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## CALIENTE UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Trustees  
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### March Newsletter

Welcome to March, the one month that can be used as a verb and encourage us to march forward. March has only 2 weeks of regular school and 1 week of intersession school. The students lost some academic days due to the school closures and will be busy preparing for the end of the quarter.

The building is on schedule for a ribbon cutting ceremony on March 13 prior to the awards assembly. Our plan is to have the ribbon cutting at 9:30 followed by our first event in the building since the retrofit at 10:00. We are excited to reveal the new space. We will continue to host the TK and K students in their current classrooms as we will need to complete the furnishing, cabinetry, and playground. The room will be up and fully functional for our TK/K students beginning the 2026-2027 school year.

Speaking of the 2026-2027 school year, we have a new calendar that we have attached. Please refer to the breaks as they are different from previous years. The start date is also later than we have had in the past. Thank you for your input in helping us decide on the new calendar.

Read Across America is the first week of March. Ms. Megan, our library clerk, has organized the event and we are excited to participate. There are dress up days scheduled for each day of the week and guest readers are scheduled for Wednesday, March 4. Please refer to the flyer that was sent out last week or call the school if you have any questions.

The bus schedules have been updated. After 10 years of bus driving, Ms. Tiffany will not be renewing her bus license and we want to thank her for serving her community in this capacity, which is extremely important and carries a high level of responsibility. Mr. McCay's Walker Basin route will include the Back Canyon bus stop. The other stops will be transported by the school vehicle and the driver will be Ms. Tiffany. Please call the school office if you did not receive the updated schedule that was sent out last week.

Teletherapy is here!!!! If you are interested in receiving family or individual counseling please call or text Madison Bottorff 661-666-2464. Please identify yourself as being a family within Piute Mt. School. The teletherapy can be in the convenience of your home or at the school site. There are also referral forms in the office.

## **PTC/PAC/DONATIONS**

**PBIS** (Positive Behavior Interventions Supports)

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

March 2-6 Read Across America (Refer to the flyer for dress up days.)

March 9 PAC/PTC meeting 3:30

March 11-12 Parent Conferences minimum day schedu

That's it for now. If you have any questions, concerns, or comments, please reach out to us.

Sincerely,

Piute Mountain Team

## February Newsletter

February is the month that has 2 back to back 3 day weekends. (I think they moved the Super Bowl to coincide with the first Monday, since it has become a national holiday. 😊 ) Enjoy the extra days off -Monday, Feb. 9 and Monday Feb. 16.

Valentine's Day is Feb. 14, which is a Saturday. The school will have their Valentine social and class parties on Feb. 13. We ask that individual Valentine gifts not be sent to the school -

whether it is student to student or family member to family member. We will hold the items in the school office until the end of the school day.

Caliente Union School District has a new Board Member!!!! Welcome Danny Moyer to the Board of Trustees for Area #1. Danny is replacing Jason Rankin's position and will finish out his term. The assignment is provisional until the elections next Fall.

**Teletherapy** is coming soon!!! Please review the attached flier. The school may reach out to you for student support in regards to counseling. It could be a group or individual counseling session. Sometimes students have difficult relationships and this is a way that the school can help the students with finding resolution. We ask that you support the new teletherapy as we have struggled and failed to have a live in-person counselor on campus.

### **Medical Mobile Unit**

Clinica Sierra Vista of Lake Isabella will be on campus with a mobile unit for medical appointments. The school has worked hard to have this available to the students. They can do physicals, immunizations, hearing, and other medical needs.

We have new-to-us desks! We want to thank Lamont School District for the donation of the 60 desks and 100 chairs. We will use the chairs in the classrooms and in the assembly room once it is finished. Speaking of which, the kindergarten complex is close to completion. The plan is to move the classrooms over the quarter break. One classroom will be used for our assemblies and the other as the TK/K classroom.

### **CALENDAR CHANGE for next year.**

After collaborating with different educational partners, including parents, staff, survey groups, and students, we are moving our start date for the 2026-2027 school year to the end of July. This change means there will be one week break between the 1st and 2nd quarter instead of two, but a week off for Thanksgiving. The break between the 2nd and 3rd quarter - Christmas break will still be 3 weeks. The break between the 3rd and 4th quarter will be 2 weeks and will coincide with Easter break. The year ends on May 28, 2027.

### **PTC/PAC/DONATIONS**

BIG shout out to Clay Moyer who used his truck and trailer to pick up the furnishings from Lamont School District! Caliente Education Foundation is a huge supporter of the Washington D.C. trip for the 6th-8th grade students. Their very generous donation has made it possible for the students to attend.

Clothing donations have been helpful - Thanks to Carol for the donations. Future donations of clothing include socks and underwear in size 8-10.

Our next PTC/PAC meeting is March 9, 2026 @ 3:15-4:00. Hope to see you there.

## PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions Supports)

### **Families, thank you for continuing to encourage strong attendance and positive behavior—every day counts!**

We've had a few POP's this quarter where we were able to make a "soda" creation while relaxing in the library and a bingo game where we all played to win a goodie bag from the PBIS store. We love to see the students' surprised when they are able to join. It takes an ordinary day and brings a little fun into it! Remember these events are random and it could be for perfect attendance or something as simple as keeping their desk organized.

