

PCIS TRIBAL TALK



October 2016

SCHOOL HOURS

The school hours this year are 8:25am-3:05pm. The tardy bell rings at 8:25am. All students need to be in their homeroom at 8:25am. Attendance is taken then. If they are not there at this time, they will be counted tardy.

–

SCHOOL VISITORS

Just a friendly reminder that ALL parents and visitors are to sign in at the school's front office upon arrival. This includes before and after school.

Kauffman's Korner

Have you heard about the "Indian Initiative?"

Last year our teacher leadership team traveled to Hicksville, Ohio where we watched a school culture and school climate movement transform the way we all viewed our school. With the building consolidations and essentially six schools of both staff and students combining into one, we knew that we had to build a unified picture of what we were all about. Upon returning from that professional development, a group of voluntary staff members began a year-long incredible journey to make Piqua Central unlike anything the town of Piqua had ever seen.

Based on the work of world renown educational enthusiast, teacher, and principal Ron Clark, we began what is now referred to as the "Indian Initiative"! The Indian Initiative focuses on three main components: 1) High Academic and behavioral expectations for all staff and students, 2) total student engagement, and 3) Creating the most positive school climate and culture environment possible. All of the students and staff now belong to one of four local tribes that represent a letter from PCIS: Pawnee, Cherokee, Iroquois, and Shawnee. Each of these is represented with their own crest designed by Mrs. Fromholt, our outstanding art teacher, and include a symbol, color, and character traits that encompass their history. The committee met once a week after school last year and drafted what is now known as the "Indian Way" which are a set of 25 essential skills and behaviors posted and taught in every classroom that we felt would set our students up for success.

Old school principles such as making eye contact, using manners, greeting people properly, engaging in active listening, and taking pride in all you do are just a few of the ways we believe our students should behave. The idea is that hopefully by teaching these skills in our school that parents and guardians began to see a difference in the home, and eventually our community benefits from upstanding, classy citizens.

In addition to the Indian Way, we created several committees of teachers eager to take the initiative and make experiences even better for students. Some of those committees include having students dress for success on certain days, having regular formal dining opportunities to learn table manners, staff and student draft days into our four tribes, student and staff monthly spotlights, tribe competitions for points, student ambassadors in every classroom, and a Principal's Breakfast of Champions for the best of the best we have to offer that exemplify what it means to be an Indian and do things the right way. We are hopeful that parents and community members embrace this new era at PCIS and we welcome feedback, success stories, and volunteers to help this continue to grow into great things for our students!

Yours in education,

Mr. Josh Kauffman, Principal

Let's Be Social



Piqua Central Intermediate School



@piquacentral



@piquacentral



www.pinterest.com/piquacentral

Loudenback Lowdown

PBIS

I wanted to take this opportunity to share some exciting news about PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention Supports). Hopefully there has been some discussion throughout households in regards to what PBIS is and how it is impacting Piqua Central. PBIS is a school wide behavior system emphasizing proactive implementation strategies that teaches, defines, and supports appropriate student behavior, in order to create a positive learning environment for all students. On an everyday basis, Piqua Central students are being taught and reinforced behavioral expectations that are conducive to building capacity throughout the district and community. Teachers are including PBIS in their daily lesson plans to help guide our students in becoming upstanding citizens and schoolmates. The teachers and administrative staff at Piqua Central are asking for support from families to reinforce these behaviors at home.

Breaking News:

Previously in the last six weeks, students have been receiving tickets for showing respect, responsibility, and kindness throughout the school day. The aforementioned character traits are apart of our PBIS matrix at Piqua Central. Our students are now going to have an opportunity to really do something with tickets earned through positive decision making. Piqua Central Intermediate is having a PBIS school store! Your child is going to be able to **earn** as many tickets as they can to purchase items at the school store. We are challenging each and every student to step up their game in order to make our building an even more positive atmosphere for learning, interacting, and team building.

If you want to know more, please feel free to contact the school or have a table talk conversation with your child!

This is going to be a first-class opportunity for students to enhance their ability to communicate more effectively, construct relationships through positive interactions, and take full advantage of high quality instruction.

The store will open tentatively on October 19th.

