Greetings

This week, we will be hosting what is one of my favorite aspects of the Expeditionary Learning model: Student-Led Conferences.

The student-led conference is crucial part of your child’s education. It is a time where they are given the opportunity of your full attention as they use pieces of high-quality work to explain to you the path of their own learning. Throughout the semester, students practice reflection, learning to think about their own learning, and learning to share their work and reflections with others. The SLC is a chance for your child to describe to you what they have learned, how they felt as they progressed to their current level of understanding, and what they discovered about themselves as learners.

To make these conversations as effective as possible, we have come up with a few guidelines:

- **What parents do:**
  Your role is to allow your child to lead the discussion. You should ask clarifying questions and then listen fully as your child answers. Crew teachers will provide you with some questioning prompts to aid you in this role.

- **What students do:**
  Your child will use pieces of high quality work as a focus of the discussion. They will present the learning targets associated with each piece, and then reflect with you about how the work displays their current level of mastery of the specific learning targets. They will discuss challenges they overcame as they completed their work, and what they learned about the content and themselves.

- **What teachers do:**
  Your child’s crew teacher will be present at your child’s conference. They too will let your child lead the discussion. Like you, they may ask your child clarifying questions to help them as they discuss their own learning. Unlike traditional parent-teacher conferences, the focus here is allowing students your undivided attention while they reflect with you their work over the beginning of the school year, and share their reflections about where they may need to improve things. There should be no surprises – if your student has been struggling, teachers should be initiating a continuing conversation with you over the course of the semester. This is the main shift from traditional Parent-Teacher conferences. There will be little time for you to speak directly with your child’s teacher. My hope is that there is an ongoing conversation between you and teachers via phone, email, or meetings so that you feel well informed and up to date concerning your child’s education in every classroom, and there will be little need to meet every teacher.

Teachers will be able to answer a few questions that you may have, hopefully directly related to the work discussed in the conference, or perhaps about your child’s school experience in general. If there are other concerns you have that require more discussion between you and your child’s teacher, you will be able to schedule a time to meet with or call the teacher to address them. Having each crew teacher attend each student-led conference will mean that we will all have to strictly adhere to our schedule. Because of scheduling, only the Crew Teacher can attend each conference. If you need to speak with another teacher about a specific subject, you will be able to schedule that for another time as well. I can help arrange these meetings any time.

As always, I am happy to hear from you with concerns or questions. Thanks very much.

6
Hello Parents of Promontory!

I just wanted to take a second and say thank you for all your volunteer hours! Studies show there are many benefits to volunteering at school, both for your child and you.

Volunteering makes a difference in your child’s education. Research shows that children earn better grades and perform better on tests. They are also better behaved, have better attendance, and are more likely to graduate and continue their education.

Volunteering allows you to spend more time with your child. Our children spend a huge chunk of their day at school and volunteering allows you to share some school-related adventures. Plus our school has some awesome fieldwork that is fun and educational. It’s also an opportunity to see your child in a new environment and watch how they interact with their peers.

Volunteers help create community. In our school we have such a wide expanded border that it sometimes is hard to feel like a community, but when you volunteer you get to know not only the teachers and students in your child’s class but also the parents of the students.

Volunteering makes schools better. Schools that have a strong volunteer base perform better. Plain and simple. Volunteers free up teachers to do what they do best—educate our children.

Volunteering allows you to use your strengths. This is especially true in our school where we love to have experts come in and showcase their skills. If you love baking, singing, planting, art, welding, building, writing, geology, archery, or more let the teachers know!

Volunteering helps your health! Research shows that people who volunteer have less stress and live longer, and are generally healthier! Win-Win in my book.

We ask that families volunteer 30 hours a year which is easy to do with fieldwork, lunchroom, book fairs, used uniform sales, teacher appreciation, and more! If you need help filling those hours, drop me a line or call me and I’ll gladly help you find YOUR perfect way to volunteer.

Thanks!
Celeste Mulestein
PoP! President

IMPORTANT INFO

STUDENT-LED CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Wednesday, November 6th:
- AM Kindergarten: 8:20 am - 1:30 pm
- 1st-8th Grade: Early Out 1:30 pm
- Scheduled SLCs: 2 - 7 pm

Thursday, November 7th:
- No Kindergarten
- 1st-8th Grade: Early Out 1:30 pm
- Scheduled SLCs: 2 - 7 pm

Friday, November 8th:
- No Classes for any students
- Scheduled SLCs: 8 am - 12 pm

USED UNIFORM SALE & BOOK FAIR

Both the book fair and used uniform sale have been extended this year and their hours are as follows:

Monday 3:30 to 7:00 PM
Tuesday 3:30 to 7:00 PM
Wednesday 2:00 to 7:00 PM
Thursday 2:00 to 7:00 PM
Friday 8:00 AM to noon

To volunteer at the used uniform sale table, please email cmuhlestein@promontoryschool.org

To volunteer at the book fair, please click “here” and then click on the orange “Sign Up” button in the middle of the page.

