

Principal's Report for Peirce Elementary

Principal Lori Zaimi

September 24, 2015

School Leadership

- Principal meets weekly with the admin team which includes PYP and MYP coordinators, Counselor, Case Manager, BLT and Assistant Principal.
- Principal has worked with key staff to develop the following committees: PBIS, RTI, Centennial Planning & Social. In addition, the PYP Implementation team continues to operate from last year and is supporting the implementation of the IB programme. We are in the process of developing a MYP committee to work with Senn HS.
- Principal and Assistant Principal attended network admin professional development.
- Principal is attending several budget sessions as they relate to compliance and budget management.

Instructional Leadership: Improving Teaching and Learning

- Administrative team visits classrooms daily to observe instruction, getting a pulse of the school and a better understanding of where we are at in regards to IB instructional practices.
- Peirce teachers are hosting 4 student teachers in 1st, 2nd, 8th and Music right now with 4 others projected to begin over the course of the school year. In addition, we are hosting a group of 10 students from Loyola - the Loyola cohort observes classrooms and then has their college level class at Peirce in the fieldhouse. We have over 15 other pre-service University students who are completing observation hours in classrooms.
- PYP and MYP coordinators lead weekly Grade Level Meetings with a focus on school-wide goals (IB Implementation, PBIS, Growth Mindset).
- New teacher mentoring program continues, mentors and mentees meet regularly, mentees meet monthly with Dr. Terzian, who is coordinating the program.
- Beginning in October PYP teachers will have extended planning time in 3 hour increments to develop IB Units.
- Music Teacher Brooke Thompson is 1 of only 40 teachers district-wide who have been honored with receiving the final Oppenheimer Arts grants. Ms. Thompson has been selected due to the breadth and successful implementation of previous grants. Her grant will focus on the Centennial year

Student-Centered Learning Environment

- Peirce received \$35,000 in After School All Stars funding, programs will begin the week of October 12th. Fee based programs will begin the week of October 5th.
- PBIS Plan is in place, Peirce teachers are focusing on transitions, recognizing the good things students are doing - classrooms receive Panther Paws from any staff in the building and work towards a common celebration.

- Jillian Estanich, Katie Hopkins & Kim Lebovitz coordinated the International Day of Peace - students created a Peace Sign on the turf - see the elapsed time video on [facebook.com/peircecps](https://www.facebook.com/peircecps)
- Students receive 50 minutes of Lunch and Recess daily, both principal and assistant principal have observed transitions during this time and have made recommendations for improvement.
- Teachers have been encouraged to use brain breaks throughout the day to allow for additional movement.
- Students in 2nd-8th grade now enter the building at 7:55am, this change has made a much smoother transition to the school day and has gone exceptionally well.
- Student Council elections will take place on Friday, October 2nd.
- Peirce teachers and students are focusing on Growth Mindset - see Ted Talk by Eduardo Briceño as well as Carol Dweck's book titled "Mindset"
- Second Step is the curriculum we will continue to use this year for Social Emotional Learning.

Professional Development and Human Resource Management

- All PYP staff were trained in PYP during opening PD week, MYP teachers collaborated with Senn MYP teachers and will continue to meet regularly. In addition, our PD week focused on growth mindset, data and CIWP review, development of class websites, IEPs online, REACH teacher evaluation and PBIS.
- While dance teacher is on leave, Gus Giordano dance school will be teaching the dance classes, this position was difficult to staff as there were no dance teachers available to teach.
- Spanish teacher is on leave - Carolyn Serren who is a certified Spanish teacher was subbing in the classroom and was officially hired on September 23rd.
- 7th grade math teacher has been on a short term leave, Ms. Jing has been in the classroom since the first day of school, depending on the length of the leave a TAT (Temporary Assigned Teacher) may need to be hired.
- Principal has attended one budget training and has an additional 5 sessions to attend over the next month.