The Mid-Quarter reward is here! Students who have met the attendance/behavioral expectations will be able to attend a fun afternoon on Friday, Feb. 6th. We will be having a "Piute social" which will involve dance performances from Ms. Marianne's performing arts class, karaoke, fun activities, a photo booth, and snacks of course!

Eligibility for PBIS incentives will be described as below:

- **Attendance - 5 points** earned each day students attend school

The total points for the quarter adds up to **220 points** total for perfect attendance - students will need to have at least **100-115 points** for the mid-quarter reward and **200 points minimum** to qualify for the end-of-quarter reward. If a student misses a day of school, they may make it up by attending **3 after-school club sessions** for **at least 1 full hour each** (equals 1 make-up day).

#### **After-School Club Hours:**

- **TK–3rd Grade:** 2:45–4:30  
To recover attendance students must stay until **3:45**
- **4th–8th Grade:** 3:30–4:30

#### **Clubs Offered This Quarter:**

- **ELOP (TK-8th) / Homework Club (TK–3rd)** – Ms. Penney, Room 4  
*Monday–Thursday, 7:00–8:15 AM (TK-8th) & 3:30–4:30 PM (TK-3rd)*

- **Homework Club (4th–8th)** – Mr. Alexander, Room 7  
*Monday–Thursday, 3:30–4:30 PM*

#### **NEW NEW NEW NEW NEW**

- **Performing Arts: Trifecta Club- music, dance, and drama (TK–8th)** – Ms. Marianne, Room 1  
*Monday & Wednesday, Thursday 3:30–4:30 PM In this club, you will prepare for the Talent Show by learning line dances, choral and solo singing, and skits that will be performed during the 4th quarter Talent Show.*
- **Cool Craft Club (TK–8th)** – Ms. Megan, Library  
*Tuesday & Thursday, 3:30–4:30 PM*
- **Archery Club (4th–8th)** – Mr. Travis, Archery Field  
*Tuesday & Wednesday, 3:30–4:30 PM*

Reminders for Club Participation:

- Permission slips are required.
- Space is limited. Students with 3 unexcused absences may be removed from the club.
- Students must be caught up on schoolwork to participate.
- No transportation is provided — pickup is at 4:30 PM.
- If your child is signed up but not staying after school on a club day, please contact the office by 12:00 PM to update their dismissal plan.

**Great job to all of our students for showing up, staying involved, and earning those rewards!**

Not signed up for an after-school club?

Contact the school office or message **Ms. Lovett on ClassDojo** to enroll.

*Undesired behaviors:* Students will have **1 point** deducted for receiving a detention, **3 points** for receiving a referral, and **4 points** deducted for a suspension. Students can earn additional points and/or earn back points lost due to undesired behaviors by working during recesses and when completed they will earn **1 point back**.

Examples of community service that is offered:

- Working with Mr. McCay
- Working with their teacher
- Assisting office staff

Students will receive a “community service voucher” to use as a way to make up the points they need to make-up due to a loss of behavioral points.

**The last three days of this quarter—March 11th, 12th, and 13th—will count toward next quarter’s PBIS points.** Make sure your student attends school on these days to get a head start!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

February 4- Mid Quarter Grade Books Closed

Feb. 6 - MidQuarter reward and reports sent home

Feb. 9 - No School - Lincoln’s bday

Feb. 10- Kids Heart Challenge kick-off, PAC/PTC meeting @ 3:15, Board Meeting @6:30

Feb. 13 - Valentine Social 6th-8th at Elk Hills school and classroom parties from 12:15-1:00.  
Wear RED

Feb. 16 - No School- Washington’s Bday

Feb. 17-20 Kids Heart Challenge fundraiser for Pie in the Face on 2/20

Feb. 26 - Crazy Hair Day

Feb. 27 - Whiz Kids Competition

That's it for now. If you have any questions, concerns, or comments, please reach out to us.

Sincerely,

Piute Mountain Team

January Newsletter

Welcome to 2026!!! We trust that you, your family, and friends enjoyed the long 3- week break. There are very few changes this month, so we will focus on news and reminders in this newsletter. One important news item is that after 18 years of being on the Board of Trustees, Jason Rankin is stepping out. His seat represents the Piute fire station through the Walker Basin. If you live in the area and are interested in making a difference in the school district, please contact Robin Shive. The commitment is once a month - the second Tuesday from 6:30-8:00 at Piute Mt. School.

Our cafeteria lunch meals are moving to fully cooked on site. We have transitioned from partial to full prep. This will result in higher quality food for our students.

We are extremely excited to have a medical mobile unit come on our campus on January 22, 2026. This is a first in our area. They can see up to 15 students. This includes physicals,

immunizations, and other medical needs. If you would like your child to participate, please call the school office to make an appointment.

Our new Piute swag t-shirts are available in the school office for \$15. They are grey with black letters. Show your support of Piute Mt. School through your purchase and sporting it.