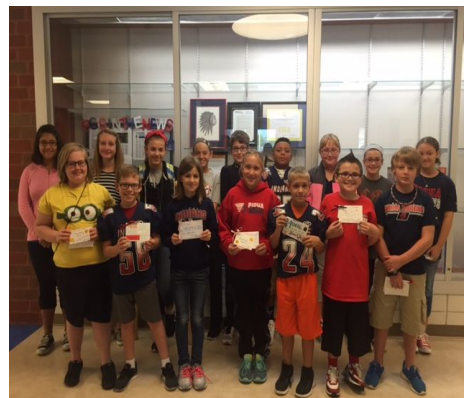
Attendance and Tardiness

I also want to take this opportunity to address an ongoing challenge at Piqua Central. We are experiencing a high volume of unexcused absences and tardies on a daily basis. It is important to remember the significant impact being tardy to school or not at school in general can have on a child. If a child is late to school by as much as 10 minutes a day, they are missing 50 minutes a week of instruction during first period. That is essentially an entire class period per week. If there is anyway we can help get your child to school on time, please let us know. It is imperative they be at school prior to the 8:25 bell.

Thank you,
Mr. Loudenback

SPIRIT DAYS

This year, every Friday will be "Piqua Day". Students are encouraged to wear Piqua gear or red and blue. Go Indians!



September Indians of the Month

The following students that were named Indian of the Month for September. These students demonstrated outstanding leadership and have embraced the "Indian Way". Congratulations to Ashlyn Gearhardt, Aaren Burroughs, Miranda Sweetman, Michael Bixler, Kameron Sourmail, Mackenzie Evans, Ben Lavey, Gracie LaPointe, Zander Mason, Layla Mitchell, Maddison Ward, Cheyenne Miller, Bryson Roberts, Ellie McName, Savannah Swanson, Lily Hanning, Elah Soto-Garcia, Tarika Sutter



FORMAL DINING

We have our first "formal dining" in the books. Teachers joined their students for lunch and students enjoyed some classical music. The kids are looking forward to the next event.

Gearhardt's Gossip

The safety of our students is our first priority at PCIS. Therefore, each month students will participate in a fire drill. We complete these at random times, rain, shine or snow. These practice drills help us become prepared in case of a real emergency. Students will also participate in tornado drills when Spring arrives.

The state of Ohio also requires additional training and drills. Those drills include:

- 1.) **Code Yellow Lockdown-** Teachers lock doors and continue teaching. This is used if there is not an immediate threat to the building.
- 2.) **Theoretical Drill -Reverse Evacuation**- We will go into lockdown while students are outside. They will have to re-enter the building and go to their safe place in a timely manner.
- 3.) **Rapid Evacuation-** Piqua Police will be involved. Staff and students will exit the building and campus. Grade levels will go to the following designated places of safety.
 - a.) 6th grade will go to Dah's Park
 - b.) 5th grade will go to Wilder
 - c.) 4th Grade will go to Nicklin kindergarten lot
 - d.) Encore will have to be assigned to Nicklin.
- 4.) **Red Lockdown-** The entire building will be on lockdown. Staff will either stay in rooms, lights out or exit the premises.

We also want to highlight our arrival and dismissal procedures:

Arrival

- Car riders form one line and drop off students at the main entrance. Students should be dropped off by 8:20 AM.
- Students who walk or ride their bikes are reminded to use all crosswalks and abide by all local pedestrian laws. Parents, please educate your students on how to cross the street.

Dismissal

- Car riders, please form two lines. Students can be picked up at the doors by the gym and bike rack. Students are not permitted to walk down the sidewalk to cars or cross the parking lot to a parked car.
- Walkers and bike riders are asked to exit the premises quickly and safely using all crosswalks. Bike riders should walk their bikes until they are safely out of high traffic areas.

Mrs. Gearhardt

Birthday and Holiday Treats

This is just a reminder that ALL treats (for birthday or holidays), are to be store bought only. ***Homemade items are not allowed at the school.*** Please also check with homeroom teacher about the allergies of any students in the class.



HARTZELL FARM DAY

Thanks to Hartzell Propeller, our 5th grades got to enjoy a day on the farm. They learned about bees, gardens, wildlife and more. A great time was had while learning.



Rachel's Challenge

PCIS students took part in a presentation about Rachel's Challenge. Students watched videos about Rachel and the impact that she had on others. www.rachelschallenge.com

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Tips for keeping your kids safe on social media sites:

Make sure your kids set privacy settings that prevent people they don't know from contacting them. Check in frequently with your kids about whom they're interacting with, whether they've ever been contacted by a stranger, and if they ever "prune" their contact lists by deleting or blocking acquaintances that are inappropriate or disrespectful. Make sure they know not to share personally identifiable information, ie: school name, address, city, places they hang out and when. Ask about your kids' online relationships and what they're learning from their online interactions. Talk about why they should never make plans to meet a stranger offline.

