

PAS WEEKLY

pennalexander.philasd.org | Mr. Farrell, Principal | 215-400-7760

Upcoming Events:

Home & School Association (HSA) Meeting

Mon., Sept. 17th 8:45AM & 6PM

Yom Kippur, School Closed

Wednesday, September 19th

International Peace Day

Friday, September 21st

Pretzel Friday (\$1) & Dress Down Day (\$1)

Friday, September 21st

School Advisory Council (SAC) September Meeting

Thursday, September 27th,
3:30-4:45PM

Interim Reports (Grades 4-8)

Monday, October 1st

Winter Coat Drive Begins

Monday, October 1st

High School Info Night (8th Grade Families)

Tuesday, October 2nd, 6-7PM

Noon Dismissal

Friday, October 5th

Fall Festival

Thursday, October 11th

e-Pony & Paper Pony Opt-Out

All families who create a PAS MySchool Anywhere account will automatically receive an email the first day of the week with a link to access our weekly Pony materials.

Your family can choose **NOT** to receive our paper Pony materials each week, by **OPTING-OUT** using the the link below. PAS will continue to send home paper copies of forms/slips that need to be returned.



<https://tinyurl.com/PonyOptOut>



Interested in volunteering at PAS?

Check out the MySchool Anywhere Application, and click on **“Sign-Ups”** to volunteer. Currently sign-ups are available to support with the Lunchroom, upcoming Pretzel Fridays, picture day, Fall Festival and Middle School trips.



65% of Students Signed Up! Are you?

To date 65% of our families have created an account on the PAS MySchool Anywhere Application. Access our calendar, family online directory, and volunteer sign-ups.

Register: join.myschoolanywhere.com

Invitation Code: sadiesadie

FALL FESTIVAL

Our annual Fall Festival is just a few weeks away, on Thursday, October 11th 4-6PM. Face painting, sweet treats, arts & crafts, games galore, moon bouncing, and more! **We need volunteers to help support the event.** If you are interested in volunteering, please sign-up through the MySchool Anywhere application.



Our annual Winter Coat drive will begin on Monday, October 1st. We will be accepting winter coats, hats, and gloves!



Follow us on twitter:

@PrincipalPAS

@PennAlexander

SCHOOL SAFETY: A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

Keeping the children at Penn Alexander safe is our number one priority. We appreciate our families following our school procedure of entering our building through the main entrance, coming directly to the main office, and signing-in.

In accordance with School District and the City of Philadelphia, PAS has a number of safety drills through out the year to ensure our staff and students are prepared in the event a situation arises and we need to respond.

Fire Drills- On a monthly basis, as required by law, we hold fire drills. To date, we have held two successful drills that helped students practice leaving the building quickly and quietly.

Lockdown Drill- A lockdown drill is required when there is an intruder in the building, a hostage situation, an armed offender, and/or other life-threatening or unsafe situations. When a lockdown announcement is made, all school entry points are locked, and no one is permitted entry into or out of the building. Staff usher all students to classrooms, and lock doors. Our community will practice a lockdown procedure within the next two weeks.

Shelter-In Place Drill- A shelter-in-place drill helps prepare our community when conditions inside are more favorable than outside the building. It is generally used when a chemical release is occurring near the school, or when the school is made aware of an unsafe situation near school grounds. Staff usher students to designated location in the school building away from doors and windows. Our community will practice a lockdown procedure within the next two weeks.

Our teachers and staff carefully review these procedures with students in advance of a drill in preparation to ensure our community is equipped to respond if necessary.

September 2018

Dear Parents:

Welcome to another great year at Penn Alexander! PAS is a community of engaged families, teachers, and administrators who all strive to give our children the best education possible — one that has earned our school a prestigious National Blue Ribbon award and recognition as the Philadelphia School District's highest-performing K-8 School.

The Home and School Association of Penn Alexander School is an important partner with the school. *The HSA is made up of you* - the hard-working parents and caregivers who support the school through fundraising and volunteerism. Our goal is to help maintain an exceptional neighborhood school that provides the best possible learning environment for our children.

