

Pacific Spirit “CHEAT SHEET” for New Families.

Welcome to our community! We are thrilled to have you aboard. Below are some quick facts and insider’s tips to help you get to know how things work in the land of Pacific Spirit.

FUN STUFF

Tea ceremony

Every Thursday at 3:30pm we all gather to enjoy a tea ceremony. We sit in a circle around an offering of tea and snacks and each person is given the opportunity to say something they are grateful for. Then kids and adults volunteer to hand out the snacks and tea. We don’t eat until everyone is served and the “grateful song” has been sung.

Families all take turns “hosting” this event in pairs (see the tea list for your date). We usually make 2 kinds of tea (kettles, teapots and teabags can be found in the kitchen along with teacups) and about 5 platters of food (i.e. veggies, fruit, cheese and other healthy snacks all prepared in single sized servings). When you are “on tea” you should connect ahead of time with the family you are partnered with to determine what food items each of you will bring. In order to be ready for 3:30, you should plan to arrive at the school by 2:30. *Please remember that we are a peanut free school!*

Celebrations and after school activities

The 2 main celebrations we have every year are Winter Solstice and Year End/Summer Solstice. These are evening gatherings and are both potlucks (in a similar fashion to the one we have the first week of school).

Along with these there are various other events throughout the year such as School plays, Science Fair and various theme presentations (to coincide with subjects the students are studying). You will be kept up to date with these events in the weekly email messages.

Parent Jobs

As with any successful family, we all pitch in to keep things running smoothly.

Each family signs up for one job per student enrolled. Please read the job list and let Ingrid know which jobs interest you.

Camping Trip

Toward the end of the year we all go on a fun camping trip. The elder children usually go mid week and are joined by the younger children and all families later in the week or on the weekend. We will be planning this year’s trip throughout the year and discussing details and ideas at the Parent meetings (see below).

Field Trips

There are lots of exciting field trips at Pacific Spirit such as the bird sanctuary, snow play at Cypress Mountain and the salmon hatchery. Parent drivers are always needed to make field trips possible, so please volunteer if you can. Remember to leave a booster seat for your child on the day of the field trip. Consent forms must also be signed in advance of the departure date/time. You will get reminder emails regarding field trips as they arise.

STUFF TO KNOW

Clothing

Please leave the following at school: Rain coat, rain boots and rain pants
A complete spare outfit
Gym shoes (indoor use only)

Lunches & Snacks

We are a peanut free school!

Pack lots of food for your child. Enough to cover morning snack, lunch and afternoon snack. It's a good idea to keep some non-perishable extra snacks in your child's cubby for days when they plow through their lunch early and are still hungry by afternoon. As a general rule, kids are not permitted to share their lunch or trade lunch items with others.

Outdoor Areas

We try to incorporate outdoor time into every day. Some of the outdoor areas we spend time in are:

The PSS playground

The "Big U"

The Secret Garden

The Bamboo Forest

Trimble Park

Jericho Park

If you aren't familiar with these areas, please ask an educator or other parent to show you.

MORE STUFF TO KNOW (almost done!)

Meetings

Parent Meetings will be coordinated by the Parent Advisory Council (PAC). Topics discussed at the meetings are those that are of interest to the parents and/or relate to events that are coordinated by the parents. You will be emailed times and dates of upcoming meetings as they are scheduled. All parents are encouraged to attend. Please feel free to ask lots of questions as you familiarize yourself with the ins and outs of Pacific Spirit.

Resource Educators

Our kids get the opportunity to learn a variety of special subjects throughout the year such as Art, Drama, French and Music. These subjects are taught by wonderful individuals who come to us on a semi regular basis to share their gifts with our children. These classes will start in October.

Year End Clean Up

During the last week of school, each family will be asked to sign up for a clean up duty. More information on this will be provided toward the end of the school year.