It was great to see so many of our families in attendance at our K-5 Open House. Student’s whose families are involved tend to have higher grades, test scores, better attendance and higher graduation rates.

Thank you for signing up for parent goal conferences during Open House. Parent conferences are scheduled for October 17th and 18th. School will be in session until 11:30 a.m. those days, with parent goal conferences scheduled for the afternoon and early evening hours. If you did not have an opportunity to sign up for a parent goal conference, please contact your child’s teacher, if they haven’t already contacted you. Our goal is to meet with 100% of our families. Together we strive to assist your child in being successful!

Thank you to Megan Flanders and her team for coordinating this year’s annual fundraiser, the Jog-a-thon. Thanks to all of our families and community businesses for all of your support leading up to the big day. Now it’s time for the kids to get those pledges collected and turned in. All monies collected are used to support our students.

We also say thank you to all of our volunteers for their participation and dedication to the students of Pleasant Hill Elementary. There are many ways for parents/guardians to volunteer such as assisting with PTO events and activities, helping students in the classroom, chaperoning field trips, copying and preparing materials, etc. Please talk with your student’s classroom teacher about how you can assist either in the classroom or in the workroom.

**Goal Setting Conferences**

**October 17th and 18th, Dismissal 11:30 a.m.**

The purpose of goal setting conferences is to provide meaningful conversation with students and parents / guardians regarding their students’ academic
strengths and set achievement goals and plans for the school year. Research shows student achievements increase when they know what the learning targets are, where they are in relation to the target and what they need to do to meet the goal. The teachers will be setting goals, sharing and refining them during goal conferences with you in October. These goals will be monitored throughout the year formally and informally using classroom assessment tools.

Facilities Update

We are under construction! During the last bond campaign one area the bond funded was upgrades to our facilities for student safety. Unfortunately, one project was identified a library connector, but funds were not available to fund the project.

The district began setting aside funds to construct the connector in phases, as funds become available. So, don’t be surprised if you walk into either the main entry or the library to discover a temporary wall.

What’s happening behind the wall? Well, a set of doors are being installed on both sides, the office side and library side, so students will access the library from our main hallway without going out the front doors. A new sidewalk will be constructed for students to walk on between the two buildings behind the retaining wall presently in place. In addition, the retaining wall with the iron work will be remodeled as well. The iron work will be removed, and a solid barrier installed as well.

Once the project is complete, all exterior doors to the library will remain locked throughout the day. The only way to access the library will be through the main building. Thank you for your patience and understanding while we are under construction.

Safety Week

Next week, we are hosting our first of three safety weeks to be held this year. Safety week is designed to review many possible safety drills that we may need to implement if a natural disaster or an unfortunate event occurred on campus. Safety week occurs after all major vacations and is not intended to take the place of monthly drills.

We will kick off safety week with a fire drill. During this drill students under the direction of their teacher exit the building quietly and orderly meeting in our designated meeting spot. Once classes arrive at this location, attendance is taken ensuring all students are safely out of the building. When we have determined all students are accounted for, the building is determined to be safe, students are then directed back to class.

Tuesday as a school we will practice a hold-in drill. This drill is implemented if there is some form of danger outside of the building. During a hold-in drill teachers and students continue learning as usual. The exterior doors to the building are locked and no one can enter the building or leave the building during this drill.

Wednesday all classes will practice a room clear drill. During this drill, students leave one room and enter another classroom should there be a medical emergency or an unsafe situation in their regular classroom.

Thursday on the playground educational assistants, EA’s, will be reviewing the 3-whistle drill. When students hear three short whistles they are to stop playing, look at the adults and listen for directions. Later in the afternoon, First Student, our transportation provider will bring over the school buses. The drivers will be working with each classroom reviewing the Billie Spirit expectations on the bus. Then instructing our students how to evacuate the bus in case of an emergency.
October is Bully Awareness Month

Parents, if you hear your students using these words, Stop-Walk-Talk or see a hand put out as if it were a stop sign; they are following the bullying prevention program at Pleasant Hill Elementary School!

Every fall teachers and staff spend the first week of school reviewing our Bully Prevention Program, developed at the University of Oregon, with our students. Throughout the year we review and reinforce this curriculum within the classroom and at Billie Spirit Assemblies, too.