What the HSA does:

- Raises money for school programming — including the school's full-time art teacher, Mrs. Durant, and after-school clubs
- Promotes school spirit and community involvement through special events, such as the Ice Cream Social, Bingo Night, and the 5K Run for Art & Science
- Supports teachers and staff by helping meet classroom needs (reimbursing them for classroom supplies they buy out-of-pocket) and recognizing accomplishments
- Helps keep parents informed of school activities and news
- Secures volunteers for key school activities such as class trips, school events, and more

We can provide this support in part because of donations from you. **Our goal for this school year is to raise \$150,000, with 100% of Penn Alexander families contributing.** In order to maintain the current level of programming and to meet our fundraising commitments, we are asking for **\$100 per student**. **We ask all families to give what they can**, understanding that not everyone is able to give at all times. In past years, individual donations have ranged from \$10 to \$6,000. Every donation of time and money counts, including the support PAS gets from you — our dedicated families — along with local businesses and organizations, relatives, alumni, and neighbors.

Please **return the pledge form (on the reverse side of this letter)** with a check or donate online at www.pennalexander.org.

Thank you for your commitment to maintaining a **high-quality, sought-after neighborhood public school** that reflects the diversity of the city. We look forward to another terrific year for the students!

The 2018–19 HSA Board

Leila Graham-Willis, President

Karla Thut, VP of the Upper School

Rotonya Carr, Co-VP of the Lower School

Hannah Sassaman, Co-VP of the Lower School

Elizabeth Johnson, Secretary

Roseann Liu, Treasurer

Gina Bittner, Media Manager

Angela Curry, Volunteer Coordinator

Jim Dugan, Room Parent Coordinator



2018 - 2019 Family Giving

Donations to the Home & School Association support academic and extracurricular programs at Penn Alexander.

Where did my dollars go last year?

- **Enrichment:** Full-time art teacher * After-school programs * Music education
- **Teacher Support:** Books and supplies * Staff appreciation * Professional development
- **Building Community:** Equity Circle * Ice cream social * BINGO night * Fall Festival
- **Facilities:** Gardening * Playground repair * School grounds renovation

Suggested Donation: \$100 per student

Goal: Participation from 100% of Penn Alexander families. We are grateful for any donation. **All amounts are welcome.** We ask for 100% participation from PAS families to show our support and commitment to our school, teachers, administrators, staff, and our children.

My donation:

☐ \$10☐ \$50☐ \$100 (suggested per student)☐ \$25☐ \$75☐ \$500☐ Other \$ _____

Ways to Give:

- **Check:** Enclose a check with this form (please make checks payable to "PAS HSA") and return in your child's PONY
- **Cash:** Enclose cash with this form and return in your child's PONY
- **Online:** Donate online at <https://www.pennalexanderschool.org/>
- **Other online options:** *PayPal* (Penn Alexander Home and School Association); *Venmo* (@PennAlexanderHSA)
- **Stock transfer:** Please contact Roseanne Liu (hsatreasurerpas@gmail.com) for more information

Contact Info:

My name: _____ My email: _____

My Student(s):

Name: _____

Room Number: _____

Name: _____

Room Number: _____

Name: _____

Room Number: _____

VOLUNTEER!

Calling all volunteers! Please get involved. Penn Alexander relies on the time, effort, and talents of our families. Whether you can serve on a committee, volunteer at an event, serve as a room parent, donate a skill or talent, or help out during lunch or recess, we want you and we need you!

_____ Yes, I would like to be contacted by the HSA Volunteer Coordinator to learn more about how I can help.

THANK YOU!

PAS Fall Festival Tickets

Don't Miss Out - Get Your Tickets Today!



**Two Hours of Carnival Games, Arts & Crafts,
Face-Painting, Balloon Animals, Obstacle Courses,
Food, Baked Goods**

October 11, 2018, 4:00-6:00pm @ PAS

Tickets are 25 cents apiece (a bundle of 40 tickets is \$10)**

****For each advance purchase of 40 tickets (\$10), you receive 10 free tickets!**

You can order tickets or buy them at the festival – free tix if you prepay!!

----Please return this form with your payment by October 4----

(pay by cash, check or credit card)

Student's name _____ Student's teacher/room# _____

_____ at 25 cents per ticket/4 for \$1.00..... \$ _____

_____ bundles of tickets at \$10 for 40 tickets..... \$ _____

Total amount enclosed \$ _____

Name on credit card (Visa/Mastercard only) _____

Card # _____ Sec. Code _____ Exp Date _____

Address _____ Zip _____

I give permission for the PAS HSA to charge my credit card for the total amount listed above.

