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From Head of Middle School
Renée C. Price

July 2015

Dear Middle School Families,

I am thrilled to officially join the Princeton Day School community as the new Head of Middle School. What a privilege it is for me to serve in this community! Ours is truly a supportive school that nurtures the mind, body and character of every child.

Each individual student, parent, faculty and staff member makes this community extraordinary. And in support of all students, the faculty and I will continue to work with you to uphold the standards for which this Middle School is known. Thank you for trusting us to do what we do best. Through a true partnership between home and school, we will serve every child in this Middle School in a personalized way. Your input and questions are not only valued, they are essential.

Although there are several weeks before we reconvene, in this packet you will find useful information for the upcoming 2015-16 school year. Please respond to the contents of this back-to-school information at your leisure as you enjoy the remaining days of summer.

Transition Information
To all families new to the Middle School, welcome! We are starting our adventure together. I join the Princeton Day School community along with my husband, Mike Price, and our two children, Carter (1st) and Caroline (PreK). I am a proud, new PDS parent! As both an educator and a parent, I understand the thrill and natural anxiety that may surround this transition. To help answer your questions and set each family up for greater success, we have organized orientation events for you in early September. More information on what to expect at orientation can be found at [www.pds.org/2015-orientation-schedule](http://www.pds.org/2015-orientation-schedule). Please mark your calendars to attend:

• **New 6th, 7th, 8th graders and their parents**: Wednesday, September 2, from 12:30-2:00 p.m.

• **All new and returning 5th graders and their parents**: Thursday, September 3, from 10:00-11:30 a.m.

• **First Day of School PreK-12**: Tuesday, September 8

To all our returning families, thank you for your continued partnership and trust. Please join me in welcoming all our new families. We are lucky to have such a thriving Middle School program at PDS.

This fall, we will welcome 291 Middle School students for the 2015-16 school year. And though school's out for summer, the hard work continues on campus. Summer Programs is well underway, and a skilled team is presently refurbishing our Middle School classrooms. Teachers continue to plan and design curricular units for a meaningful 2015-16 academic year. Additionally, there are special projects underway that will continue to inject innovation and excitement into the next school year and beyond. We are fortunate to have such a dedicated faculty and staff!

continued on the next page
New Middle School Faculty

I am pleased to introduce the following new faculty and staff who will join Middle School for the 2015-2016 school year. Please join me in welcoming them to their new teaching roles. Each new faculty member is mentored and works closely with their grade level core team and academic department members to prepare for their students and advisees.

Emily Murray-Gill will teach Spanish I in MS, serve as a MS Advisor, and also teach in Upper School. She is a graduate of St. Joseph’s University with a Master’s degree in Education and also is a Villanova graduate (BA, Spanish). Ms. Murray-Gill taught Spanish in both the U.S. and Spain in previous teaching positions.

Andrew Lloyd will teach MS Science and serve as a 6th grade advisor. He is a graduate of The College of New Jersey Graduate School of Education where he earned an in M.S. in Environmental Sustainability. Most recently Andrew served as a MS Science Teacher and Sustainability Coordinator at The Pennington School.

Mary Sisson will teach English in 7th grade and serve as an US advisor and English teacher. She joins PDS from St. Anne’s-Belfield School (VA) and is a graduate of Middlebury College (M.A., English) and UNC-Chapel Hill.

Returning PDS Faculty in New Middle School Positions

Corinne Bilodeau has been teaching math in the Upper School for four years and is currently the US/MS Math Department Chair. In addition to her US classes, she will teach one section of 7th grade math and will coach the MS Girls Blue Soccer team.

Jessica Clingman joined Princeton Day School in November 2010 as a LS Science Teacher. Prior to PDS she taught science at Lovett School (GA) and in Atlanta Public Schools. Jessica will teach science and math in 5th grade.

Tarshia Griffin joins MS from her most recent post as a 4th grade teacher in Lower School. Prior to 4th grade Tarshia taught PreK at PDS. She recently earned a M.A. in Reading and Language Arts Education from Rider University. She will join the 5th grade core team as an advisor and humanities teacher.

Lauran Hocquaux joins MS from US where she taught French and will continue to teach some courses. She will serve as a 6th grade advisor and teach French I. Lauran began her career at PDS in the MS as a Homework Club Supervisor and Floating Substitute.

Karen Latham was appointed as the Interim Chair of the English Department, Grades 7-12. In addition to US teaching and advising duties, she will teach one section of 8th grade English.

