

Good afternoon Parents,

In an on-going effort to communicate regularly, I will be sending bi-weekly briefings to keep parents informed. Please see the following information and reminders:

1. **Principal Coffee 2.27:** We had our third *Principal Coffee* for parents on Tuesday, February 28 from 6:00-7:00 pm at Saunders. Thank you to all who joined. I would love for any Saunders parent to join us in March for our next meeting.
2. **One Read:** This week Saunders will begin reading the book, *The Crossover* by Kwame Alexander. This school-wide literacy initiative invites students, teachers and families to enjoy reading a book together. *The Crossover* is a middle grade novel told in verse, about 7th grade twin basketball players who learn about life and the love of family. Your student will be reading this book together during homeroom for the month of March.
3. **American Heart Association Fundraiser:** I am excited to announce that our Physical Education Department helped Saunders raise \$406 last week for the American Heart Association! A check was written last Friday.
4. **Black History Month Performance:** During all six lunches last week, several student speakers and our step-team for putting on a beautiful presentation. Congratulations to Ms. Dixon for your efforts directing the presentation and to both our speakers and the Saunders Step-Team.
5. **Step Team:** Congratulations to our step team who were showcased by the county in a video in support of attendance every day!

Great job Ms. Dixon! To watch the video, click here: https://youtu.be/F-uSuS_oLVM

6. **Advanced Screening Technology:** As a part of an attempt to increase security across the division, PWCS is planning to purchase Advanced Screening Technology for school buildings for SY 2023-24. To inform parents and students, there will be a Zoom meeting on 3.2.23 @7:00 pm - Zoom Webinar (register in advance at the PWCS Website).
7. **Student Computer Care:** We are experiencing substantial damage to computers this year. Please stress with your child the importance of care for their device. Per division directive, students are required to pay \$430.00 when computers are broken or lost. Insurance on computers is available to parents for \$33.00 per year. Insurance covers accidental damages.
8. **Stuffed Animals and Blankets:** We are asking that students not walk the building carrying stuffed animals or wrapped in blankets. If your child brings these items to school, they need to be secured in their locker for the day.
9. **Energy Drinks and Selling Items @ School:** A number of students have been selling items at school to make a profit (primarily *Prime* and *Monster* drinks). I have told students via announcements that they are not to buy or sell items at school for personal profit. In addition, I have told students that they should not be drinking "energy drinks" at school. These drinks are intended for adults and have 4x the caffeine content of Coke. Please help us by talking about this with your student.

Upcoming Events at Saunders:

- 3.1 @ 5:15 pm - Wrestling vs. Manassas Park (home)
- 3.8 @ 5:15 pm - Girls Basketball vs. Beville (home)
- 3.13 @ 5:15 pm - Wrestling vs. Benton (home)
- 3.14 - 8th Grade Writing SOL (multiple choice)
- 3.16 - 8th Grade Writing SOL (short answer)
- March 20 - 28 - Book Fair
- 3.20 @ 5:15 pm - Girls Basketball vs. Hampton (home)
- 3.23 - Reading Field Test

Thank you for allowing us to partner in the education of your child. Please know we will give you our best efforts every day! Reach out if we can do anything for you!

Mr. Jeremy Byrd

Principal

Saunders Middle School

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