A MESSAGE FROM POP!

POP! PARENTS OF PROMONTORY

THANKS!

A FOND FAREWELL

WITH SINCERE THANKS

It is with heart-felt gratitude we announce that the last remaining members of Promontory’s Founding Board have officially retired from the position of “trustee” on the school’s governing board. Valerie Neslen, Kassi Capener, Sharon Fairbourn, and their families have sacrificed untold amounts of time and personal energy to the development of Promontory School. It is accurate to say that without these three women Promontory would not exist.

Ten years ago they started with a dream— a vision of what a school with an Expeditionary Learning emphasis could be in Box Elder County. With a group of committed individuals, they met in basement living rooms and held public meetings, applied to the state for a school charter, got funding, acquired land, built a building, hired a director, and then oversaw the opening of the school and its management for the past eight years. No one who has not undertaken such a feat, will ever understand what it took to accomplish this. Ladies, we can not thank you enough for the legacy you have left to us. We get to educate our children here and work in this amazing school all because of YOU.

We wish all three of you the very best in all you do moving forward!

PROMONTORY STUDENTS!!!

Would you like a chance to design this year’s yearbook cover? Enter the yearbook cover design contest!

To enter, your design must:
- Be on a white piece of 8.5 x 11 paper
- Be bright and colorful
- Include the full school name: Promontory School of Expeditionary Learning
- Include the year: 2019-2020
- Have your name, grade, and crew printed on the back of the paper
- Be submitted to your crew teacher by Friday, December 10th.

A gallery walk for voting will be held in the middle of December. The winner will be announced on or before Friday, December 20th.

YEARBOOK COVER DESIGN CONTEST

Now is your chance, so GO FOR IT!
Welcome to the world of kindergarten! Promontory School has two half-day kindergarten crews, an AM Crew and a PM Crew. Exciting things are happening with these groups of students. During the first month of kindergarten, a lot of time is spent helping the students establish routines and develop crew. Crew is the idea that everyone works together and "pulls an oar." Classes are also called "crews" at Promontory School. This helps reinforce the idea that "We are CREW, not passengers" and each person is responsible for their own learning and for contributing to the success of the group. The students gather in crew circle at the start of each day, say The Pledge of Allegiance, and greet one another by name. Looking another student in the eye and greeting them is quite easy for some children, but very difficult for the more reserved students. It is a delight to watch the kiddos grow and develop their social skills, especially during the first month of school.

Because every student is a member of the crew, each student is given a job to do and the jobs rotate weekly. It's nice to see the children cheerfully work as a group and to witness the accomplishment they feel when they finish their job.

In addition to personal and crew development, kindergarten places a high degree of importance on core academic learning which lays a foundation for future reading and math skills. Students work daily on recognizing letters (both uppercase and lowercase) and identifying the sounds they make. Puzzles, games, and other hands-on activities help the students learn ABC order. Word families and sight words will be taught before the end of kindergarten. Number recognition and basic beginning math skills are also a focus in kindergarten. Many different activities help reinforce number and value recognition. We are thrilled with the academic progress our kindergartners have made so far this year.

The current expedition topic this semester is "Healthy Bodies, Healthy Minds." Students have been learning about the different food groups.

In addition to studying healthy eating, the students are learning about the need for adequate sleep, exercise, and how to limit the spread of germs through proper personal hygiene. The kiddos LOVED their lesson on hand washing. Each student rubbed "Glo Germs" on their hands. Once the lotion was rubbed in, they couldn't see it. They put their hands under a black light and the "Glo Germs" glowed! Then they washed their hands as thoroughly as they could and put them under the back under the black light to see if any of the "germs" remained. They were surprised to see all the places they had missed when they were scrubbing!

One especially fun part of the expedition is when Mrs. Moyer reads the children fractured fairy tales. The books are great. With titles like "Stinky Jack and the Beanstalk," "Don't Pick Your Nose, Pinocchio!," "Eat Your Veggies, Goldilocks," and "Keep Running, Gingerbread Man," you can imagine how well these clever stories help illustrate various "Healthy Bodies, Healthy Minds" topics.

Upcoming fieldwork for kindergarten students includes a service trip to Maple Springs Assisted Living Center to perform the patriotic songs the children have been learning. Also, as part of their current expedition, the kindergarten crews will be visiting Lee’s Market Place in North Ogden. We look forward to telling you all about it in our next issue.
DID YOU KNOW?