Jesse Neuman has taught private dance lessons and served as a substitute teacher over the years. He will step in as Dance/Choreography teacher Ann Robideaux’s maternity leave replacement.

Linda Rubens served as a math and science leave replacement in 2014-15. For the first half of the school year, Ms. Rubens will teach 6th grade humanities and serve as a 6th grade advisor this year while Humanities teacher Tara Quigley is on a half-year sabbatical leave.

Sarah Selzer joined the US faculty at PDS two years ago. In addition to her US classes, she will also teach one section of 7th grade math.

Deb Sugarman will be on sabbatical leave for the first half of the school year. Her courses will be taught by current PDS faculty members.

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Other General Information

We are planning informational events for parents throughout the year. Middle School Back-to-School Night is scheduled for September 21 from 7 to 9:30 p.m. Our MS Parent Coffees are presently scheduled for October 14, November 18, January 13, and March 2. I will provide reminders and notice of the topics in forthcoming communications so you may plan to attend as you are able. We aim to make the Parent Coffees reflective of ongoing initiatives and provide time for general questions. Stay tuned for more information.

I hope our students are reading lots of books! Summer reading instructions for MS can be found at [www.pds.org/MS-Library](http://www.pds.org/MS-Library). I have enjoyed reading lots of education and leadership related books (they are the ones I love most!). Some of the books I’ve read so far are: *Creating Cultures of Thinking: The 8 Forces We Must Master to Truly Transform Our Schools* by Ron Ritchhart; and *The Mindful Child: How to Help Your Kid Manage Stress and Become Happier, Kinder, and More Compassionate* by Susan Kaiser Greenland. I look forward to hearing about all the books and experiences students enjoyed when we reconvene this fall.

Lastly, if you have any questions or concerns, please be in touch with the appropriate faculty or staff member for your particular inquiry. If you would like to schedule an appointment with me, you may do so by contacting the Middle School office. Again, I look forward to greeting you soon. I hope you will introduce yourself to me at one of the many opportunities for parents to volunteer or otherwise share in the vibrant Middle School life at PDS.

Warm regards,

Renée C. Price
Head of Middle School
# PRINCETON DAY SCHOOL
## Calendar 2015-2016
For a complete calendar visit www.pds.org

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>Mon., Pre-Season Athletics Begins</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>26-27</td>
<td>Wed. &amp; Thurs., New Faculty Orientation</td>
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<td></td>
<td>28</td>
<td>Fri., Opening Faculty Meetings/In-Service</td>
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<td></td>
<td>31</td>
<td>Mon., Opening Faculty Meetings/In-Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Tues., Opening Faculty Meetings/In-Service</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Wed., US Orientation for New 9th Grade Students; MS Orientation for New 6th-8th Grade Students</td>
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<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Thurs., US Orientation for New &amp; Returning 9th Grade Students and New 10th &amp; 11th Grade Students; MS Orientation for All 5th Grade Students (&amp; Parents); LS Orientation for All PreK &amp; K Students &amp; New 1st-4th Grade Students</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8</td>
<td><strong>Tues., PreK-12 Classes Begin</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Mon., No School, Rosh Hashanah</td>
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<td></td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Tues., LS Back-to-School Night</td>
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<td></td>
<td>17</td>
<td>Thurs., LS Back-to-School Night</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>Mon., MS Back-to-School Night</td>
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<td></td>
<td>23</td>
<td>Wed., No School, Yom Kippur</td>
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<td></td>
<td>24</td>
<td>Thurs., US Back-to-School Night</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>29</td>
<td>Tues., New Parent Dinner</td>
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<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>Wed., No Classes, Parent/Teacher Conferences</td>
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<td>22</td>
<td>Thurs., No Classes, Parent/Teacher Conferences</td>
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<td></td>
<td>23</td>
<td>Fri., No School</td>
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<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Wed., Early Dismissal for students in PreK-12 (1:30 p.m.)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>24</td>
<td>Tues., Thanksgiving Break begins after dismissal</td>
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<td></td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Mon., No Classes, Faculty In-Service Day December</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Tues., PreK-12 Classes Resume</td>
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<td></td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Fri., Winter Break begins after dismissal; Early Dismissal for Lower School</td>
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<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Mon., No Classes, Faculty In-Service Day</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Tues., PreK-12 Classes Resume</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>Mon., No School, Martin Luther King Jr. Day</td>
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<td></td>
<td>27</td>
<td>Wed., Early Dismissal for students in PreK-12 (1:30 p.m.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Fri., No School, Presidents' Weekend</td>
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<td></td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Mon., No School, Presidents' Weekend</td>
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<td></td>
<td>25</td>
<td>Thurs., No Lower School Classes, Parent/Teacher Conferences</td>
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<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Fri., Spring Break begins after dismissal</td>
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<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Mon., PreK-12 Classes resume</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Wed., Early Dismissal for students in PreK-12 (1:30 p.m.)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>29</td>
<td>Fri., No School</td>
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<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Mon., No School, Memorial Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Tues., LS Final Assembly: Early Dismissal; No MS classes</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Wed., MS Closing Ceremony: Early Dismissal</td>
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<td></td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Thurs., US Classes: Early Dismissal</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Fri., US Commencement</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
From the Health Office