Parent Involvement and Community Partnerships

- Principal worked with [IPaintMyMind](http://IPaintMyMind.org) to bring their "Shared Walls" program to Peirce for the 2015-2016 school year. IPaintMyMind is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) arts organization that works to provide the virtual and physical spaces that enable public art awareness. Their Shared Walls™ is their hallmark arts program in which they transform spaces both for businesses and the public through temporary art exhibitions that focus on emerging & affordable artwork. Revenue from private exhibitions fund FREE exhibitions at parks, libraries, schools, and community centers. Hoping to have contemporary prints in place over the next couple of weeks.
- Peirce hosted Curriculum Night on Thursday, September 17th along with two IB Informational Sessions for parents.

- Teams of teachers are at the planning stages of STEAM Night, International Night, Fiesta de Arte and the Centennial celebration.
- Principal received \$12,500 from Heather Steans to support our Argument Centered Writing project with 6th-8th grade students.
- Friends of Peirce was able to raise \$16,885 after expenses from the Eggs for Kids benefit.
- The PSO is in the process of organizing Room Parents to support teachers as well as be a liaison between the PSO and Peirce families.
- Assistant Principal attended the CAPS Meeting and will continue to be in touch with local officials around safety and security in the Peirce boundaries. Principal will develop a Safety and Security committee.
- Like the official Peirce Facebook page at facebook.com/peircecps and follow us on Instagram at instagram.com/peircecps

School Management and Daily Operations

- New light posts are being installed on Bryn Mawr.
- Principal and Assistant Principal are visible before and after school on the school turf as well as visible during the school day, monitoring transitions.
- The glass on door 9 is broken, a board is currently covering the broken glass - school Engineer is in the process of having this fixed.
- Parapet wall above door 2 has been approved to be repaired, waiting on the work to begin.
- Principal and Assistant Principal are working to have a 24 hour turn around time when responding to parents and community emails.
- Principal met with Engineer, Facilities Manager and Aramark lead around snow removal plan.
- Air Conditioning is fixed and operating!
- One area of focus this year is around our communication plan - PSO has been extremely supportive of the work in maintaining school website, sending weekly emails and updating Facebook page. Administration will continue to send regular newsletters, robo calls and emails as needed. Teachers have developed classroom websites to also support parent-teacher communication.
- Principal had to re-allocate \$55,000 for substitute professional development bucket, funds were placed in the wrong bucket over the summer. Line 115-51320-290001 was reduced to \$0, \$55,000 moved into a pointer line 115-51330-290001 and then to a new budget line for correct use of sub money 115-51500-221234.
- Principal had to re-allocate funds for the website, funds were placed in the wrong budget line. Note that \$4200 was moved from 115-54125-241006 to 115-54125-241001
- Peirce's SBB funds were calculated based on 931 students, we are waiting on 10th day and 20th day adjustments to come through, based on those numbers we will either increase or decrease funds.
- Current Grade Level Numbers, 928 students in K-8 and 1,043 students in PK-8:

Pre-K	115
Kindergarten	112
1st Grade	111
2nd Grade	93
3rd Grade	121
4th Grade	128
5th Grade	99
6th Grade	80
7th Grade	99
8th Grade	85

Interpersonal Effectiveness

- Principal and Assistant Principal were available to greet families during Curriculum Night, PSO Back to School Picnic and before and after school.
- Principal maintains a virtual “Suggestion Box” on the school website, checks regularly and follows up with parents. This will be an opportunity for parents and community to provide additional input and help continuously improve Peirce.
- Principal ensures availability to work with parents, teachers, and students to discuss concerns and to collaboratively problem-solve when issues arise among stakeholders.
- Principal is highly visible during student lunch and recess, and visits multiple classrooms on a daily basis in order to form positive relationships with students and staff.
- Typical 24 hour turnaround time to meet with parents/respond to emails
- Weekly staff bulletin, parent and community newsletters are used to support communication from the administration.