

COMMUNITY PARK NEWS

The Heart of the Community

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Dineen Gruchacz
Principal

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Upcoming Events and Dates to Remember

March 27-31	Grade 4 - PARCC Testing
March 29	PTO Music Recital
April 3-7	Grades 3 & 5 - PARCC Testing
April 10-17	SPRING BREAK



The CP rock wall in action! A favorite of students in PE

What's Happening At CP?

CP Zoo?



No, we are just very fortunate to have some great learning opportunities for our students, with a little help from our furry and/or scaly four legged friends. [Left] Ms. Tucker invited Golden Retriever Watts, the therapy dog, to “read with students.” Reading in a non-pressured, calm environment has been shown to improve fluency. [Right] And joining Ms. Mallowney and Squirtle (our box turtle) is this albino bullfrog

(in a separate tank!). Kindergarteners learn about frogs as part of their science curriculum, so they will have a live specimen to observe and study



Princeton High School presents *The Little Mermaid!* In a magical kingdom beneath the sea, the beautiful young mermaid, Ariel, longs to leave her ocean home to live in the world above. Based on one of Hans Christian Andersen’s most beloved stories and the classic animated film, Disney’s *The Little Mermaid* will capture your heart. Performances are Thursday, March 30 at 4:30 PM, Friday, March 31 at 7:30 PM, and Saturday, April 1 at 7:30 PM at the PHS Performing Arts Center. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for students and seniors. Please call Mia Gargan at (609) 806-4270 for tickets and more information.



Sergeant Fred Williams of the Princeton Police Department visited CP fifth grade health classes to present a lesson on alcohol and drug awareness as part of the Safe Neighborhood program.

Remember to sign-up for the **Municipality of Princeton's Curbside Organic Program** by April 1st. Join or renew your membership by April 1st at the annual rate of \$65!

Compost turns organic material into a nutrient-rich soil amendment that reduces greenhouse gas emissions along the way. But what kitchen and household items contribute to this process? And what do you want to make sure to keep out of your compost bin?

COMPOST all food scraps (including the bones, peels, seeds, and shells), yard scraps, and old/soiled paper products.

RECYCLE plastic, glass, juice/beverage cartons, or new paper products.

check out the Curbside Organic Program web page for a more detailed list!

Taking Care of Business:

Some reminders for parents and students to help things go smoothly:

- Please visit our lost and found - it is now **OVERFLOWING** with coats, hats, boots, mittens, sweatshirts, etc. We will be donating lost and found items over Spring Break - please claim your child(ren)'s clothing by April 7.
- When dropping students off in the morning, please pull **ALL THE WAY** down the driveway. When cars stop right in front of the main entrance, traffic backs up onto Witherspoon Street, creating dangerous conditions for both drivers and pedestrians. Thank you for your help!
- Student must keep cell phones and any other electronic devices in their backpacks while in the school building. We ask that students please respect and follow this guideline, and to comply when they are asked by staff to put devices away. Again, thank you for reinforcing this with your child(ren).

PPS Elementary District Strings Concert

Thursday, April 27, 2017
Princeton High School PAC
(Performing Arts Center)
5:45 PM dress rehearsal
7:00 PM concert

The concert features string players in grades 3, 4 and 5.

Dear Parents,

On Saturday, April 1, the Princeton Education Foundation (PEF) will be holding its annual Spring Gala. This year's theme is Inspiring Minds. In keeping with that theme, I am delighted to share that PEF will be honoring PHS Social Studies teacher, Jeff Lucker, for his 48-year commitment to inspiring the students of Princeton to become young people who think critically about our world and truly strive to make a difference in it.

The Princeton Education Foundation is our district's "Engine of Innovation." With the funds raised at the annual gala, PEF is able to give students and teachers access to new programs and technology, make upgrades to school facilities, and provide additional supports to District initiatives. Grants from PEF foster our teachers' creative risk-taking, which brings new learning experiences into classrooms and grade levels. Grants also extend more broadly to support students in an entire school and throughout the district.

The projects funded by PEF are ones that would not otherwise be possible in the District's limited budget. PEF has awarded grants across all disciplines, including STEM, world languages, English, social studies, special education, and the arts. This year, PEF funded renovations and upgrades to the Learning Commons at both Community Park Elementary and Princeton High School, updated 6th and 7th grade classroom libraries, and provided critical funding for the new IDEAS wing at John Witherspoon Middle School. You can see a more detailed list of some of the amazing things our teachers did this year with the support of PEF grants.

I invite you to join me at the PEF Spring Gala for an evening of hors d'oeuvres, dinner, and a silent auction at the Boathouse at Mercer Lake. Musical accompaniment for the evening will be provided by our very own PHS Studio Band. If you would like to support PEF but are unable to attend the April 1 gala, I encourage you to participate in PEF's Online Auction, where you will be able to bid on one-of-a-kind items. The Online Auction will go live this Friday, March 24, at 1:00 pm.

To purchase tickets to the Gala, register to bid online, or to learn more about Gala Honoree Jeff Lucker, please visit the event site: <https://www.501auctions.com/pefnj>.

Thank you for supporting our district and our teachers as we endeavor to make learning exciting, engaging, and excellent for all students.

Sincerely,

Steve Cochrane