#### FACILITIES UPDATE

The Kindergarten complex construction is in the process of finishing up the plumbing for the new bathrooms. The dirt work is almost complete with the final to be at the end of January. Many have asked the reason for the changes around the campus, such as the side walk from the flag pole to room 7, the cement work in front of the office, and the trenching across the circle drive. When construction is done on a school campus, the rest of the school must be brought up to ADA standards. The egress to the school office is included which required the addition of the cement work. The septic system needed an upgrade too with the addition of the bathrooms to the Kindergarten complex. The alarm system was also updated. If you have any questions, please reach out to Robin Shive or Clancy McCay .

Here are a few reminders:

- Thank you for parking in the designated areas outside of the employee parking lot.
- Remember to check in and out of the office when on campus. You will receive a badge on check-in. If you are asking to visit a classroom, the office staff will call the classroom to see that it is okay for your visit.
- Photography of other students, other than your own, is prohibited due to confidentiality. Thank you for waiting in the office and at the benches near the office while waiting for your child(ren).
- Students need to drop all medications off in the office with a medical form. This includes over the counter and prescribed medicines ( see attached).

#### **PTC/PAC/DONATIONS**

Thank you for supporting the Christmas Dinner and raffle baskets. Appreciation goes to Marbella Mendoza and her family for cooking the deep pit and making the sides to make up the dinner menu. Thank you to those who provided baked goods to be auctioned. Thank you to CEF for the use of the Ed Oakley Hall. It was very welcoming to the community and gave ample space for dinner and a show! We appreciate the visit from Santa on Friday of the last day of the semester. The students enjoyed having their picture taken and receiving a candy cane. The staff also received baked goods to show appreciation. Thank you for sharing your culinary skills.

Our next PTC/PAC meeting is Jan. 12 , 2026 @ 3:15-4:00. Hope to see you there.

We want to give a big shout out to Cattani Ranch and Rancho Indian Creek for the generous donations to go toward furnishing the Kindergarten Complex. As we continue with the construction of the building, there are change orders that occur, which pulls away from the funds to be used for furnishings. Thank you for donating to this cause.

## **PBIS** (Positive Behavior Interventions Supports)

Last quarter, students enjoyed a party day and a movie trip to Bakersfield, and we're excited to begin a new PBIS quarter with fresh points and more fun rewards ahead. In just one month, we will celebrate our mid-quarter PBIS reward. Ms. Natalie will be tracking students' points daily.

**Families, thank you for continuing to encourage strong attendance and positive behavior—every day counts!**

Eligibility for PBIS incentives will be described as below:

- **Attendance - 5 points** earned each day students attend school

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**Great job to all of our students for showing up, staying involved, and earning those rewards!**

Not signed up for an after-school club?

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*Undesired behaviors:* Students will have **1 point** deducted for receiving a detention, **3 points** for receiving a referral, and **4 points** deducted for a suspension. Students can earn additional points and/or earn back points lost due to undesired behaviors by working during recesses and when completed they will earn **1 point back**.

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- Working with their teacher
- Assisting office staff

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**The last three days of this quarter—March 11th, 12th, and 13th—will count toward next quarter’s PBIS points.** Make sure your student attends school on these days to get a head start!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

January 5 - First day of 3rd quarter  
 January 13- Board Meeting 6:30 pm  
 January 16- Basketball Tournament at Maricopa  
 January 19- Martin Luther King Jr. Day - NO SCHOOL  
 January 22 Medical Mobile Unity  
 January 23 - Whiz Kids Essay write- off  
 February 4- Mid Quarter Grade Books Closed  
 Feb. 6 - MidQuarter reward and reports sent home

That’s it for now. If you have any questions, concerns, or comments, please reach out to us.

Sincerely,

Piute Mountain Team

December Newsletter:

Wow! It is December and a short academic month. The first week we will finish up benchmark assessments and lessons with grade books closing on Dec. 5, 2026. Parent conferences, Santa Secret Shop, Christmas Program, end of the quarter rewards, and awards assembly will finish

up the second week of December. We begin our three week Christmas break Dec. 13 and will return on Jan. 5, 2026. Here are a few more details for the month.

Parent Conferences are scheduled for Dec. 10 and 11. We attempted to put families with multiple students in the same time frame. Please make every attempt to attend the conference as we strive to work as a team toward the education of your child(ren). If you would like to receive ideas on how to support your child during the break, please ask your child's teacher. Multiplication and addition tables are always very important for the success of math and phonics is a perfect go to for PreK-2nd grade.

Santa Secret Shop has many new items especially for family members. Some have asked if they may contribute to Santa Secret Shop. We are only accepting new items and multiple of the same item so that items can be offered to all students. If you would like to contribute, please contact the school office. If your child would like to purchase items, please send the money in an envelope with your child's name on it.(refer to Calendar of Events). We will collect the envelopes at the beginning of each day so that it is in safe keeping. The proceeds go toward giving back to the students through PTC activities.

This year's Christmas Program and deep pit dinner with all the fixings will be at Ed Oakley Hall. Please join us at 5:00 for the dinner, bake sale, and Christmas basket raffle, followed by the Christmas Program put on by the students. ( Baked good donations are appreciated. )

Our kindergarten complex is in the trenching and septic tank phase. The building continues to go through changes on the inside with walls and bathrooms being constructed. It is a whirlwind of movement.