Signature of card holder _____

Tickets will be delivered to your child's classroom **the day of the festival.**

ALL K-4 STUDENTS MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT



PAS FALL FESTIVAL

Thursday, October 11, 4:00 – 6:00

I can help by donating the following (check all that apply):

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Caramel Apples | <input type="checkbox"/> Baked goods – NO NUTS
(please list ingredients) | <input type="checkbox"/> Paper products
(plates, napkins, baggies) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Case of Juice Boxes | <input type="checkbox"/> Case of small waters | |

I can **contribute** _____ to help pay for prizes, hot dogs and other goodies for the Fall Festival (please enclose cash or check payable to HSA).

Please deliver your donation or contribution to the Main Office by October 8.

Parent Name _____

Student's Name and Teacher/Room # _____

Email _____ Phone _____

(we'll email you a reminder!)

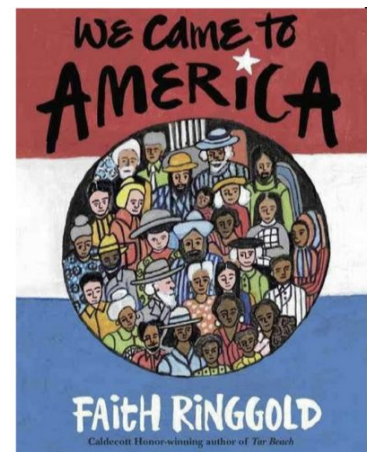
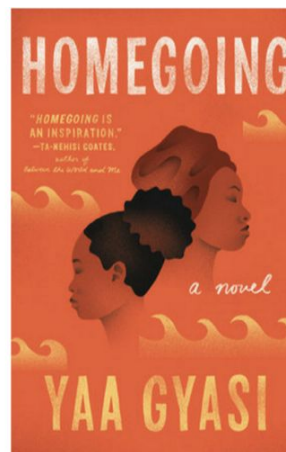
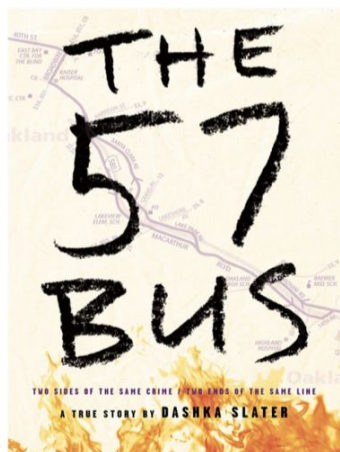
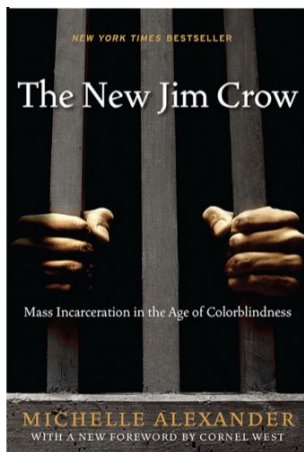
Thank You!

PAS Equity Circle

Fall Potluck Dinner Book Discussions

The Penn Alexander Equity Circle shares values, stories, and truths, taking concrete action to build a strong, inclusive community that welcomes and supports all families, all religions, all gender and sexual identities, all abilities, all cultural and economic backgrounds.

Last June, the PAS Equity Circle invited the community to read one of the following books in preparation for our second year of hosting Potluck Dinner Book Discussions- **Homegoing, The New Jim Crow, Bus 57, We Came to America**. In addition to our book discussions, the Equity Circle is planning events and initiatives for the upcoming year. If you are interested, please sign-up using the link below or return this form.



<https://tinyurl.com/EquityCircle1819>

Name _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Fall Book Discussions & Potluck Dinners

- _____ I have read/will read one of the books above and am interested in participating in one of the Fall Book Discussions/Potlucks.
- _____ I am available to host Book Discussion/Potluck Dinner at my house.

18-19 Equity Circle Involvement

- _____ I want be part of the Equity Circle Planning Group, including all planning emails/communication.
- _____ Keep me updated on Equity Circle programs and events throughout the year.

JOIN US AT OUR SAC MEETING!