July 2015

Dear Princeton Day School Families,

Greetings from the health office! As you continue to get your children ready for the school year, we would like to familiarize you with our services, and inform you of the requirements that need to be completed prior to the first day of school.

Our office hours are as follows: Monday–Friday 7:30 a.m.–6:00 p.m. A health professional will be available during those times each day to address any medical needs your child may require.

**For New Families:** We must receive a copy of the New Jersey State A-45 Health Card from your child’s last school in New Jersey by **August 1, 2015**. If your child is transferring from a New Jersey school, please instruct the school to forward the A-45 cards to our attention. In addition, you should now have received an email from the Magnus Health System with a username and password so that you can access, complete, and upload all required health forms for Princeton Day School. We use Magnus to process and store our student health forms.

**For All Families:** All students must provide Magnus Health with their annual physical exam report, updated immunization record, and complete all other School requirements by **August 1, 2015**. In addition, athletes competing in the fall season MUST submit the Fall Health History Update prior to Pre-Season Athletics, which begin on August 24.

**Regarding Medications at the School:** We require written parental consent and a doctor’s order to dispense medications other than those listed on our “Permission for Over the Counter Medication” form. (You can find this form on your child’s Magnus profile.)

Guidelines regarding medications at school are as follows:

- Prescription medication and all medications not included in the “Permission for Over the Counter Medication” form requires the “Request for Medication Administration by School Nurse” form.
- Inhalers/Nebulizer Treatments require an “Asthma Treatment Plan” form.
- Epi-pens/ Benedryl require an “Allergy Action Plan” form.

*In all of the above: Please hand in forms with the medication in its original labeled bottle to the Health Office.

For more information, please review the “Health & Student Services” page on the School website, found under “Student Life.” In addition, please make a note of the Magnus Help Desk phone number: **1-877-461-6831**. The Magnus staff will assist you with any questions you have, as well as guide you with faxing, uploading or mailing the required health forms.

Thank you, and enjoy your summer,

Nina Keller RN, MSN
Holly Goldberg RN
Maritoni Calon Shah, MD
Athletics

Important Information and Dates for Middle School Fall Athletics
Middle School sports begin on September 9 during the school day. This will be an early dismissal day for athletics (3:15 p.m.) as we will have an orientation that day. Generally, Middle School fall practices will last from 2:25 to 3:45 p.m. unless noted otherwise (please see the MS Tennis exception below). All Middle School teams are off on Tuesdays and we strongly encourage parents to use this day for appointments and other things that will take players away from practices or games.

A Note about MS Tennis: Tennis interest has grown tremendously in the Middle School over the past two years, and this has led us to adopt a new practice schedule for the Fall Girls Tennis team. Sixth graders will practice from 2:25 to 3:15 daily and 7th and 8th graders will practice from 2:25 to 3:45 p.m.

At times, weather will force our practices to end early. If this happens, we will resort to our “Inclement Weather Schedule” and dismiss at 3:15 p.m., the end of the school day. If this happens, the Athletics Office will alert the MS office and parents will be notified by 1:00 p.m. in order to make arrangements.

Games, matches, and practices are listed on the website (www.pds.org/athletics) and parents are encouraged to check the site frequently.

Important Fall Dates
MS Fall Season 9/9-11/2
MS Interim PE (2:25-3:15) 11/6-11/13
MS Fall Breakout (2:25-3:15) 11/5

Athletic Philosophy
Athletics at Princeton Day School play an integral role in the overall education of each student. We believe in the classical ideal of Mens sana in corpore sano, “a sound mind in a sound body” with a dedication to the lasting values of personal integrity, responsibility, commitment, teamwork and sportsmanship.

Our athletic program, which consists of 25 sports and more than 90 teams, is broad enough to prepare gifted athletes to compete at the college level while, at the same time, ensuring that all students are exposed to the lifelong benefits of athletic participation and physical fitness.