We are looking for a new **board member** to replace Jason Rankin. He has served on the Board of Trustees for 18 years and has decided to give an opportunity to another person. In this time he has seen many changes to Piute Mountain School and leaves it in a positive trajectory. We thank him for his dependable service and love for the youth in the community. Please consider filling this opening if you want to make a difference in the lives of the students that attend Piute Mountain School and live between the fire station and within the Walker Basin area.

### **PTC/DONATIONS**

The PTC has two events coming up: Secret Santa Shop and the Christmas program. We're looking for volunteers to staff the SSS at school and help kids shop for gifts. We also need your help with the Christmas program on Thursday, December 11. We'll decorate Ed Oakley Hall and cook/serve dinner. Call the school office or email Jolyn Young at [mrsjolynyoung@gmail.com](mailto:mrsjolynyoung@gmail.com) if you'd like to help. It's our biggest event of the year and you can help make it amazing!

**BIG SHOUT OUT TO TWIN OAKS COMMUNITY CHURCH!** They sponsored Thanksgiving baskets for many of our Piute families. They have also given jackets, shoes, and socks for many of our students.

## **PBIS**

We had our first ever POP! Event before our Thanksgiving break which was a blast! Two students from each class were chosen for being the most responsible and they were able to decorate sugar cookies and our Piute turkey board. These events are random and only a few students will be chosen for them each time. It is a great opportunity to recognize the students who try their best everyday.

**Families, please continue to encourage strong attendance and positive behavior—every day counts and every effort matters!**

Eligibility for PBIS incentives will be described as below:

Quarter 2 has 44 total school days.

If students come to school, they earn **5 points (145 points at mid-quarter event, and 195 for the end of quarter field trip)**.

Students can earn additional points/earn back points lost due to undesired behavior by working during recesses for **1 point** each:

Examples of Community Service include but are not limited to:

- Working with Mr. McCay
- Working with their Teacher
- Working with the office staff

Undesired behaviors: Students will have **1 point** deducted for receiving a detention, **3 points** deducted for receiving a referral, and **4 points** deducted for receiving a suspension.

Ms. Natalie will keep track of all of this under “Piute Attendance” ClassDojo points. These points will not be spendable in the PBIS store, it is for tracking purposes only. We recommend that parents and guardians get connected to our School Clasdojo site in order to be better connected on school events and our point system at school. There is a website, as well as an app available for iOS and Android devices. Events will be posted to our school story, and parents can see what points their students are earning and directly message staff with any questions. If you have any difficulties getting connected to Clasdojo, please contact Ms. Natalie at (661)867-2301

Students will also recover missing attendance points by attending clubs outside of regular school hours in order to still be eligible, should they miss too many school days. We have various clubs happening after school starting from 2:45 pm to 4:30 pm Mondays-Thursdays to give students the opportunity to make-up attendance. If a student attends one of the clubs for **3 days**, they are able to make-up for **1 day** of school missed (**5 points** back). In order for the recovery to be changed, students must be in attendance of a club for **1 full hour**. Students that leave earlier will not be able to count that time towards their attendance recovery.

**Great job to all of our students for showing up, staying involved, and earning those rewards!**

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Watch for the flier for all of December’s activities.

Dec. 4- Santa Secret Shop walk through

Dec. 5- 6th-8th Winter Social at Elk Hills, Santa Secret Shop open, Grade Books Closed

Dec. 8- Santa Secret Shop open 2-3:00 pm

Dec. 9- End of Quarter Reward Bakersfield Movie field trip

Dec. 10- Dress Rehearsal at Ed Oakley Hall 9:30-11:30, Santa Secret Shop open 1:00-3:00  
Dec. 11- Christmas Program: Dinner 5:00 with program to start at 6:00 pm Ed Oakley Hall  
Dec. 12- Rotating Awards Assembly - beginning at 10:15 Macias, 10:30 Penney, 10:45  
Simmons, and 11:00 Alexander. Students may leave with parents following their class' awards  
assembly.

That's it for now. If you have any questions, concerns, or comments, please reach out to us.

Sincerely,

Piute Mountain Team

Nov 1, 2025

November Newsletter

Welcome to warm November! The time changed but the weather continues to hold onto the heat. This year's calendar has Nov. 11 falling on a Tuesday. This national holiday is required to be celebrated as a non-school day. We are anticipating that some of our families may be planning a trip and not attend on Monday, Nov. 10. If this is you, please contact the school by Thursday, Nov. 6, so we can prepare an Independent Study packet for your child.

Another November change is the location of the Veteran's Program. Each year Piute Mountain students have honored Veterans and active military with a program in McElroy Hall and lunch in the cafeteria. Due to the construction, we are joining Caliente Ed Foundation on Saturday, Nov. 8 at 3:00 for the program with dinner provided by CEF for Veterans. Please make every effort to have your child participate in the program. They have been practicing in their classes to prepare for the event.

This month's change also includes a week off for Thanksgiving!!!! Nov. 24-28 are non-school days. Enjoy your time with family and friends.

