, views, and talents to promote the intellectual growth and moral development of our students.

Our rigorous and broad PreK-12 program is designed for motivated and academically talented students. We emphasize both creative and critical thought and their clear expression. Supported by an exceptional faculty and a cooperative partnership of school and home, our students discover the joy of learning. They explore their interests, cultivate enduring relationships with teachers and peers, take risks, and thrive.

Integrity, respect, and compassion are essential to the school's mission. Our students leave Princeton Day School well equipped for college and beyond: prepared to act knowledgeably, to lead thoughtfully, to share generously, and to contribute meaningfully.