

The Bulldog Bulletin

Alden Primary School – September 2020



A Note from Mr. Stepnick

Dear Primary School Families,

Thank you for your patience and flexibility over these first few days of the 2020-2021 school year. It has been a busy summer of preparation and planning and we're excited to finally get things underway and see the children back in the building!

Whether this is your first experience at Alden Primary, or you are a returning family, we are honored that you have chosen to entrust us with your child's learning and care, especially during these trying times. The Alden community is a special place to be, and we are very grateful for the opportunity to work with your children!

Attached to each month's newsletter, you will find our building calendar as well as our school lunch menus. If at any time you misplace either of these documents, you can always find digital versions of the newsletter on the Primary School website: (www.aldenschools.org → Schools → Primary School → For Parents).

Attendance

During the Hybrid Model, teachers are still required to take daily attendance

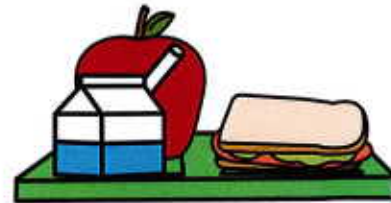


for ALL students. In order to make this work for our families at home, you should have received information about signing up for a classroom Remind group. Each day your child is working from home, teachers will send out a brief message to families. Please respond to this message as soon as possible (no later than 3:00 PM) to ensure that you child is marked "present" for the day. If you have any questions about Remind, or our attendance procedures, please contact your child's teacher.

Meals Service Program - 2020- 2021

Pursuant to section 2202(a) of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (P.L. 116-127), and in light of the exceptional circumstances of this public health emergency, the Food and Nutrition Service is extending nationwide support access to nutritious meals while minimizing potential exposure to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) through December 31, 2020; meals are available for ALL children up to the age of 18 at NO COST.

While there are no charges for breakfasts and lunches for all students grades K-12, students will be charged for any ala carte items, extra entrees, milk, ice cream, etc.



Students learning remotely 100% or on the remote hybrid blue and gold days will be able to pick-up meals at the front circle of the Alden HS between 9-10 a.m. The gold group will pick-up meals on Mon., the blue group will pick-up meals on Wed., and the 100% virtual learners can pick-up meals on both Mon./Wed.

To request meals, please call Anita Trautwein, food service director, at (716) 937-9116, ext. 4186, or email your request to atrautwein@aldenschools.org. You only need to sign-up once. Be sure to indicate any food allergies or restrictions. Upon ordering, you will receive your student's ID number, which must be brought with you to pick-up meals. Please also contact Mrs. Trautwein if pick-up time is an issue.

PTO Happenings

Please be on the lookout for fall fundraiser info coming home soon in your child's folder. We will be participating in a pizza fundraiser with Little Caesar's and will also be holding our fall Mum Sale. Our PTO plays an integral role in our students' school experience and your support with these fundraisers is much appreciated!

October 13th - 6:30 PM

PTO Meeting - Location TBD

Questions?

Please contact Mrs. Kristine Lewis, PTO President, at 716-913-5130 or aldenprimarypto@yahoo.com

Primary School Loop

Each day, we are attempting to revise and improve our arrival/dismissal processes for families that are dropping-off and picking up. Thank you for your help with this! Here are a few important reminders about our loop area:

- Please do not leave vehicles unattended once you enter the loop area (if you need to get out of your vehicle, please utilize the designated parking lots).
- In the afternoon, please pull forward as far as possible to allow more vehicles to enter the loop behind you.
- Please display temporary Pick-Up Passes in your passenger window. We will get permanent passes issued as soon as they arrive!
- If your child is not on our regular dismissal lists, but you need to pick up on a specific day, remember to send a note to the teacher in the morning or call the Main Office (937-9116, ext. 6191) by 12:00 PM.



Health Office Reminders

Please be sure to turn in all immunization and physical forms as soon as possible. We are required by state law to have these documents on file within the first two weeks of school. If possible, avoid sending these forms in with your child, and drop them off in person. This will help ensure things are not misplaced. Please call Mrs. Walters at 937-9116 ext. 6137 if you have any questions.



Hybrid Model: At-Home Learning

Expectations for our at-home learners will begin on Monday, September 14th (gold students). Blue students will begin these assignments on Thursday, September 17th. Due to the varying situations of our PS families, at-home assignments for our K-2 students should never exceed 120 minutes per day. Half of this time is computer-based (Lexia & IXL) and the rest will be teacher-assigned. A rough outline for K-2 students is provided below:

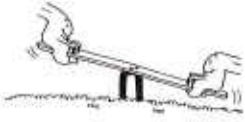
- 15-30 minutes of Lexia Core5 Reading practice (login information should have been sent home by teachers)
- 15-30 minutes of IXL Math practice - STUDENTS DO NOT HAVE LOGIN INFO FOR IXL YET - PLEASE LOOK FOR THIS NEXT WEEK!
- 45-60 minutes of teacher assigned activities: paper-pencil, independent work, interactive repetition/fluency activities, reading



Home & School CONNECTION[®]

Working Together for School Success

Alden Primary School
Mr. Michael Stepnick, Principal



SHORT NOTES

Exercise your brain

Your child's brain is like a muscle—the more he uses it, the stronger it will become. Suggest that he give his brain a workout with activities like using his nondominant hand to throw a ball or to color. Learning to speak a foreign language or play a musical instrument are also known brain boosters.