Penn Alexander School Advisory Council (SAC)

Thursday, September 27, 2018 3:30-4:45PM

PAS Library

The Penn Alexander School Advisory Council (SAC) is comprised of peer-elected stakeholders including parents, staff and community members. The SAC is a forum for discussion and collaboration with the PAS administration on school-based decision making with a focus on student achievement and school improvement.

COME SHARE YOUR VOICE!

The SAC meetings are public meetings that are open to all families and community members. The first thirty minutes of each meeting is reserved for family or community members to address the SAC in a public forum, each speaker will be given three minutes to speak. If you wish to speak at a SAC meeting, please email SAC Chairperson, Jessica McCollum at tjmccollum@gmail.com by 3:30PM on the day before the meeting. If you are not able to attend, you can submit a public testimony that will be shared with all SAC members.

To learn more about Penn Alexander's SAC and review a list of SAC members, please visit our SAC website-pennalexander.philasd.org/school-advisory-council/

September Meeting Agenda

Thursday, September 27, 2018, 3:30-4:45PM

	Agenda Item	Time Estimate
1	Open Forum (sign-up required in advance)	30 minutes
2	Approval of minutes from May 2018 SAC Meeting	5 minutes
3	Voting of Officers (Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary)	5 minutes
4	SAC 18-19 Norms/ Review of Bylaws	10 minutes
5	Principal Report/ Onward & Outward 2021 Strategic Plan Update	15 minutes
6	Discussion of October Meeting Agenda	5 minutes
7	Meeting Schedule October-December	5 minutes

Penn Alexander School, Fall 2018

Club Offerings (October 9th-November 17th)



Penn Alexander is excited to launch our Fall 2018 Clubs Cycle. Please review the list of clubs below. If you are interested in signing-up your child, please be sure to return the form by **Thursday, September 28th**. If there are more registrants than space, a lottery will be conducted on **Friday, September 29th**. All families will receive information in the pony on **Monday, October 2nd** sharing if your child has been enrolled in a Fall Club. Only forms received by 3PM on Thursday, September 28th will be entered into the lottery.

Clubs will begin the week of October 9th and run through November 17th. There are some exceptions, all noted below in club descriptions. Clubs begin after school at 3:30PM and end at 4:30PM, unless otherwise noted. All students will be dismissed from the atrium.

In addition, this year, in conjunction with the School District of Philadelphia, we will be offering a snack/meal option for students who sign-up. Please be sure to complete the form below if you are interested in this option for your child.

Club Name	Grades	Days	Description
Kidconstruction	K	Monday	Through free exploration of a variety of building materials and through guided building challenges, students will improve their fine motor skills, strengthen their concentration, enhance their cooperative communication skills, and quite possibly have a lot of fun!
Book Club Storytime	K-2	Monday	Here is a chance for you to come and listen to a great book, and then participate in an activity!
Art Club	K-2	Tuesday	Love your art class this year? Love creating art masterpieces? Come join this club and have fun making a project each week.
Homework Club	1-3	M-Wed	Students will have an opportunity to use the resources of the library to complete homework assignments and special projects. One or more teachers will be on hand to assist students.
STEM Club	2-3	Tuesday	STEM Club is a chance for students to work on inquiry-based Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) related activities each week.
Soccer	2-4	Monday	Students will be instructed in the rules of Soccer, learn basic skills, and have fun. No experience necessary.
Board Games Club	2-4	Monday	Students will learn new and old games as they compete with classmates and work in teams.
Scrabble Club	3-5	Monday	Scrabble teaches the essential building blocks of literacy and mathematics. Students will learn the basic rules of scrabble, and play in tournament style competition in the classroom.
Volleyball Club	3-5	Thursday	Come and learn the fundamentals of volleyball!

Penn Alexander School, Fall 2018

Club Offerings (October 9th-November 17th)