You can see calendars, important announcements and math homework helps, make online payments and MORE at www.promontoryschool.org. You can also see the latest news and pictures on our Facebook and Instagram accounts. Click the colored links or scan the codes below to follow and “Like“ our pages!

1/2 COMMUNITY

HOMETOWN HELPERS

From hikes and canoeing to tours of the local newspaper printing office, the 1/2 Community has been all over our neck of the woods on fieldwork already this year!

Outdoor adventure and off-site fieldwork are an integral part of education at Promontory School. Why? Because fieldwork and adventure offer real-world learning and personal growth that students can’t get any other way.

The first 1/2 fieldwork trip was to see the salmon run in Cache Valley. The salmon leave Porcupine Reservoir and swim up Cinnamon Creek to spawn. The 1/2 Community will be studying fish next semester, so they couldn’t resist seeing the fish swim against the current while they had the chance. Mrs. Jex and Mrs. Merkley’s crews even got to canoe on the reservoir!

Unfortunately, due to inclement weather, Ms. Shanda’s and Mrs. Bennett’s crews weren’t able to make the trip on their scheduled day. Instead, they had a fabulous hike and nature scavenger hunt on a beautiful fall day in Spring Hollow located in Logan Canyon.

A sincere thank you to all of the parent drivers/chaperones who make fieldwork possible!
The 1/2 Community’s expedition topic this semester is “Hometown Helpers” and focuses on the valuable ways different people contribute to life in a community.

Who doesn’t love a fun classroom visitor? The students enjoyed guest-expert visits on several occasions. A fireman, nurse, dental assistant, a Habitat for Humanity employee and two Utah Highway Patrol officers came and taught the children about the unique contributions they make to our community. The kiddos were all smiles and asked the experts great questions.

The final product each 1/2 crew student will create this semester will be their very own newspaper with articles they write and graphics they create themselves. The newspaper will be all about what they have learned in the Hometown Helpers expedition.

The 1/2 Community visited the Box Elder News Journal office to see how an actual newspaper is made. They got to see the printing process IN ACTION! The children were mesmerized and even the adult chaperones on the tour were fascinated by what they learned. The students asked appropriate questions and now have a more authentic understanding of how newspapers are made and can take their knowledge and apply it to their very own papers.

It will be exciting to see what they come up with! We will share some examples in our January 2020 issue.
The 3/4 Community has been BUZZING with activity. Their current expedition is titled “Bee Friendly” and is all about bees and how they impact our world.

The students quickly became passionate about their subject and have already learned about the anatomy of a bee, hive structure and culture, pollination, honey production, honey extraction and more. The favorite parts of the expedition so far have been the guest expert visitors and fieldwork trips.

The above photo shows Nathan Bailey who came to Mrs. Reeder’s crew to demonstrate how honey extraction equipment works. Doesn’t he have the cutest helper ever?

The 3/4 Community also took a day trip to Deseret Hive Supply and the Ogden Botanical Gardens. At Deseret Hive the students got to assemble bee boxes, try on beekeeper suits, and watch an actual honey extraction.

At the botanical gardens, squeals of “I found a bee!” and “Come look at this one!” echoed through the garden as the kiddos got to observe bees in their natural habitat.

Students spent class time learning about bee anatomy and making scientific drawings of bees. They will use these drawings to create greeting cards for their final expedition product. The greeting cards will be sold during the Celebration of Learning at the end of the semester. Funds raised through the sale of the cards will be spent on behalf of... you guessed it...BEES! The funds will be donated to purchase beehives for Promontory School’s Outdoor Learning and Adventure Center.
Another notable fieldwork trip was to the Weber State University Entomology Lab where students watched a short video about bees, their importance, and how they communicate with each other.

Then the kiddos got to inspect different types of honey bees, bumble bees, and wasps under a microscope. Since they were already familiar with bee anatomy, they were shocked to see all of the detail under magnification. Cries of "I had no idea that was fuzzy!" and "You have to come see this!" rang through the room as students enjoyed their new discoveries.

While this amazing expedition work goes on all semester, regular class time is also filled with diligent effort and exciting discoveries. Third grade math students are just finishing up a unit about multiplication facts and are about to move on to calculating the area of various shapes.

Fourth grade math students recently learned how to multiply two, three, and four digit numbers by a single digit. They will move on to multiplying double digits by double digits next week.

BZZZYNESS is sure to continue in the 3/4 Community and we will keep you up to date on their progress over the rest of the semester.
When looking at photos of the 5/6 Community this semester, you will probably see a lot of rocks. Really... a LOT of rocks. Why? Because the expedition topic for the 5/6 crews is all about planet Earth and the changes that happen to our world over time due to weathering.

A highlight of fieldwork so far was each 5/6 crew’s overnight fieldwork to Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve near Arco, Idaho. Students got to actually see, touch, and walk on lava fields and lava tubes. They had already learned about these geologic formations in class, but to actually experience them in real life was very exciting to the kids.