The construction continues to take place. The workers are working on the inside infrastructure of the 2 classrooms, 2 student bathrooms, and staff bathroom.

#### PTC/DONATIONS

Thank you for making this year's Fall Festival a ghouling success!!!! There were lots of candy and cake donations from the following families: Tiffany Black, Debbie Freeland, Sheena Bomback, Leticia Martinez, Sandoval Family, Kelsey Rainey, Macias Family, Kit Holt, Veronica Osorio, Marianne Smith, Johnson family, and others that gave anonymously. We had volunteers to make this event memorable: Valentina McCay, James and Jolyn Young, Mark Hamilton, Kelsie Rainy, Destiny Huerta, Michael Maxson, and Savannah Moyer. The decorations, photo booth, bails of hay, face painting, and game selections were very entertaining for the students.

Next up is the Scholastic Book Fair. We'll need volunteers to help run the fair November 13-15. Students can shop during specific time slots. We'll send out an email with the schedule if you'd like to volunteer for a slot. It's not an all-day commitment - any amount of time you can contribute is appreciated!

We also need to plan the Christmas dinner. Join us for our **next meeting on Monday, November 10 at 3:30 p.m.** to help choose the menu and fundraisers. Past ideas included a bake sale, silent auction, and themed gift baskets. Bring your creativity and help us make this a fun (and profitable) community event!

Thanks for your contributions to the Piute Mountain PTC. Have a great day!

A BIG Thank you to Ms. Bercherer for donating \$1,000 towards the Washington D.C. trip. This will help the students toward experiencing our nation's history.  
Jolyn Young made and donated a beautiful handmade quilt for raffling. Thank you!!!!  
Mr. Ratliff donated an extra big chocolate bar for raffling off too.  
We appreciate the community coming together to make this trip a reality for the 7th and 8th grade students.

Thanks for your contributions to the Piute Mountain PTC. Have a great day!

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PBIS:

Ms. Natalie has been creating some exciting new activities for our Wranglers — including **Piute POP Days!** These surprise events will celebrate students who consistently follow the Wrangler Code, show kindness to others, or even keep the cleanest desks!

Selected students may get to enjoy special experiences, like learning how to play chess with Mr. A, joining a cooking lesson with Ms. Veronica. It's a new and exciting way to recognize students who give their best effort at school every day!

Mid-Quarter reward is next week! The students who've earned at least **130 points** will be able to attend—there is still time this week to make up attendance if needed. Please contact Ms. Natalie if you are concerned with your student's attendance.

**Families, please continue to encourage strong attendance and positive behavior—every day counts and every effort matters!**

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- **Homework Club (4th–8th)** – Mr. Alexander, Room 7  
*Monday–Thursday, 3:30–4:30 PM*

- **Musical Club (TK–8th)** – Ms. Marianne, *Room 1*  
*Monday & Wednesday, 3:30–4:30 PM*
- **Cool Craft Club (TK–8th)** – Ms. Megan, *Library*  
*Tuesday & Thursday, 3:30–4:30 PM*
- **Archery Club (4th–8th)** – Mr. Travis, *Archery Field*  
*Tuesday & Wednesday, 3:30–4:30 PM*
- **Theatre Club (4th–8th)** – Ms. Marianne, *Room 2*  
*Thursday, 3:30–4:30 PM*

Reminders for Club Participation:

- Permission slips are required.
- Space is limited. Students with 3 unexcused absences may be removed from the club.
- Students must be caught up on schoolwork to participate.
- No transportation is provided — pickup is at 4:30 PM.
- If your child is signed up but not staying after school on a club day, please contact the office by 12:00 PM to update their dismissal plan.
- If you need a permission slip, please contact Ms. Natalie

**Great job to all of our students for showing up, staying involved, and earning those rewards!**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Nov. 4- Election Day

Nov. 7 - 10:00 am Veteran’s Program Dress Rehearsal at Ed Oakley Hall

Nov. 8 - 2:30 Veteran’s Program at Ed Oakley Hall

Nov. 11- Veteran’s Day - No School

Nov. 12 - Mid Qtr Grade Books Close

Nov. 12-14 Scholastic Book Fair

Nov. 13 - Mid Quarter Reward

Nov. 14- Mid Qtr. Grades sent home

Nov. 14- Soccer Tournament at Kaiser Sports Village- Bakersfield

Nov. 17 - Make up Picture Day

Nov. 24-28- Thanksgiving Break - Non-School Days

That’s it for now. If you have any questions, concerns, or comments, please reach out to us.

Sincerely,

Piute Mountain Team

October 8, 2025

October Newsletter-

Welcome to the 2nd quarter! This quarter is embedded with a one week break for the week of Thanksgiving. We started the year a bit earlier so that we could accommodate travels for family and friends. There are a few highlights that I would like to share with you. Piute Mt. water system continues to provide safe drinking water. Some students have chosen to bring their own water bottles to school; for those who bring their own bottles, they must be plastic and 20 oz. or less. We have seen a reduction in student tardies and absences! Thank you for your consistency with getting your students to school everyday and on time. When your child is going to be tardy, please check them into the office and give the reason for the tardy. We are required to code the reason in our student data system. We requested clothing for our student closet and you responded with great enthusiasm. Our closet is full and we are no longer accepting clothing donations.

