



## Monthly Newsletter February 2021

**Report Card Reminder** - All student report cards are available on the Parent Portal under Reports. If you need to set up your parent portal, please call the office at 764-6185 for your activation code. Have you have forgotten your password or username? Please click on the tab for forgotten password and/or username on the Parent Portal. By request, paper copies of report cards can be printed and given to your student.

**Communicating with Your Child and Maintaining a Strong Relationship** – When children are in middle school, they get quite accustomed to one word answers when parents ask how their day went. We encourage you to turn off the television, place technology aside, and take time to share some events from the day; it is recommended that parents model what they expect. Building these relationships helps parents to stay informed of the daily happenings. It also builds the bridge to tuning in to their social lives a bit and guidance can take place. Please keep a pulse on where your child is spending their time on their cell phones; many of the social media sites may not positively contribute to the adolescent mind or self-esteem.

**School Safety** – We are committed to safety here at Powell Middle School. We believe the best way to ensure safety is to develop relationships and encourage communication between all stakeholders. One resource that is offered statewide is Safe2Tell Wyoming: Safe2Tell Wyoming's tip reporting process is simple. Safe2Tell provides students, parents, and community members a safe way to report information about any issues that concern their safety or the safety of others.

### **Key Components**

- \* State law guarantees the confidentiality of every caller.
- \* Safe2Tell Wyoming is available to all Wyoming schools, students, teachers, and parents.
- \* Reports can be made to Safe2Tell Wyoming by calling 1-844-WYO-SAFE (996-7233).
- \* Tips may be submitted using a smartphone through the Safe2Tell Wyoming mobile app.
- \* Calls to Safe2Tell Wyoming are answered 24 hours a day, seven days a week by trained Wyoming Highway Patrol Dispatchers.
- \* A trained communications officer collects information for the report and assigns a tip number to the reporting party.
- \* Every tip submitted to Safe2Tell is thoroughly investigated once given to the appropriate school and/or law enforcement agency.
- \* Safe2Tell serves as a conduit for the information received, sending it directly to the school and/or law enforcement for local investigation and/or intervention.
- \* All information is encrypted, allowing for complete confidentiality.
- \* Web reporting and mobile app options allow reporting parties to upload photos and social media posts, which aid law enforcement in conducting thorough investigations.

**MATHCOUNTS Competition** - Our MATHCOUNTS Team will be competing in the 2021 Chapter Competition on Friday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, online at Powell Middle School. On Friday, February 25<sup>th</sup>, we will compete in the 2021 Chapter Invitational online at Powell Middle School. The competition includes teams from schools of all sizes from the northwest region of the state. The Northwest Chapter Contest consists of 2 rounds: 1st is the Sprint Round (40 minutes) and the second is the Target Round (24 minutes). There are individual awards given to the top places. The top place mathletes also get to compete in the State Competition held online on March 25, 2021.

**Science Bowl Competition** - The middle school science bowl competition will be held virtually on February 6<sup>th</sup>. Powell Middle School's team is comprised of: 6<sup>th</sup> graders Cambree Dicks and Madisynn Valdez; 7<sup>th</sup> grader Curtis Muecke; and 8<sup>th</sup> graders Isabelle Lobinger and Jenessa Polson.

The science bowl team members will be face-to-face at Powell Middle School on February 6<sup>th</sup> (unless students are ill or on house quarantine). Participants will attend via ZOOM and will have another device connected to the ZOOM with a camera showing the students' workspaces. Students are required to wear their masks and maintain 6 feet apart while in competition. School building rules will apply when students are not in competition.



**Be Our Valentine - A Special Request** - Due to Valentine's Day (February 14<sup>th</sup>) being on a Sunday this year, we are asking that all early Valentine's Day deliveries to Powell Middle School on Friday, February 12<sup>th</sup>, are scheduled to arrive no later than 11 am. *Fridays are short school days for the students* and we want your student to receive their special delivery prior to going home for the weekend. Thank you!

**Free Breakfast and Lunch Extended** - U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue announced recently that the department is extending flexibilities for free meals to all children for the entire 2020-2021 school year. This unprecedented move is part of USDA's unwavering commitment to ensuring all children across America have access to nutritious food as the nation recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The USDA previously extended child nutrition waivers through December 2020 based upon available funding at the time. The flexibilities extended recently will allow schools and other local program operators to continue to leverage the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and the Seamless Summer Option (SSO) to provide no cost meals to all children, available at over 90,000 sites across the country.