Tips for keeping kids out of social drama:

- **Follow the rules.** Many social sites have an age minimum of 13 for both legal and safety/privacy reasons. Encourage kids to stick with age-appropriate sites.
- **Tell your kids to think before they post.** Remind them that everything can be seen by a vast, invisible audience (otherwise known as friends-of-friends-of-friends). Each family will have different rules, but, for middle school kids, it's a good idea for parents to have access to what their kids are doing online, at least at first, to be sure that what's being posted is appropriate. Parents can help keep kids from doing something they'll regret

- **Kindness counts.** Lots of sites have anonymous applications such as "bathroom walls" or "honesty boxes" that allow users to tell their friends what they think of them. Rule of thumb: If your kids wouldn't say it to someone's face, they shouldn't post it. If they wouldn't want it said to them, they shouldn't post it!

Kid Friendly sites: Check out Common Sense Media Site: <https://www.commonsensemedia.org> for an updated list on games, media sites, and movies. Be informed and aware of what your child is doing. Make sure they are age appropriate before letting your child watch or use them

PCIS PINK OUT

PCIS staff and students all showed their support for Cancer awareness and research by having a PINK OUT



FROM THE NURSE'S DESK

Is it a cold or the flu??



The flu and common cold are both respiratory illnesses, but are caused by different viruses. Because both have similar symptoms, the flu is often confused with the common cold. Flu symptoms develop quickly (usually 1 to 4 days after being exposed) and are usually more severe than the typical sneezing and stuffiness of a cold. Symptoms can last up to two weeks. The flu is very contagious, and is spread by coughing sneezing into the air.

Ways to Prevent the Flu:

- Get the flu shot, if recommended by your child's pediatrician
- Wash your hand thoroughly and frequently
- Never share cups and eating utensils
- Stay home from work or school when your sick
- Cover your cough

Treating the Flu:

- Stay home from school
- Drink lots of fluids
- Get plenty of sleep
- Call your doctor for a fever or achiness and they will let you know what to give your child to make them feel better.
- Return to school when your child is better (fever free and no vomiting for at least 23 hours)

INDIAN WAY

Hopefully you have heard your student talking about the "Indian Way". This is something new that PCIS has adapted this year. Throughout the day, they are reminded to do things the "Indian Way". We have begun to see some positive changes here at PCIS and hope that these carry over into the students' personal lives as well. We ask that parent's help reiterate this with the students at home as well.

"The Indian Way"

1. Make eye contact with adults and one another.
2. Always say please and thank you when given something.
3. While in the building, always walk quietly and stay to the right.
4. Take pride in your school by cleaning up your space better than you found it-lunchroom, classroom, hallways, work space.
5. Always do active listening by looking at classmates when speaking and do not raise your hand until they are done talking. Stand to answer questions when appropriate.
6. If you win or do well, do not brag. If someone wins something, congratulate them.
7. If you are asked a question in conversation, ask a question in return.
8. Do not show disrespect with gestures; keep hands and feet to self.
9. Know other teachers' names and greet them in the halls when you see them.
10. Be as organized as possible and always be prepared for class.
11. Hold the door for people rather than letting it close.

INDIAN WAY continued...

12. If someone bumps into you, say excuse me, even if it was not your fault.
13. If someone drops something and you are close to it, pick it up.
14. When entering a public space, conduct yourself in a first-class manner at all times.
15. Commit to excellence by being proud of your academic work and behavior at all times.
16. Always be honest with yourself and with others.
17. Learn from your mistakes and move on.
18. During discussions, respect other students' comments, opinions, and ideas.
19. When you are offered food, resources, or supplies, wait to be served and take only what you need.
20. When using loaned or borrowed items, be respectful of other's things and return them how you received them.
21. Be positive, have no regrets, and CARPE DIEM (Seize each day)!
22. Take responsibility for your own actions and own your behaviors.
23. When meeting someone new, look them in the eyes and shake hands firmly.
24. When an adult is talking, you should listen and give them your undivided attention.
25. When responding, you should address them with "sir" or "ma'am" or Mr./Mrs.

LOOKING FORWARD...

10/24: Destination Imagination Mtg
6pm

10/27: 5th Grade Glen Helen Mtg
6:30pm

10/28: NO SCHOOL

11/2: Music program 5th grade White team

11/23: Thanksgiving break begins

11/28: Return from break



Future issues of PCIS Tribal Talk will be available online for viewing.

I		