



PPSEL Newsletter

ISSUE 2

DECEMBER 2018



Remember, to stay on top of all the current goings on at PPSEL, be sure to subscribe to our official Facebook page!
@PPSELSchool

IMPORTANT

DATES:

- **Dec. 17th - PPSEL Band Concert @ Sand Creek High School**
- **Dec. 20th- Gallery Night 5:00-7:00pm**
- **Dec. 24th - Jan. 7th - Winter Break**

FIELD WORKS

- **Dec. 4th - 5th Grade**

In The Know...

As you are doing your shopping this holiday season, you can also be supporting our school! Log into your Amazon account via smile.amazon.com and choose Pikes Peak School of Expeditionary Learning.

A Note From Mr. Knapp

Did you know that EL Education was founded on 10 Design Principles as the original basis for its schools? These principles were used as a guide to set up all of the original schools.

1. The Primacy of Self-Discovery: Learning happens best with emotion, challenge and the requisite support. People discover their abilities, values, passions, and responsibilities in situations that offer adventure and the unexpected. In EL Education schools, students undertake tasks that require perseverance, fitness, craftsmanship, imagination, self-discipline, and significant achievement. A teacher's primary task is to help students overcome their fears and discover they can do more than they think they can.

2. The Having of Wonderful Ideas: Teaching in EL Education schools fosters curiosity about the world by creating learning situations that provide something important to think about, time to experiment, and time to make sense of what is observed.

3. The Responsibility for Learning: Learning is both a personal process of discovery and a social activity. Everyone learns both individually and as part of a group. Every aspect of an EL Education school encourages both children and adults to become increasingly responsible for directing their own personal and collective learning.

4. Empathy and Caring: Learning is fostered best in communities where students' and teachers' ideas are respected and where there is mutual trust. Learning groups are small in EL Education schools, with a caring adult looking after the progress and acting as an advocate for each child. Older students mentor younger ones, and students feel physically and emotionally safe.

5. Success and Failure: All students need to be successful if they are to build the confidence and capacity to take risks and meet increasingly difficult challenges. But it is also important for students to learn from their failures, to persevere when things are hard, and to learn to turn disabilities into opportunities.

6. Collaboration and Competition: Individual development and group development are integrated so that the value of friendship, trust, and group action is clear. Students are encouraged to compete, not against each other, but with their own personal best and with rigorous standards of excellence.

7. Diversity and Inclusion: Both diversity and inclusion increase the richness of ideas, creative power, problem-solving ability, and respect for others. In EL Education schools, students investigate and value their different histories and talents as well as those of other communities and cultures. Schools and learning groups are heterogeneous.

8. The Natural World: A direct and respectful relationship with the natural world refreshes the human spirit and teaches the important ideas of recurring cycles and cause and effect. Students learn to become stewards of the earth and of future generations.

9. Solitude and Reflection: Students and teachers need time alone to explore their own thoughts, make their own connections, and create their own ideas. They also need to exchange their reflections with other students and with adults.

10. Service and Compassion: We are crew, not passengers. Students and teachers are strengthened by acts of consequential service to others, and one of an EL Education school's primary functions is to prepare students with the attitudes and skills to learn from and be of service.

SAFETY CORNER

To brush up on our parking lot procedures please visit <https://www.ppsel.org/parking-lot-procedure-map/>

Meet Our Staff

Mrs. Pilcher is our Director of Curriculum and Instruction. She supports teachers in



quality classroom instruction, expedition planning/implementation, and teaches professional development on Fridays. On any given day you can find her observing in classrooms, co-teaching or model teaching for staff, supporting with students or small groups for teachers, or meeting with individuals and teams to create goals and actions steps. We are so thankful to have you Mrs. Pilcher!



COMMUNITY NEWS

*The last day for The Giving Tree is December 4th. A big thank you to everyone who has donated to this wonderful cause!

*Our Gallery Night is a time for our students to showcase all of their hard work from the semester. It is open house format so come and go as you please between 5 and 7:00pm on December 20th.





IN THE CLASSROOMS

Seventh and Eighth Grade partnered with Third and Fourth grade to help them with their final product. They worked on the efficiency of their vehicles and recorded results. Be sure to check out all of their hard work on Gallery Night!



With cooler temps coming our way, be sure to sign up for weather alerts via our PPSEL app, Flash Alert, and/or become part of our Google Group by emailing don.knapp@ppsel.org.

From the Office

* Intent To Return forms are coming home after Winter Break. Return these as soon as possible to secure your spot for next year!

*Expedition fees are due every semester in August and January. If you are unsure if you owe, please email theppseloffice@ppsel.org for a balance.



Remember!
No school on December 21st. Enjoy an early beginning to your Winter Break!

Fieldwork Spotlight

First and Second grades took a trip to the Denver Aquarium and participated in a guided fish tour to learn about adaptations.



PPSEL Pride

These fine PPSEL students were caught using their Character Traits and were rewarded with Character Bucks. Great job! Thank you for making our school an even more awesome place!



PPSEL Character Traits

Compassion

Self-Discipline

Respect

Craftsmanship

Integrity

How have you shown your traits today?

Excellence In All We Do!