Middle School Teams
Our middle school program promotes participation, providing interested students an interscholastic sports program appropriate for sixth, seventh and eighth graders. Our goals are to teach fundamental skills and strategies, develop a sense of team and to foster responsibility and commitment.

Players will be separated onto Blue and White teams when numbers necessitate. The Blue team is for players of higher skill and experience level while the White team is a more developmental team. Generally 8th graders and some more experienced 7th graders will make Blue teams.

Coaches of all teams will give each player as much playing time as possible to help him/her develop. Playing time will be significant and meaningful, but will not be equal. Attendance, attitude, and effort as well as skill all effect playing time.

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Team Selections
Choosing the members of a team is the sole responsibility of the coaching staff. Whenever possible, there will be a place for an interested student-athlete on a team that is appropriate for his/her skill level. Although we would like to have every player who tries out for a team earn a spot on the roster, this is unfortunately not always possible. At times, certain teams who are constrained by facilities will have to employ a roster limitation. All roster limitations are thoughtfully and carefully approached so that a positive resolution can be found for all.

Fall
Girls: Cross Country, Field Hockey, Tennis, Soccer
Boys: Cross Country, Soccer, Football (Middle School only)

Winter
Girls: Basketball, Volleyball, Ice Hockey, Fencing, Squash
Boys: Basketball, Ice Hockey, Fencing, Squash

Spring
Girls: Lacrosse, Softball, Skating, Track & Field (Middle School only)
Boys: Lacrosse, Baseball, Tennis, Skating, Track & Field (Middle School only)

The Role of a Student-Athlete

Academics: Academics at PDS come first and it is imperative that student-athletes maintain satisfactory grades in all subjects. On that note, annual studies conducted by the Department of Education have clearly shown that students who participate in co-curricular activities do better in their class work, in part because they have better learned the skill of successful time management and are better able to reduce stress.

Sportsmanship: While Princeton Day School takes great pride in winning, we discourage any and all pressures, which might impede good sportsmanship.

Health: We expect our athletes to prepare for the upcoming season and encourage them to take advantage of the Patrick Kerney ’94 Fitness Center by contacting Strength and Performance Coach Darius Young (dyoung@pds.org). Being prepared physically and mentally sets the stage for a positive and rewarding season.

Dedication: Once placed on a team, we expect that the student-athlete will remain committed for the entire season. Student-athletes are expected to be on time, prepared, physically fit and focused in practices and games. A positive attitude toward your teammates and coaches is expected at all times.

Role as a Parent
PDS Athletics believes a partnership among parents, coaches and players provides a foundation for a successful athletic program and team experience. Parental support is crucial to the confidence, progress, and performance of student-athletes.
PDS Athletics encourages parents to be enthusiastic and encouraging. Please support your children in doing his/her best at whatever level they participate. Student-athletes should set their own athletic goals and standards. Be positive and supportive as they progress toward them.

Let the coach be the coach. Regardless of your own sports experience, please do not publicly criticize the coach or teammates. It is crucial to the team’s spirit and success that players develop a respect for their coach. Demonstrate good sportsmanship at all times.

Role of a Coach
Parents should expect the following from PDS coaches:
• Scheduling of a Pre-season meeting between the coaching staff and families of your team
• Creation of a communication email list that will allow the coaches to communicate frequently with you
• Expectation of personal responsibility, camaraderie with teammates, commitment to the team, a strong work ethic, and good sportsmanship on and off the field for all players
• Assurance of safety and welfare of all players
• Fostering of a demanding but welcoming competitive environment

Important Note about Athletics Health Forms
Princeton Day School uses the Magnus Health System (secure.magnushealthportal.com), and we would like to highlight some important dates for the upcoming sports season. All Magnus requirements have a “next action date” of August 1, 2015. You may check the status of your child’s file by logging onto the Magnus Health site. Please complete and upload (or fax) all paperwork to Magnus by August 15th. Only student-athletes with complete Magnus Health files will be permitted to participate. Please see the letter for Student Athletes in this packet for more information.

Here are a few things to keep in mind for the upcoming sports season:
• All student-athletes must have their own water bottle for practice and games
• New educational materials regarding concussions are available on the PDS athletics website
• Sports Physical Therapy Institute will continue to provide their physical therapy services at PDS two days per week

If you have any further questions, please contact Head Athletic Trainer Henry Minarick at hminarick@pds.org.
Dear Parent/Guardian of a Student Athlete,

Princeton Day School uses Magnus Health SMR, an electronic system to process and store our student health and athletics information. Magnus Health SMR is a secure and easy-to-use website for submitting health information. Please visit this page to learn more: (www.magnushealth.com/parents). Once you set up a password in Magnus, please record the information as you will need it throughout your child’s time at PDS.

