



NOVEMBER HAPPENINGS

October 30 PTO Meeting 3:30-4:30 ~Child care will be available in the Multipurpose Room

October 31 Halloween Parade ~ Pierce School ghouls and goblins, princesses and pirates parade around the Acre at 11:00. Students begin to get into costumes at 10:45 should parental assistance be required. The paparazzi is invited to snap group pictures at the conclusion of the parade. Safe for walking footwear required. No weapons or other carried accessories for the parade please.

November 4 Annual PTO Craft Fair 10:00—2:00

November 5 Fall Back ~Daylight Savings Time Ends

November 7 4th Field Trip to Great Bay Discovery Center

November 8 Title 1 Annual Parent Meeting 4:00-5:00 in the Pierce School Library

November 8 Town of Bennington Public Forum Meeting at Pierce School 6:30—8:30

November 9 Community Supper 5:30

November 10 Veteran's Day ~ No School

November 13 Picture Retakes- For photo "retakes", return picture package from 1st sitting .

November 15 Turkey Trot ~All School Field Trip to Hancock Elementary 8:50~11:15

November 17 Annual Harvest Feast -Turkey and all the fixings prepare for lunch by Café Services - Adult meals \$5.00 -reservations and payment due by November 8th.

November 17 Assembly 2:40 Reporters Grade 1 and Grade 4

November 17 PTO Family Fun Night Star Gazing

November 20~25 No School for Students HAPPY THANKSGIVING

November 20 Parent/Teacher Conference Day- details to follow

SPECIALS: 10/30~11/3 Health; 11/6~11/9 PE (sneakers required); 11/13~11/17 Music; 11/22~12/1 ART



Reminder for students to wear jackets to be prepared for cooler recess weather.

***In the near future, permission slips will be going home for the Turkey Trot held at the Hancock Elementary School on 11/15. This will be Pierce School's first all school bus trip for students. The required Conval Health Release form will accompany the permission form.

Thank you for your help facilitating the upcoming field trip.



Words from the Principal: Mrs. Syre-Hager

Building on Our Strengths

One of the best things about Pierce is that our staff has positive connections with families and each other. Small community schools feel like a family. There's a lot of caring and respect for one another, and sometimes, disagreements happen too. But just like a family, we work together to solve problems and grow as a result. We, as a community, support one another, and that is truly special.

As a school, we are in the process of creating more opportunities for communication to help keep our community well-informed and involved. We are working toward establishing our school's website as current source of information, so I encourage you to start looking there if you haven't already. (bes.convalsd.net) Another great venue for communication is coming up in just a few weeks – Parent Teacher Conferences on November 20th. This is a wonderful opportunity to see samples of your child's work, and to have open dialogue with your child's teacher. Staying connected to school and encouraging your students to try their best each day is the best way to partner with us.

Have a great month, and I'll see you all at the craft fair on November 4th.

Stephanie



What Pierce Students Are Doing: Grades K-4

On Friday, October 27th students at Piece School enjoyed a day of Literacy and fall activities. In addition to sharing FALL themed read aloud stories about KINDNESS, students, in multi-aged groupings, rotated through activities including: making foliage for the Tree of Kindness, cooking pumpkin soup, brewing up fresh apple sauce and cider, creating scarecrows to let everyone know Pierce School is ready for the season and carving pumpkins to prepare for the photo session that historically follows the annual Halloween Parade around the Acre. (This year the parade will be on October 31st at 11:00. The more the merrier for a ghoulishly fun time for the student parade.)

Compassionate Parenting

By Robin Gregg, School Counselor, AES/Pierce School

Parenting isn't easy for anyone, including adults who are survivors of trauma. To be truly available to our children and to give them what they need we need to remember that their issues are about them, not us. We need to make sure we can separate our own needs and our own emotional responses (that come from our own experiences and history) from our children's experiences. Our children are not us, they have different parents, lives, experiences. One way to think about this is to think about "the double struggle"--- a phrase that's included in some positive behavior training. The first struggle is the child's struggle or challenges. The other struggle is the struggle to control our own emotions and reactions, and to aware of our own "triggers." As parents, we often experience that "double struggle," striving to manage our own emotions while responding to our children's emotions.

To be a compassionate parent means cultivating and using empathy—noticing and observing what our children are feeling, putting ourselves in their shoes, so to speak, while also making sure that we are not inadvertently "projecting" our feelings or needs on them.

One writer, Svava Brooks, addresses this issue, noting that there are many benefits to learning how to feel your emotions. For one thing, Brooks writes in a blog post, being aware of our own emotions helps us to become a more compassionate, empathetic parent. The following suggestions are based on and adapted from Svava Brooks' suggestions:

- Sit with your children and allow them to feel their emotions and express them. Don't react defensively, don't flinch or express horror or dismay or disbelief.
- Allow yourself to feel your children's painful emotions, keeping in mind that their emotions are not your emotions. The focus is on the child(ren), not on yourself/ves.
- Tell your children you feel their pain, you hear them, and you see them. Use paraphrasing or reflecting back: "You are feeling really sad right now."
- Tell your children you know the situation (past or recent) hurt or frustrated them, and you're sorry.
- Tell your children you'll never shame them and you will always support them for expressing their feelings.
- Tell your children it's okay to express painful feelings about their past or to express anger, frustration, disappointment and other strong feelings about recent experiences.

Feeling self-compassion is important, too! It's important to make sure that we have supports in place for our own feelings and struggles so that we don't mistakenly assume that our children's feelings and struggles are the same as ours and so we have the emotional resources to engage in truly compassionate parenting.

For the original article:

<http://www.acesconnection.com/blog/how-to-become-a-compassionate-parent>



Reading Tips for Families:

Kathie Morrocco, Pierce School Reading Specialist/Title I Project Manager

The Title I Transformation

For many years, Pierce School has been the recipient of additional funding from a federal grant called, Title I, Part A. This grant funding allowed us to support students with supplemental instruction in academics, specific to reading and mathematics. In years past, Pierce School had targeted the Title I funding to "eligible students" only, which meant only the most academically needy students received additional services through selection criteria. As of last year, Pierce School has become a Schoolwide Title I school and with that, support may now be directed to all students. We are proud to be able to reach all students where they need to be met in their academic journeys through this Title I program model.

Please join me for our Family Annual Meeting on Wednesday, November 8, 2017 from 4:00-5:00pm in the Pierce School library. During the meeting, we will discuss the Title I Schoolwide Program, family involvement, communications and our partnership in educating and supporting Pierce students. We will also provide materials and tips for supporting your child at home and even have a raffle gift! Refreshments and childcare will be provided as well. Look for the flyer to come home to register so we know how many families will be attending. Multiple opportunities will be available in the future to be sure you are able to participate!

Thank you for your support of Pierce School students!

Kathie Morrocco

By the way, did you know the most accurate predictors of student achievement in school are not family income or social status, but the extent to which the family creates a home environment that encourages learning, communicates high yet reasonable expectations for the child's achievement, and becomes involved in the child's education at school? (National PTA. 2000. Building Successful Partnerships: A Guide for Developing Parent and Family Involvement Programs. Bloomington, Indiana: National Education Service, 11–12).