

**LETTER FROM THE
PRINCIPAL
WEEK OF OCTOBER 11,
2021**

Dear Families,

We have made it to fall break! The weather has been beautiful and the scenery glorious! I love driving up and down the canyon and seeing the changes. This week, we will take a short break to regroup and rejuvenate! I hope you have some time for family and friends. Please stay safe!

We want to remind you about something that has emerged as a problem: Cell phones and Apple Watches (or gizmos). We are conflicted about what to do in response to cell phones and Apple Watches. We understand that it's important to keep in touch with your children. At the same time, we worry when the cell phones and Apple Watches are a distraction.

Right now, it is Trailside's approach to allow cell phones and Apple Watches as long as they are off and out of site during instructional time. This means that they should be put away in a

backpack or desk. If students are unsure about where to keep these devices so they are safe and out of the way, they should consult with their teachers for ideas.

We are lucky in Park City to have full-time nurses at each of our sites. Not every district has this. Our nurse provides in-the-moment responses to students' health needs as well as proactive planning for health and safety. Our nurse assesses situations where children are reporting to be injured or sick.

Please wait until you hear from one of us (meaning an adult) before coming to the school to pick up a sick or injured child. Our tendency is to send children home if they are under-the-weather because we want to honor COVID precautions and be even more cautious. Sometimes, students contact their parents through their cell phones or Apple Watches without the oversight of an adult. We would request that if you receive one of these calls, you tell your child to check in with an adult they trust and share their concerns--are they hurt?

Are they feeling unwell? Once we assess the situation, we will be in touch with you about next steps, which may include picking up your child from school early.

Again, we are hoping to continue allowing students to have their electronic devices at school. In doing so, we also expect students to respect the boundaries we have established with regard to these cell phones and Apple Watches, so that our teaching and learning environment is not distracted and so that we are all working in collaboration for what is best for our wonderful children.

Thanks for your support!

Sincerely,
Jim