The following requirements must be completed to ensure your child is ready for each athletics season:

- **As per NJ state law, all student athletes must have an updated annual physical performed by a family/school doctor. Please be sure to include all four pages of physical.**

- **In working with NJ state law, PDS policy states a sport health history update must be completed by the parent/guardian before each athletic season, regardless of their last physical exam date.** (Note that the health history update must be completed before each athletics season, so if your child plays a sport in the fall, winter, and spring, the form must be completed 3 times.)

Thank you, in advance, for your cooperation. Please understand that only students with completed Magnus files will be permitted to participate. If you need any assistance, please do not hesitate to call the Magnus Help Desk (1-877-461-6831). As always, have a safe and healthy summer.

Best regards,

Henry Minarick, ATC
Nina Keller RN, MSN
From the Communications Office

July 2015

Dear Parents,

I hope you are enjoying your summer! My goal throughout the year is to keep you informed of important school news and announcements. Please look to the official school website (www.pds.org), in the Division Newsletters (weekly LS News, weekly MS Focus Notes, and monthly US News), on our social media pages (Facebook, Twitter, Flickr, and YouTube), and in your email inbox for communications from Princeton Day School. If you have trouble finding any information, please don't hesitate to contact me directly at krosko@pds.org.

Here is some information to help guide you in the coming year:

The School Website and “Inside PDS”:
Please check the school website, (www.pds.org), regularly for news, events, and announcements. “Inside PDS” is the password-protected part of the website, where you will:
• Access your child’s grades and comments
• Complete the reenrollment process
• Update your contact information on “My Profile” (Note that this information will be used in the online directory, printed directory, for the school’s emergency notification system, and to distribute school email, so please make sure the preferred information is accurate for each parent.)
• Find announcements specific to your child’s division, a link to your child’s athletics team page with a calendar of games and practices (grades 6-12), Parents Association updates, events, lunch menus, and a wealth of information about daily life at PDS

Please note that each parent/guardian has a unique username and password to access “Inside PDS.” If you have forgotten your login information, please click on “Retrieve Login Information” and type in your email address. You will receive your username and a link to change your password. If you need assistance, please email communications@pds.org.

Printed and Online Directories:
At the beginning of the school year, in early September, each family will receive a printed PDS directory with contact information for faculty, staff, and families. Please update your information on “My Profile” by August 1 to be included in the printed directory. Your information will also always be available in the online directory on “Inside PDS” (www.pds.org/directory).

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Useful Links:
Orientation schedule: www.pds.org/2015-orientation-schedule

Student Handbooks (Lower School, Middle School, Upper School): Read through these guides for information on everything from school hours to traffic etiquette to dress code.
www.pds.org/handbook

Calendars:
Academic Calendar: www.pds.org/calendar-at-a-glance
Events Calendar: www.pds.org/calendar
Athletics Calendar: www.pds.org/Athletics-Calendar

Stay and Play: After-school program for LS students

Homework Club: After-school program for MS students
www.pds.org/MS-Student-Life


Parents Association page: www.pds.org/PDSPA

A to Z Guide to Princeton Day School: A guide to the culture and places at PDS
www.pds.org/atoz

Have a wonderful summer, and we all look forward to seeing you in the fall!

With best wishes,

Kathryn Rosko
Director of Communications
Dear Princeton Day School Families,

Welcome to the PDS Sustainability Initiative 2015-16. We continue to work in the areas of facilities, curriculum and behavior to create a more sustainable school. We hope you will partner with us to help us raise students who understand their relationship to the environment.

Some Highlights from 2014-15:
We won three big awards this year: NJ Green Ribbon Schools, Dept. of Education Green Ribbon, and NJ Best School Garden of the Year. We began the Green Panther Certifications and the Energy and Climate Scholars program. Not all of our changes are visible when you walk on campus, so check out last year’s highlights and what we’ve accomplished overall at: (www.pds.org/Sustainability).

Please support our sustainability program by participating in the activities below.