Ms. Caffee resigned as our PBIS coordinator and event planner. She is pursuing her education to become a teacher and will be a substitute teacher for us and other schools within Kern county. Ms. Natalie will take on the role while splitting her time in Mr. Alexander's classroom. Clay Moyer and Marbella Mendoza are new members to the Piute School team. Clay is an

alumnus of Piute Mt. School and returns as a part time maintenance / bus driver. Marbella Mendoza filled the instructional aide position and comes to the school with early child development experience and education.

The state test scores for students ( last year's grade 3-8th) are complete and individual student scores have been sent home via students. The scores show how your child performed against the California State Standards for their grade level. Our goal is for all students to be at level 3 and level 4 which is Standard Met and Standard Exceeded. This is an excellent website to help with understanding the scores and how to help your child with practice tests. Once on the website you will select the subject area. The alternate tests were not used with our students. <https://ca.startingsmarter.org/> If you have any questions or would like to discuss your child's scores please contact your child's teacher.

The UPK construction has added a new sidewalk and drop off area for our students. The demolition is close to an end and the reconstruction is in full swing. The project is still on schedule to move in late January.

#### VOLUNTEERS /DONATIONS

Parent/Teacher Club update

Thank you to all the parents who showed up for PTC meetings so far this year. It's only October and we're off to a great start! Just in time, too, because our busy season is right around the corner. Our Fall Festival is on Friday, October 31 from 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. The kids will play games, paint pumpkins, trick-or-treat and more. Costumes are encouraged and a photo backdrop will be available. Younger siblings of Piute students are welcome to participate.

We need parent volunteers to help with the event, starting with setup at 11 a.m. If you're interested in volunteering, please call the school or email PTC president Jolyn Young at [mrsjolynyoung@gmail.com](mailto:mrsjolynyoung@gmail.com). We also need candy donations for trick-or-treating and Little Debbie snack cake donations for the Cake Walk. Please send donations to school with your child.

Exciting news for next month - we're hosting a Scholastic Book Fair from November 12-14. If you'd like to help out and start planning our Christmas events, plan to attend the next PTC meeting on Monday, November 3 at 3:30 p.m. Check in at the front office and the ladies will direct you to the meeting room. Hope to see you there!

Katie Nelson made the most delicious banana cheesecake and homemade sourdough bread for the staff inservice. A BIG THANK YOU!!!! Soooo Yummmmmmy!

PBIS:

As mentioned before, Ms. Natalie will continue our PBIS program. She will enhance the playground experience with fun music and interactive activities that students can enjoy together!

**Families, please continue to encourage strong attendance and positive behavior—every day counts and every effort matters!**

Eligibility for PBIS incentives will be described as below:

Quarter 2 has 44 total school days.

If students come to school, they earn **5 points (totaling 220 points; 145 points at mid-quarter events, and 220 for the end of quarter field trip)**.

Students can earn additional points/earn back points lost due to undesired behavior by working during recesses for **1 point** each:

Examples of Community Service include but are not limited to:

- Working with Mr. McCay
- Working with their Teacher
- Working with the office staff

Undesired behaviors: Students will have **1 point** deducted for receiving a detention, **3 points** deducted for receiving a referral, and **4 points** deducted for receiving a suspension.

Ms. Natalie will keep track of all of this under "Piute Attendance" ClassDojo points. These points will not be spendable in the PBIS store, it is for tracking purposes only. We recommend that parents and guardians get connected to our School Clasdojo site in order to be better connected on school events and our point system at school. There is a website, as well as an app available for iOS and Android devices. Events will be posted to our school story, and parents can see what points their students are earning and directly message staff with any questions. If you have any difficulties getting connected to Clasdojo, please contact Ms. Natalie at (661)867-2301

Students will also recover missing attendance points by attending clubs outside of regular school hours in order to still be eligible, should they miss too many school days. We have various clubs happening after school starting from 2:45 pm to 4:30 pm Mondays-Thursdays to give students the opportunity to make-up attendance. If a student attends one of the clubs for **3 days**, they are able to make-up for **1 day** of school missed (**5 points** back). In order for the recovery to be changed, students must be in attendance of a club for **1 full hour**. Students that leave earlier will not be able to count that time towards their attendance recovery.

**Clubs Offered This Quarter:**

- **ELOP (TK-8th) / Homework Club (TK-3rd)** – Ms. Penney, Room 4  
*Monday–Thursday, 7:00–8:15 AM (TK-8th) & 3:30–4:30 PM (TK-3rd)*
- **Homework Club (4th–8th)** – Mr. Alexander, Room 7  
*Monday–Thursday, 3:30–4:30 PM*
- **Musical Club (TK–8th)** – Ms. Marianne, Room 1  
*Monday & Wednesday, 3:30–4:30 PM*
- **Cool Craft Club (TK–8th)** – Ms. Megan, Library  
*Tuesday & Thursday, 3:30–4:30 PM*
- **Archery Club (4th–8th)** – Mr. Travis, Archery Field  
*Tuesday & Wednesday, 3:30–4:30 PM*
- **Theatre Club (4th–8th)** – Ms. Marianne, Room 2  
*Thursday, 3:30–4:30 PM*

Reminders for Club Participation:

- Permission slips are required.
- Space is limited. Students with 3 unexcused absences may be removed from the club.
- Students must be caught up on schoolwork to participate.
- No transportation is provided — pickup is at 4:30 PM.
- If your child is signed up but not staying after school on a club day, please contact the office by 12:00 PM to update their dismissal plan.