DID YOU KNOW?

Children who regularly eat meals with their families tend to do better in school

and avoid risky behavior. Eating dinner together is great, but other meals count, too. If you work at night, maybe you could make time for a family breakfast. Or on a weekend, try a picnic lunch.

Celebrate progress

Suggest that your youngster create a fun reminder of all the things she has accomplished. Let her cover a box with construction paper and label it "I did it!" Then, she can write each success ("I learned to add fractions") on a slip of paper and put it in the box. If she's feeling discouraged, have her read the slips.

Worth quoting

"The best way to cheer yourself up is to try to cheer somebody else up!"

Mark Twain

JUST FOR FUN

Q: Can a kangaroo jump higher than the Empire State Building?

A: Of course. The Empire State Building can't jump!



Conversations about school

When you think of parent involvement, do you picture moms and dads volunteering in classrooms? That's one way to help—but research shows that supporting your child's education at home is even more important. Here are conversation starters that will help you stay involved.

"Let's see what you worked on today!"

Look at completed work to find out what your youngster is learning and how well she's doing. You could comment on her math work or social studies project, for instance. ("You know a lot about our state's history!") Also, respond to notes from her teacher, and sign her weekly folder or daily planner if required.

"Show me what you have for homework."

It's your child's job to do her homework, but you play a role, too. Make sure she knows what she's supposed to do by having her explain the assignments to you. After she finishes her homework, glance over the work to see that it's complete.

"Describe a book you enjoyed today!"

This gives you an idea of what your youngster prefers to read. Then, build a daily reading habit by asking what she'd like to read tonight. Encourage her reading and listening skills by reading aloud to her and letting her read to you.

"Tell me what you learned that you'd like to know more about."

Use her interests as jumping-off points for activities to share. If she likes geometry, you might hunt for

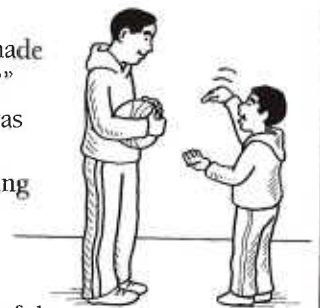


shapes together. If she's fascinated by how animals adapt to winter, read a book or observe animals outside.♥

After-school questions

Asking "How was school today?" might not get you far. Instead, ask questions like these for a better picture of your youngster's day:

- "What's the coolest thing that happened today?"
- "Pretend you're the teacher. How would you describe the day?"
- "What made you laugh?"
- "What was the most creative thing you did?"
- "How were you kind or helpful today? How was someone kind or helpful to you?" ♥



What does respect look like?

Your youngster's daily dealings with adults and kids alike will be more pleasant if he speaks and acts respectfully. Try these tips for helping him learn about respect.

Respectful replies. Think about something that you and your youngster disagree on (say, whether his video game time should be limited). Model having a respectful discussion about it. You might say that his brain and body are growing and that he needs to run and play to stay healthy. Then, suggest a respectful response, such as, "I



want to be healthy, but I love video games." Have him brainstorm other situations where people have different opinions but still speak to each other with respect.

Everyday acts. When you mow the lawn or clean up after your dog, you can teach your child about respect for neighbors. Explain that keeping your

neighborhood clean and neat makes it nice for everyone. Ask him to think of other respectful things neighbors should do. If you share an apartment laundry room, he might say that you respect neighbors' time by removing your clothes when they're done so others get to use the washers and dryers.♥

A reading challenge

By reading more complex books, your child can learn new words, facts, and ideas. He'll also be exposed to more complicated plots and will grow as a reader. Share these suggestions:

- Knowing something about the topic or setting makes a tougher book easier to comprehend. If your youngster is reading a novel set in France, he could talk to someone who has been there or look up the country online (try a children's site like kids.nationalgeographic.com).



- Encourage your child to look at a simpler book on the same subject. A picture-book biography about Harriet Tubman may help your youngster better understand a textbook chapter on the civil rights movement, for instance.
- Suggest that your child read complicated material with pencil and paper in hand. He can jot down questions, words to look up, or facts he wants to learn more about.♥

OUR PURPOSE

To provide busy parents with practical ideas that promote school success, parent involvement, and more effective parenting.

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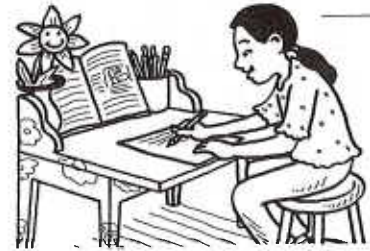
Strong study habits

Q: My third grader has to spend more time studying this year. How can I make sure she studies effectively?

A: Set your daughter up for success by helping her find a distraction-free study spot. Also, have her come up with a study routine. For instance, she could reserve time each evening to review her textbook and notes in the days leading up to a test.

