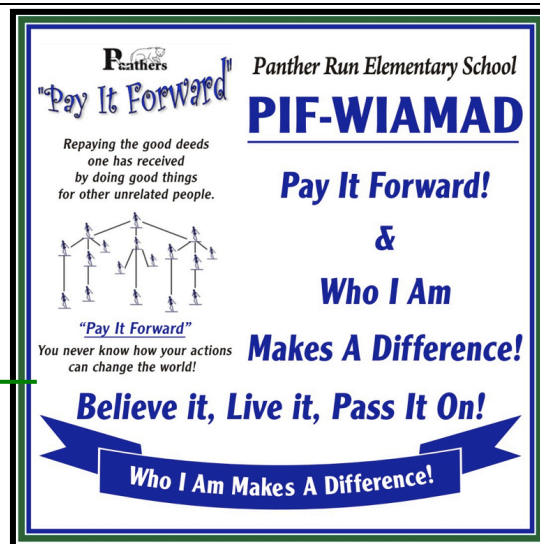


Panther Run Elementary School

Elaine L. Saef, Principal
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August 22, 2011

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome back! It's great to be celebrating the new school year. A new school year presents opportunities for various beginnings – new classes, new faces, and some new materials. I hope that your summer was wonderful, restful, relaxing and that you are ready for the excitement and challenges of a new year. I hope you have been enjoying a fun-filled and relaxing summer and that you are as excited and enthusiastic as I am about the 2011-2012 school year. Before our doors open for the new school year, I want to thank you for your commitment to our students and our school. I would like to extend a special welcome to all of our new Panther Run students and families and a hearty welcome back to the returning students and their parents.

Before looking toward the upcoming school year, I want to congratulate and say how proud I am of all our students, parents, teachers, and staff who helped make our school such a resounding success. Panther Run prides itself on continuing the rich traditions that have brought the school so many accomplishments over the years. It is my honor to announce that for the eighth year in a row, Panther Run is an "A" school on the State's A+ Plan

As we prepare for this year, I have been reviewing the 2010-2011 school year. This was an extremely busy and successful time for our school. Student performance improved due to all of our hard work and dedication.

Our theme for the year is **"The Power of One!"** Just like thoughts and ideas, a single seed has the power to feed; to save lives and change the world. Each of us has the power to positively effect the lives of children and others. The power of one – a single starting point. One seed; One thought; One idea; One vision; One change; One voice; One cry; One moment; One step; One life; The power of one. What if the power of one becomes the power of many and the power of many becomes the power of one? **"The Power of One." Experience the Power of One... you can effect lasting change in your own community by helping to enhance a child's self esteem.** The power of one man or one woman doing the right thing for the right reason, and at the right time, is the greatest influence in our society!

We will of course continue **PIF-WIAMAD** - **"Pay It Forward!"** and **"Who I Am Makes A Difference!"** This philosophy has proven to be effective in developing a caring culture in our school and community.

"Pay it forward!" or paying it forward refers to repaying the good deeds one has received by doing good things for other unrelated people. In this way we hope to establish an ever growing, branching, organic flow of generosity amongst our fellow humans. **"Pay It Forward"**, you never know how your actions can change the world!

"Who I Am Makes A Difference" is a philosophy that we all are important and make a difference in the lives of others by our actions, words, feelings and just being who we are. Each of you can and will make a positive difference and have an amazing impact on Panther Run. Thank you in advance for that!

I feel that communication and teamwork between students, parents, teachers, staff and administration is vital. We will do our best to keep you informed and involved in your child's educational experiences. You are strongly encouraged to become a volunteer and a part of the many organizations designed to make a difference in our school. I want you to remember that our school is also your school and we welcome you into our activities. Parents are permitted to volunteer in their own child's classroom or elsewhere in the school. Each classroom teacher makes the decision as to whether parents of their students will work in his/her classroom. Selection and use of classroom volunteers is at the discretion of each individual teacher. District policy mandates that every volunteer must fill out a online volunteer application every year.

Volunteers must be approved prior to volunteering in school or on a field trip. If you are interested in being a volunteer or field trip chaperone this year, go to www.getinvolvedineducation.com and fill out this very important application. In addition, our wonderful PTA can use your support, as could our School Advisory Council and/or School Advisory Forum. Contact your child's teacher, our volunteer coordinators, the PTA Executive Board members, or administration if you would like more information on how you can get involved.

The partnership between home and school is fundamental to student success. Parents must be involved in their child's education in order for education to be important to your child. As principal, I am asking every parent to make a commitment to get involved and stay involved in his or her child's education. Make a commitment to yourself and your child to spend at least 20 minutes a day communicating one on one about their school day, school work and about your day and work. Make a commitment to spend another 10 minutes reading to or with your child daily. These 30 minutes could be the pivotal point in your child's educational success and achievement! It is the best investment you can make in your child's future!

Please read over all of the information provided to you today and return all necessary forms to your child's teacher. Please take the time to review the District Code of Conduct and Panther Run Elementary Student Handbook very carefully with your child as important changes have been made to both of these documents.

Parents are allowed to walk their children to their classrooms for the first five days of school. August 29, 2011, will be "Independence Day." On this day, and thereafter, we ask that if you bring your child to school, you drop him/her off at the appropriate entrance and our staff will make sure that your he/she arrives to class safely. In addition, students will use the east driveway for drop-off and pick-up. Please pull around as far as possible and remain in your cars. This will help things move quickly and it will ensure your child's safety. During arrival and dismissal, the west driveway of the school is only for buses and A-Team parents.

The staff of Panther Run Elementary is committed to excellence. We are looking forward to working with all of our students and parents this year. We share a common goal -- your child's success. Together we can make this a wonderful and successful school year for all of the students at Panther Run Elementary!

I look forward to our continued journey into the magnificent world of education and learning and the great school year ahead. I wish all of you and your children much success and achievement in 2011-2012!

Sincerely,



Elaine L. Saef
Principal