**Great job to all of our students for showing up, staying involved, and earning those rewards!**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

October 9 - Mismatch Day – Wear the most mismatched outfit you can.

October 9 – ASB meeting

October 10- Volleyball Tournament at Maricopa

October 13 - Columbus Day SCHOOL IS IN SESSION

October 14 - Board Meeting 6:30 school office

October 15 - Picture Day

October 20 - 24 – Red Ribbon Week

October 24 – Dress like your favorite fictional character

October 31 - Fall Carnival

Nov 2- Daylight Saving Time ends

Nov. 3- PTC meeting

Upcoming Fundraisers: *Please support our students.*

*Cookie Dough Sale*

7th and 8th-grade students are selling cookie dough through Mrs. Fields'. You can get delicious cookie dough delivered to your house and support the 7th/8th graders to get to Washington.

Use the link or QR code below to order some cookies for a cause!

<https://brandnamefundraising.com/raise/PiuteMountainSchool>



*Quilt Raffle*

7th and 8th-grade students are also selling raffle tickets for the chance to win a quilt handmade by a Caliente local. Tickets are available to buy from the 7th and 8th grade students or directly from the school. You can get one ticket for \$5, or three tickets for \$10.

Trunk or Treat

ASB will be hosting a trunk at this year's trunk or treat on the 25th at the Schoolhouse Grill! There will be masks, games, and a photo booth! Pay a visit and you'll be able to enjoy the festivities and support the trip!

Sept. 2. 2025

September Newsletter

Welcome to the last 3 weeks of the first quarter! Our enrollment has increased tremendously from July to current date and we now have 50 students enrolled. We are so excited to have generations of students return to Piute Mt. School.

The next two weeks will be finishing up assignments and assessments as the students and teachers wind down the first quarter. Grade Books close on Sept. 12, 2025. Please remind your child to work to their highest potential so that grades may reflect what was learned. As we close up the quarter, we open up intersession camp from Sept. 22-26. Transportation is provided!!! This is a great opportunity for students to catch up on attendance, school work, tutoring, and enrichment. Mr. Alexander is in charge of this program and will send out a flier soon for you to sign up your child.

The UPK building has completed the demolition stage and is working on the siding and ground work for the bathrooms. The project is currently on schedule with completion in early January. The students have had a chance to peek into the shell of the building to get a visual of construction in action.

#### VOLUNTEERS /DONATIONS

A big thank you to Melinda who donated a box full of student classroom supplies. This will be a benefit to many of our students. Thank you for thinking of Piute students when it comes to donations.

Parent Teacher Club (PTC) is looking for room parents to help with classroom parties. If you are interested, please contact the office and they will pass your information to Jolyn Young, our PTC president. We want to thank PTC for their preplanning for Recreation Day, Sept. 12.. It has been cancelled due to lack of participation by other schools. LIFT has stepped up and will host a water day for the last part of the day - THANKS LIFT!!!

Caliente Education Foundation (CEF) is hosting Family Fun Day on September 13 beginning at 9:00 am at Ed Oakley Hall 15840 Caliente Creek Rd. There will be a silent auction, baking contest, carnival games, horse shoe tournament, raffle, snack bar, snow cones and popcorn. Save the date on your calendar! All proceeds benefit Piute Mountain School.

#### PBIS:

We're so proud of the great attendance and positive behavior we've seen this quarter! As a reminder, students earn 5 points for each day they attend school, and these points help them stay eligible for fun rewards throughout the year.

#### Upcoming Events & Rewards:

- **September 16** – *STEAM Museum Assembly (Quarter 1 reward)*  
➔ Requires 230 ClassDojo points by September 16th

Points may be deducted for behavior infractions (e.g., detentions, referrals, suspensions), but students can earn them back by helping out during recess with tasks like assisting teachers, Mr. McCay, or the office staff.

Students can also recover points through after-school club participation! Attending three club sessions (one hour each) earns back the equivalent of one school day missed (5 points). This is a great option if a student has a few absences and needs to make up lost points.

#### Clubs Offered This Quarter:

- **ELOP (TK-8th) / Homework Club (TK-3rd)** – Ms. Penney, Room 4  
*Monday–Thursday, 7:00–8:15 AM (TK-8th) & 3:30–4:30 PM (TK-3rd)*

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*Thursday, 3:30–4:30 PM*

Reminders for Club Participation:

- Permission slips are required.
- Space is limited. Students with 3 unexcused absences may be removed from the club.
- Students must be caught up on schoolwork to participate.
- No transportation is provided — pickup is at 4:30 PM.
- If your child is signed up but not staying after school on a club day, please contact the office by 12:00 PM to update their dismissal plan.

