



**LETTER FROM THE
PRINCIPAL
WEEK OF SEPTEMBER
20, 2021**

Why is there so much testing?

Dear Families!

In today's newsletter, I will attempt to address the question above. Sometimes, in education, we hear that there is too much testing. This can be the case, unless you consider the fact that testing, which we also can assess, is a great way to make instructional decisions. Assessing is something we do everyday as educators. We observe our students as they work. We take note of student conversations in class. At the end of class, maybe we give an exit ticket, which is a quick check to see how well students understood the content from that day.

When we are strategic about how we use the assessment

results, the concept of "testing" becomes less burdensome. It becomes empowering for us to have a wealth of information to help make decisions to support student learning and growth.

Last week (or this week), you should receive information about how your child performed on the fall Acadience Reading assessment. This assessment helps us get an idea of students who are reading at grade level and those who need additional assistance. Even after giving this test, we usually need to give additional tests to better understand where problems might be. Knowing that a student is below grade level only provides part of the picture.

I hope that this explanation helps you understand why you might hear about so many tests in education! They are information to determine what our students need and how

well our teaching has stuck.

A note from EVA

Hello Trailside Families,
My name is Maggie Newcomb and I am the art teacher at Trailside Elementary. I'm writing today to share information about an organization that has a significant positive impact on your student – the [Park City Education Foundation](#).

It's no secret that Park City has a great school district, and we are fortunate to have talented educators who are committed to helping our kids reach their academic and lifelong potential. PCEF is an essential partner for the Park City School District, and the organization has spent the last 35 years helping to offset funding challenges that are

unique to our community.

Every year, PCEF organizes a fundraiser with parents asking for a donation of a dollar a day per student, which totals to \$180. In truth, that is so little compared to how much they do for the district. Not only does the money go directly to programs that **your** students use every single day, but **every** student is enriched by PCEF funded programs, such as the Elementary Visual Arts (EVA) Program. EVA brings art education to students at Trailside and I feel so fortunate to be a part of that work.

The fundraiser, called ***Beat the Call***, starts on **September 13th** and ends **September 24th**. Schools in the district are competing against each other for the most participation and the

winning school will receive \$5,000 for their school's PTO! You can help your child's class win a pizza party, too! If you have not donated to PCEF by the time they do their *Phone-a-Thon*, you will be called by a cheerful PCHS student. So, *Beat the Call* and donate online [here](#). If you already donated either online or in the envelopes that were sent home with your child, you've *Beat the Call* and your donation will be counted towards your child's school.

Thank you all so much!

And the PTO!

What's the best way to stay up-to-date on all of the activities and events happening at Trailside? Our PTO creates a weekly email with all of that information and more! Sign up to receive these weekly updates

from the PTO by subscribing to our Trailside Times newsletter [here](https://us4.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=9a181393dcb4e9e7ea6614b4e&id=9657c60b43).
<https://us4.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=9a181393dcb4e9e7ea6614b4e&id=9657c60b43>

Hispanic/Latinx Heritage

It's Hispanic/Latinx Heritage Month September 15th-October 15th! We have a bulletin board featuring the contributions of famous Latino/a individuals!