Also, many students find it helpful to jot down a purpose each time they study. Your child might write: "I will learn the definitions of all the boldfaced words in chapter 7, section 1."

Finally, encourage her to experiment with study strategies to find what works best. She could close her eyes and imagine how a word is spelled or draw a grid with 9 squares to solve 3 x 3. Or she might find it helpful to spell or recite math facts aloud in rhythm or to a familiar tune.♥



How to be careful online

With my daughter using the internet more for schoolwork, I was concerned she would wander to unsafe sites. We set up parental controls as her teacher recommended, and I try to stay nearby when she's on the computer.

But my older sister reminded me that while supervision is important, Sophie needs to learn safe habits to use on her own. So I explained to

Sophie that real-life safety rules apply online.

For instance, she shouldn't talk to strangers or go places she's not allowed. Before visiting a new site, she has to check with me so I can make sure it's appropriate. And just as in real life, she needs to tell me right away if a stranger tries to contact her or if she sees something confusing or upsetting.

I feel better that Sophie has ground rules, and I am going to keep this conversation going.♥



News and Notes:

*Use this monthly calendar to stay up-to-date on our monthly activities!



*If you are experiencing financial difficulty regarding school supplies, please contact your child's teacher or Mrs. Vogl (ext. 6151) for additional information/support.



*While the weather is still nice, please ensure that students have proper footwear for the playground each day (sneakers) and a sweatshirt/jacket if it is chilly.



September

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	1	2	3	4	5
7	8	9	10	11	12
14 Gold - 1 st Day of Home Learning	15	16	17 Blue - 1 st Day of Home Learning BOE Mtg. 7:00 PM	18  <u>Spirit Day</u> Wear your Buffalo Bills red, white, & blue!	19
21  <u>Spirit Day</u> Wear your Buffalo Bills red, white, & blue!	22	23	24	25	26
28	29	30	<div data-bbox="977 1625 1295 1831" data-label="Text"> <p>Mum orders due by Sept. 20th!</p>  </div>		



September ALDEN PRIMARY SCHOOL LUNCH MENU

2020

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
7 Labor Day No School	1 Hot Dog On Soft Bun Potato Smiles Baked Beans Apple Sauce Milk Variety	2 Chicken Patty Lettuce & Tomato Steamed Corn Assorted Fresh Fruit Milk Variety Sippy Cup Ice cream	3 Superintendents Conference Day No School	4 Holiday
14 Popcorn Chicken Tater Tots Multigrain Dinner Roll Broccoli Chilled Peaches Milk Variety	8 Cheeseburger on Bun Lettuce & Tomato French Fries Green Beans Applesauce Milk Variety	9 -Brunch Lunch- French Toast Sticks Sausage Link Hashbrown Pattie Applesauce Milk Variety Sippy Cup Ice cream	10 Spaghetti With Meat Sauce Bread Stick Tossed Salad Diced Peas Milk Variety	11 Grilled Cheese Sandwich Tomato Soup Potato Chips Carrot Sticks Celery Sticks FROZEN FRUIT SORBET CUP Milk Variety
21 Chicken Tenders Multigrain Dinner Roll Brown Rice Pilaf Broccoli Mandarin Oranges Milk Variety	15 Stuffed Crust Pizza Tossed Salad Potato Smiles Mixed Fruit Cup Milk Variety	16 Hot Dog On Soft Bun Potato Smiles Baked Beans Apple Sauce Milk Variety	17 Taco in a bag Seasoned Rice Lettuce & Tomato Steamed Corn Salsa Fruit Churro Milk Variety	18 Macaroni And Cheese Casserole Broccoli Florets Fresh Fruit Cup Multigrain Dinner Roll Milk Variety
28 Chicken Nuggets Mashed Potato Multigrain Dinner Roll Broccoli Mandarin Oranges Milk Variety	22 Hamburger On A Bun Lettuce & Tomato French Fries Green Beans Mixed Fruit Milk Variety	23 -Brunch Lunch- French Toast Sticks Sausage Link Hashbrown Pattie Applesauce Milk Variety Sippy Cup Ice cream	24 Spaghetti With Meat Sauce Bread Stick Tossed Salad Diced Peas Milk Variety	25 Chicken Patty Lettuce & Tomato Mashed Potato Steamed Corn Mixed Fruit Milk Variety
	29  Corn Dog Potato Smiles Baked Beans Mixed Fruit Cup Milk Variety	30 Ham Submarine Sandwich Lettuce & Tomato Potato Chips Fresh Watermelon Milk Variety Sippy Cup Ice cream	This institution is an equal opportunity provider.	

ALA CARTE
Sliced Pizza
Ham, Turkey, Tuna
Sub
Tossed Salad Bowl
Fruit and Yogurt
Parfait
Milk Cost \$.50
Ice Cream \$.50
WED ONLY
Water Small \$.50
Large Water \$1.00
Lunch Cost K-5
\$2.05 6-12 \$2.40
Pre Pay is
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BUCKS
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for more
information