

Welcome Kindergarten and New Ainsworth Families!

As the New Family Mentor for the school year I would like to welcome you to the Ainsworth Community. All of us on PTA look forward to meeting you soon!

If you have general questions about starting at Ainsworth, please feel free to contact me, and I can point you in the right direction!

Contact: Lynn Brown, ainsworthgear@gmail.com, mom of a 1st grader, 4th grader and twin 6th graders.

We hope you were able to attend the **Kindergarten Popsicle Playdate** and the **Kinder/New Family Playdate in the Park**. Both were fun opportunities to let the kids socialize with classmates, find a friendly face, and to meet other parents and a few staff members.

You will soon be receiving your first “News & Notes” email from our Principal Andrew Johnson, and Assistant Principal, Angela Bustamante-Jenkins with some of the below information, but we know it’s a lot to take in – and we wanted to provide an FAQ to help ease you in for the year, as well as a few other helpful links. We look forward to meeting you, and having a great year at Ainsworth. Please don’t hesitate to reach out!

Warmly,
Lynn Brown
Ainsworth PTA
503-807-1297
ainsworthgear@gmail.com

Mark your calendar:

August 28 – 5:00-6:30pm – Kinder/New Family Playdate in the Park – Portland Heights Park, SW Patton, next to the former Stroheckers Market. Bring a picnic for your family, and we'll provide the popsicles, a great way to meet other families, students and a few staff members!

August 29 – 10am – Kinder Social on the front Playground of Ainsworth – visit school before you start! A chance to meet other kinders, families and a few staff members!

September 3 – Labor Day – No School

September 18 - PTA Meeting — 1:00pm in the Ainsworth Library. Learn about what the PTA does and what we are currently working on, meet other parents, learn how you can get involved, and hear about some immediate volunteer needs.

September 20 – Back to School Night – 6pm-8:00pm

First Week October – Ainsworth Foundation Meeting – come learn about how the Foundation supports Ainsworth staffing needs, Foundation events, and how you can get involved. Check back on the [Ainsworth Calendar](#) for the official date, time and location – coming soon.

October 5 – Buckaroo Carnival is our annual school carnival, with a western theme! Games, Bouncy Houses, live music from the Oregon Trailers, food carts, treats, you name it – an evening of family fun! Saddle up and get your tickets [here!](#)

Ainsworth FAQs

Where do I park/drop off/pick up?

Roads get busy around pickup and drop off every day. If you are going to the building with your child, please park a block or two away and walk.

If you are dropping off your child, there is a “kiss and drop” along the north side of the school at Elm St, between SW Montgomery and SW 21st Ave. Enter Elm from Montgomery, drop your child off at the designated area (there are signs), then exit by turning left onto SW 21st. Do not continue on SW Elm to SW Vista, as this interferes with bus traffic.

Rules are in place to ensure safety, including the following:

- do not drive on SW Spring St next to the school at drop off or pick up – this is not a drop off point, and creates a hazard for children crossing to the annex or walking to school
- do not walk across SW Vista Ave at SW Spring St, instead cross at the light at SW Elm St
- do not stop on SW Vista Ave in front of school

All children must be supervised prior to the start of the school day at 8am, either by a parent, or by a staff member at one of the below locations. The tardy bell will ring at 8:05am. If your student arrives after 8:05, you will need to report to the office with your child, sign them in and have a staff member unlock the door to deliver your child to their classroom.

You are able to drop your **kindergartener** off at the main kindergarten door wing. Doors will open at 8am, and your child(ren) must supervised until you have passed them to the care of a staff member.

If you are dropping your child off prior to the 8am start of the school day, staff supervision begins at 7:30am. **1st through 3rd** grade students should report to the auditorium, between 7:30-7:55am; 4th & 5th grade students should report to the cafeteria between 7:30am-7:55am. A staff member will then escort the children to the their classrooms.

What is the Back to School Booster Pack and how do I fill it out?

Click here for the [Back to School Booster Pack](#) – it contains online order forms for:

- online school directory (formerly known as the Buzz Book - you'll need access to this to contact your child's classmates families),
- ordering your child's yearbook
- purchasing tickets to PTA fundraisers like the Garden Tour and Holiday Home Tour, and tickets for other school events, including Buckaroo
- Additional fundraising opportunities!

Where can I get Ainsworth Gear?

Get your Ainsworth Spirit on! All orders will be delivered the office, and you will be notified when ready. Fun and comfy t-shirts, sweatshirts, bags, hats and more! Every Friday is Ainsworth Spirit day – we encourage blue and white. [Order Here!](#)

How do I keep up on what's happening at school?

One very important way to keep up on the important news from school is to read the **News & Notes** email from Principal Andrew Johnson and Assistant Principal Angela Bustamante-Jenkins (sent by the Principal's Secretary, Noah Chadd, nchadd@pps.net).

In addition to the **News & Notes** emails, you will receive a weekly **Room Parent** email that will include general school information, updates, and room specific information from your teachers.

We also encourage you to learn more about the Ainsworth PTA and Ainsworth Foundation. Getting involved is the best way to have a pulse on the school happenings and meet your community!

Visit: PPS [Ainsworth website is updated regularly](#)

Visit the [Ainsworth PTA Website here](#)

[Visit the Ainsworth Foundation Website here.](#)

On Facebook: Ainsworth Elementary School Official

How can I get involved?

There are many ways to be part of our community: in the classroom, in the lunchroom, with art and music, at recess, PTA, Foundation, with specific events – Buckaroo, Book Fair, Field Days, Science Fair, Red Ball Auction - the list is plentiful and there will certainly be a match for your skill set and interest. Our community is as great as we make it!

Volunteer opportunities are listed in **News & Notes** and emailed by room parents and our PTA Volunteer Coordinator, Jill Kulas at ainsworthvolunteers@gmail.com. The PTA website has a great list of [volunteer opportunities](#).

To volunteer at school, you must submit a **background check form**, which can be found [here](#). You must also sign in and out at the office every time you volunteer.

How do I pay for school lunch?

If you'd like your child to be able to purchase lunch, you need to set up an account and either pay online at <https://www.schoolcafe.com>, or drop off a check to the school nutrition services staff (Justin Miller & Sekoynia Wright). To register, you'll need your child's ID number, which you can get from the office (503-916-6288 or email Molly Sutherland, School Secretary at msutherland@pps.net).

Schoolcafe.com charges a convenience fee per transaction. To avoid the transaction fee, please drop off a check or cash.

Where do I find bus schedules?

Buses are available for children who live within the Ainsworth school boundary. Schedules can be found at [here](#). Select Ainsworth on the drop-down menu. Make sure to check out snow routes, which differ from the regular schedule, both in time and location. You should get a phone call on inclement weather days letting you know if school is cancelled, delayed, or snow routes are in effect.

What after school activities are available?

In addition to Ainsworth's excellent on-site [after care program](#), many opportunities for after school activities arise throughout the year. Please check the PTA website [here](#) for school sponsored activities (Band, Music, etc). For outside organization sponsored activities offered on the school campus after school, visit [this link on the PTA website](#).

We recently moved to Oregon from another state. Anything special we should know?

Welcome to Oregon! One thing to note as school begins is that OR requires Hepatitis A vaccination while other states may not. Check OR vaccination requirements [here](#).

SCHOOL DISTRICT CALENDAR:

Visit the [2018-2019 PPS District Calendar](#) for the annual school calendar.

Need to get in touch with an Ainsworth Staff Member?

[Visit the Ainsworth PPS site for a complete list of emails.](#)