Great job to all of our students for showing up, staying involved, and earning those rewards!

ASB Election Results:

Congratulations to the following student leaders!!!! We look forward to what they will bring to Piute Mountain School in 2025 and 2026

President: Grace Young

Vice President: Kaileah Johnson

Treasurer: Gabriel Taylor

Secretary: Levi Goodman

Representative: Shyanne Hull

ASB's first meeting will be held on Thursday, September 4th.

Upcoming Fundraisers: *Please support our students.*

ASB serving at Family Fun Day — September 13th

Washington Trip Car Wash Promenade Rosedale Hwy. near Walmart — September 20th

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sept. 8 - PTC meeting 3:30 in school office

Sept. 9 - Board meeting 6:30

Sept. 12- Grade Books Closed

Sept. 13 - Family Fun Day at Ed Oakley Hall

Sep. 16- PBIS End of the Quarter Reward: STEAM Museum Assembly

Sept. 17-18 Parent Conference minimum day

Sept. 19 - Awards Assembly 10:00 am, Last Day of Quarter

Sept. 20 - Car Wash Promenade shopping , Rosedale Hwy, near Walmart

Sept. 22 -26- Intersession Medieval Camp

That's it for now. If you have any questions, concerns, or comments, please reach out to us.

Sincerely,

Piute Mountain Team

Aug. 5, 2025

August Newsletter

We are living up to our theme as construction has begun on McElroy Hall. The demolition process has started as we prepare for the TK/K/1st Grade classrooms that will include bathrooms and a playground specifically designed for the younger students. This project is being funded through your tax dollars, under the Universal Pre and Kindergarten (UPK) grant. Modernization and general funds are also added into the stream. The overall project should take until the beginning of February. The students have minimum contact with the construction workers and all of the construction workers have been fingerprinted. Our plan is to remodel classrooms 1 and 2 into our multi-purpose rooms. This planning will not occur until the UPK retrofit is complete.

Clean water is now coming from our faucets. The water analysis has been within the state standards for drinking water for over a year and the faucets have been flushed out. The students are now using the faucets within the classrooms. We are working on adding an additional water bubbler on the playground. Until then, water will be dispersed through a water container and cups.

We are looking for a substitute bus driver. If you or someone you know is interested in going through the training, please contact Clancy McCay [cmccay@calienteschooldistrict.org](mailto:cmccay@calienteschooldistrict.org). He can provide you with the details of the training and the job.

Speaking of positions, Ms. Carothers has moved. We will miss her as our school cook/custodian, and friend. She has trained Ms. Veronica, who has taken over the position. We are happy for the opportunity that has opened for Ms. Carothers and the time and care that she has taken to ensure that Ms. Veronica is ready to provide high quality meals for our students. We need your help!!! Thanks to you who have turned in the signed pink papers from the first day packets and the emergency cards. There are still quite a few missing documents. If you did not receive them, please call Ms. Black in the school office, and she will get them to you. Also, if you have not yet signed up for Class Dojo, please contact Ms. Caffee at [acaffee@calienteschooldistrict.org](mailto:acaffee@calienteschooldistrict.org). This is how we will communicate with you on upcoming events and photo ops from current activities.

### **PBIS**

We're proud of the great attendance and positive behavior we've seen so far — students are off to a strong start living out the Wrangler Code! As a reminder, students earn 5 points for each day they attend school, and these points help them stay eligible for fun rewards throughout the year.

Upcoming Events & Rewards:

- **August 15** – *Mid-Quarter Movie & Pajama Day*  
➔ Requires 125 ClassDojo points by August 15th
- **September 16** – *STEAM Museum Assembly (Quarter 1 reward)*  
➔ Requires 230 ClassDojo points by September 16th

Points may be deducted for behavior infractions (e.g., detentions, referrals, suspensions), but students can earn them back by helping out during recess with tasks like assisting teachers, Mr. McCay, or the office staff.

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Let's keep the momentum going — show up, stay involved, and keep earning those rewards!

### **ASB**

ASB elections will run the week of **August 11th to August 15th**. If you have an eligible student, they should receive a permission slip on **August 7th**. This year, the 5th graders may run for the officer positions of secretary or representative. If you would like your student to run for an ASB office, you will need to return the permission slip no later than **August 11th**.

Being an ASB officer is an extremely rewarding experience, but it also requires dedication in academics, behavior, and time. Once your student signs up for ASB, they will be held to the highest standards for the entire school year. If your student is unsure about committing to ASB, consider having them run a different year.

#### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Aug. 4 @ 3:15 - PTC meeting

Aug 11th - 15th – ASB elections week

Aug 15 - Mid-Qtr. Grades go home, and Mid-Quarter PBIS Movie Day Reward

Aug 15 - Camp KEEP 5th - 6th grades meeting @ 1pm

Aug 18 - First ASB meeting

Aug 25 - ASB meeting

Aug. 22- K-3rd Swim Meet

Aug 22 - 7th-8th grades Washington DC trip meeting @ 1pm

Aug. 29 4th-8th Swim Meet

That's it for now. If you have any questions, concerns, or comments, please reach out to us.

Sincerely,

Piute Mountain Team