Parent Sustainability Group (PSG) is the Parents Association committee for sustainability at our school. We meet once a month and plan many activities. You don’t have to be an expert to enjoy our meetings or the many events we sponsor. For more information contact Cricket Allen cricket@theperfectsnaque.com or Meredith Asplund meredithasplundh@mac.com

PDS Harvest Dinner: Save the Date, October 17, 2015
The Upper School Environmental Action (EnAct) and the LS and MS Food and Garden Clubs will unite again to cook and serve a sustainable dinner feast using veggies from our own PDS garden and from other local farms as a fundraiser for the PDS garden. Families of all ages are welcome. Visit the garden and the bee hives. Students will be speaking about environmental issues and there will be terrific music. We sell out early!

Carpool: Carpooling is another great way to practice sustainability. To make it easier to search for other families in their area with whom you can carpool to Princeton Day School, we have a “city” search function to our online parent directory. You can find the online parent directory with a carpool map by logging into Inside PDS and clicking on Directory (www.pds.org/directory). Note, the directory and map will be updated in mid-July. We hope you will email families in your area to see who might like to carpool. A parent ambassador from the Parents Association is also happy to be a liaison to help connect families to carpool (check the Parents Association page on the website for more information: (www.pds.org/PDSPA).

Zero Waste Campus: Help us move closer to a ZERO-waste campus. If you send your child with lunch or a snack, please package it in a reusable lunchbox/bag. We have a PDS lunchbox for sale in the Panther's Den. Consider reusable plastic containers (of the Tupperware type) of a variety of sizes, a reusable bottle, and a cloth napkin. Taking care of the lunchbox is a good way to help your child learn responsibility. Our composting program has put 90 tons of food waste and nutrients back into the soil rather than sending it to the landfill. You can be a part of the solution!

Athletics: Your athlete needs his/her own reusable water bottle and a snack!
A REUSABLE water bottle is a required piece of athletic equipment. Please make sure your child has one in his or her after school athletic gear bag everyday. Even if we recycle disposable water bottles, imagine how much plastic is used in making them and how much gas is used in transporting them to your store! Please send your athlete with an after school snack. We are also trying to cut down on single serving snack bags and discourage parents from bringing in cases of bottled beverages or multipacks of disposable snack bags. The snack bar stays open after school for your child to buy a snack if you don’t wish to send one.

Green Panther Certification: This year we will begin a home certification process for Panthers who would like to use our survey as a way to initiate a conversation with their children about greener living at home. Look for more information in the fall.

Liz Cutler
Sustainability Coordinator
Dear Parents,

The Parents Association of Princeton Day School would like to extend a warm welcome to all of our families for a new and exciting school year. The Parents Association (PA) is a vibrant and vital part of our PDS community and you, our parents, play an essential role. Each year the Parents Association organizes and supports various school events and programs which benefit our children, our parents and our school, so please come join the fun and volunteer.

There are many volunteer opportunities to fit your schedule and interests that are either school-wide or by division. Whether you help in the classroom, decorate for an event or chaperone a dance, you are keeping our community strong. Please fill out the Volunteer Opportunities form in this packet and bring it or mail it to school (Parents Association, PDS, PO Box 75, Princeton, NJ 08542). Upon receipt of this form, a PA representative will reach out to you. Please know that we value and appreciate all of your efforts!

Our first PA meeting is on Wednesday, September 30 at 8:15 a.m. in the McAneny Theater. We do hope you will join us. These meetings are a great way to keep parents informed throughout the year. You will hear updates from Head of School Paul Stellato, as well as educational lectures for parents on topics ranging from raising children to health and wellness to college counseling. The dates for these meetings will be posted on the PDS website.

Using the PDS website (www.pds.org) is the best way to stay up-to-date on important information, school and athletics events, and more. Click on “Inside PDS” and log in to find information specific to you and your child(ren). For help in logging in or if you have any questions about the website, email communications@pds.org for assistance.

I look forward to meeting parents new to PDS at our New Parent Dinner, which is scheduled for Tuesday, September 29. Our PA Event and Committee Chairs will be there to answer any questions about volunteer opportunities. This dinner is not to be missed, as you will hear from Paul Stellato, as well as Barbie Cole, the Chair of the Board of Trustees. This is also a great way to meet other new and current families.

I look forward to seeing everyone this fall and working with you throughout the year to make this a successful and memorable one for all of us.

My warmest wishes to you and your families for wonderful summer!