Odyssey of the Mind	4	Wednesday	Join Penn Alexander's inaugural Odyssey of the Mind team! Odyssey is an international educational program that provides creative problem-solving opportunities. Team members apply their creativity to solve problems that range from building mechanical devices to presenting their own interpretation of literary classics. OM is an opportunity for kids to have a lot of fun while improving their creativity, curiosity, and teamwork skills.
Girls Who Code	3-5	Monday	Students in grades 5 through 8 will learn to use computer science to solve a problem relevant to their school and community. This club is for the novice and advanced students.
Boys Who Code	3-5	Wednesday	Students in grades 5 through 8 will learn to use computer science to solve a problem relevant to their school and community. This club is for the novice and advanced students.
Math 24 Club	4-8	Monday	Math "24" is a fast paced, problem solving/computation competition where students race to see who can correctly combine four numbers to get a solution of 24. Sound easy? You may be surprised how challenging it is!
Homework Club	4-8	Mon-Wed	Students will have an opportunity to use the resources of the library to complete homework assignments and special projects. One or more teachers will be on hand to assist students.
Spelling Club	5-8	Wednesday	Students in grades 5-8 are invited to study words, learn prefixes and suffixes, and participate in group spelling bees.
Vetri	5	Mondays	5th graders have an opportunity to participate in the program that focuses on cooking, nutrition, and food education featuring STEM core concepts. Promise to be a delicious experience! Note the Vetri Cooking Club will run longer than the regular Fall Club Cycle. The program will end on December 17th and will run from 3:00-5:00PM.
Flag Football	5-8	Tue & Wed	5th-8th grade students will be instructed in the rules of Flag Football and play scrimmages. No experience necessary.
Debate	5-8	Tuesday	Debate is a chance for students to explore important real-world issues while building the critical reading, writing, thinking, and public speaking skills. In addition to learning new skills, students will have an opportunity to compete against other middle level students across the city.
WHYY	6-8	Tuesday	The WHYY Media Club will meet weekly to learn about the technical aspects of journalism and documentary filmmaking.
Movie Club	6-8	Thursday	When Neo from The Matrix chooses to swallow the red pill to discover he has been living in a computer simulation his whole life, did he make the right choice -- or should he have chosen to remain in the simulation, ignorant but happy? When Bruce Banner (The Incredible Hulk) transforms into a raging green monster, is he responsible for the damage he causes, even though his rage is a result of being biologically altered? Why do we get so emotionally involved in movies? In this club, we'll watch short segments of movies -- new and old, from close to home and from far away -- and talk about what makes the movies interesting, thought-provoking and just plain fun.

Penn Alexander School, Fall 2018

Club Offerings (October 9th-November 17th)



REGISTRATION FORM

Student Name _____ Grade/ Rm /Teacher _____

Parent/Caregiver Signature _____ Date _____

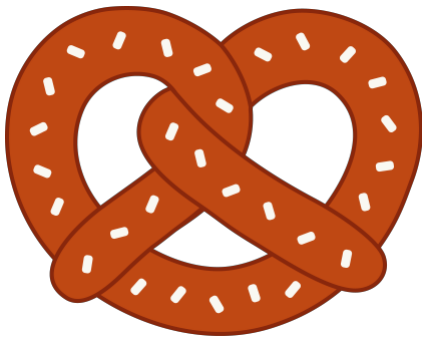
Phone Number (You can be reached at during the club time) _____

Check The Box	Club Name	Grade(s)	Day of Week		Check The Box	Club Name	Grade(s)	Day of Week
	Kidconstruction	K	Monday			Girls Who Code	3-5	Monday
	Book Club Storytime	K-2	Monday			Boys Who Code	3-5	Wednesday
	Art Club	K-2	Tuesday			Math 24 Club	4-8	Monday
	Homework Club	1-3	Monday			Homework Club	4-8	Monday
	Homework Club	1-3	Tuesday			Homework Club	4-8	Tuesday
	Homework Club	1-3	Wednesday			Homework Club	4-8	Wednesday
	STEM Club	2-3	Tuesday			Spelling Club	5-8	Wednesday
	Soccer	2-4	Monday			Vetri	5	Mondays
	Board Games	2-4	Monday			Flag Football	5-8	Tue & Wed
	Scrabble Club	3-5	Monday			Debate	5-8	Tuesday
	Volleyball Club	3-5	Thursday			WHYY	6-8	Tuesday
	Odyssey of the Mind	4	Wednesday			Movie Club	6-8	Thursday

Check items below that apply to your child:

- _____ My child can walk home after club (grades 4-8 only).
- _____ I will pick up my child in the atrium at 4:30PM.
- _____ Please walk my child to PIC's after school program.
- _____ Please walk my child to UCAL after school program.
- _____ I give permission for my child to be picked up by _____.

_____ Please provide my child with a free afternoon meal/snack provided by the School District of Philadelphia.



PAS Pretzel Sale

This Friday!

Bring \$1.00- Pretzels will be sold at lunch!