PCSD1 will continue to offer free lunch and breakfast to all enrolled students. A la carte items and extra milks still need to be paid by cash or money on the student's lunch account. PCSD1 has partnered with the Powell Valley Health Care (PVHC). PVHC is offering breakfast and lunch pick-up on all days that PCSD1 school is in session, for all those not enrolled in a program that provides lunch, including children five and under. The pick-up location is the care center located on Grand Street and is available from 9 am – 11 am. The last day of free meals has been extended to May 27, 2021.

**Free and Reduced Lunches** - If you have found your financial or household circumstances have changed, you may pick up a free and reduced lunch application in the office anytime during school hours or click on <https://www.pcsd1.org/Food-Services> to find it on our district website.

**O.R. (Opportunity Room) Notifications** - Our program will help us to communicate more efficiently with parents in regards to your child's daily assignments. When a teacher enters your child into the ICU program for a missing assignment, parents will instantly be notified by text and/or email.

The email will be coming directly from the class teacher. Inside the email you will find notes or comments pertaining to the assignment, as well as the due dates. Parents can also expect to be notified once the assignment has been completed. If your child reaches Tier 2, then the O.R. (Opportunity Room) messages will come from Mrs. Bradish. The program currently sends out a maximum of two emails and one text message per student. Please keep the school updated on any phone or email changes. You may contact Brenda Sessions at [BASessions@pcsd1.org](mailto:BASessions@pcsd1.org) to update your email address in our system.

**Showalter Solo and Ensemble Festival** - Many of our Powell Middle School Band and Choir students will be participating in the 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Showalter Solo and Ensemble Festival, hosted by the Northwest College Music Department. The Showalter Festival will be held virtually this year, so our students will submit videos of them performing their solo or ensemble. Results from the event will be emailed to Mr. Fabela and Mrs. Schoessler, beginning the week of February 15<sup>th</sup>.

**2020-2021 Yearbooks** - If you would like to purchase a Powell Middle School yearbook, you may order one (from Mrs. Catlin or Mrs. Allred) in the Learning Commons for \$10.00.

# February 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 8 <sup>th</sup> Boys Basketball at Powell – 4:15 pm  7 <sup>th</sup> Boys Basketball at Lovell – 4:15 pm	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> <b>ORANGE Schedule</b>  8 <sup>th</sup> Boys Basketball at Powell – 4:15 pm  7 <sup>th</sup> Boys Basketball at Worland - 4:15 pm	<b>6</b> 8 <sup>th</sup> Boys Basketball at Powell – 10:30 am  7 <sup>th</sup> Boys Basketball at Powell – 9 am
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> First Swimming Practice  8 <sup>th</sup> Boys "A/B" Basketball at Powell – 4:15 pm  7 <sup>th</sup> Boys "A/B/C" Basketball at Cowley – 4:00 pm	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 8 <sup>th</sup> Boys "B" Basketball at Powell – 4:15 pm	<b>12</b> <b>BLACK Schedule</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> <b>President's Day</b>  <b>No School</b>	<b>16</b> 8 <sup>th</sup> Boys Basketball at Lovell – 4:15 pm  7 <sup>th</sup> Boys Basketball at Powell – 4:15 pm	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 8 <sup>th</sup> Boys Basketball at Burlington – 4:15 pm  7 <sup>th</sup> Boys Basketball at Burlington – 5:15 pm & "B" at 6:15 pm	<b>19</b> <b>ORANGE Schedule</b>	<b>20</b> 7 <sup>th</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup> Boys Basketball at Powell – 10 am
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 7 <sup>th</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup> Swimming Triangular at Worland - 3:30 pm  8 <sup>th</sup> Boys Basketball at Cody – 4:15 pm  7 <sup>th</sup> Boys Basketball at Powell – 4:15 pm	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Middle School Band/Choir Concert at PHS – 6:30 pm	<b>26</b> <b>BLACK Schedule</b>  7 <sup>th</sup> - 8 <sup>th</sup> Swimming Invitational at Cody - TBA	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b>	<b>March 1</b>	<b>March 2</b> 7 <sup>th</sup> - 8 <sup>th</sup> Swimming at Powell - 4:15 pm	<b>March 3</b>	<b>March 4</b>	<b>March 5</b> <b>ORANGE Schedule</b>	<b>March 6</b>

**MATHCOUNTS meets every Wednesday morning at 7 am in Mr. Estes' room.**  
**Creative Writing Club meets every Wednesday after school until 4 pm in Ms. Faxon's room.**  
**Girls Who Code Club meets each Wednesday after school in Mrs. Hanks' room.**