Joanne R. ElKadi
President, PDS Parents Association
Parents Association
Middle School Volunteer Opportunities

Middle School Chair: Barbara Martinson  215-213-6924  barbaramartinson_1@msn.com
Middle School Assistant Chair: Margaret Marek-Santamaria  203-400-1252  mmareksantamaria@yahoo.com

Parent’s Name ____________________________________________________
Email address ____________________________________________________
Best phone number to reach you _____________________________________

Annual Fund
  □ Class Representative  Grade: _____
  □ Phonathon Caller

APPLAUSE (Middle School Theater)
  □ General Support
  □ Costumes
  □ Rehearsal chaperones

Art Action (Visual Arts)
  □ General Support
  □ Art Events
  □ Anne Reid Art Gallery

Auction
  □ General Support

Book Fair
  □ Display/Set-up/Clean-up
  □ Publicity/Staffing

Booster Club (Athletics)
  □ General Support
  □ Publicity/Web Support
  □ Team Parent/Sport:_______

Community and Multicultural Development
  □ Plan and Coordinate Events

Dances
  □ Chaperone

Eighth Grade Graduation Reception
  □ Planning/Refreshments
  □ Set-up/Clean-up

Eighth Grade Musical
  □ Costumes/Make-up
  □ Chaperone
  □ Set Design
  □ Tickets

End-of-Year Party (8th Grade Only)
  □ Chaperone

Faculty Appreciation Lunch
  □ Plan and Coordinate Event
  □ Set-up/Greet/Serve/Clean-up
  □ Bake or Cook for Event

Friends of the PDS Libraries
  □ Volunteer in the MS Library
  □ Special Events/Publicity/Hospitality

Fun Night
  □ Event Planning
  □ Chaperones
  □ Set-up/clean-up
  □ Refreshments

Ovations (Music Department)
  □ Concert Volunteers
  □ CD Sales
  □ Communications

Parent Ambassador
  □ Meet and Greet/Tour Guide

Parent Social
(Circle grade:  5, 6, 7, or 8)
  □ Host event
  □ Provide food/drink/supplies
  □ Invitations

Parent Sustainability Group
  □ Plan and Coordinate Events
  □ Help in the Garden
  □ Walks—Publicity/Staffing

Skating Parties
  □ Chaperone

Please return to the Parents Association, Princeton Day School, P.O. Box 75, Princeton, NJ 08542
Parent’s Questionnaire

Dear Parents of Fifth Grade Students and New Middle School Students,

To help us gain a fuller understanding of your child’s unique talents and interests, we invite you to give us your reflections of your child’s personal and academic growth. We hope that you will take a few minutes to complete the questions below, which will add to the information we have received from your child’s Lower School teachers or from our Admission Office. Please mail or drop off in the Middle School Office. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Renée C. Price, Head of Middle School

Student’s Name___________________________________________________________ Grade ____________
Parent’s Name _____________________________________________________________________________

1. Please write a brief description of your child, including such information as significant events in his/her life, special interests, or particular educational needs.

2. What aspects of your child’s development do you think have been most successful? Which have been the least?

Please return the Parent’s Questionnaire (2 pages) to:
The Middle School Office
Princeton Day School, P.O. Box 75, Princeton, NJ 08542
Parent’s Questionnaire continued

Student’s Name___________________________________________________________ Grade ____________
Parent’s Name _____________________________________________________________________________

3. What are your aspirations for your child this coming year?

Please return the Parent’s Questionnaire (2 pages) to:
The Middle School Office
Princeton Day School, P.O. Box 75, Princeton, NJ 08542
2015-2016 Homework Club

We are pleased to offer Homework Club for all Middle School students at Princeton Day School to families who are unable to pick up at the end of the day, and hope this information will clarify the process and expectations.

**Hours:** Homework Club is available from 3:15 – 5:30 p.m. each day.

**Cost:** There is no cost for the first 30 minutes of Homework Club. Student accounts will be charged $8.00 per hour beginning at 3:45. Billing will be on the half hour. Any portion of the 30 minutes used will be billed.

**Sign-in:** When students arrive at Homework Club they need to sign in at the table inside the library. Students will be asked to print their name and put a time of arrival. At the end of the day, parents will need to come into the library and sign out their child. Students not joining that day's Homework Club may remain in the library for quiet study until 3:45 without signing in. No snack will be provided and families will not be billed for this time.

**Snack:** A snack will be provided each day. On nice days, snack will be available on the playground and during the winter months the snack will be available on the tiled area next to the Middle School office. Food and drink are not allowed in the library.

