Bryna Moritz Superintendent (716) 988-3293 ext. 3399 FAX: (716) 988-3142

## PINE VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL South Dayton, NY District Offices/Elementary School: 7755 Rt. 83 Jr./Sr. High School: 7827 Rt. 83



March 31, 2023

Greetings, Panther Families!

Finally, we are getting into the SPRING season. I hope everyone is starting to get outside and enjoy the nice weather. Fingers crossed, we will be done with snow days for this year.

**Counseling Office** - We are thrilled to announce that Lori Svenson will start in our Jr./Sr. High School Guidance Office on April 18, 2023. Lori is currently the seated high school counselor at Sherman Central School District. Before that, she was the high school counselor at Clymer Central School District. She brings a wealth of knowledge and completes our counseling staff.

**Upcoming Budget -** The Board is finalizing the budget to bring to taxpayers for the 2023/2024 school year. Much of the conversation at the table concerns being fiscally responsible to taxpayers, intelligently preparing for the future of fiscal uncertainty on a larger scale and continuing to provide educational services that support all student and family needs. A few of the highlights included in the upcoming budget are the School Resource Officer, our three-year-old Pre-Kindergarten full-day room, English Language Arts Coach, Mathematics Coach, and Behavior Coach, higher tutoring costs due to rising need, a new bus, a new van, a health insurance increase of 7%, Summer School, and Summer Enrichment programs, and our after school Cub Club program.

Academic Coach Positions – These three positions were initially grant-funded. The impact of the positions on staff development and support to our students is already being felt. To counterbalance the added budget implication of the coach positions, we will move to two sections at each grade level in the elementary school for the coming school year. Previously several grade levels were split into three cohorts to manage different challenges. However, academic coaches in the classrooms to support quality teachers and slightly larger class sizes will help provide every student with a more robust education. Educational research highly supports medium class sizes as it helps foster collaboration and creativity. To this end, as staff in these roles have left the district, we have not replaced them. Instead, we will utilize long-term substitutes or one of our certified coaches to get to the end of the school year.

**Playground Update -** Our center courtyard playground deconstruction and construction project has begun. As a reminder, this is grant-funded and will provide new equipment, more drainage, and soft surfacing to allow more usability throughout the year. The removed equipment is being repurposed to our other playground or auctioned. We would like to have this playground open for students at the end of May or early June.

**Early Learning -** Our Little Love Bugs toddler room has been open since November 2022. The infant room will be opening in May of 2023. We are thrilled to support this program. Please contact Little Love Bugs if you are interested in either class.

**Storywalk** – Our story walk has been open all winter, though we did have some ice issues, which led to fewer book changes for the time being. Please stop by anytime to check out the stories, which are rotated monthly.

**Summer Services** – We will offer Summer Enrichment, Summer School, Extended School Year, and Summer Drama Club again this summer. Summer Enrichment will be for students entering grades 1-6. Summer School will be for students entering grades 7-12 who need credit recovery. Extended School Year is for students with individualized education plans that qualify for this service. Summer Drama Club is for students in grades 5-8 with a culminating performance.

I will regularly post the beautiful things happening in our district on Twitter at @brynamoritz. You can reach me via email at bmoritz@pval.org, stop in to see me, or call me at 716-988-3293.

Thank you for trusting us with your children.

Very Truly Yours,

Bryna Moritz

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