This program teaches students how to respond if other students are being disrespectful towards other students. Our staff has also been taught how to respond if students engage in disrespectful, bullying, behavior and can even be unsafe.

Students are taught bullying is disrespectful unwanted, aggressive behavior that is persistent, occurring over time, not a onetime incident, with the same student involved. Examples of these persistent disrespectful, bullying, behaviors are name calling, teasing, continuously pushing or constantly poking or threatening another student. Students are also taught that it is not an accidental bump of a peer or decline to play with them. In addition, we also work with students to practice the golden rule, “If you can’t say something nice to a peer, say nothing at all.”

The three steps are:

1. Stop— All students are taught the "Stop" signal, putting up a flat hand, and to use a firm voice to say, "STOP."

2. Walk Away— Sometimes, even when students tell others to “stop”, problem behavior will continue. When this happens, students are to “walk away” from the problem behavior.

3. Talk— report problems to an adult if the disrespectful behavior does not stop or a student is in danger such as falling on the playground or fighting.

All staff have been trained to respond to a student’s request to talk. The staff member will ask the student about the problem. Then, they will ask the student if they used the “stop” signal and said "STOP" and tried walking away.

Students will be praised for trying these steps or reminded about using these steps first before talking to an adult. Finally, the staff member will discuss the problem behavior with the student who is engaging in problem or disrespectful behavior. They will remind students what they are to do when they are given the stop signal or told “STOP” by another student or students (i.e., immediately stop what they are doing, take a deep breath and count to 3, and continue with their day following our school rules). In addition, staff will enforce the appropriate consequence if necessary. Parents will receive notification from the school if their student continues to engage in disrespectful or unsafe behaviors.

**Did You Know?**

- Starting in kindergarten, too many absences can cause children to fall behind in school.
- Missing 10 percent (or about 18 days) can make it harder to learn to read.
- Students can still fall behind if they miss just a day or two days every few weeks.
- Being late to school may lead to poor attendance.
- Absences can affect the whole classroom if the teacher has to slow down learning to help children catch up.

Attending school regularly helps children feel better about school—and themselves. Start building this habit in preschool so they learn right away that going to school on time, every day is important. Good attendance will help
children do well in high school, college, and at work.

Who has Billie Spirit? We do!

Last week, we held our September Billie Spirit Assemblies designed to celebrate our student's accomplishments and build school community. Many students were recognized as each teacher selects two students from their classes who are growing either academically or developing and displaying characteristics of a successful learner to present awards to. The teachers also nominate one student for the Principal's award for going over and above or showing improvement, too.

We conclude our assembly by passing out what we call our "Golden Awards" to classes who together work to display Billie Spirit during their time spent with our specialist, in the cafeteria, in the classrooms picking up after themselves and displaying Billie Spirit across the campus, on the playground, in the bathroom, in the hall ways and receiving compliments from other adults in the building and visitor's on our campus, too. Don't be surprised if you receive a phone call from your student's teacher to join us!

Lost and Found

We have already accumulated a large amount of clothing in our cafeteria lost and found area. Please remind your child to check his/her backpack everyday before leaving school to make sure they have ALL their belongings. Also, please label your child’s name inside all of their jackets, outerwear and lunch boxes. We make every attempt to return items to students if a name can be found. All items not claimed at the end of the month of October, will be donated to the Family Resource Center Clothes Closet.

October is Box Top Month!!!!

The classroom who collects the most box tops by October 19th will earn a donut party.

Clip and Send in Your Box Tops Today!

All money earned is used to purchase our Billie Spirit end of the school year surprise!

Food Service Update

If your student was on the Free and Reduced lunch program last year and you have not completed a new application for the 2018-19 school year, please do so before October 1, 2018. You can complete with a paper copy available in our school offices or use the new on-line link available on our website.

DESTINATION IMAGINATION INFORMATION

DESTINATION IMAGINATION SIGN-UPS DUE OCT. 5

This is your opportunity to indicate a meeting day that may work best for you.

If you’re planning to have your child participate in Destination Imagination this year, don’t forget to turn your sign-up sheet by this Friday. This will assist in planning which afternoon the DI participants will meet.

If you need a sign-up sheet or have misplaced yours, ask Mrs. Thoms in the office for one.

REMINDER: Students in grades 1 and 2 (called Rising Stars) have their own non-competitive challenge. At last count, we could use 2 or 3 more younger students for a Rising Stars team.