**Schedule:** We spend the first 40 minutes of homework club outside on the playground. This is an important time at the end of the day for students to release some energy. Some students choose to stay in the library where there will be opportunity for quiet study. At 4:00, all students are in the library actively involved in their homework. A quiet study room will be available for students needing a silent space. Our Homework Club teachers will be available to answer questions. All parents should sign their children out of Homework Club by 5:30 p.m.

**Sports:** Students who join Homework Club after sports practices will be given a snack and then encouraged to begin their homework right away. Students who are waiting past 4:00 for pick-up will be escorted to the Middle School library.

**Holidays:** In general, we do not offer Homework Club on the day immediately preceding Holidays. Signs will be posted and emails sent home prior to these days, which include the day before the following breaks: Columbus Day, Parent-Teacher Conferences, Thanksgiving, Winter Break, Presidents’ Weekend, Spring Break, Easter Weekend, and Memorial Day.

**Expectations:** Our hope is that students use their time in Homework Club as a productive way to complete assignments. Middle School students love to socialize and the first 40 minutes is a time when we encourage students to talk and play out on the playground. However, once 4:00 arrives, we want students to be actively engaged in doing their homework or reading a book. Students should be able to complete much of their homework during this time. All students will be seated in the library and students will be issued a hall pass to go to their locker or to the restroom. Students will not be allowed in any other part of the building.

*continued on the next page*
Electronics: Please refer to the handbook for information regarding electronic devices.

We have learned (through research and experience) that some students are better able to do their work when listening to music. We will continue to allow students to listen to music while completing homework.

Parents, please have a conversation at home with your child about the expectations at Homework Club. If he or she completes most of the homework during the Homework Club, this will allow for a better experience at home.

Please sign the form below and return it to the Middle School office.

We have read this form together and agree with the policies listed above.

_____________________________________________  __________________________________________
Student                                                                                           Parent/Guardian
Ordering Textbooks at Princeton Day School

Princeton Day School has partnered with Classbook.com to offer our families a convenient online book purchasing option. Our online bookstore opens on August 3.

To order textbooks, follow these steps:

1. GO TO: (www.pds.org) and log into “Inside PDS.” Click on NetClassroom to see student schedule.

2. NEXT: Click on the Panther Den button on the homepage, or (www.classbook.com/PDSNJ.asp).

3. ENTER: Student’s first and last name(s) and, for US students, student’s pds.org email; for MS students, parent’s email.

4. SELECT: School Division (Middle or Upper School) then select the grade level for Middle school, or Department for Upper School. You can begin shopping for your textbooks. (Note: If there are no textbooks listed under a course, the teacher will be providing more information once school begins.)

5. ORDER: Using any major credit card.

ALL ORDERS PLACED FROM AUGUST 3 – AUGUST 20 WILL BE SHIPPED DIRECTLY TO THE SCHOOL for a lower flat-fee shipping rate. Students may still order books after August 20, but the books will be shipped home at a higher shipping rate.

We encourage you to order your hardcopy texts EARLY, especially if you are interested in purchasing used textbooks, as that inventory generally sells quickly. Also, please order your ebooks by August 27th to ensure they are available for download before the first day of school. However, note that ebooks are not returnable, so please do not order until you are sure that your student’s schedule is set and will not change.

You can pick-up your books at our “Welcome Back Book Pick-up Event” on September 2 and 3, (8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.) and September 4 (8:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.). We will send out information on the venue as we get closer to the event. You will also be able to check out our newest Panther Den apparel and gear and stock up on your school supplies.

Finally, please note there is no obligation to purchase books through Classbook—you may purchase books from your favorite online vendor. The PDS Classbook bookstore is offered as a convenient, one-stop shopping option for our families.

Questions? Contact Panther Den Store Manager Jennifer Laurash at jlaurash@pds.org.
PRINCETON DAY SCHOOL
Mission Statement

Princeton Day School nurtures the mind, the body, and the character of each student. In academics, athletics, the arts, and service, we celebrate the pursuit of individual excellence and the spirit of collaboration that binds us together as a community. We seek diversity of cultures, views, and talents to promote the intellectual growth and moral development of our students.

Our rigorous and broad PreK-12 program is designed for motivated and academically talented students. We emphasize both creative and critical thought and their clear expression. Supported by an exceptional faculty and a cooperative partnership of school and home, our students discover the joy of learning. They explore their interests, cultivate enduring relationships with teachers and peers, take risks, and thrive.

Integrity, respect, and compassion are essential to the school’s mission. Our students leave Princeton Day School well equipped for college and beyond: prepared to act knowledgeably, to lead thoughtfully, to share generously, and to contribute meaningfully.