

Principal's Notes

Week of 11/26/18

Dear Pond Cove Families,

I am hopeful that each of you had an enjoyable holiday break. What a wonderful opportunity to spend time with family and friends and to recharge our batteries. Although the December break will come quickly, the next twenty school days hold great value and will be full of opportunities for your child to learn and grow at Pond Cove.

The winter season has arrived quite early this year and caught many of us off guard. As a parent, I usually rely on a more gradual change in temperatures and conditions in order to ensure my own children have proper outdoor clothing that fits them. I found this to be more challenging this year due to the recent quick change over.

Please see the Pond Cove Winter Weather Recess Guidelines below. Last year we found these guidelines to be very helpful in determining if recess should be held on the playground or indoors. However, we will keep students inside if there are any doubts that conditions are not safe on the playground. These guidelines can also be found in the Pond Cove Student and Family Handbook.

WINTER WEATHER RECESS GUIDELINES

Currently, there are no national or professional standards that preclude sending children outdoors for recess. Decisions for indoor recess are made within each district by the school administrative team and health services.

At Pond Cove, decisions for outdoor winter recess are based upon temperature, wind chill factor, the condition of the outdoor play surfaces, and student clothing.

The teaching staff at Pond Cove recognizes the importance of recess as an integral part of a student's day at school. Research has proven that play and exercise during the school day helps students to focus better on their school work. If students are unable to access the outdoors, teachers incorporate movement into their indoor recess time.

When deciding on outdoor recess, Pond Cove staff refer to: Weather.com to check the actual temperature and the "feels-like" temperature with wind chill.

In an effort to keep all of the children at Pond Cove safe, students remain indoors when "feels-like temperatures" with wind chills are below 0 degrees Fahrenheit.

It is important that students are prepared for the outdoor temperatures. This includes wearing snow pants, coats, hats, gloves/mittens, and boots.

Young children lose heat more rapidly than older children because of their size. Younger children are also less likely to recognize danger signs of cold exposure. When children are exposed to cold temperatures for an extended amount of time or are not properly dressed and have wet clothing, they are more likely to develop frostbite and hypothermia.

Recess during the winter months can be great fun for students if they are dressed appropriately. Thank you for partnering with us.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me with any questions you may have. Thank you for your support.

Jason Manjourides, Principal



Please see the [Link: Pond Cove Student & Family Handbook 2018-2019](#) for helpful information.

Please note the Professional Development Early Release Wednesdays below.

Pond Cove students will be dismissed at 1:50 p.m. on:

12/5, 12/19, 1/9, 1/23, 2/6, 3/6, 4/3, 5/1, 5/15, 6/5

Important Dates

Coder Express Family Night: 12/6 (Grades K-1: 5:30-6:30/Grades 2-4: 6:30-7:30)

Holiday Break/No School: 12/24 - 1/1

Martin Luther King Jr. Day/No School: 1/21

Parents Have Access to Winter Report Cards Via PowerSchool: 1/25

School Cancellation Day Tracker

Number of School Cancellation Days to Date: **2 Days**

Last Day For Students if No Other Cancellation Days: **June 14 (12:05 Dismissal)**

Office Contact Information

Phone: (207) 799-7339

Jason Manjourides, Principal: jmanjourides@capeelizabetschools.org

Sarah Forrey-Pettit, Assistant Principal: sforreypettit@capeelizabetschools.org

Barbara McLean, Administrative Assistant: bmclean@capeelizabetschools.org

Sarah Choi, Administrative Assistant: schoi@capeelizabetschools.org

General office email: pcoffice@capeelizabetschools.org