



Curriculum

Science: There are so many changes happening in nature that we are able to focus on several different topics in science this September. Children have been fascinated by the changes taking place in our caterpillar tank. We've seen the formation of a chrysalis and have been doing lots of investigation about butterfly metamorphosis. We're counting the days as we wait for butterflies to emerge. Additionally, we've been spending time in the Poker Hill gardens. Children have been harvesting many different garden crops and helping out with cooking and baking projects to use up the abundant harvest. We're also spending time in our new butterfly garden, looking out for insect visitors such as bees and butterflies while continuing our discussions about what our own butterflies will need when they emerge from their cocoons.

Music: As we begin the new school year, we will sing songs about community, autumn and harvest. We will have a CD listening center where children are encouraged to talk about the songs, look at the covers, play along with small rhythm instruments and dance together. We will also travel to the yurt and share drumming and dancing in this new, exciting space. We will begin to think about writing a song about the yurt.

Social Emotional: Students will be reading books about feelings, discuss what these feelings look like and feel like. Additionally, students will be introduced to the "Peace Table", a small area on the main floor of PHS where they can go if they are feeling sad, frustrated or in need of support with conflict resolution. This area homes many social-emotional books as well as a box of beautiful stones for the children to look at and hold as they are calming their bodies. The goal of the peace table is to aid children towards greater autonomy with conflict resolution as well as to provide tools for regulating strong emotions. Later in the month we will role-play scenarios with the use of the peace table.

Upcoming Dates

September 29 & 30 - Harvest Market
October 3 - Family Night (adults only)
October 4 & 5 - Picture Days
October 9 - Board Meeting 7:00-8:30
Finance Mtg & Community Bdg Mtg 8:30
October 19 - No School

Gross Motor: Children will be embracing the last days of summer as they enjoy nature hikes to the tipi & forest, playground, the yurt & meadow, and possibly to the pond. When not hiking, we will be playing a variety of team building and cooperative games in the gym or outside.

Art:

Monday/Wednesday/Friday students will be exploring the Poker Hill gardens and butterflies. Look for vegetable prints, decorative welcome banners, and symmetrical string art butterflies. We will also be exploring the culinary arts by cooking and freezing our beautiful garden bounty. The children have already made tomato sauce for pizza and pasta this winter. Yum!

Tuesday/Thursday students will be learning how to take care of our art supplies while exploring a wide range of art media. We will also be using different objects that we will collect on nature walks and trips to the garden in order to create pieces of art. Our focus will be on the natural world, especially butterflies, throughout the month.

Family Night

Please join us on Wednesday, October 3rd from 7:00-9:00 for potluck desserts, teacher skits, and time in your child's group with an opportunity to ask questions. This is also a great way to get to know other parents and to learn more about your child's day at school.

Reminders

*Please sign your child in & out daily. It is important for staff to know the expected pick up time as well. Signing out lets us know which children are left at school after 3:30.

Harvest Market

Families are invited to join the teachers in walking in the Harvest Market parade on Saturday, September 29th. Meet us at Browns River Middle School by 8:45 am. We also have a booth at the market where volunteers will be selling t-shirts and offering face painting. Please click on the sign up genius and sign up for a time to volunteer. This is a great family event and we hope to see many of you there.

Picture Days

Former PHS parent and professional photographer, Kim Martin, will be at PHS on October 4th & 5th to take individual and group photos of all the children. You will have an opportunity to view the photos online before ordering. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to the PHS scholarship fund. Retakes will be taken on October 11th & 12th.

Make-Up Days

Up to 3 make-up days are available to each student as the schedule allows. Make-up days can be used to compensate for days missed due to illness or vacation but are not for snow days. These must be scheduled with a teacher to ensure we have space on the day you are interested in (we are limited to two make-up children per day). Make-up days need to be used by May 24th.

Lunches

Please write your child's name near the handle. Please **label** all reusable containers as well. We highly recommend reusable containers instead of prepackaged foods. Foods that are round and about the size of a nickel are easy for preschoolers to choke on. Prevent choking by avoiding these foods or cutting them into small pieces or different shapes. **Pieces of food should not be round or bigger than 1/2 inch.** A few common hazards include grapes, cherry tomatoes, hot dogs, cheese sticks, carrots or baby carrots. If you send these foods to school, cut them small and lengthwise so they are not round. Teachers are required to cut these items if they aren't already.

PHS Shirts

PHS shirts are always available to purchase. Please feel free to ask any teacher. We also have snack bags available.

Community Building Committee

The Community Building Committee is looking for members. If you like planning fun community activities, please email Chantal at chantal.marlinski@gmail.com. We will also have a Community Building Committee meeting following the October 9th board meeting at 8:30.

Birthday Celebrations & Birthday Books

If your child's birthday is during our school year we generally celebrate it on the school day closest to the actual birthday. Summer birthday celebrations are arranged with the child's group teacher. Many parents choose the half birthday. At Poker Hill School we celebrate birthdays with special songs, a special card or craft made by the children and a birthday book. **Birthday books** are gifts given by the birthday child's family to the school. These books are inscribed with a special plaque. They are an important part of our library and we are very grateful for them. We will keep a collection of birthday books that you may purchase (price is typically on the book) or you may also choose a favorite from home or the bookstore. We ask that families not bring in treats, toys, candy or balloons.

Fundraising

The Poker Hill School Board is looking for a fundraising committee chair and fundraising committee members to help with our fundraising efforts; wreath fundraiser, Original Works, and our Spring Fling Event. We have a family interested in organizing a fall Bluegrass Brunch with live music and local food. If you would like more information or would like to help out, please email Kyle.