

Welcome back Deer Park! Hoping everyone had a wonderful break and ready for the next 3 weeks to focus on learning.

### **COVID updates/IMPORTANT Request**

- As we return from lots of family gatherings I need to ask you all a huge favor! Deer Park has been fortunate in not having to quarantine entire classes because families erred on the side of caution and we truly appreciate this! Please self-quarantine your children if any of the following occur. Call and ask to speak to our Clinic and someone will give you next steps.
  - Anyone in the immediate family is Covid positive
  - If your family was **exposed/close contact** to anyone Covid positive
  - Your children are sick with Covid like symptoms
- We will continue to provide school work, AND absences once confirmed due to Covid, are excused.
- Did you know you **CANNOT TEST OUT OF QUARANTINE** WHEN EXPOSED TO SOMEONE WHO IS COVID POSITIVE? Even with a negative test result, you must monitor yourself for COVID-19 symptoms and self-quarantine for 14 days after you were exposed to a positive case. It is possible to have a negative test on Day 6 and become symptomatic a few days later.

### **Free/Reduced Lunch Application- Must Do**

- Currently, all students are eligible to receive free breakfast and lunch, regardless of their eligibility status. Even so, we strongly encourage you to complete a new meal application if your household qualifies. In addition to meal benefits, students eligible for free or reduced-price meals can receive free or discounted testing fees, camp registrations, high-speed internet, and other benefits. Schools also receive a portion of their funding based off the percentage of students who qualify for free or reduced-price meals based off their household meal application, regardless of whether that student is attending mySchoolOnline or in person. To review the eligibility guidelines and complete an application, please visit [www.pascoschoolmeals.com](http://www.pascoschoolmeals.com).

### **Holiday Shopping for the Kids!**

- Don't forget to check out our holiday shop for students to learn the gift of giving. Items will ship directly to the school to come home with boys and girls to wrap and give.
- <https://www.smores.com/grk2v>

### **Needs During Holidays**

- Metropolitan Ministries is partnering with Toys for Tots Pasco, and will have two distribution sites – one on the East side and one on the West side. Metropolitan Ministries is also partnering with Meals on Wheels for Kids this year, to hopefully better serve families who have transportation challenges.

**Families can sign themselves up with the link below.**

<https://www.metromin.org/holiday-central/overview/>