Students used various scientific instruments to measure air temperature and compare it to the temperature of the lava. While the air was only between 60 and 70 degrees fahrenheit, the lava temperatures were much warmer.

The 5/6 crews started off the year with an overnight camp out to Curlew Campground in Holdbrook, Idaho. Students not only enjoyed team-building activities, games, and canoeing, but also dove right into the science of erosion. They built sand castles of their own design and then tested them against the effects of water erosion. According to teachers, it was rewarding to watch the kids experiment with different construction methods and then get excited over what they were learning.

As part of their “It’s My Fault” expedition, the 5/6 Community studied faults and fault scarps right in Perry! Professor Alexis Ault from Utah State University shared her expertise with the students.
Students also measured wind speed and the depth of various crevices in the lava fields. They measured air temperatures on the surface and again deep in the crevices for comparison.

Many students enjoyed walking to the top of the Inferno Cone, an extinct cinder cone volcano. The teachers reported that watching their students work in the field and get so excited about what they were learning made all of the hard work of preparing for and carrying out the trip worth it!

State-mandated core learning standards are integrated in all learning expeditions and into traditional language arts, math, science, PE, music, and art classes which are also held throughout the day for Promontory students.

Fifth grade science students recently finished a unit on the chemical reactions and physical changes of matter and are beginning their studies on heredity. Sixth graders are currently studying how heat causes changes in matter.

Fifth and sixth grade students can choose either choir or orchestra to meet their music requirement. Both groups are busy preparing for their winter concerts scheduled for mid-December. Their beautiful music wafts down the halls of the school and lightens hearts throughout the building. (Click HERE for a link to the school calendar for dates and times of the concerts.)

Recently Professor Alexis Ault, a geologist from Utah State University, visited the students as a guest expert. They hiked up our local mountain—part of the Wasatch mountain range—to study faults and fault scarps. Since the Wasatch mountains were formed as a result of earthquakes thousands of years ago, visible geologic evidence of the Earth’s physical changes over time was evident all around the students.

A special thanks to Dr. Ault and her assistant for taking time to come and share their professional knowledge with our students.

The final products that the 5/6 Community students will create this semester will be informational brochures about earthquake safety and preparedness. Every student will print a brochure they design and the brochures will be mailed out to Perry city residents with their monthly utility bill. The students get really excited about these authentic final projects because their work will actually go out into the community and help the local citizens. Check the January 2020 issue of this publication for examples of the final brochures.
What an adventure the 7/8 Community students had when they went to Southern Utah for fieldwork at the beginning of the semester! Surviving record-breaking high temperatures on their first day, they successfully braved the heat and their perseverance was rewarded.

Student created a conceptual landscape design plan for the Desert Ecosystem Learning Environment for Promontory School’s Outdoor Learning and Adventure Center. Students, faculty, parents, and community members will vote on their favorite design elements at the end-of-semester Celebration of Learning. The winning ideas will be incorporated into the final landscape design for the desert learning environment.

Good luck to all the students and congratulations on the diligent effort expended to complete these authentic designs!

Desert Ecosystem

with a trip to Thunder Mountain water park to cool off and with beautiful weather and fabulous experiences the following days.

Though the night winds were fierce and some students had to abandon their tents in the middle of the night for the security of vehicles, by many accounts this trip was one of the best fieldwork activities these students have ever participated in.

The current 7/8 Community expedition is “Desert Ecosystems” and the students headed down south to learn about geology, plant life, weather, history, and animal life in the Utah desert.

Using the knowledge they gained on this trip and in their classes throughout this semester, each middle school
Promontory School offers seventh and eighth grade students many opportunities to develop extracurricular skills of their choosing. The 7/8 Community just completed its first round of “Exploration Groups” for the year.

7/8 Community

Students chose to participate in one of three explorations groups: climbing, furniture refurbishing, or geocaching. Each group met for the entire school day for three Wednesdays in a row.

The climbers went to 9th Street climbing wall in Ogden, Utah. It’s easy to feel brave until you are halfway up a cliff and you look down! Working through fear and not quitting when success doesn’t come on the first try are vital to success in life. Watching students try, try, and try again is awesome and climbing was a great way to help these students practice these skills.

The students in the furniture refurbishing group spent their Wednesdays apart, reupholstering, and repainting the chairs that line the hallways of Promontory School. They had a good time while learning a new, valuable life skill. Who knows, maybe one of these students will go into the furniture refinishing business one day!

The geocaching group placed three separate student-created informational caches, one each day. They put one on a mountain at over 9300 feet in elevation! The students enjoyed getting out in Box Elder County to leave these treasures for other geocache hunters to find!